

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DAILY TRUST AND THE NATION NEWSPAPERS' COVERAGE OF BANDIT OPERATIONS IN NIGER STATE

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Abstract

Nigerian Media has contributed immensely in making the nation what it is today. Both broadcast; radio and television and print; newspaper and magazine, as well as other multimedia channels have also played an active role in the society, relaying news on security and stimulating discussion. Media also create perception and set agenda that form the public decisions on security and other issues. This study, therefore, comparatively analyses Daily Trust and The Nation Newspapers' coverage of bandits' operations in Niger state. The study is hinged on agenda-setting and framing theories. The studies were collated from internet materials, newspapers, journals, official reports, and books. A content analysis approach was adopted to analyse the data. Findings revealed that the two newspapers; have given, less coverage, preference, and prominence to the coverage of bandit operations in Niger State. Daily-Trust seems to have a little edge over The Nation newspaper in terms of the number of times it has published stories on bandit issues in the state. The study concludes that the media needs more work to curb the problem of banditry in Niger State. It recommends for the media, security agencies, and government to give more priority to the coverage of bandit in the state.

Keywords: Banditry, Operations, Media, Newspaper, Coverage

Introduction

The media is a collective means of communication by which general public is informed about the day-to-day happenings in society. It is an aggregation of all communication channels that utilize techniques to facilitate direct personal communication between the communicator and the public (Asemah, 2013). The media mediums; radio, television, newspapers, and magazines are established to cater to the needs of entertaining, educating, and informing the public. It is also regarded as a vital tool in shaping public opinion on issues within and outside the society, such as economics, education, social development, health care, environmental, global warming government policies and insecurities among others. To protect the public interest against misconduct and increase public awareness, the media acts as a watchdog (Bhavna, 2018).

After the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, the media today serves as the fourth pillar of democracy and has a broad mandate to resist injustice, oppression, misconduct, and bias in the society. Governments can hardly survive without effective use of the mass media (Ojo & Heravi, 2018). The media are so powerful in a society that Edmund Burke, an 18th century politician first described them as the "Fourth Estate" of the realm, referring to the three major powers in Medieval times in European society which are the Lords (or Nobles), the Clergy, and the Commons (McQuail, 2000). Burke described the press sitting in the gallery in the parliament as the most powerful of all estates when compared with the other three. Hence, the media are crucial in nation building; maintain peace and order and ensure good governance through their various medium.

Today, the press is still called the fourth estate of the realm, checking the activities of the other estates in Nigeria realm; executive, legislature and the judiciary. They ensure that all citizens are well informed on

the activities of the government, giving voice to the people and act as a link between the people and the policies makers in the country. Guaranteeing the fundamental right of every citizen of maximum access to information irrespective of the region as enshrined in Section 39 (1) of 1999 constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended which stated that “Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.” It is also enshrined in article 9 (2) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) “Every individual shall have the right to receive information”.

Nevertheless, the basic focus of this study is on print medium; Newspaper. Newspaper is one of the conventional news media in Nigeria which has its roots from IweIrohin in 1859, have been useful resources in the society. Newspaper like other medium inform, educate, entertain, create awareness and shaping public opinion, as well as, fostering peace, prevails needs for societal change, setting agenda through news, editorials, features, opinion and among others. The Guardian, Punch, Daily Sun, Thisday, Vanguard, The Nation and Daily Independent, Daily-Trust among others, have become dominant communication channels in Nigeria, providing diverse angle of hard and soft news that keep the society informed (Chinenye & Emelda, 2013). Newspapers are sometimes compared to courts, where judgments against social problems are rendered through editorials. Newspapers additionally provide an important forum for public discussions and debates. The major debate and trending issues on Nigeria Newspaper is insecurity bedevilling the country; banditry, robbery, insurgency, farmer and herders clash, Boko-haram and among others have become a widespread social problem in Nigeria (Semiu, 2015). Today, hardly a day passes by without the media covering one insecurity issue or another. Unfortunately, the poor Nigerians and their economic resources is the first target of attack and wanton destruction (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016). The Northwest, Northeast and North-central region states have been overtaken by widespread banditry attacks. It is unfortunate that banditry has been more visible and active recently, especially in the northern Nigerian states of Taraba, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, Plateau, and Benue (Akinyetun, 2022). Niger has experienced a lot of killings and destruction of property by the bandits. Communities have been persistently subjected to devastating attacks by armed bandits leading to countless loss of lives and properties worth millions of naira (Mosadomi, 2022; Nigeria Watch, 2018; Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021; Usman & Singh, 2021; Ngige, Badekale & HammanJoda, 2016). As a result, banditry has emerged as a grave offence that jeopardises the peaceful coexistence of many groups, especially in Northwest, Northeast and North-central states in Nigeria. This study, therefore comparatively analyse Daily Trust and the Nation Newspaper Coverage of Bandits Operation in Niger state.

Statement of the Problem

The brutality of banditry has escalated, progressively expanding throughout the regions in Nigeria, with conflicting level of destruction (Ngige, Badekale & HammanJoda, 2016). The predisposing factors causing increased cadence of banditry in the aforementioned states reported by many media organisation include; un-governed spaces, mining activities, weak security machinery, informants conduct, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and cattle rustling (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019). In Niger state, there are many bandit activities in many communities that seems left uncovered by many journalists. Although, series of headlines were face dressing the operations of banditry in the aforementioned state but the major concern is how media reports the banditry activities in Niger state.

The media also referred to as the fourth estate of the realm is important institutions that often play a key role promoting peace and order through the coverage and adequate report on current fight against terror all over the world (Ngige, Badekale & HammanJoda, 2016). The media occupy a position that is similar to that of a foreman or middleman providing necessary information about the affairs of a particular issue to the government and the general public. Therefore, media is predisposed to manipulation either optimistically or pessimistically. The media has been accused of contributing to the worsening state of insecurity and conflicts escalation in Nigeria due to its pattern of reportage and coverage of banditry activities. More worrisome is

the fact that bandits, mainly seek to manipulate and explore the media for their own selfish purposes by sending out messages that will increase wide coverage of their operations and publicity (Adebajo, Atobatele, Osikoya, Goddy, Bello & Dele-Dada, 2025). As such, it is important to comparatively analyse Daily Trust and The Nation Newspapers' coverage of Bandits operation in Niger state with a view to determine the preference of coverage and importance attached to their reportages.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the frequency of news coverage of bandit operations in Niger State in the Daily Trust and the Nation Newspapers.
2. To determine the preference for coverage of bandit operations in Niger State in Daily Trust and The Nation Newspapers.
3. To identify the level of prominence given to coverage of bandit operations in Niger State in Daily Trust and the Nation Newspapers.

Literature Review

The conceptualization of banditry as it were can be made clear by understanding who a bandit is. The discernment of a bandit has experienced a few stages. A bandit might be alluded to as an opportunity warrior, within the setting of the 19th century Americas and Europe, whose obligation was to battle for the liberation of the colonized. Within the 21st-century African setting, a bandit may be seen as one who commits the wrongdoing of equipped theft, slaughtering, and annihilation of properties, especially, of herders, vendors, and commerce proprietors (Olapecu & Peter, 2021) cited in Odalonu & Egbogu, (2023). Thus, banditry is derived from the term bandit while bandits are simply known as heavily armed criminal gangs that have terrorized Nigeria's rural North-west, North-east, and North-central, killing, kidnapping, forcing people from their homes, and taunting the authorities with their hardheartedness (Hassan, 2021). Banditry means the occurrence or prevalence of armed robbery or violent crime. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person with the intent to rob, rape and kill, which is a crime against persons. It has been a common genre of crime, as well as causing violence in contemporary societies (Nigeria Watch, 2011).

To Uche & Iwuamadi (2018), banditry is reflected in criminal escapades like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape, and the brazen and gruesome massacre of people of agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons by suspected herdsmen and reprisal attacks from surviving victims, a development that has been brought to the front burner of national security (Uche & Iwuamadi, 2018). In the same vein, Okoli (2019), averred that banditry includes cattle rustling, armed robbery, village raids, and kidnapping for ransom among others. To him, banditry refers to armed violence driven principally by the criminal intent to steal and plunder. It is motivated by the quest for economic accumulation. The victims are individuals and communities with material valuables (Okoli, 2019).

Bandits' activities in Nigeria are widespread and can be targeted at individuals or groups and the prime targets are mostly ordinary citizens of the country rich or poor (Usman & Singh, 2021). Thus, the vicious attacks on local communities and kidnappings by criminal groups in the Northern region are being described by state officials as 'banditry' (Ojewale, 2021). There has been a progressive transformation from its rudimentary and isolated roots to a complicated transnational and rapidly spreading security threat (Ojewale, 2021). However, the recent spate of banditry-related violence began in 2014 with cattle rustling activity, but the matter became worse in early 2016 when the bandits started killing local miners in Zamfara communities (Mohammed, 2021). Bandits and insurgents pose real threat to rural communities in North Central Nigeria as such there is high risk of survival for people living in those communities (Adisa, 2021). In Niger state, communities such as Shiroro, Munya, Kafin-Koro, Beji, Mariga, Rafi, Kontagora, Magama, Mashegu, Wushishi, Borgu, Rijau and so on are within the terror of the bandits for so many years. Those who have relations in the urban centres in Minna, Kuta, Kontagora, New Bussa, Suleja, and Bida had relocated temporarily. Those left behind are the ones who do not have anywhere to go.

Several researchers have conducted studies on newspaper coverage. This study considered and reviewed some of the studies. The study "socioeconomic effect of the scourge of banditry in Niger State, Nigeria" was carried out by Boris (2023). Using a survey research design, the study looked at how banditry affected Niger State's socioeconomic situation. Primary and secondary sources provided the data for the research. The study revealed that a poor security system, a proliferating armament trade, extensive areas of uncontrolled forest reserves, prosperous illegal mining operations, poverty, unemployment, and porous borders were the main causes of banditry in Niger State. It also demonstrated that acts of banditry.

Shehu (2017), investigated the way that Nigerian media reported on the battle between farmers and herders. The content analysis method was used. The study found that the headlines in the content they examined suggested that Fulani organizations were being portrayed by the newspapers as "conflict mongers and Bandits".

Ngige, Badekale & Hammanjoda (2016), in a study on the Media and Boko-Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: a content analysis and review this study therefore, carried out an incisive analysis of the media and Boko-Haram insurgency in Nigeria, making references to development in Adamawa state. The study findings revealed that many media organisation give less coverage to issues affecting people, compared to publicity on the activities of the bandits in communities in Nigeria. It was concluded that media should deliberately work to improve upon its performance criteria so by restoring confidence reposed on it by the generality of media users and the media should adopt a more positive approach to newsgathering and reporting. Finally, Boko-Haram and other terrorist groups will always continue to be as long as the government and media fail to mitigate terrorists' exploitation of the news cycle.

Hamza, Yusuf, Akote & Abubakar (2022) studied the resilience against banditry and insurgency in Niger state, Nigeria 2015 to 2022. This article investigated the way the communities have suffered in the hands of bandits and insurgents and how they have been confronting them to take control of their communities and continue their lives with the risk of been attacked by these adversaries. The primary data was collection through interview and secondary data was sourced from Daily Trust Newspaper; the qualitative data was analysed in themes. The findings revealed that that there have been high incidences of banditry attacks on farmers, villages, communities, and highways resulting in kidnapping, killings, cattle rustling, displacement, loss of properties, and other security challenges in Nigeria. It also revealed the factors necessitating the rise of banditry in recent times which include unemployment, weak security system, and poverty, the porosity of Nigeria's borders, arms proliferation, illegal mining activities, and the presence of large ungoverned spaces which serve as hideouts to the bandits. The study concludes that the resilience of the communities has helped them to confront their adversaries, but they need the help of the state to eliminate those threats on a long run.

Rosenje & Adeniyi, (2021), carried out an analysis of Nigeria's North-west regarding the effects of banditry on security in the fourth republic. The paper used secondary sources of data and utilized a descriptive methodology. According to the report, the Northwest region of Nigeria is experiencing an increase in banditry due to a number of causes, including the existence of sparsely controlled spaces, high unemployment rates that result in poverty, a poor security system, the porousness of Nigeria's borders, and the proliferation of weapons.

Elijah (2021), conducted a study on rural banditry in Nigeria's North-West; understanding the issues, impact and poverty incidence. The study adopted a qualitative method of research. The study found out that North-West Nigeria has now become a battleground. The study is limited by the lack of empirical evidence.

Osah, Eti, & Ogundiwin (2017), carried out a study on conflict entrepreneurs, informal economies and structural reforms in the Iger Delta. The paper relied mainly on secondary data for its analysis. The study found that the main thrust of the argument relied on the fact that there should be structural reforms for achieving sustainable development in the Niger Delta region. The paper recommended that Nigeria should provide employment generation for the youth.

Another study carried out by Adebajo, Atobatele, Osikoya, Goddy, Bello & Dele-Dada, (2025), investigated conflict entrepreneurship and rural banditry in Nigeria. The study was analysed using ordinal regression analysis. It was revealed that the problem of rural banditry in the affected places and Nigeria at large seems impossible because conflict compradors that benefit from the activities of the bandits see it as a form of business investment. It further argued that the rising rate of unemployment and poverty in the state over time has led many youths into the banditry industry.

Theoretical Framework

This study is grounded in agenda-setting and framing theories. The agenda-setting theory claims that readers or the public will view a news item as significant if it is reported more regularly or more frequently (Sheth, 2016). The theory of agenda setting was put forth by Donald Shaw and Maxwell McCombs in 1972 note that, the people's view of what is significant and notable can be influenced by the media's choice and emphasis on particular problems, thereby setting the agenda for public awareness and discussion. It is the news media's efforts to raise public knowledge and attention about important problems. Agenda setting theory is a well-known communication theory that looks into how the public's awareness of various issues is influenced by the media. Diverse scholars offer differing perspectives on this subject. Framing theory doesn't have a single founder, but it has been developed by various scholars over time. However, one of the earliest and most influential works that laid the foundation for framing theory was Erving Goffman's (1974). Goffman's work focused on how individuals interpret social situations by framing them within certain cognitive frameworks. Robert Entman, Dietram Scheufele, and Shantolyengar further developed and expanded the framing theory in their research. Framing theory, in this context of media studies it explores how the presentation of information can shape the perception, interpretation, and understanding of an issue or topic. In extending agenda-setting theory to incorporate the concept of framing, Robert Entman (1993), argued that the media not only influence what issues are considered important but also how those issues are framed, shaping the way people perceive and interpret the news. According to (Erving, 1974), Stated that framing theory laid the groundwork for understanding how individuals interpret social situations by framing them within certain mental frameworks or cognitive structures. Thus, scholars have defined agenda-setting and framing as theories of potent and strong media effects (McQuail, 2011; Hojier, 1998). Using these theories help to provide valuable insights into the media's role in constructing and influencing public perceptions of security issues, ultimately contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of bandit operations in Niger State.

Methodology

The study used content analysis; Daily Trust and The Nation Newspapers' publications from January to June 2025 and Journals, publications, government gazettes, Internet materials on bandits' activities in Nigeria, especially Niger state. The population of this study is the Daily Trust and The Nation editions for the period January to June 2025. Hence, the population of this study include 362 editions of both newspapers (181 editions each). Therefore, the sample was determined by selecting 42.2 editions of each newspaper for the period of January to June 2025. As a result, the sample size is approximately 72.4, or 72 editions of both newspapers. Nwana (1981), suggested that a sample size of 20% is necessary if a population is in the hundreds, since this is made up several thousand, a sample size of 5 percent or less than is need. Therefore, by following the population of this study which is one hundred and eighty-one (181) editions of each newspaper (making a total of 362 editions), the study used researcher used 20 percent as the study's sample size. Thus, the sampling strategy developed by Ken and Black (2004), is used in this work to obtain the interval that illustrates the selection process for certain editions. That is, $K = N/n$, in the formula, sample size is indicated by the letter "n," the population by the letter "N," and interval value by the letter "K." Therefore, $n = 362/72.4$, K is equal to 5. The interval is 5.

Data Presentation

Table 1: Frequency of news coverage of bandit operations in Niger State

Medium	Frequency	Percentage
Daily Trust	19	68%
The Nation	9	32%
Total	28	100%

Source: Content Analysis, 2025

Table 1 shows the overall coverage by Daily Trust and The Nation Newspapers from January to June 2025; 28 publications (100%) about banditry operations in Niger State were published. The Daily Trust published the most, with 19 (68%), and The Nation published 9 (32%). This implies that more attention is given to bandit operations in Daily-Trust Newspaper coverage than in The Nation Newspaper.

Table 2: Preference for coverage of bandit operations in Niger State

Sizes of Stories	Daily rust	The Nation	Total	Percentage
Full-page stories	3(10.7%)	0(0%)	3	10.7%
Half-page stories	4(14.3%)	1 (3.6%)	5	17.9%
Quarter-page stories	2 (7.1%)	2 (7.1%)	4	14.3%
Less than quarter stories	10 (35.7%)	6 (21.4%)	16	57.1%
Total	19	9	28	100%

Source: Content Analysis, 2025

Table 2 shows that both newspapers; Daily-Trust and The Nation, did not give much preference to coverage of bandits' operations in Niger state; both newspapers carried a higher percentage of less-than-quarter-page items, less than 20% half-page or quarter-page coverage, and 10% of full-page stories. This implies that both Daily Trust and the nation seriously downplay the issue of bandit operations in Niger state, giving more preference to political issues in Nigeria.

Table 3: Level of Prominence given to coverage of bandit operations in Niger state

Sizes of Stories	Daily rust	The Nation	Total	Percentage
Front page	3(10.7%)	1(3.6%)	4	14.3%
Inside (other) page	11(39.3%)	5(17.8%)	16	57.1%
Middle page	5(17.9%)	3(10.7%)	8	28.6%
Back pages	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Total	19	9	28	100%

Source: Content Analysis, 2025

Table 3 shows that there were more inside page stories published overall; Daily-Trust published 11 stories and The Nation with 5 stories, which climax 57.1%, while both newspaper on middle page and front page gave less prominence to coverage on bandits in Niger state, as well as zero publications on the back page in Daily-Trust and The Nation Newspaper. This indicates that both newspapers; Daily-Trust and The Nation placed no much importance to issues on bandits' operation in Niger state.

Discussion of Findings

Comparative analyses of the Daily-Trust and The-Nation Newspapers' coverage on bandits' operation in Niger State shows that the two selected newspaper gave less coverage to the issue of bandits' operation in Niger state compared to how they both reported bandits and insurgence activities in Borno, Zamfara, Benue and Plateau state. The Daily-Trust headline on the stories covered within January to June 2025 depicts less attention to way-out of the problem of bandits in the state, as most stories are reported from a less important angle; "Bandits kill security operatives, 10 others in Niger, Police rescued 35 bandits kidnapped victims in Niger, and Soldier bandits in blood clash in Niger. Others are; Residents flee as bandits attack Niger communities, kill 6, abduct over 20, and soldiers, Bandits in bloody clash in Niger, Army breaks

silence on troops, terrorists' gun battle in Niger." The Nation newspaper headlines on same days with the month of March to June 2025 were totally different as it took more of report away from Niger state; "Rep seeks urgent military intervention to contain banditry in Niger State, DSS, military continue dislodgement of bandits, neutralise 45 in Niger, Army tasks commanders on security of FCT, environs and Army troops neutralise more terrorists, recover weapons across theatres. Other are; FCT police, DSS, military activate joint patrols to curb kidnapping, one chance, Army kills scores of bandits in Niger joint operation and About 20 Soldiers Killed as bandits overrun military camp In Niger State". Both newspaper; Daily-Trust and The Nation gave less significance, preference and prominence to stories on bandits' activities in Niger state rather gave attention to FCT the seat of the government. Daily-Trust published 19 (68%) stories and The Nation published 9 (32%), both place the stories more in the middle page and inside (other) page, most stories were also allocated less than quarter age, quarter page and half page which indicated that other stories were given more preference and prominence than stories of bandits' operation in Niger. Hence, there is need for questioning, If the two print; newspaper publishers whose correspondents Abubakar Yabagi Akote (Daily-Trust) and Justina Ashishana (The Nation) always in the forefront of reporting bandits' operation and the plights of Internally displacement in Niger state, give less preference and prominence to the bandits' operation in the state. No wonder, Ngige, Badekale, & Hamman Joda (2016), in their study, "the media and Boko-haram insurgency in Nigeria: A Content Analysis and Review" said media should deliberately work to improve upon its performance criteria so by restoring confidence reposed on it by the generality of media users and the media should adopt a more positive approach to newsgathering and reporting. They explained that if the media refuse to take leverage of using their coverage to create necessary public awareness on bandits' operations in Nigeria, the bandits will take the advantage of their weakness to gain more publicity and propaganda against the people. Another study carried out by Adebajo, Atobatele, Osikoya, Goddy, Bello & Dele-Dada, (2025), investigated conflict entrepreneurship and rural banditry in Nigeria concluded that the problem of rural banditry in the affected places and Nigeria at large seems impossible because conflict compradors that benefit from the activities of the bandits see it as a form of business investment. Hamza, Yusuf, Akote & Abubakar (2022), study the resilience against banditry and insurgency in Niger State, Nigeria 2015 to 2022, investigated the way the communities have suffered in the hands of bandits and insurgents and how they have been confronting them to take control of their communities and continue their lives with the risk of been attacked by these adversaries. Concluding that the resilience of the communities has helped them to confront their adversaries, but they need the help of the state to eliminate those threats on a long run.

From the findings, it is very noticeable that media organisations have more work to do in setting agenda for the issue of banditry operation in Niger state; they need to give more prominence and preference to covering stories of banditry in Niger state. The media need to frame the story for public awareness and quick intervention from the security agent for necessary help. The media may frame bandit issues by introducing news items with predefined and narrow contextualisation. Framing theory suggests that how something is presented to the audience (called "the frame") influences the choices people make about how to process that information and notion that work to organise or structure message meaning.

This indicates that the media need to place prominence and preference to News coverage on bandits' operation in Niger state. As postulated by framing theory; which proposes that the media focuses attention on certain events and then places them within a field of meaning (Mass Communication Theory (Online), 2017). Agenda-setting theory focuses on the relationship between media coverage and the perceived importance of an issue. It posits that the media's ability to select and emphasize certain issues influences the public's perception of what is important. In essence, the media doesn't tell people what to think, but what to think about. Going by the findings in this study, the media focus on specific topics, shape public opinion and elevate the perceived importance of allocated stories on bandit operations and other security issues in Niger state. When the media devotes significant coverage to issues of bandits in Niger state, audiences will perceive that the issues are more important and significant. If the framing theory and agenda setting

theories proponents are thoroughly observed by the media, then, the narrative which asserts that the media is the reason for worsening state of insecurity and conflicts escalation in Nigeria due to their pattern of reportage which primarily aim at maximizing profit by manipulating the audience, as well as allowing bandits to manipulate and explore the media for selfish purposes by sending out messages that will increase their publicity. Hamid and Baba (2014), blamed the mass media on several occasions on inflaming the conflict, particularly regarding the nature of their reportage. Sharifi (2015), observed that the journalists have not fully grasped how much terrorists benefit from exploiting their reporting. This the reason Sharifi, (2015), posits that only with a quick and robust presence in the media and proactive efforts to lead the narratives can the government effectively deprive terrorists of maintaining ascendancy in the information landscape.

Conclusion

It is evident that the media possess abilities to select and emphasize certain issues influences the public's perception of what is important. By focusing on specific topics, the media can shape public opinion and elevate the perceived importance of those issues. The media being a gatekeeper can decide which stories to cover and how much attention to give them. This selective process, whether intentional or unintentional can as well shapes the public perception on an issue such bandits' operation. Drawing from the finding of the comparative analysis and interpretation of Daily-Trust and The Nation's coverage of Bandits operation in Niger States, there is doubt that the media still have a lot to do in ensuring that adequate attention, prominence and preference are given to their coverage on bandits' operations in their reportage. That is the reason many scholars argue that when the media devotes significant coverage to a particular issue, audiences tend to perceive that issue as more important or significant. If the media consistently reports on security, crimes, banditry and other human-interest stories in their reportage, the public may perceive the issues as major problem, and enable the necessary authority proactively address the issue. Less coverage, attention and importance are given to bandits' activities in Niger state even when the bandits' activities seem to be happening daily in the state. The media organisations, especially the Daily-Trust and The Nation newspaper need to redirect their attention to the hostility and inhuman activities perpetuated by the bandits in Niger state and Nigeria at large.

Recommendations

1. Media organisation and agencies should give more coverage to bandits' operation in Niger State, in order ensure that government and security agencies are informed on the danger and find lasting solution to it.
2. Media should also ensure that storied on bandits in Niger state are giving more preference same way it gave other, considering the peculiarity and position state within the North central and its proximity to Federal Capital Territory
3. Media organisation, both print and broadcast should give more prominence and definite importance to the story's bandit operations in Niger State.

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