

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVRIN

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

INDONESIA'S STRATEGIC NON-ALIGNMENT UNDER A TRUMP-LED "BOARD OF PEACE" & DOMESTIC TRANSFORMATION



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INDONESIA LEVERAGES STRATEGIC
NON-ALIGNMENT TO NAVIGATE A
TRUMP-LED "BOARD OF PEACE"
WHILE ACCELERATING DOMESTIC
DOWNSTREAMING AND SOCIAL
WELFARE PROGRAMS.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The broadcasts from February 19, 2026, detail a high-stakes diplomatic and economic maneuvering by the Indonesian administration under President Prabowo Subianto. Centered on his visit to Washington D.C., the narrative focuses on Indonesia's participation in the "Board of Peace" (BoP), a new international body initiated by U.S. President Donald Trump, ostensibly to resolve the Gaza crisis and serve as a [potential alternative](#) to the United Nations. Indonesian state media frames this as an opportunity to project middle-power influence, emphasizing that Indonesia's [high credibility](#) in the Islamic world makes it indispensable to the U.S. However, domestic analysts express cautious skepticism, warning that Indonesia must remain "critical" and "tough" to ensure the BoP does not become a tool for unilateral U.S.

or Israeli interests at the expense of [Palestinian sovereignty](#).

Domestically, the government is aggressively pushing its "Asta Cita" agenda, prioritizing poverty alleviation and "hilirisasi" (downstreaming) across non-mineral sectors like poultry and agriculture. The rejection of IMF-suggested tax hikes on employees signals a populist economic posture aimed at protecting [purchasing power](#) amidst the start of Ramadan 1447H. While the state celebrates technological progress, such as the digitization of 400,000 schools, it simultaneously manages persistent vulnerabilities, including the [protracted displacement](#) of 12,000 citizens in Aceh following 2025 floods and a fatal fuel transport plane crash in [North Kalimantan](#). The day's events portray a state attempting to bridge its "Global South" leadership aspirations with the pragmatic realities of a U.S.-led "transactional" geopolitical environment.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Engagement with the Board of Peace (BoP):** President Prabowo attended the inaugural summit of the Trump-initiated BoP in Washington, positioning Indonesia as a key mediator. The body is described as having [26 founding members](#), including Saudi Arabia and Turkey, with a focus on a "20-point plan" for Gaza's reconstruction and security.
- **Economic Diplomacy and Trade Incentives:** Negotiations are underway to lower reciprocal tariffs with the U.S. from 32% to 19%, with some commodities like [Crude Palm Oil \(CPO\)](#) potentially hitting 0%. This is explicitly linked to Indonesia's cooperation in global peace initiatives.

- **Expansion of Downstreaming (Hilirisasi):** The government is moving beyond mining into agricultural downstreaming, specifically poultry. This includes efforts to reduce a [100% import dependency](#) on poultry "Grandparent Stock" through local genetic engineering and the integration of small farmers into the "Makan Bergizi Gratis" (Free Nutritious Meal) supply chain.
- **Rejection of IMF Fiscal Prescriptions:** The Ministry of Finance publicly rejected an IMF proposal to increase employee income tax rates, choosing instead to focus on [tax leakage](#) and natural growth to maintain a budget deficit below 3% of GDP.
- **Digital Transformation of Education:** President Prabowo launched a nationwide digitalization program for 400,000 schools, utilizing [Interactive Flat Panels \(IFP\)](#) to deliver standardized, high-quality lessons to remote regions like West Papua.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Diplomacy & Statecraft: Indonesia is testing its "Free and Active" foreign policy by joining a U.S.-led bloc (BoP) that bypasses traditional multilateral institutions. Analysts emphasize that Indonesia's membership is a [strategic asset](#) for the U.S., but warn that President Prabowo should be prepared to [withdraw](#) if the body deviates from supporting a two-state solution.

Armed Conflict & Militarization: Indonesia has signaled a readiness to deploy [8,000 troops](#) to Gaza as part of a "Stabilization Force" under the BoP framework. Concurrently, regional tensions are highlighted by [joint naval drills](#) between Iran and Russia in the Gulf of Oman, occurring as Trump hosts the BoP summit.

Macroeconomics & Trade: To reach an [8% growth target](#), the government estimates a need for Rp10,000 to Rp13,500 trillion in investment. This explains the aggressive courting of U.S. investors and the promotion of [18 priority hilirisasi projects](#).

Food & Water Security: Supply chain vulnerabilities are exposed as Ramadan begins, with poultry prices in Semarang surging [from Rp38,000 to Rp50,000](#) per kilogram. The state is responding by empowering "KDKMP" (Koperasi Desa Merah Putih) to manage local food reserves.

Climate & Extreme Weather: Long-term recovery remains a challenge, as evidenced by thousands of citizens in Pidie Jaya, Aceh, still residing in [emergency tents](#) five months after the November 2025 floods.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

- **The Rise of Alternative Multilateralism:** The BoP is framed as a "transactional" but effective alternative to the "paralyzed" UN. Indonesia's participation suggests a shift toward [ad-hoc coalitions](#) led by superpowers, where diplomatic support is traded for economic concessions, such as tariff reductions.
- **Integrated Economic Protectionism:** The Indonesian state is increasingly using its "Koperasi" (cooperatives) system not just for social support, but as a [strategic shield](#) against multinational "integrators" that control 80% of the poultry market. This "Red and White" cooperative model aims to re-empower independent farmers.

- **Technological Leapfrogging as Social Policy:** The government is using [high-tech educational tools](#) and digital marketplaces (e-Order for SMEs) to bridge the infrastructure gap between Java and the outer islands, attempting to create a "digital equality" that offsets physical logistics failures.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Indonesia exhibits a high degree of centralized executive power under President Prabowo, with the "Asta Cita" program serving as a unifying national vision. However, there are signs of institutional and logistical strain. The [failure to complete](#) permanent housing for flood victims in Aceh points to persistent local government inefficiencies. Furthermore, the [aggressive debt collection](#) practices by banks against farmers, requiring Koperasi intervention, suggests a fragile rural credit environment. The sentencing of former South Korean President Yun Suk-yeol to life in prison for [insurrection](#) is covered extensively, perhaps serving as a subtle warning regarding the consequences of domestic political instability in the region.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Indonesia is portraying itself as the "leader of the Global South" and a [bridge to the West](#). By participating in the BoP, Indonesia is not just a passive member but seeks to "balance" U.S., Chinese, and Russian interests. The framing of the U.S. is dualistic: Trump is seen as a [negotiable partner](#), yet the U.S. is also identified as a "God of War" whose weaponry is responsible for the destruction in Gaza. This skepticism allows Indonesia to maintain its

domestic nationalist credentials while pursuing U.S. [foreign direct investment](#).

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia's economic strategy is centered on maintaining fiscal discipline while resisting international pressure for tax hikes. The government is banking on massive infrastructure and downstreaming projects to drive growth, while leveraging its geopolitical position to secure favorable trade terms with the United States.

- **Total Government Debt:** Recorded at [Rp9,637 trillion](#) (approx. 40.46% of GDP) as of late 2025.
- **Inflationary Pressures:** Significant spikes in food prices; beef and poultry expected to hit [Rp50,000/kg](#) during the Ramadan/Idulfitri peak.
- **Disaster Relief Funding:** [Rp98 billion](#) allocated for housing recovery for 32,000 families in Sumatra.
- **Foreign Grants:** Parliament approved a [patrol boat grant](#) from Japan worth 1.9 billion yen (approx. Rp207.4 billion).
- **Investment Targets:** Rp13,500 trillion required for [8% GDP growth](#).

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The broadcasts highlight a consolidated cabinet focused on "Asta Cita" and digital modernization. International leadership shifts are also scrutinized for their impact on regional stability.

- **Sugiono (Foreign Minister):** Emerging as a key executor of "diplomasi ekonomi," balancing [U.S. trade talks](#) with OIC solidarity.

- **Natalius Pigai (Human Rights Minister):** Driving a significant [Indigenous Law RUU](#) to stabilize land conflicts, a key prerequisite for rural investment.
- **Yun Suk-yeol (Former SK President):** Framed as a [cautionary tale](#) of failed governance and insurrection in East Asia.
- **Tony Popovic (Australia Coach) & Sami Trabelsi (Tunisia):** Cited in sports segments as [successful "mid-course" replacements](#), reflecting a broader theme of effective institutional course-correction.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

TVRI's editorial hierarchy is dominated by the "Global Indonesia" narrative, focusing heavily on President Prabowo's statesman-like role in Washington. Stories about [Gaza peace](#) and U.S. investment are prioritized over domestic economic friction. Ramadan segments provide a soft, unifying cultural backdrop, while sports (Haiti's World Cup return) are used to foster national optimism. Critical reports, like the [fatal plane crash](#) in North Kalimantan and the [prolonged misery](#) in Aceh, are given less airtime and framed through the lens of ongoing government response rather than systemic failure.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

Indonesia's media portrays a multipolar world where ideological purity is secondary to

national interest and effective problem-solving.

- **United States / Donald Trump:** Portrayed as [mercurial and transactional](#), yet potentially more effective than traditional multilateralism. Trump is described as a leader who wants to "help the people of Gaza" but needs Indonesian [strength and smarts](#) to succeed.
- **Israel:** Framed as an [unilateral and lawless](#) actor. Analysts repeatedly label it a "colonizing state" that must be [confronted](#) within the BoP framework.
- **Palestine:** Depicted as a [venerable civilization](#) older than Israel, suffering under "Zionist" destruction, but needing Indonesia to act as its [primary global voice](#).
- **Iran & Russia:** Framed as [counterweights](#) to U.S. hegemony. Their military drills are presented as a reminder that Indonesia must not become [isolated](#) from other anti-Western or non-aligned blocs.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **The "Board of Peace" Meta-Narrative:** State media is aggressively seeding the idea that the BoP is a [legitimate successor](#) to the UN for Gaza, despite the BoP's lack of Palestinian representation. The "spin" emphasizes Indonesian troop deployment as [humanitarian](#), whereas analysts worry it may be a "trap" to serve U.S. security interests.
- **Domestic Success Seeding:** Extensive coverage of the "Interactive Flat Panels" in schools appears designed to create a sense of [inevitable progress](#), distracting from the fact that many of these same schools [lack internet and electricity](#).

- **Censorship by Omission:** There is almost no mention of the specific costs of the "Makan Bergizi Gratis" program, which analysts believe is the primary driver behind the [tax policy debates](#).

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **The BoP Fragility:** Indonesia may [withdraw](#) from the BoP within 6 months if the "Gaza reconstruction" is seen as a way to facilitate permanent Israeli occupation. The "troop deployment" is a [high-risk](#) domestic political gamble.
- **Fiscal Brinkmanship:** The rejection of IMF-suggested tax hikes suggests the government will increasingly rely on [U.S. and Chinese debt](#) to fund its "Asta Cita" projects, potentially pushing the debt-to-GDP ratio closer to the 60% legal limit.
- **Cooperative Centralization:** The "Red and White" cooperatives will likely become the [primary vehicle](#) for rural political control, integrating economic aid with political loyalty ahead of future election cycles.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a public "Isbat" confirmation of Ramadan's start date (Feb 19-20, 2026) followed by [market interventions](#) to cap poultry and egg prices. Finalization of the 19% reciprocal tariff with the U.S. is likely.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The deployment of [8,000 Indonesian troops](#) to Gaza will face intense parliamentary debate. The first 100 schools with IFP technology will be audited for actual [learning outcomes](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): Success or failure of the "hilirisasi" in poultry will determine if Indonesia can break the [multinational monopoly](#) on food supply. The BoP will either replace or be absorbed back into the UN system based on the [Gaza stabilization](#) outcome.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Geopolitical Entrapment:** Indonesia becoming complicit in a U.S.-led Gaza plan that excludes Palestinians. **Triggers:** BoP authorizing [Israeli-governed](#) reconstruction. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Severe (loss of OIC credibility and domestic unrest). **Mitigations:** Maintaining a [credible threat of withdrawal](#) from BoP.
- **Food Supply Shock:** Surging Ramadan prices leading to urban social unrest. **Triggers:** Poultry prices hitting [Rp75,000/ekor](#). **Likelihood:** Medium. **Impact:** Moderate. **Mitigations:** Using [Koperasi](#) to flood the market with subsidized supply.
- **Logistics Failure in Education:** The Rp10,000 trillion digital push failing due to [lack of electricity](#) in remote regions. **Triggers:** Reports of IFP units [gathering dust](#) in Papua. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Moderate. **Mitigations:** Simultaneous investment in [off-grid solar power](#) for schools.
- **Aviation/Safety Standards Decay:** Repeated crashes of aging or over-tasked logistics fleets. **Triggers:** The [Feb 19 Pelita Air crash](#). **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Low. **Mitigations:** Immediate [mandatory fleet grounding](#) and safety audits.

- **Debt Sustainability:** Indonesia's debt-to-GDP ratio spiraling if the 8% growth target [fails to materialize](#). **Triggers:** Global recession or [CPO price collapse](#). **Likelihood:** Low. **Impact:** Extreme. **Mitigations:** Diversifying [hilirisasi](#) to high-value manufacturing.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts do not explain the **cost of deploying 8,000 troops** to Gaza and how it will be funded given the fiscal deficit constraints.
- The **actual stance of Palestinian leaders** regarding the BoP is missing, leaving a massive gap in evaluating the initiative's legitimacy.
- While digitized education is promoted, the **digital literacy of teachers** in remote areas is an unverified claim that could lead to project failure.
- The **health effects of Saca Inchi** and its market demand are presented as an economic panacea without clear clinical or market data.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Board of Peace" as a Stalling Tactic: Rather than a solution, the BoP might be a U.S. strategy to delay [international sanctions](#) against Israel while presenting a facade of multilateral cooperation. In this scenario, Indonesia is being used as "humanitarian cover" for a [pro-war](#) agenda. A "Black Swan" event would be the [abduction or killing](#) of Indonesian troops in Gaza by a faction rejecting the BoP, leading to an immediate collapse of the Prabowo government's mandate.

Hilirisasi as a Debt Trap: The aggressive 18 downstreaming projects might be **over-leveraged** and under-performing. If global demand for Indonesian processed goods doesn't meet expectations, the massive infrastructure debt could lead to a **national default**, forced IMF intervention, and the very [tax hikes](#) currently being rejected.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Conduct rigorous pre-deployment risk assessments for [Gaza forces](#), ensuring they operate under OIC-aligned rather than U.S.-only mandates.
- **Economic:** Accelerate the [Indigenous Law \(RUU Masyarakat Adat\) to reduce land-use litigation and secure the 18 priority downstreaming sites](#).
- **Diplomatic:** Formalize the [conditionality of BoP membership](#) to maintain leverage over the U.S. and Israel.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Invest in [cold storage and logistics](#) in Central and Eastern Indonesia to capitalize on the government's decentralization and hilirisasi push.
- **Compliance:** Monitor the [KDKMP cooperative rollout as they will increasingly control access to government-backed supply chains \(e.g., Makan Bergizi Gratis\)](#).
- **Opportunities:** The [digitization of 400,000 schools](#) offers massive opportunities for EdTech content and infrastructure support (solar/satellite internet).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity on February 19-20, 2026, was dominated by a push for social stability and the legal frameworks required for national economic downstreaming and international security cooperation.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **RUU Masyarakat Hukum Adat (Indigenous Law):** Aimed at providing [legal precision](#) for traditional land rights, crucial for reducing agrarian conflicts near downstreaming projects.
- **Undang-Undang MD3 (Amendment):** Reinforcing the [honesty and ethical standards](#) of the DPR to regain public trust.
- **Law No. 1 of 2023 (Penal Code):** Discussed in the context of [17-year prison sentences](#) for certain offenses, signaling a "tough on crime" stance.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Isbat Session (Ramadan 1447H):** Ministry of Religious Affairs confirmed the start of [Ramadan on Feb 19, 2026](#).
- **DPR Commission 1 Closed Meeting:** Approved a [1.9 billion yen grant](#) for naval patrol boats from Japan.
- **Presidential Address (Washington):** President Prabowo's 2-minute [BoP speech](#) emphasizing a "two-state solution" as a non-negotiable condition for Indonesian cooperation.

KEY STORIES

- **Prabowo in Washington:** President Prabowo attends the BoP Summit, meets with President Trump and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to discuss [18 downstreaming projects](#) and reciprocal tariffs.
- **Board of Peace (BoP) Launch:** A new U.S.-led international organization aimed at [Gaza reconstruction](#), with Indonesia as a founding member pledging [8,000 troops](#).
- **Aceh Flood Aftermath:** 12,000 residents in Aceh continue to live in [emergency tents](#) five months after disaster; government promises permanent housing acceleration.
- **North Kalimantan Plane Crash:** A Pelita Air "Air Tractor" fuel transport plane [crashes in Nunukan](#), killing pilot Captain Hendrick Adam.
- **Ramadan Price Surges:** Poultry prices in Semarang rise to [Rp50,000/kg](#) as demand peaks for the Islamic holy month.
- **Education Digitization Launch:** A program to equip 400,000 schools with [Interactive Flat Panels](#) and standardized digital curricula.
- **Poultry Downstreaming (Hilirisasi):** Government push to integrate [small farmers](#) into the poultry supply chain to counter multinational domination.
- **IMF Tax Hike Rejection:** Finance Minister Purbaya Yudi Sariwa rejects IMF advice to raise [income tax](#), fearing damage to purchasing power.
- **Iran-Russia Naval Drills:** Joint maneuvers in the [Gulf of Oman](#) signal a hardening anti-Western military bloc.

- **South Korean Insurrection Sentencing:** Former President Yun Suk-yeol sentenced to [life in prison](#) for the failed martial law declaration of late 2024.
- **Gaza Reconstruction Fund:** The BoP secures [\\$7 billion](#) in initial commitments for Gaza redevelopment.
- **Haiti's Football Rebirth:** The Haitian national team qualifies for the [2026 World Cup](#), their first appearance since 1974.
- **Health Segment - Sarcopenia:** A focus on [muscle loss \(Sarcopenia\)](#) in the elderly and the "Kaki Sehat" physical therapy program.
- **Samarinda Historic Mosques:** A report on [Masjid Siratal Mustaqim](#) and Islamic heritage in Kalimantan.
- **Saca Inchi Farming:** Promotion of Saca Inchi as a [high-value oil crop](#) for rural cooperatives (KDKMP).

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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