

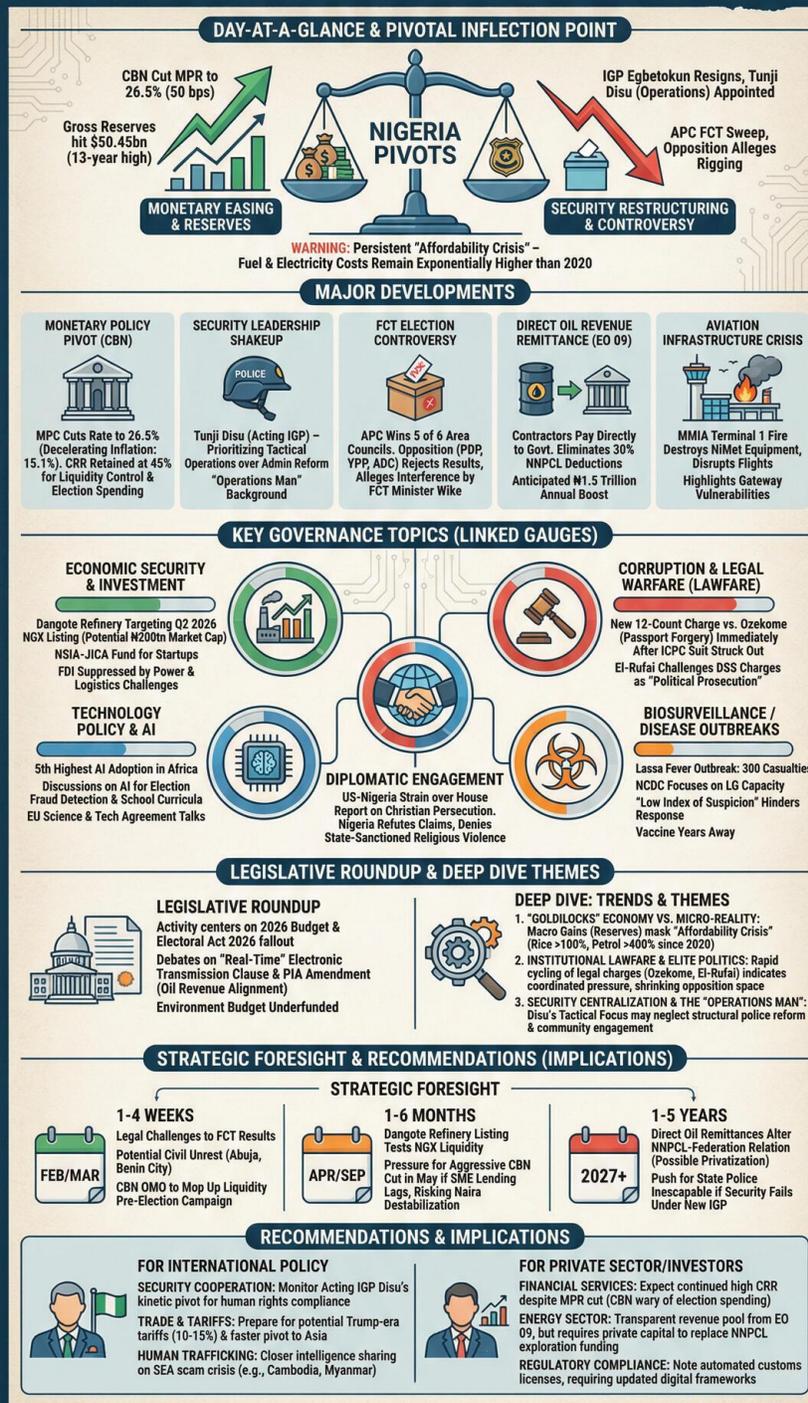
TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CHANNELSTV

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

NIGERIA'S STRATEGIC PIVOT: MONETARY EASING, SECURITY SHIFTS & POLITICAL TENSIONS AMID RISING RESERVES (FEB 2026)



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NIGERIA PIVOTS TOWARD
MONETARY EASING AND SECURITY
RESTRUCTURING AMID
CONTROVERSIAL LOCAL ELECTION
RESULTS AND RISING EXTERNAL
RESERVES.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

February 24, 2026, serves as a pivotal inflection point for the Tinubu administration, characterized by a deliberate shift in monetary policy and a sudden restructuring of the internal security hierarchy. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced a [50 basis point cut](#) to the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR), bringing it to 26.5%. This move, supported by gross external reserves hitting a [13-year high of \\$50.45 billion](#), signals a transition from aggressive tightening to a "cautious easing" phase aimed at stimulating growth. However, economists warn of a persistent "affordability crisis" as macro gains fail to translate into lower costs for the average citizen, with fuel and electricity prices remaining exponentially higher than in 2020 levels.

Simultaneously, the resignation of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kayode Egbetokun, citing "family considerations," has triggered

the immediate appointment of [Tunji Disu](#) as Acting IGP. Disu, known as an "operations man" with a high-profile background in tactical units, is expected to inject a more aggressive posture into a security architecture struggling against persistent banditry and kidnapping. This leadership change occurs against a backdrop of heightened political tension following the All Progressives Congress (APC) sweep of the [FCT Area Council elections](#), which the opposition has labeled a "test run" for systematic rigging ahead of the 2027 general elections.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Monetary Policy Pivot:** The MPC shifted its stance to lower the benchmark interest rate to [26.5%](#), citing eleven consecutive months of decelerating headline inflation, which currently stands at [15.1%](#). The committee retained the Cash Reserve Requirement (CRR) at 45% for deposit money banks to maintain liquidity control amid looming election-cycle spending.
- **Security Leadership Shakeup:** President Tinubu accepted the resignation of IGP Egbetokun and appointed AIG [Tunji Disu](#) as Acting IGP. Disu's appointment is viewed as a strategic move to prioritize tactical operations over administrative reform, given his history as a commander of the Rapid Response Squad and Intelligence Response Team.
- **FCT Election Controversy:** The APC won five of the six area councils in the Federal Capital Territory, with the PDP winning only one (Gwagwalada). Opposition parties, including the PDP, YPP, and ADC, have rejected the results, alleging [vote buying](#), voter intimidation, and illegal interference by FCT Minister Nyesom Wike.

- **Direct Oil Revenue Remittance:** Presidential [Executive Order 09](#) now mandates that contractors pay oil revenues directly to the government, eliminating the 30% "frontier exploration" and management fee deductions previously held by the NNPC. State commissioners of finance anticipate this will add approximately 1.5 trillion naira to the federation account annually.
- **Aviation Infrastructure Crisis:** A fire at Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) Terminal 1 destroyed critical [weather surveillance equipment](#) belonging to NiMet. While no lives were lost, the incident forced flight diversions and highlighted ongoing vulnerabilities in Nigeria's primary aviation gateway.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Economic Security & Investment: The Dangote Refinery is targeting [Q2 of 2026](#) for a public listing on the Nigerian Exchange (NGX), which could potentially push the market capitalization toward 200 trillion naira. Simultaneously, the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) and JICA signed a [impact innovation fund](#) to bolster the startup ecosystem. However, foreign direct investment in manufacturing remains suppressed due to structural challenges in power and logistics.

Corruption & Legal Warfare (Lawfare): The federal government filed a [fresh 12-count charge](#) against Senior Advocate Mike Ozekome for alleged passport forgery and conspiracy immediately after a previous ICPC suit was struck out. Former Kaduna Governor Nasir El-Rufai is also [challenging DSS charges](#) in court, describing them as "political prosecution" and an abuse of court process.

Technology Policy & AI: Nigeria is reported to have the [fifth-highest AI adoption](#) rate in Africa. Discussions are underway regarding the use of AI to analyze election data for fraud detection and the integration of AI into secondary school curricula. The European Union has also opened negotiations for a [bilateral science and technology](#) cooperation agreement with Nigeria.

Biosurveillance / Disease Outbreaks: Nigeria continues to battle a Lassa Fever outbreak, with [300 casualties](#) reported. The NCDC is focusing on building local government capacity for emergency response, though it notes a "low index of suspicion" among health workers leading to high fatality rates. Efforts to develop a vaccine are ongoing but years from completion.

Diplomatic Engagement: US-Nigeria relations are under strain following a US House report on the [persecution of Christians](#) in Nigeria, which recommended sanctions and visa restrictions. Nigeria has refuted these claims, asserting that violence in the country is not driven by state-sanctioned religious persecution.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity centered on the 2026 budget defense and the fallout of the [Electoral Act 2026](#), particularly regarding the contentious clause on electronic transmission of results. Lawmakers are also debating the [2026 budget for the Ministry of Environment](#), highlighting massive underfunding for erosion and flood control despite rising climate threats.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Electoral Act 2026 Amendment:** Debates continue over the removal of the term "real-time" from electronic result transmission, with the Senate retaining a [failure clause](#) that allows manual collation if technology fails.
- **Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) Amendment:** PENGASSAN has urged the President to submit a bill to amend the PIA to align with the [Executive Order 09](#) regarding oil revenue remittances.
- **National Gender Policy in Agriculture:** Kaduna State has approved the domestication of this policy to address [gender disparities](#) in land ownership and financing.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **2026 Environment Budget Defense:** Senator Olubi Fadei noted that current appropriations are [very inadequate](#) to tackle the enormous environmental management responsibilities.
- **National Security Budget Hearing:** The House Committee on National Security reported that the 2025 budget implementation was [absolutely nothing](#), with only 30% of funds released to intelligence agencies by year-end.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The "Goldilocks" Economy vs. Micro-Reality The Tinubu administration is promoting a ["Goldilocks" economy](#) narrative—low inflation, stable exchange rates, and positive GDP growth. While the CBN highlights reserves exceeding [50 billion dollars](#) and a 10% undervalued naira, the

domestic reality is one of an "affordability crisis." Prices for essentials like rice and petrol have risen by over [100% and 400%](#) respectively since 2020. This disconnect suggests that while macro-stabilization is succeeding in the eyes of international lenders, social order remains fragile due to cost-of-living pressures.

Institutional Lawfare and Elite Politics

The sudden cycling of legal charges against high-profile figures like Mike Ozekome and Nasir El-Rufai suggests an intensification of "lawfare" as a governance tool. The [fresh charges](#) filed against Ozekome within 24 hours of his previous case being struck out indicate a highly coordinated effort by the DPP and AGF to maintain legal pressure on critics. This trend points to a shrinking space for elite opposition as the 2027 election cycle begins to solidify.

Security Centralization and the "Operations Man"

The appointment of Tunji Disu as Acting IGP marks a departure from the administrative-heavy tenure of his predecessor. Disu is characterized as an [operations man](#) who prefers "the bush" to the office. This suggests a more aggressive, tactical approach to banditry in the Northwest. However, critics worry this may come at the expense of structural police reform, further entrenching a policing model that relies on tactical units rather than community engagement.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect legal challenges to the FCT election results and potential [civil unrest](#) in Abuja and Benin City following reports of political thuggery. The CBN may conduct further Open Market Operations (OMO) to mop up excess liquidity

before the election campaign spending truly accelerates.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The [Dangote Refinery listing](#) will be a major test for the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) and local liquidity. If the 50 bps cut fails to stimulate SME lending, the CBN may face pressure for a more aggressive cut in May, though this risks destabilizing the naira if foreign investors pivot.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The shift to [direct oil remittances](#) under EO 09 could significantly alter the relationship between the NNPC and the federation, potentially leading to the full privatization of the national oil company. If security does not improve under the new IGP, the push for [state police](#) will become an inescapable constitutional mandate for 2027.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- **Security Cooperation:** Diplomatic missions should monitor the [Acting IGP's transition](#) closely, as Disu's background suggests a pivot toward kinetic operations that may require renewed vetting for human rights compliance in counter-terrorism aid.
- **Trade & Tariffs:** Nigeria must prepare for potential [Trump-era tariffs](#) (projected at 10-15%) that could impact crude exports to the US, necessitating a faster pivot to Asian markets.

- **Human Trafficking:** The repatriation of Nigerians from [Cambodia and Myanmar](#) highlights an emerging global scam crisis, requiring closer intelligence sharing between Nigeria and Southeast Asian authorities.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Financial Services:** Banks should expect continued [high CRR requirements](#) despite the MPR cut, as the CBN remains wary of "pre-election spending" causing a liquidity surge.
- **Energy Sector:** The [ending of NNPC deductions](#) for frontier exploration creates a more transparent revenue pool but may slow down oil exploration in inland basins unless private capital is incentivized to replace state funding.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Legal departments should note the [automated issuance](#) of customs licenses and permits, which aims to reduce the "cost of doing business" but requires updated digital compliance frameworks.

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.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the GDEL T Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.