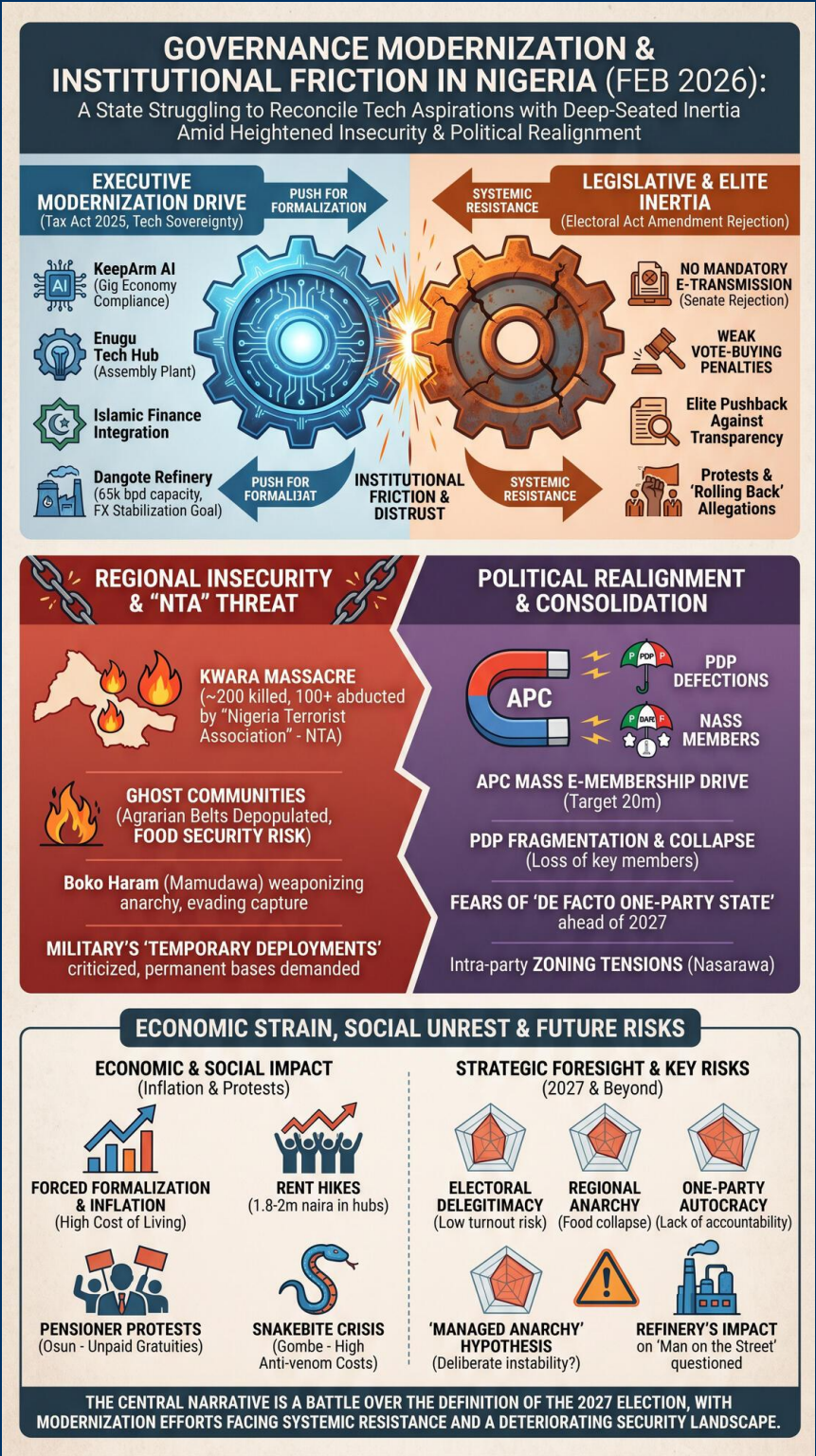


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVCNEWS

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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GOVERNANCE MODERNIZATION AND INSTITUTIONAL FRICTION AMID HEIGHTENED INSECURITY AND POLITICAL REALIGNMENT

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

February 15, 2026, reveals a Nigerian state struggling to reconcile advanced technological aspirations with deep-seated institutional inertia and chronic regional instability. The central narrative is defined by the **Nigerian Tax Act 2025**, which became effective in early 2026, signaling a major push toward fiscal formalization. While homegrown technology like the [KeepArm platform](#) aims to simplify compliance for a massive gig economy, the legislative branch shows significant resistance to similar transparency in the electoral process. The Senate's rejection of mandatory electronic transmission of results for the 2027 elections has triggered widespread civil society protests and accusations of "rolling back" democratic gains, highlighting a critical disconnect between executive modernization efforts and legislative survival strategies.

Simultaneously, the security environment has deteriorated sharply, marked by one of the

[deadliest attacks](#) in recent years in Kwara State, where approximately 200 residents were killed and over 100 women and girls abducted by a group calling itself the "Nigeria Terrorist Association" (NTA). This development, alongside persistent reports of Boko Haram factions in the Kanji Lake region, underscores the limitations of current military deployment strategies. In response, political leadership appears to be prioritizing consolidation over broad-based consensus; a wave of high-profile defections from the PDP to the APC suggests the emergence of a **de facto** one-party state ahead of 2027, even as the "Renewed Hope" agenda faces scrutiny over the rising costs of housing and food.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Electoral Integrity Crisis

- The Senate officially passed the **Electoral Act 2022 Amendment Bill 2026** but intentionally [rejected provisions](#) for mandatory electronic transmission of results.
- Lawmakers also defeated amendments proposing a 10-year ban and 5 million naira fine for [vote buyers](#), leading to allegations of self-interest among the current political class.
- Public discourse is centered on the semantic and legal distinction between "transfer" (manual/discretionary) and "transmission" (electronic/narrow) of [ballot data](#).

Regional Insecurity and the "NTA" Threat

- A massacre in the Warror community of Kwara State resulted in 200 deaths and the [destruction of homes](#) following a threatening letter from the "Nigeria Terrorist Association."

- Military battalions have been deployed to Kwara and Benue states, but residents are [demanding permanent bases](#) rather than temporary deployments.
- Intelligence indicates Boko Haram factions (Mamudawa) are [weaponizing anarchy](#) by moving between local government borders to evade capture.

Fiscal Formalization and Tax Reform

- The government is leveraging the **Nigerian Tax Act 2025** to target over 40 million MSMEs and millions of gig workers previously [outside the tax net](#).
- The federal government dismissed rumors of a [25% tax](#) on phones and building materials, labeling them as misinformation designed to create panic.
- New AI-powered tools are being promoted to help low-earners (below 800,000 naira) [file nil returns](#) and avoid future legal issues.

APC Consolidation and PDP Fragmentation

- The APC has launched a [mass e-membership](#) drive, targeting 20 million members to ensure a landslide in 2027.
- Significant defections in Osun and Adamawa states indicate a shift in political alignment, with the PDP losing [five National Assembly members](#) in a single day.
- Intra-party tensions persist regarding **zoning formulas** for the 2027 governorship races, particularly in Nasarawa State.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- President Tinubu ordered the deployment of military battalions to restore order in [vulnerable communities](#) in the north-central region.
- The 15th Biennial Police Games were launched in Asaba, with the Minister of Defense [emphasizing operational synergy](#) between the police and military.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The Dangote Refinery has reportedly achieved a capacity of [65,000 barrels per day](#), with projections for further expansion to stabilize foreign exchange.
- The federal government is integrating **Islamic financing** standards to attract [direct foreign investment](#) from non-interest markets.
- FAAC shared approximately [1.8 trillion naira](#) for the month, a significant increase post-subsidy removal, though critics question the impact on the "man on the street."

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- A strategic partnership in Enugu State aims to domesticate technology through a [high-tech assembly plant](#) for smartphones and smartboards.
- The **KeepArm** application represents a shift toward [AI-powered governance](#), automating deductions and tax reliefs for remote workers.

Terrorism & Asymmetric Threats

- The emergence of the "Nigeria Terrorist Association" (NTA) in Kwara signals a potential new branding of [insurgent groups](#) to maximize psychological impact.
- NDLEA reports continued interception of high-volume [cocaine shipments](#) at international airports, linked to convicted kingpins operating from prison.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

Elite Pushback Against Transparency

The recurring debate over the **Electoral Act** reveals a profound systemic fear of "uncontrollable outcomes." Analysts argue that by making electronic transmission [discretionary rather than mandatory](#), the Senate is preserving the ability to manipulate results at "collision centers" between the polling unit and final announcement. This trend suggests that while the executive branch is modernizing the economy, the legislative branch is **actively insulating** itself from the same technological accountability. The rejection of strict penalties for vote-buying further reinforces the perception that the political class is protecting the mechanisms of its own power.

The Formalization of the "Side Hustle"

With the **Tax Act 2025**, the Nigerian state is aggressively moving to capture revenue from the "invisible economy." This includes freelancers, content creators on TikTok and X, and [remote workers](#) for foreign firms. The narrative is being carefully managed to frame tax as "protection of profit" rather than government seizure. The introduction of [mandatory filing](#) for all citizens, even those

earning below the 800,000 naira threshold, marks the beginning of a total surveillance state regarding personal income.

Militarized Peace and ghost Communities

A disturbing trend of "ghost communities" is emerging in the agrarian heartlands. Despite official claims of security successes, large swaths of Kwara and Benue are becoming [ghost towns](#) as survivors of massacres flee to state capitals. The military's reliance on "temporary deployments" is failing to restore the confidence needed for agricultural activity, creating a looming **food security** crisis for the 2026 farming season. The shift toward naming groups like the "NTA" indicates a more organized, perhaps even politically motivated, escalation of asymmetric warfare.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The domestic situation is characterized by a **crisis of trust** in government institutions. This is most visible in the Osun State [pensioner protests](#), where retirees refuted government claims that contributory pension funds from 2017 to 2025 had been cleared. The fragmentation of the opposition is further accelerating instability, as the **PDP** collapses under the weight of defections to the **APC**. While the ruling party presents this as "unity," analysts warn it creates a lack of accountability and "political merchants" who prioritize party survival over [infrastructure delivery](#).

In Anambra State, Governor Soludo's hardline stance against the "sit-at-home" order represents a rare win for state authority over [non-state actors](#). By threatening to revoke the licenses of traders who do not open on

Mondays, the state has successfully **re-occupied** the economic space, though the risk of violent retaliation from IPOB splinter groups remains a background concern.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Nigeria is positioning itself as a **regional manufacturing hub** and an architect of its own tech future. The governor of Enugu's message that Nigerians should be "architects, not consumers" of [global tech](#) reflects a broader strategic shift toward **tech sovereignty**. Internationally, the Vice President's participation in the **39th AU Summit** in Addis Ababa confirms Nigeria's lead role in pursuing "Agenda 2063," with a specific focus on [sustainable water management](#) and continental biosecurity.

However, the global framing of Nigeria remains tied to its **security risks** and illicit flows. The recurring reports of drug trafficking by Nigerian nationals in China and the involvement of Angolan citizens [swallowing cocaine raps](#) at DNA International Airport continue to complicate Nigeria's diplomatic efforts to secure better visa terms for its professionals abroad.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Nigerian economy is in a state of **forced formalization**, driven by the removal of the fuel subsidy and new tax laws. While macro-indicators like refinery capacity are positive, the micro-impact is inflationary, particularly in the housing and medical sectors.

• Key Economic Vectors:

- **Currency Stability:** Projections for 2026 rely heavily on the [Dangote Refinery](#) reducing the need for refined product imports and bolstering the foreign exchange basket.
- **Inflation & Rent:** Rent for self-contained apartments has surged to between **1.8 and 2 million naira** in major hubs, leading to calls for [government regulation](#) of tenancy rates.
- **Islamic Finance:** A new 8 billion dollar [Islamic financing program](#) has been unveiled to integrate Sharia-compliant auditing standards.
- **Commodities:** Gold remains steady above **\$5,000**, while crude oil (Bonny Light) dropped **2.84%** to [\\$78.62](#).

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's events highlight a period of **forced and planned succession** across military, academic, and political sectors.

- **Governor Siminalayi Fubara:** Named "Man of the Year 2025," Fubara's public [dedication of the award](#) to FCT Minister Nyesom Wike signals a strategic, albeit fragile, reconciliation in Rivers State.
- **Air Marshal Hassan Balakar:** Formally [retired](#) as Chief of Air Staff, noting the induction of 15 new aircraft during his tenure.
- **Professor Olaiamiia Kiwumi:** Outgoing Vice Chancellor of Federal University Lokoja; his transition was marked by the launch of [two books](#) on academic leadership.

- **Senator Francis Fadaonsi & Others:** Part of a [group of five](#) National Assembly members who defected to the APC, signaling a significant loss of legislative power for the PDP.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

TVCNEWS maintained a **dualistic editorial posture**. The "Lead Stories" focused heavily on the **Electoral Act** and political defections, presented with an investigative and critical tone toward the Senate. However, this was balanced by extensive "nationalistic" coverage of infrastructure projects in [Akwa Ibom](#) and [Adamawa](#), which served as a **distracting counter-narrative** to the catastrophic security failure in Kwara State. The Kwara massacre was covered as a "Sunday Special," moving it from the immediate breaking news slot to a more reflective, localized human-interest segment, which effectively **buried the scale of the state's security failure** relative to political gossip. **Conspicuous Omissions** include any detailed analysis of the actual identity of the "NTA" group or any follow-up on the "glitches" from the previous 2023 election that the Senate continues to ignore.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The transcripts portray a world where **Nigeria is internally fragile but regionally ambitious**.

COUNTRIES

- **Nigeria:** Portrayed as a modernizing but resistant state. Competent in macro-planning (refineries, tax apps) but inept in [protecting rural citizens](#).

- **Israel/Palestine:** Framed as a chaotic and **hostile threat matrix**, with near-daily violations of a [fragile ceasefire](#).
- **China:** Characterized as an **economic and tech benchmark** (Snow Capital, Alte skiing) but also a [source of criminal flows](#) (cocaine trafficking).

LEADERS

- **President Tinubu:** Portrayed as a **strong, reform-minded** executive whose "Renewed Hope" agenda is being [sabotaged](#) by legislative ambiguity.
- **Governor Soludo:** Framed as the **principled and courageous** leader of the Southeast for successfully [challenging IPOB mandates](#).
- **Nyesom Wike:** Portrayed as a **powerful "godfather" figure** whose influence over Rivers State remains the primary [driver of stability](#) or conflict.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **NDLA:** Framed as **increasingly competent**, deploying body cameras to ensure [accountability](#) during high-risk raids.
- **"NTA" (Nigeria Terrorist Association):** Characterized as **unbelievable and ridiculous** characters who nevertheless possess the [capacity for mass murder](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The "meta-narrative" is a **battle over the definition of the 2027 election**. State-aligned actors are seeding a narrative of "practical realities" to justify the [rejection of electronic transmission](#), while the opposition is weaponizing the "glitch" of 2023 to

undermine current reforms. A significant psychological operation is also visible in the "NTA" threat letters; whether these are genuine insurgent communications or [politically engineered anarchy](#) designed to push the government out of power is a point of open skepticism among analysts. The government's swift dismissal of the **25% phone tax** indicates a high sensitivity to "viral misinformation" that could trigger [civil unrest](#).

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Hypothesis 1:** The [refusal to mandate electronic transmission](#) will lead to a record-low voter turnout among youth in 2027, as the system "tells them their votes do not matter."
- **Hypothesis 2:** The consolidation of APC in the North will [clear the path](#) for the party to focus exclusively on the South, potentially triggering **ethnicized political violence** in Osun and Oyo.
- **Hypothesis 3:** If the [Dangote Refinery](#) does not achieve its stated "above a thousand" (presumably 1M bpd) scale soon, the macro-stability gains from the subsidy removal will **evaporate** under currency pressure.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect **mass protests** in Abuja directed at the National Assembly. Potential **reprisal attacks** by military forces in the Kanji Lake region following the Kwara massacre. Increased [airport security](#) screenings for cocaine following the Angolan arrests.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The first [major tax enforcement](#) actions against high-profile content creators. Formalization of the [Islamic finance](#) debt instruments. A "summit" of state governors on electricity to [decentralize power generation](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural transformation of the **livestock industry** through the [Gongushi Green Reserve](#) initiative. The potential shift to a **de facto one-party system** as the PDP continues its "mass suicide" via defections. Shift in [digital literacy](#) as a requirement for voting in 2031.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Electoral Delitigimacy:** Systemic rejection of transparency measures. **Triggers:** Continued Senate refusal to mandate electronic results. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Massive civil unrest and loss of [investor confidence](#). **Mitigations:** Immediate executive intervention or judicial mandates for IRF portals.
- **Regional Anarchy (Kwara/Benue Axis):** Systematic depopulation of farming regions. **Triggers:** Continued border-hopping by "Mamudawa" and "NTA" groups. **Likelihood:** Very High. **Impact:** [Food security collapse](#). **Mitigations:** Permanent military forest rangers and **non-kinetic** community engagement.
- **Medical Supply Chain Breakdown:** Inability to treat common endemic issues. **Triggers:** Snakebite anti-venom costs exceeding **200,000 naira** while stocks run out. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** [Mass mortality](#) in agrarian communities. **Mitigations:** Federal takeover of the Kaltungo Snakeby center.

- **Debt-Driven Social Unrest:** Rent-to-income ratios reaching **breaking points**. **Triggers:** Hiked rents for self-contained apartments in hubs like [Lagos and Abuja](#). **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Mass homelessness and street riots. **Mitigations:** Implementing the **Rent Control Law** with enforceable caps.
- **One-Party Autocracy:** The death of the legislative opposition. **Triggers:** [Mass defections](#) from PDP to APC. **Likelihood:** Very High. **Impact:** Unchecked corruption and lack of [gratuity payments](#). **Mitigations:** Reform of political party funding and legal protections for minority parties.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The identity and **true provenance** of the "Nigeria Terrorist Association" (NTA); the acronym matches the national broadcaster, suggesting a [psychological operation](#) or "copycat" branding.
- The technical reason for the **"glitch"** in the previous election, which remains [unexplained](#) by INEC.
- The **actual funding source** for the Osun State pensioners' arrears, which the state claims were paid but [beneficiaries deny](#).
- The **operational status** of the new 15 aircraft mentioned by the retiring Air Marshal; no data on their [readiness for deployment](#) against the Kwara threat was provided.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Managed Anarchy" Hypothesis:** The insecurity in Kwara and Benue is not a failure of the state, but a **deliberate allowance** to justify the suspension of democratic norms in those regions ahead of 2027, ensuring the [dominance](#) of the ruling party's "mobilization" efforts.
- **The "Refinery Mirage":** Despite capacity reports, the Dangote Refinery may be prioritized for **export to West African neighbors** to secure foreign electing rather than [domestic price relief](#), meaning the "man on the street" will see no benefit from the 1.8 trillion naira shared revenue.
- **Black Swan:** A **military coup** attempt in 2026. While the news frames "contemplating a cool" as [saddening](#), the historical comparison to 1976 and the "unwritten rules" of leadership suggest that if the current **Fubara-Wike** or **Senate-Executive** friction escalates, the military may perceive a "leadership vacuum."

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Pivot from "temporary military sweeps" to [permanent battalion bases](#) in agrarian corridors to prevent "ghost community" formation.
- **Economic:** Standardize [non-interest finance](#) reporting immediately to capture the 20% annual growth in asset size from the global Islamic market.

- **Diplomatic:** Aggressively reassess [foreign policy](#) to reflect current global realities, focusing on tech transfer rather than just raw material exports.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Regulatory Compliance:** MSMEs should adopt [AI-compliance tools](#) like KeepArm to mitigate the risk of the "very expensive penalties" inherent in the new Tax Act.
- **Capital Allocation:** Investors should look at the **Nigerian Stock Market** and the [refining sector](#), as the shift toward a 1 trillion dollar GDP creates specific opportunities in domestic energy value chains.
- **Safety Standards:** Logistics firms operating in [Kano markets](#) or high-traffic corridors like **Ojota** should invest in private security drones, as state responses remain [reactionary rather than proactive](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity was dominated by a **hostile budget defense** session and a fundamental overhaul of the **Electoral Act**. The primary strategic intent of the legislature appears to be the **maintenance of discretionary power** and the protection of incumbent interests against technological oversight.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Electoral Act 2022 Amendment Bill 2026:** Passed by the Senate but stripped of mandatory electronic transmission and [10-year bans](#) for vote-buying. Strategic intent: Preservation of traditional "collision center" manipulation tactics.

- **Nigerian Tax Act 2025:** Implementation oversight. Strategic intent: formalizing the [informal economy](#) and capturing revenue from digital creators.
- **Tenancy Rate Regulation Proposal:** Debated between legal minds. Strategic intent: To create a [cap on rent](#) for low-income earners in a hyper-inflationary housing market.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Ministry of Steel Development Budget Defense:** A [four-hour session](#) that descended into a shouting match between Senator Rifai Hanga and Minister David Umahi over road projects and bond markets.
- **OSOPADEC Fraud Inquiry:** The Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) [summoned officials](#) over the alleged transfer of 463 million naira from public to personal accounts.

KEY STORIES

- **Kwara State Massacre:** Approximately 200 people killed and 100+ abducted in [Warror community](#) by the "Nigeria Terrorist Association" (NTA).
- **Electoral Act Rejection:** Senate votes against [mandatory electronic transmission](#) of results, sparking protests.
- **Technifire: Tax Act 2025:** AI-powered [tax compliance app](#) KeepArm launched to target freelancers and remote workers.
- **Soludo Ends Sit-at-Home:** Governor of Anambra [successfully forces](#) markets to open on Mondays through the threat of license revocation.
- **Kano Market Inferno:** Massive fire at [Singer Market](#) destroys billions in goods just days before Ramadan.

- **Islamic Finance Push:** Federal government initiates 8 billion dollar [non-interest finance](#) standards integration.
- **Snakebite Crisis in Gombe:** Kaltungo treatment center handles [2,500 cases annually](#); victims forced to sell land to pay 200,000 naira for anti-venom.
- **Osun Pensioner Protests:** Retirees demand [unpaid gratuities](#) and deny state claims of fund clearance.
- **Dangote Refinery Milestone:** Achieves capacity of [65,000 barrels per day](#), targeting 1M bpd expansion.
- **NDLEA Cocaine Seizures:** 236 wraps of cocaine intercepted; Angolan nationals [expelled 184 pellets](#) at Nigerian airports.
- **AU Summit 2026:** Vice President Shetima leads delegation in [Addis Ababa](#) for water and sanitation discussions.
- **En Enugu Tech Hub:** Governor Peter inaugurates [smartphone assembly plant](#) to target \$30B GDP goal.
- **Oron Maritime Project:** Aquibom state governor restores [maritime center](#) with new jetties and tourism museum.
- **Nasarawa Zoning Conflict:** 20,000 protesters [oppose zoning](#) the 2027 governorship to NASA (Nasarawa South).
- **Google Quantum AI Milestone:** Achieves error correction threshold in [logical cubits](#).
- **BYD Battery Plans:** Solid-state and sodium-iron batteries planned for [2027 production](#).
- **Benue Kidnapping:** Nine children [abducted from a church on Friday the 13th; state police helicopter deployed](#).
- **Nigerian Artists' Milestone:** Singer Tems ties records with [seven billboard entries](#).

- **Rent Regulation Debate:** Legal clash over whether government should [cap rents](#) at 500,000 naira for room self-contains.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

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