

THIS BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE OF 2019 NIGERIA GENERAL ELECTION

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European Union



Published in 2020
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F O R E W O R D

The Institute for Media and Society established a Media Monitoring activity in 2018 within the context of the Support to Media component of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Project. This emerged from our understanding that media monitoring is a strong tool for generating data in a systematic and scientific manner, to analyse and draw conclusions on the performance of the media during an electoral process.

The activity sought to contribute to enhanced professionalism in the media and ultimately to improved media coverage of the electoral process – before, during and after the 2019 general elections in Nigeria.

We set up Media Monitoring Centres in four locations: Kaduna (Kaduna State), Port Harcourt (Rivers State), Yola (Adamawa State) and Lagos (Lagos State).

From these centres, our staff monitored and processed contents of selected broadcast media outlets (radio and television) across the country. They focused on the character and diversity of coverage of issues by the media. They beamed their search-light on the attention given by the media to various actors and institutions in the electoral process.

The outputs from the analysis of the extensive monitoring work are provided on the pages in this publication. The reader will find, among others things a clear picture of prioritization of media attention to issues and institutions, the

changes in coverage patterns and the areas of performance that require being addressed as our country continues to improve in the conduct of elections and broader democratic governance.

This is a great resource for journalists and other professionals involved in the electoral process in Nigeria.

Dr. Akin Akingbulu
Executive Director
Institute for Media and Society (IMS)

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

The work of monitoring media content in the electoral process in Nigeria involves a series of tasks and actors, spread (in our particular experience) across timelines and locations. The actors ensured that the job was done and done well.

We wish to thank monitoring staff in the field monitoring centres (Yola, Kaduna and Port Harcourt) and the Head Office staff in Lagos.

We are grateful to Professor Ayo Ojebode and the following members of his team at the Department of Communication and Language Arts, University of Ibadan: Oluwabusolami Oluwajulugbe, Omehie Okoyomoh, Timilehin Durotoye, Obasanjo Oyedele, Amarachi Simon Gondo, Mustapha Adeitan, Adeola Mobolaji, Seun Fategbe and Ifeoluwa Akinola. They worked tirelessly on shaping the analysis that we will be reading on the pages of this publication.

Thanks and thanks to the European Union, for providing support for the entire monitoring activity, including this publication.

JULY 2019 REPORT



Background

The role of broadcast media which include, but is not limited to, informing, mobilising, entertaining, serving as the watchdogs and gatekeeping cannot be underestimated. The major role that the media play especially during election period has always been to create and shape public opinion. In addition, media play a significant role during elections by monitoring and releasing information to the society; monitor the electoral process, hold the government accountable and douse election-related tensions. As media play all the roles diligently, one can then say that a nation cannot enjoy its democracy without the role of the media being effectively played.

The media played its roles effectively during and after the 2019 general elections. After the elections in February and March, the media continued to give attention to political related issues and inform the citizens accordingly. All the post-election activities were covered and this means that the media do not fail to monitor and to inform the citizen as political issues in the country, especially, post-election issues happen torrentially. The media cover many issues such as post-election conflicts, campaign promises, political campaigns for other elections that were not yet conducted, appraisal of election administration, and issues about women in politics. They also have programmes such as news reports, discussion, interviews, commentary and analysis and vox-pop.

Given the critical role played by the media after the elections, it becomes imperative to ensure that their activities and operations are monitored for record and for future use. This is the attempt made in this report. To achieve this, the contents of radio and television stations were monitored, examined

and compared to ascertain their roles in the post-2019 general elections.

Thirty-three (33) media stations which include 17 radio stations and 16 television stations all over the country were monitored with emphasis on their political-related programmes.

The radio stations monitored are listed as follows:

1. Adamawa Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Yola
2. Anambra Broadcasting Service (Awka 88.5 FM), Awka
3. Arewa Radio, Kano
4. Dream FM, Enugu
5. Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Network
6. Glory FM (Bayelsa State Broadcasting Corporation, BSBC), Yenagoa
7. Gotel Radio, Yola
8. Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) Radio, Kaduna
9. Nigeria Info, Network
10. Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC), Osogbo
11. Progress FM Gombe
12. Radio Benue, Makurdi
13. Radio Kwara, Ilorin
14. Radio Lagos
15. Radio Lagos/Eko FM
16. Rhythm 93.7, Network
17. Splash FM 105.5 Ibadan

These are the monitored television stations:

1. African Independent Television (AIT), Network

2. Adamawa Television (ATV) Yola
3. Channels Television, Network
4. Desmims International Television (DITV), Kaduna
5. Galaxy Television, Lagos
6. Gotel TV, Yola
7. Independent Television (ITV), Benin City
8. Kaduna State Television (KSTV), Kaduna
9. Liberty TELEVISION, Abuja
10. Lagos Television (LTV), Lagos
11. Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) Network
12. Ogun State Television (OGTV), Abeokuta
13. Rivers State Television (RSTV), Port Harcourt
14. Silverbird Television (STV), Network
15. TV Continental (TVC), Network
16. Wazobia Max TV, Network

In order to carefully monitor and analysed the contents of the selected political related programmes, three important questions that are central to election and electoral issues in the broadcast media guided this exercise. The questions are:

1. What are the broadcast media talking about?
2. Who are the actors given coverage by the broadcast media?
3. What is the quality of reporting with reference to balance?

Moreover, a total of 518 contents were monitored, recorded and analysed for the month. Two hundred and thirty three (233) of the broadcast contents were from the selected radio stations and 285 broadcast programmes were monitored from the selected television stations. This report is presented in

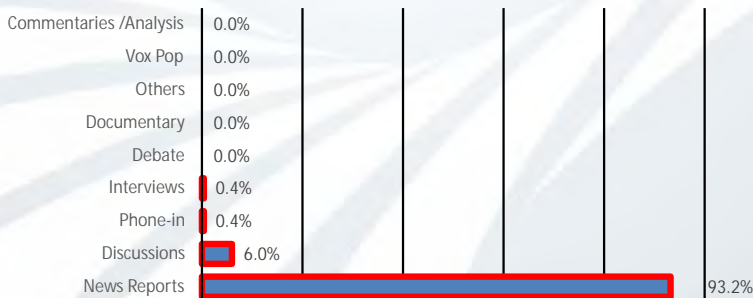
three parts: Part A presents the analysis and interpretation of radio broadcast contents; Part B presents the television broadcasts' analysis and interpretation; and Parts C presents the analysis and interpretation of the combined (Radio and TV) programmes.

PART I:

CONTENTS OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO PROGRAMME TYPES USED IN POLITICAL BROADCASTS ON RADIO

For the month under review, news reports, discussions, interviews, vox-pop, phone-ins, commentaries, debates, documentaries and other forms of broadcast contents were considered and examined in order to ascertain the role of the media in political processes. Chart 1 shows that majority of the contents on political issues in the selected radio stations were in the form of news reports.

Chart 1: Programme types used by radio stations
in political broadcasts July 2019



News reports accounted for 93.5% of the total programme and this category is distantly followed by discussions on political issues which accounted for 6.0% of the programmes. Phone-in programmes and interviews both accounted for 0.4% each of the programmes, while debate, documentary, commentary/analysis, vox-pop and others were not part of the political broadcast programmes for the month.

Chart 2: Thematic Focus of Radio Broadcasts

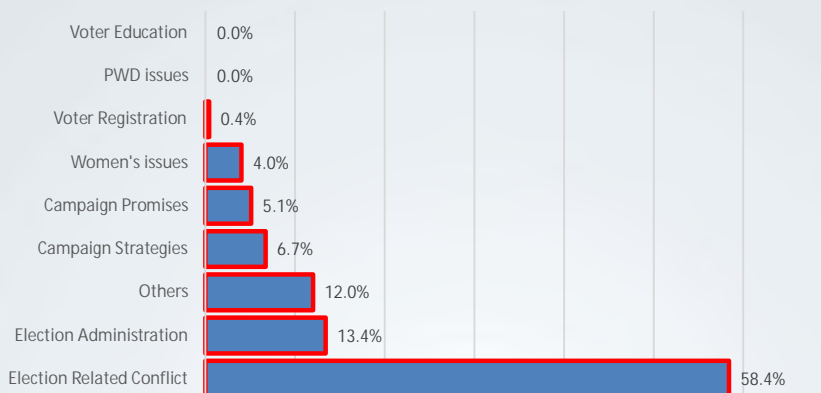


Chart 2 shows that election-related conflicts (violent and non-violent) had the dominant media attention as it accounted for 58.4% of all thematic focus in the media contents. This is remotely followed by election administration with 13.4% of all programmes. Other issues accounted for 12.0%, while campaign strategies, campaign promises and women issues all accounted for 6.7%, 5.1% and 4.0%, respectively. Voters' registration issues had 0.4% of the focus of media contents. Like in previous reports, post-election situation is usually laden with series of conflicts (both violent and non-violent) and in the media observation of July, 2019, much of the election-related issues that dominate discussions or issues in the media are election-related conflicts. This happens mainly among political parties and candidates. Most of the cases referred to court for fair hearing. For instance, Radio Benue reported on the 30th of July 2019, that “Benue State governorship election petition has dismissed an application filed by the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its governorship candidate Mr Emmanuel Jimmeh, to amend the defective witness statement and oath of one of its witness Mr Adayi from Ado LGA.” Similarly, it was reported on another radio station in Ondo State on the 31st of July, 2019 that “the election petition tribunal has nullified the election of Nkem Boju Gboluga member representing Okiti Pupa Constituency in Ondo State saying he was not eligible to contest thereby, declaring Albert Akintoye of APC as winner”. These are some of the examples of the conflicts that

resulted from gubernatorial elections in some states and they made thematic issues to the media.

VISIBILITY OF ACTORS IN THE CONTENTS OF RADIO BROADCASTS

In this report, it was attempted to ascertain the visibility of actors in political programmes, the visibility of men and women in radio broadcasts. Also, visibility of the able was compared with that of people living with disabilities (PWD), while the presentation of the different arms of government, CBOs, CSOs, traditional rulers, security agencies and government agencies were all examined. It is found that media gave more attention to some actors at the expense of other.

VISIBILITY OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL CONTENT OF RADIO BROADCASTS

The visibility of male and female was observed in the monitored programmes for the month. The result shows that male had more visibility than female in political contents on the observed radio programmes.

Chart 3: Visibility of male and female actors in the content of radio broadcasts

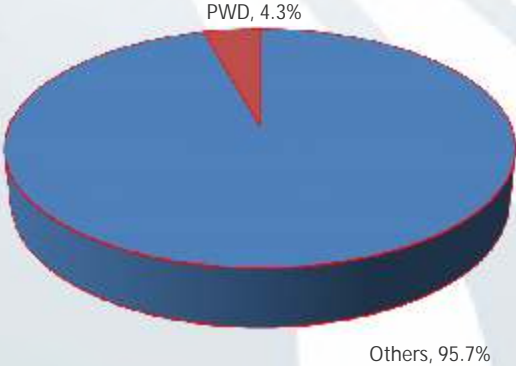


Chart 3 shows the visibility of male and female in the political content on radio programmes for the month. The result shows that male had more visibility with 61.0%, while female had 39.0% of the total visibility in the

monitored programmes. This consistent underrepresentation of female in the political sphere has left the females bothered. They use the limited airtime they have in the media to express their dissatisfaction. For instance, in a programme titled “Politics Nationwide” on FRCN Abuja, the President of the women in politics group, Mrs Ifendu, expressed her dissatisfaction especially with regard to the ministerial list of President Buhari. In the programme which was held on the 25th of July, 2019, it was stated that “women in politics have expressed worry over the low representation of women in the ministerial list, president of the group Ebere Ifendu said the number of women was not encouraging.” In another report from ABC Yola in the news report of July 2nd, it was reported that “only two out of two-hundred women that indicated interest to contest for the various political office during the last general elections in Adamawa state, were elected at the poll”

Similarly, people living with disability continued to experience dearth representation in the media and also in politics. In the media observation for the month, the representation and visibility of people living with disability and able people were also considered. The result shows that able bodied people had more visibility.

Chart 4: Visibility of PWD and other people in the content of radio broadcasts



The result shows that other people had more visibility in the media content with 95.7% of the total visibility, while people with disability had just 4.3% visibility. This is significantly low compared to the visibility of able bodied people.

VISIBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

In the monitoring of media content, the visibility of young people is also measured in the content of political programmes presented on the selected radio for the month under review.

Chart 5: Visibility of young people in the radio broadcasts

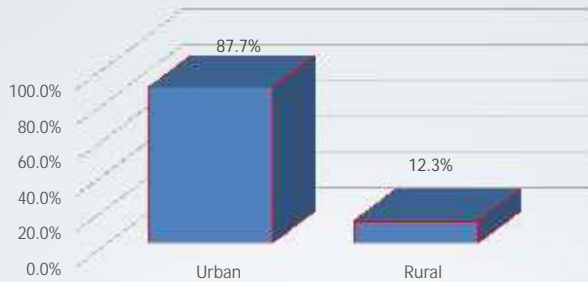


As presented In chart 5, it is shown that young people has a significantly low visibility in the political media contents. While the visibility of the youths accounted for 27.5% of in the total programme, others in the society accounted for 72.5%. This shows that other groups of people in the society had more visibility than the youth in the media contents.

VISIBILITY OF URBAN-RURAL AREAS IN THE CONTENTS OF RADIO BROADCASTS

The review also focused on the representation of rural and urban areas in the political broadcast contents for the month in the selected radio stations. The result is presented in Chart 6.

Chart 6: Urban-rural visibility in the content of radio broadcast

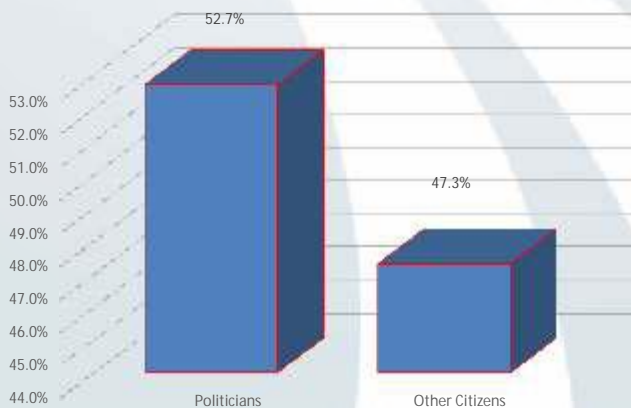


Result on chart 6 shows that urban area had more representation in the content of political programmes. The result shows that urban area accounted for 87.7% visibility in the selected programmes while rural areas had a meagre of 12.3% of the total visibility.

VISIBILITY OF POLITICIANS AND OTHER CITIZENS IN RADIO BROADCAST

This report also looks out for the visibility of politicians and non-politicians in the political broadcast programmes. The result shows that politicians had more visibility.

Chart 7: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in radio broadcasts

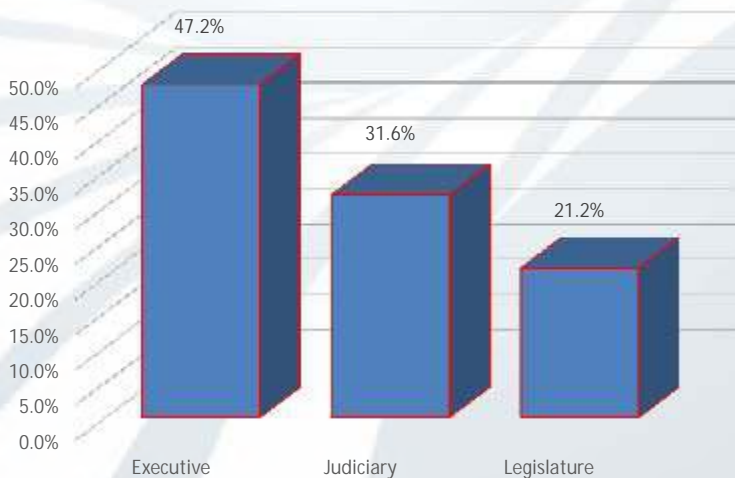


Result presented in Chart 7 shows that politicians had more visibility in the contents of the selected programmes. The representation of politicians accounted for 52.7% visibility in the programmes, while other citizens' visibility in the media contents stood at 47.3%. This shows that in the selected political programmes, more attention was given to politicians than it was given to the citizen.

RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF THE ARMS OF GOVERNMENTS IN RADIO BROADCASTS

The three arms of government were also observed and the result shows that executive had more visibility in the month under review. Chart 8 shows that the Executive arm of government had more visibility at 47.2% of the total visibility in political programmes on radio for the month.

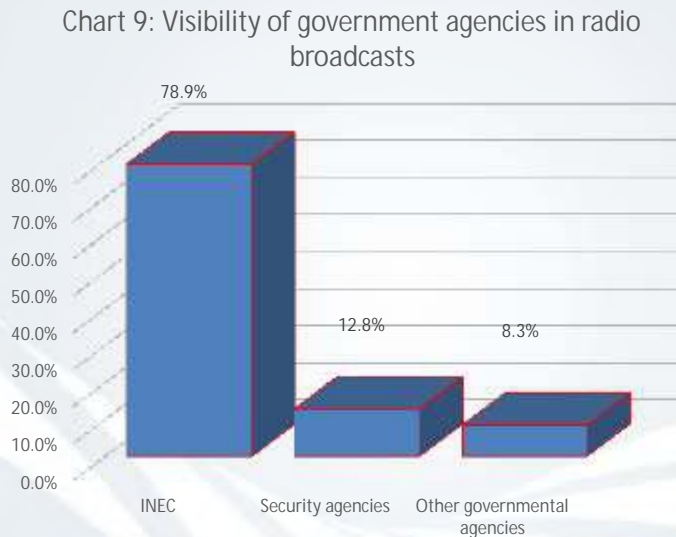
Chart 8: Relative visibility of the arms of government in radio broadcasts



This is followed by the Judiciary with 31.6% and the Legislature with 21.2% of the total visibility. This simply shows that like the previous reports, the Executive continues to enjoy more visibility in broadcast contents than other arms of government.

VISIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE CONTENTS OF RADIO BROADCASTS

The result presented in Chart 9 shows the visibility of government agencies, especially, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies in the content of radio broadcasts in the month.

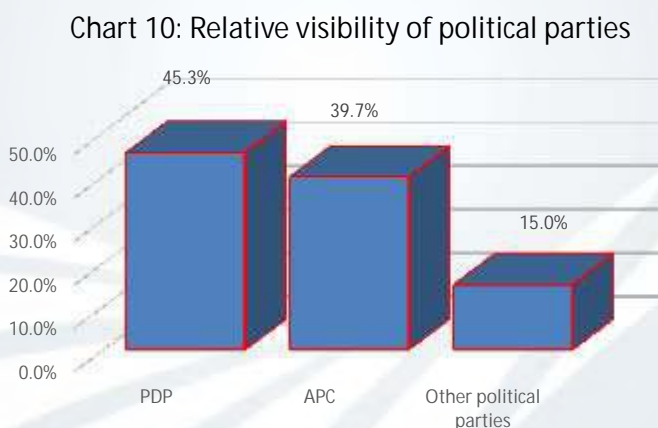


The result in Chart 9 shows that INEC had the visibility which is more than double of security agencies and other agencies. INEC had 78.9% of the total visibility in the contents of political programmes in radio broadcast for the month under review. Security and other governmental agencies had 12.8% and 8.3% visibilities, respectively. The high level of visibility that INEC enjoyed could be attributed to the preparation for the Kogi and Bayelsa Election. As reported by Gotel FM, Yola, in a July 31st news report, INEC was preparing to intimate the politicians with rules for the November election. It was reported that “ahead of November 16th governorship election in Kogi and Bayelsa states, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said it will issue a notice for the elections on August 17th to allow political parties and candidates prepare for the election.” This preparation will in no doubt, keep INEC visible in the media than all other electoral

related government agencies. In addition, INEC was reported on FRCN Abuja's news report of 30th July 2019 to have said that “INEC... will continue to improve on its processes and procedures to ensure that various stakeholders were carried along in the electoral process.”

VISIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN RADIO BROADCASTS

The visibility of political parties was also observed in the radio contents. Of all the political parties, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) had more visibility.



Result in Chart 10 shows that PDP had the largest amount of visibility as it accounted for 45.3% of total visibility. The All Progressives Congress (APC) had a closer visibility at 39.9%, while other political parties, with 15.0%, had a distant visibility when compared to PDP and APC. In the reports and programmes on the selected radio stations, the issues and court cases between APC and PDP were dominant in the media, however, other political parties were given some proportion of airtime which made them to also air their views. For instance, in a programme on FRCN Abuja on the 3rd of July, 2019, a group of political parties jointly threatened to boycott an election in Niger State. It was reported in the news that “all the over 60 political parties under

the auspices of the Inter Party Advisory Council of Nigeria (IPAC) in Niger state have threatened to boycott the proposed local government council elections scheduled for July 31st by the state INEC over unresolved issues.” Similarly, in a news report on Nigerian Information news, two days before (1st July 2019) it was reported that “leaders of political parties have kicked against INEC’s plan to de-register parties that fail to win any seat in the 2019 general elections saying failure to win elections should not be used to determine the eligibility of the parties.” Although, PDP and APC had the highest level of visibility in the media, other political parties were also represented in their little way.

VISIBILITY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Result in Chart 11 presented the visibility of non-governmental organisations in the radio broadcast contents for the month under review.

Chart 11: Visibility of non-governmental organisations

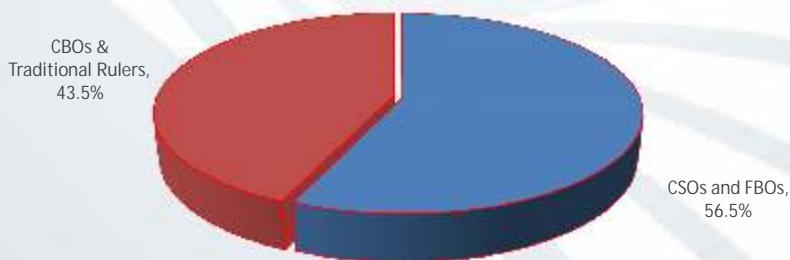


Chart 11 shows that Community-Based Organisations (CSOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) had the largest visibility in the contents of political radio broadcasts for the month. CSOs and FBOs stood at 56.5% of the total visibility, while CBOs and Traditional Rulers accounted for 43.5% of the total visibility. Non-governmental organisations have had their contributions to the political issues in the country and the media have come to

recognise them and given attention to them. These organisations have always made government do the right thing by raising concerns when necessary. For instance, in the data gathered from Radio Gotel on the 24th of July 2019, non-governmental organisation (Democracy and Transparency Network), raised an alarm over the alleged plot to undermine justice in the hearing of petitions filed by PDP and its governorship candidate in Katsina state that challenged the election of the Katsina state governor. This shows that the activities of the non-governmental organisation make them enjoy some visibility in the media.

QUALITY OF REPORTS – BALANCE

Programmes, news reports and other selected political contents from radio stations were evaluated to check for quality (balance and unbalance) in their reports.

Chart 12a: Balanced versus not balanced reports

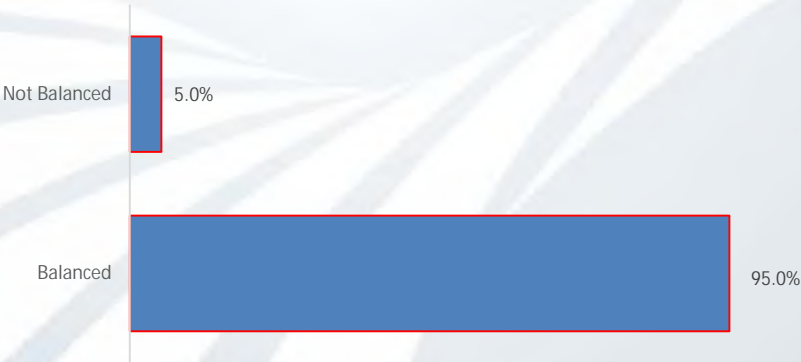


Chart 12a presents the result of the quality of reporting in the selected radio stations in term of balance in reportage. It is shown that majority of the views and contents were presented from a balanced angle as balanced reports has 95.0% of the total quality and only 5.0% of the programmes or reports was from unbalanced view. This shows that the media were not bias in the reportage of political issues and presentation of political contents.

COMPARISON OF PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT RADIO STATIONS ON BALANCED REPORTING

Chart 12b: Comparison of private and government radio stations on balanced reporting

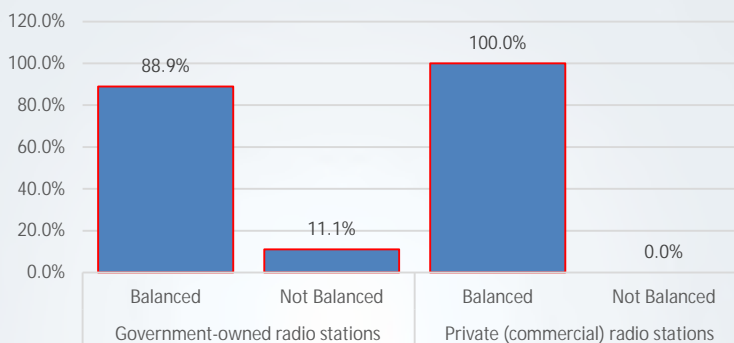


Chart 12b shows the result of both government and private radio stations in terms of balancing in their reportage of political issues and presentation of political programmes. The result shows that in comparison, private stations were more balanced in the reports than government owned radio stations. Private stations had 100% in the balancing of the reports, while the result shows that some of the contents on government stations are unbalanced. Government stations had 88.9% of the reports to be balanced, while 11.1% of the reports was unbalanced.

PART II:

CONTENTS OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION PROGRAMMES TYPES ON TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Programme types that were focused on for the month include news reports, discussions, interviews, vox-pop, phone-ins, commentaries, debates, documentaries. All of these and other television broadcast contents were considered and examined in order to ascertain the role of the media in the political process of the country.

Chart 13: Programme types of television broadcasts

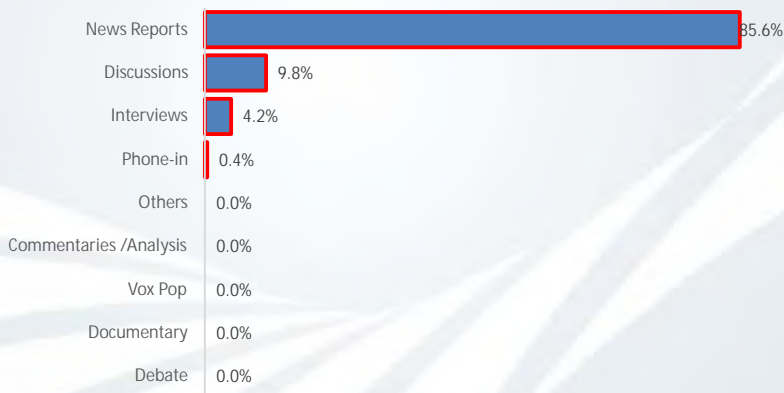


Chart 13 shows that of all the television broadcast programmes, new reports category got the largest attention in political contents on the selected television stations. New report accounted for 85.6% of all the programmes and was remotely followed by discussions which stood at 9.8%. Interviews and phone-in programmes both accounted for 4.2% and 0.4% respective of the programmes, while commentaries/analysis, vox-pop documentary and others were not featured at all in the political broadcasts of televisions for the month under review.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS

This section presents the focus of television broadcasts for the month under review. Election issues in connection with election-related conflicts, other

issues, election administration, political parties' campaign strategies, women's issue, voters' education, people with disabilities issues (PWD), campaign promises and voter registration were all observed in the broadcast contents.

Chart 14: Thematic Focus of Television Broadcast

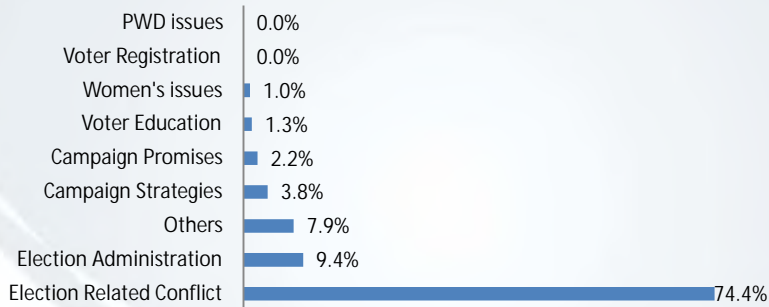


Chart 14 presents the thematic focus of the selected television contents. It is shown on the chart that election-related conflict took the largest percentage of focus in the television content. Election-related conflicts had a huge representation of 74.4%. This is distantly followed by election administration which accounted for just 9.4% of the thematic focus of television contents on political issues. Other programmes had 7.9% of the total thematic focus, while campaign strategies, campaign promises voter education and women issue all had the meagre of 3.8%, 2.2%, 1.3% and 1.0%, respectively. As found in the quantitative data, election-related conflicts also dominated the findings in the qualitative data. Series of court cases that came as a result of the election were recorded. For instance, in the broadcast of DITV on the 22nd of July, it was stated that “the PDP and its presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar on Friday rested their case after calling their 62nd witness at the presidential election petition tribunal in Abuja.” Likewise, in another report, in the 18th July report of ATV, it was reported that “Supreme court dismisses suit filed by Adebayo Shittu, former

Minister of Communications against the APC challenging the exclusion of his name from the list of gubernatorial aspirants in the primary for the 2019 general elections.” Similarly and closely connected to election-related conflicts was another report from AIT on the 5th of July was a report that “National Assembly election petition tribunal sitting in Jos was thrown into confusion following rejection of exhibit tendered by the petitioners”. All of these show the level of conflicts that are closely connected to elections.

However, as it was the build up to the November election in Kogi and Bayelsa state, campaign promises and other election-related issues also got their share of the airtime in the topical issues that engaged the media. On the 11th of July, 2019, it was reported on ITV that “APC says it is set to conduct free and fair primaries in Kogi State.”

VISIBILITY OF ACTORS IN THE CONTENTS OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS

In this report, it was attempted to ascertain the visibility of different actors, men and women in political programmes on the selected television stations. The visibility of the able persons was compared with that of the people living with disabilities (PWD). Also, the presentations of the different arms of government, CBOs, CSOs, traditional rulers, security agencies and government agencies were all examined. It was found that media gave more attention to some actors at the expense of others.

VISIBILITY OF MALES AND FEMALES IN THE POLITICAL CONTENTS OF RADIO BROADCASTS

Visibility of male and female in selected contents was analysed as presented in Chart 12. Finding shows that males enjoyed more attention on the political programmes on televisions than females did.

Chart 15: Visibility of males and females in the content of television broadcasts

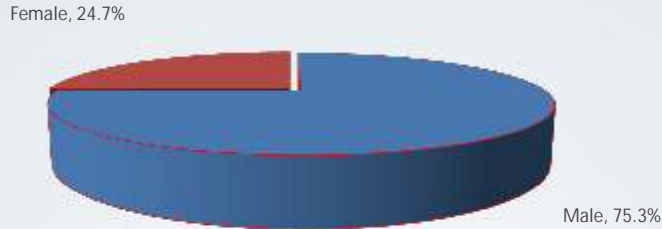


Chart 15 shows that more males enjoyed more visibility in broadcast contents on television than did the females. While males' visibility got 75.3% of the total visibility, that of the female stood at 24.7%. This could be said to have shown the lop-sidedness in the representation of genders in broadcast contents. It can also be said to show how female are not given adequate space in the political sphere.

VISIBILITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND ABLE PEOPLE IN TELEVEISION BROADCAST CONTENTS

The observation for this report also compared the visibility between people living with disability and able bodied people as represented in television contents for the month under review.

Chart 16: Visibility of PWD and other people in the content of television broadcasts

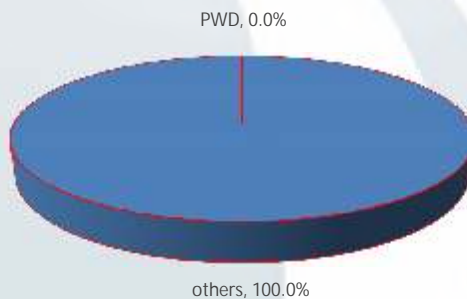


Chart 16 shows the comparison of the visibility of people living with disability and able bodied people. The result shows that able bodied people enjoyed a huge amount of attention and representation when compared with the visibility given to people with disabilities. While able people accounted for 100% of the media visibility, PWD accounted for nothing in the visibility in television broadcast contents for the month under review. In corroboration of the finding from the quantitative data, none of the qualitative data gathered reflected the representation of people with disability in the media.

VISIBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN TELEVISION BROADCASTS

In the observation of television contents for the month, attention was given to the visibility of youths and other groups of people in the society.

Chart 17: Visibility of young people in the television broadcasts

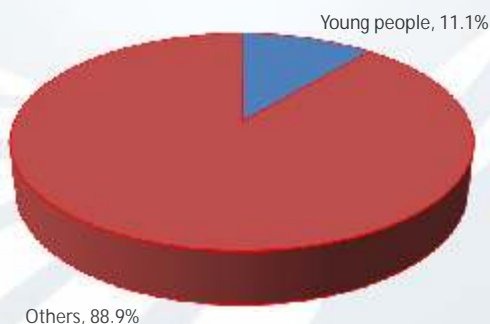


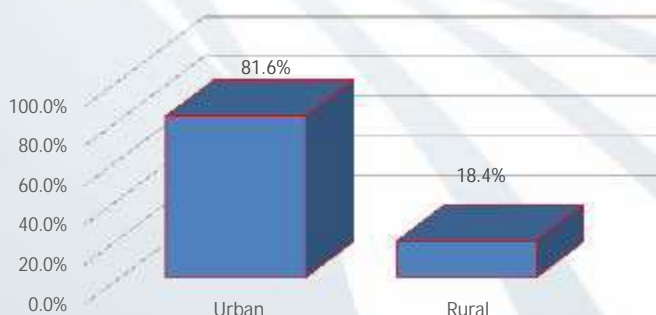
Chart 17 presents the result of the visibility of young people and other groups in the society. It shows that youths had a very low visibility on television contents. While young people had just 11.1% of the total visibility, others accounted for 88.9% visibility in the television broadcast contents for the month under review. Other members of the society, especially males, enjoyed more visibility in the media because many political issues that happen are woven around them. Dominantly, the elders, chieftain, party leaders among the elders, were captured in news reports. However, due to an incident that happened to one of the members of the House of Representative who can be

classified as a youth, he had the media visibility which could not be taken as a fair share of the youth in the political media space. On the 4th of July, DITV reported the case of a Senator from PDP, Elisha Abbo. It was reported that “the PDP and its chieftains have expressed dismay on the action of one of its members in the senate Elisha Abbo assaulting a nursing mother and PDP presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar has urged the party to handle the matter properly while urging Abbo to apologize for his actions.” Yet this report is not unconnected to chieftains and elders in the party.

VISIBILITY OF URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN TELEVISION BROADCASTS

The result in chart 18 shows that urban areas enjoyed more visibility in the contents of television broadcasts than rural areas. The result shows that urban area had 81.6% visibility in its representation in the television broadcast contents, while rural areas had a meagre visibility of 18.4%. This implies that more media attention is given to political activities in the urban area than it is given to activities in the rural areas.

Chart 18: Urban -rural visibility in the content of television broadcast



VISIBILITY OF POLITICIANS AND OTHER CITIZENS IN THE COUNTRY

In the observation of television broadcast contents on political issue for the month under review, the visibility of politicians and other citizens was also observed. The result is presented in Chart 19.

Chart 19: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in television broadcasts

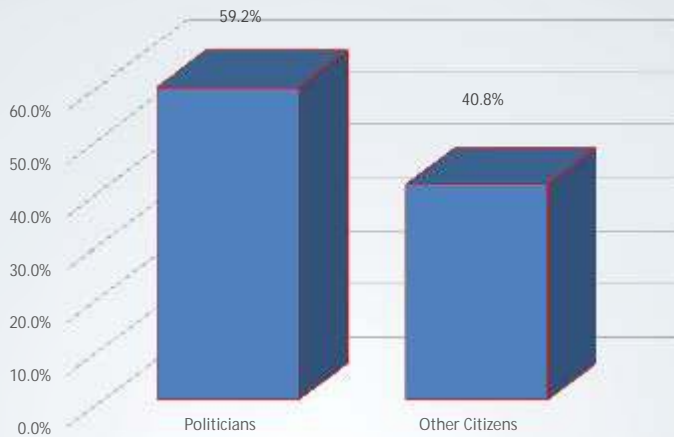


Chart 19 shows the visibility of politicians and other citizens in the contents of television broadcasts. The result shows that politicians had the largest visibility in the contents of the television broadcasts. Politicians had 59.2% of the visibility, while other citizens had 40.8% of the total visibility. This shows that more attention is given to politicians in media contents.

Dominantly, politicians featured in the contents of the media broadcast monitored for the report. For instance, in the report on the case of Oyetola of Osun state, despite the fact that it is a case that affected the State, we heard more of politicians' voices in the media than those of ordinary citizens'. For instance, on the 5th of July, 2019, it was reported on DITV that "the candidate of the PDP in the 2018 Osun State governorship election Senator Ademola Adeleke has congratulated Governor Gboyega Oyetola on his victory at the Supreme Court." This is a politician congratulating another politician who defeated him in the 2018 gubernatorial election. Similarly, in a report from STV on the same day, it was reported that "Senator Adeleke, Atiku Abubakar and President Buhari send congratulatory messages to Ggovernor Oyetola." The fact that Adeleke Atiku and Buhari are all politicians shows that politicians have more visibility in the media.

However, and still on the visibility of politician and citizens, a non-partisan but highly influential person was also reported to have urged the people of

Osun to support the governor of the State. AIT reported that Ooni of Ife Oba Adeyemi Ogunwusi has called on the people Osun State to fully support Governor Oyetola and allow peace to reign across the State (AIT News, 5th July, 2019).

VISIBILITY OF THE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT IN TELEVISION BROADCASTS

The visibility given to the three arms of government (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) was also observed in the content of the media. Chart 20 presents the result.

Chart 20: Relative visibility of the arms of government in television broadcasts

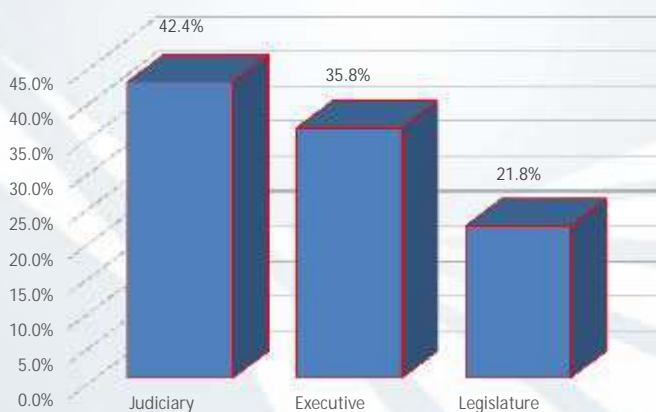


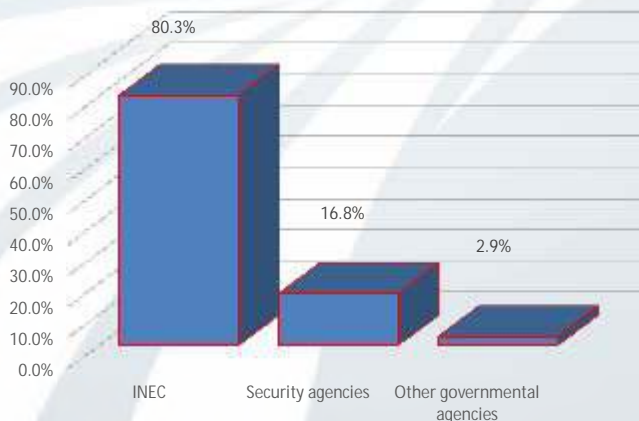
Chart 20 presents the relative visibility of the three arms of government in the contents of the media for the month under review. The result shows that the Judiciary had the largest visibility as it accounted for 42.4% of the total visibility of the arms of government. This is closely followed by the visibility of the Executive which accounted for 35.8% of the visibility and the Legislature with 21.8% of the total visibility. This shows that for the month under review, the Judiciary enjoyed more visibility than other arms of government. The reason for the visibility could be the court cases that came up from the elections in the month of February and March, 2019. For instance, in one of the news reports on Rivers State Television (RSTV) on 30th July, it was

reported that “Rivers State electoral petition tribunal dismisses suit seeking to nullify the 2019 Rivers gubernatorial election filed by the candidate of Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP)”. This shows that the Judiciary in the State like some other states had cases from the gubernatorial elections from some aggrieved politicians. Similarly and also on the same day, it was reported in a news report on STV that “Supreme court dismisses suit filed by PDP chieftain challenging the victory of the state governor as the party's candidate.” These and many other reports could be attributed to the reasons the Judiciary had more visibility in the broadcast contents.

VISIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Government agencies were observed in the contents of political programmes in television broadcasts for the month under review. The agencies include INEC, security agencies and other governmental political-related agencies. The result as presented in Chart 21 shows that INEC had the largest visibility.

Chart 21: Visibility of government agencies in television broadcasts



INEC had 80.3% of the total visibility, while security agencies and other governmental agencies had 16.8% and 2.9%, respectively. The INEC's visibility is significantly higher than all other political related agencies. This visibility enjoyed by INEC could be attributed to the fact that the commission

plays major and central roles in electoral matters.

Many of the cases in courts and thematic cases for the media attention revolve around INEC. So, the visibility that INEC has in the media is more than that of other election-related agencies. In a report from ITV on the 29th July, 2019, INEC was reported to have “opened its defence at the Presidential Election tribunal in a case filed by the PDP presidential candidate in the 2019 General elections.”

In addition, many media outfits reported the news on the preparation of INE for the 2023 general elections. In a report from DITV on the 9th of July, INEC was reported to have said that preparation for 2023 election was already on-going; “Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmud Yakubu says the commission has commenced plans for the 2023 general elections with the on-going series of reviews of the 2019 polls.” Similarly, DITV, Liberty TV and AIT reported on the 9th of July that “INEC in a post-election review meeting analysed reports on the 2019 general elections with a view to correct irregularities observed in the last elections and possible ways of improving the electoral process ahead of the 2023 elections.” These reports will undoubtedly keep INEC visible in the media.

However, the security agencies also enjoyed some visibility in the media as presented in Chart 21. This is supported by some excerpts in the qualitative data. On the 3rd of July, 2019 OGTV reported that “Police arrest 58 suspected electoral offenders”. In another report on DITV a day before the report on OGTV (2nd July), it was reported that “the Inspector-General of Police Mohammed Adamu said it arrested high-profile electoral offender in the 2019 general elections.”

VISIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties' visibility was also observed in the contents of political related television broadcasts. The parties the enjoyed the major visibility were PDP and APC.

Chart 22: Relative visibility of political parties

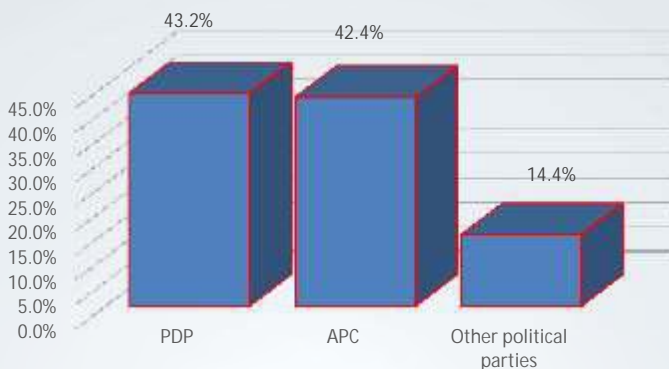


Chart 22 presents the result for the visibility of political parties in the broadcast contents of television programmes for the month under review. The result shows that PDP had the highest visibility. PDP stood at 43.2% of the total visibility and was closely followed by APC which accounted for 42.4%. Other political parties had a meagre of 14.4% of the total visibility in the contents of political related television broadcasts.

PDP could be more visible in the media because of the cases it filed against APC in the general elections. For instance, STV reported on the 30th of July that “the Supreme Court dismisses suit filed by PDP chieftain challenging the victory of the Akwa Ibom State Governor as the party's candidate.” This is an inter-party conflict, but there are more court cases against APC and INEC from PDP that keep them visible in the media. An example, is found in a report on DITV on the 31st of July. It was reported that “the Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned till August 20 the hearing of an appeal by the PDP and its presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar seeking access to the server which they claimed INEC transmitted the authentic results of the February presidential polls into.”

Other parties were also visible in the media due to their reaction to the 2019 presidential election that returned Muhammadu Buhari to power. PDM, in a report of DITV on the 25th of July was reported to have stated that the party had withdrawn the case against the president at the election tribunal: “the PDM and its presidential candidate Haminchi in the 2019 presidential elections has withdrawn its petition before the presidential election petition tribunal.” Similarly “the Hope Democratic Party (HDP) in its quest seeking the nullification of President Muhammadu Buhari's victory at the 23rd February 2019 polls on grounds of irregularities and violation of 1999 constitution and electoral act has asked the presidential election tribunal to give them seven days to call in only two witnesses”

VISIBILITY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN TELEVISION BROADCASTS

While the political related governmental agencies enjoyed some level of visibility in the broadcast contents, some non-governmental agencies also enjoyed some visibility in the media. Chart 23 shows the percentages of visibility given to non-governmental agencies in the television broadcast for the month under review.

Chart 23: Visibility of non-governmental organisations



The result shows that CSOs and FBOs enjoyed more visibility in the media with 64.1% of the total visibility while CBOs and Traditional Rulers accounted for 45.9% of the total percentage of the visibility of non-governmental agencies.

In a report from Liberty TV on the 31st of July 2019, CSO challenged INEC that the general elections were not credible enough. The NGO claimed that there was inconsistency in the number of accredited voters and the number of votes cast. “Civil society organisation situation room has claimed that 2019 general elections have failed to meet the minimum standard of free, fair and credible polls, saying there were differences between number of accredited voters and total number of vote cast.” This and many other comments from the NGO and some other related NGOs keep the organisations visible in the contents of media broadcasts.

QUALITY OF REPORTS – BALANCE

BALANCED VERSUS NOT BALANCED REPORTS

All the monitored programmes were also assessed for the quality of balancing their pattern of reportage and presentation. The result is presented in Charts 24a and b.

Chart 24a: Balanced versus not balanced reports

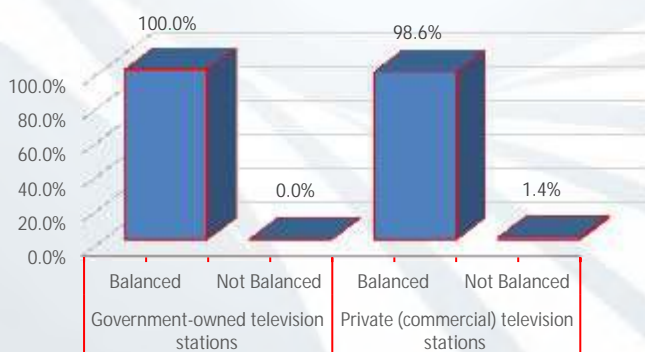


Chart 24a shows the majority of the programmes and reports were presented from a balanced view. The result shows that 98.9% of all programmes were balanced in presentation and reportage, while just 1.1% of the total programmes were found to be not balanced from their angles of reportage and presentation.

COMPARISON OF PRIVATE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION STATIONS ON BALANCED REPORTING

Chart 24b presents the result of the comparison between government and private televisions on the balance of reporting in their programmes. The result shows that government owned television stations are more balanced in their pattern of reportage and presentation of political programmes.

Chart 24b: Comparison of private and government television stations on balanced reporting



Government owned media had 100% balancing in the reports while private media stations had 98.6% balancing in their pattern of reporting. Although 1.4% of the programmes from private media were recorded to be unbalanced, it is not significant when compared to the percentage of balanced programmes.

PART III:

COMBINED REPORT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMME TYPES OF THE SELECTED BROADCASTS

A total of 518 broadcast contents were observed for the month of July. Of these broadcast contents, radio contents were 233, while the television broadcast contents were 285. The programme types that were analysed included news reports, discussions, debates, phone-ins, vox pop, interviews, documentaries, others, commentaries and analysis. Chart 25 presents the result of data analysis for the combined programmes.

Chart 25: Programme Types of the Selected Broadcast

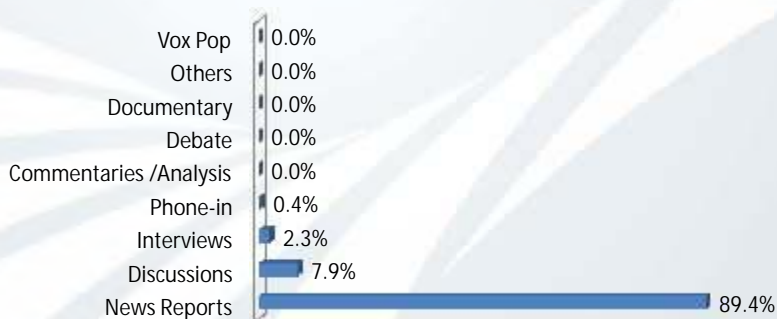
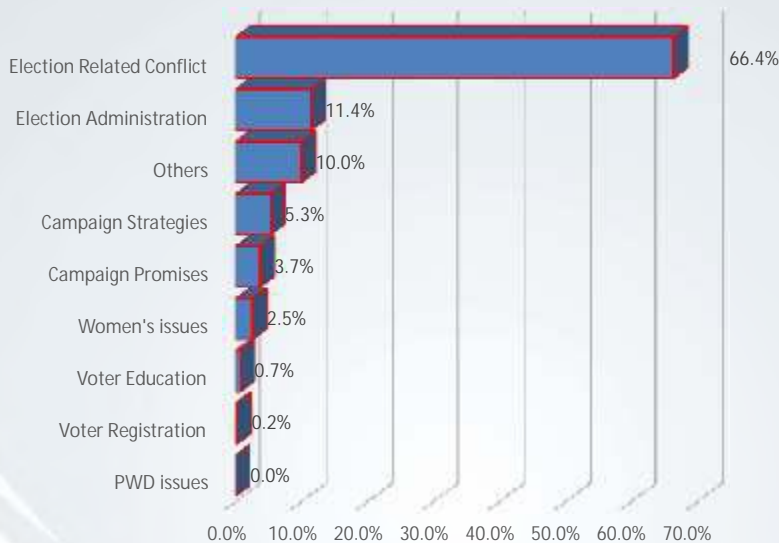


Chart 25 presents the result of the combined selected broadcast contents. Dominantly, news reports category featured more than other categories in political related issues on both radio and television. This is distantly followed by discussion which stood at 7.9% and interviews at 2.3%. Apart from phone in programmes which accounted for 0.4%, other programme types were not used in the selected contents for the month of July.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE SELECTED BROADCAST CONTENTS

We also examined the thematic focus of the political-related contents selected from both radio and television stations. The result is presented in Chart 26.

Chart 26: Thematic focus of the broadcasts-



It is observed that election-related conflicts dominantly make up the theme of media discussions and programmes on both radio and television. The result of the analysis shows that election-related conflicts accounted for 56.4% of the issues in the selected broadcast contents. Election administration distantly followed at 11.4%. The reason could be that the month under review was not an election month, thus, some issues that came up during election could still make up the focus of discussion and these could include conflicts especially between the strong opposition parties. Other issues had 10.0% attention of the thematic focus. While campaign strategies and promises accounted for 5.3% and 3.7%, respectively, other issues on the thematic frame accounted for less than 3.0% of the focus of the selected broadcast contents.

VISIBILITY OF ACTORS IN THE CONTENTS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS

In this report, the visibility of actors in political programmes on the selected television and radio stations were attempted. The visibility of men and women in

the broadcasts were examined; that of the able-bodied was compared with people living with disabilities (PWD), while the presentations of the different arms of government, CBOs, CSOs, traditional rulers, security agencies and government agencies were all examined. It was found that media gave more attention to some actors at the expense of others.

VISIBILITY OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

In the monitoring of the programmes on both television and radio stations, attention was given to the visibility given to both males and females. The result is presented in Chart 27.

Chart 27: Visibility of male and female in the broadcast contents

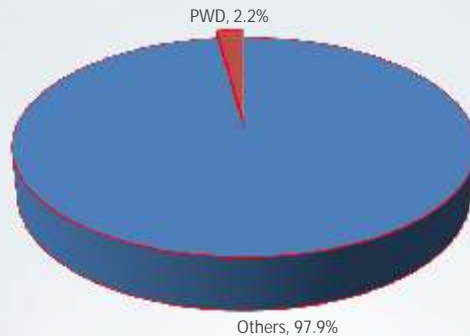


Chart 27 shows that males had more visibility in the broadcast contents than the females. Males accounted for 68.2% of the visibility. This is significantly more than half of the total visibility recorded, whereas, females had just 31.9% of the total visibility. This simply shows that men enjoyed more visibility in both media than women did.

VISIBILITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND ABLE BODIED PEOPLE

In addition, attention was given to the visibility of people with disabilities and compared with the visibility given to able bodied people in the contents of both the television and radio programmes. The result is presented in Chart 28.

Chart 28: Visibility of PWD and other people in the broadcast contents



The result in Chart 28 shows that people with disability did not enjoy much visibility in the media as it was for able people. Other people had 97.9% of the total visibility in all the selected contents. This is significantly huge when compared to the visibility of people with disability which is just a meagre of 2.2%.

VISIBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BROADCASTING CONTENTS

The media monitoring for this report also focused attention on the visibility of young people and other groups of people in the society. The result is shown in Chart 29.

Chart 29: Visibility of young people and others in the broadcast contents



The result in Chart 29 shows that young people did not have significant visibility in the contents of media programmes for the month under review. While young people had just 19.3% of the total visibility, others had 80.7% of the visibility.

VISIBILITY OF URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

The visibility given to the areas-urban and rural areas in the contents of political programmes in the selected broadcast stations was also examined. The result shows that urban areas had more visibility.

Chart 30: Urban-rural visibility in the the broadcast contents

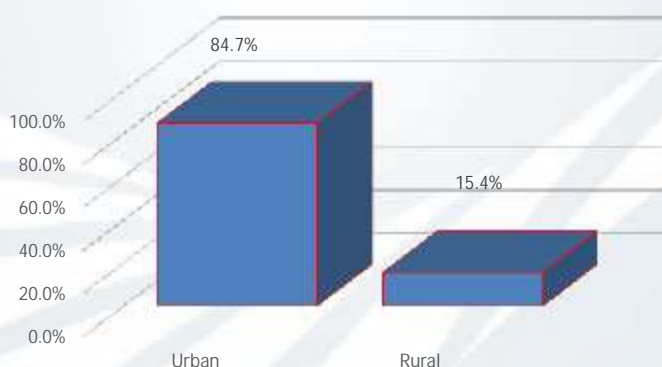


Chart 30 shows that urban areas had significant visibility in the contents of broadcast programmes on both radio and television. Urban areas had 84.7% of the total visibility, while rural areas had just 15.4% of the visibility.

VISIBILITY OF POLITICIANS AND OTHER CITIZENS IN BROADCAST CONTENTS

The visibility of politicians and other citizens in the content of broadcast programmes was also observed. The result is shown in Chart 31.

Chart 31: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in the broadcast contents

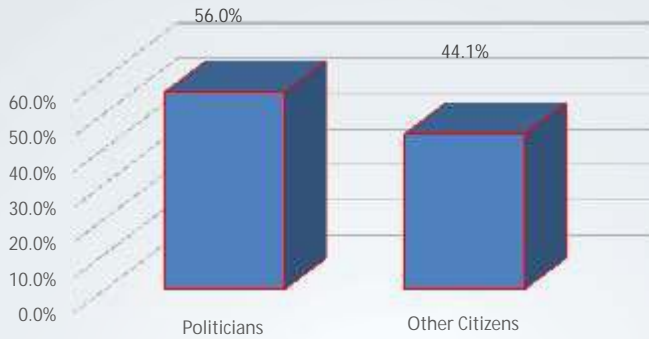


Chart 31 shows that significant visibility was given to politicians in the contents of broadcast programmes. The result shows that politicians accounted for 56.0% of the total visibility, while other citizens accounted for 44.0% of the visibility. It is not surprising why politicians had more visibility. The observed programmes were programmes with political contents, therefore, the visibility of politicians is expected to be high.

VISIBILITY OF THE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

Chart 32: Relative visibility of the arms of government in the broadcast contents

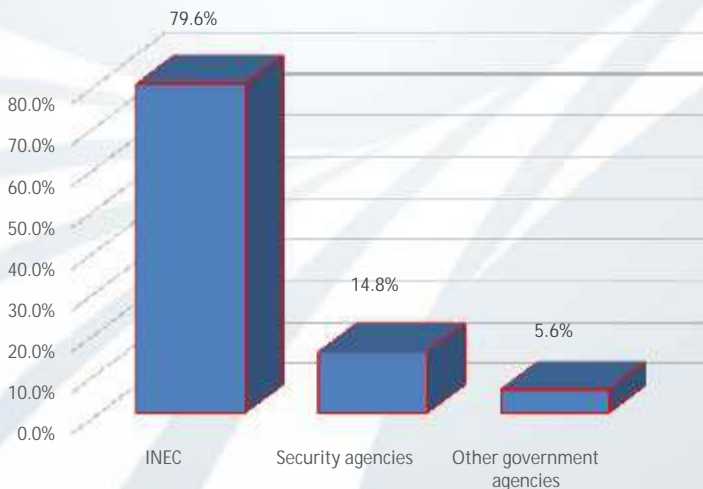


Chart 32 shows the result of the visibility of the three arms of government in the contents of the selected radio and television programmes. It is shown on the chart that the Executive had the highest visibility with 41.5% of the total visibility. The Judiciary had 37.0% of the visibility, while the Legislature had 21.5%.

VISIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

Government agencies such as INEC, security agencies and other electoral/political-related agencies were also monitored for their visibility in the contents of the selected radio and television political related programmes. The result is presented in Chart 33.

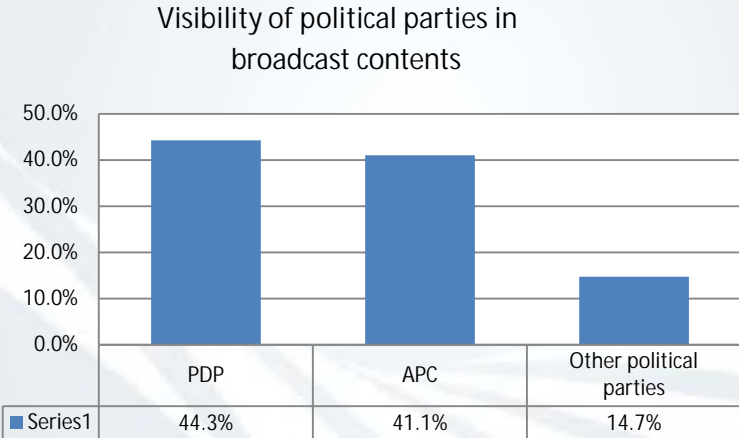
Chart 33: Visibility of government agencies in the broadcast contents



The result as shown on chart 33 shows that INEC had the highest level of visibility in the contents of radio and television political related programmes. INEC accounted for 79.6% of the total visibility and was distantly followed by security agencies and other agencies with just 14.8% and 5.6% of the total visibility, respectively.

VISIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE CONTENT OF BROADCAST PROGRAMMES

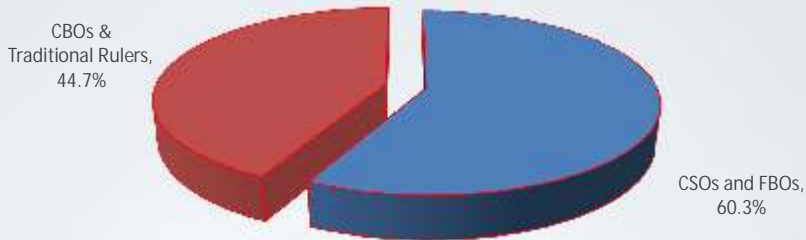
Chart 34 presents the result of the observation of political parties in the content of political-related broadcast programmes. The result shows that PDP had the highest visibility with 44.3% of the total visibility. This is closely followed by APC which accounted for 41.1% of the total visibility. Other political parties were grouped together and the jointly had a meagre of 14.7% of the total visibility.



VISIBILITY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE CONTENT OF THE BROADCAST PROGRAMMES

Chart 35 shows the result of the visibility of non-governmental organisations as observed in the selected programmes. The result shows that CSOs and FBOs accounted for 60.3% of the total visibility, while CBOs and Traditional Rulers had 44.7%. This implies that CSOs and FBOs enjoyed more visibility in the content of the media programmes than CBOs and traditional rulers

Chart 35: Visibility of non-governmental organisations in the broadcast contents



QUALITY OF REPORT- BALANCE

BALANCED VERSUS UNBALANCED

In the observation of the selected programmes on both radio and television, the quality of the contents in terms of balancing was also monitored. Chart 36 presents the result of the quality of reporting, while Chart 37 shows the result of the comparison of quality of programmes from government owned and private media.

Chart 36: Balanced versus unbalanced reporting

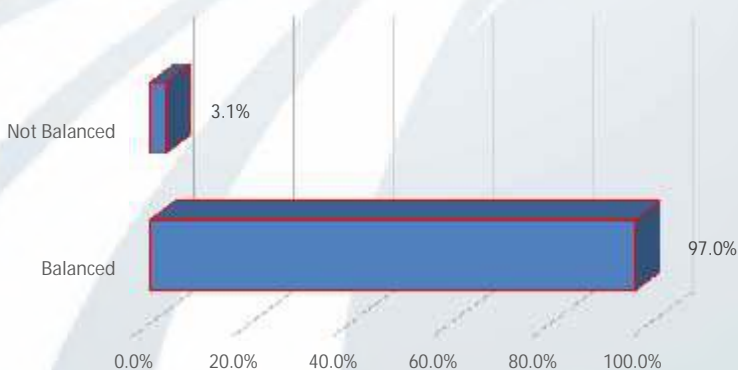
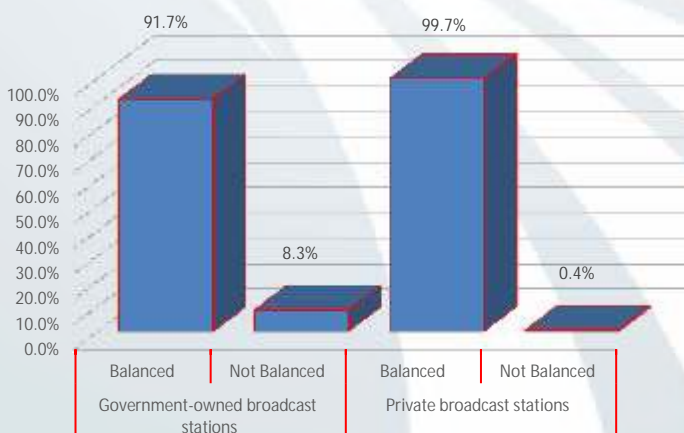


Chart 36 shows the result of the quality of reporting from both radio and television. It shows that majority of the programmes were presented or reported from a balanced angle. From the selected programmes, 97.0% was balanced in their pattern of reporting/presentation, while just 3.1% was found to be unbalanced in the pattern of reporting.

COMPARISON OF PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT STATIONS ON BALANCED REPORTING

Chart 37 presents the result of the comparison of government and private owned media stations in terms of balance in the pattern of reporting or presentation of programmes. The result shows that private stations are more balanced in their style of reporting. While private stations had 99.7% in terms of balancing in their contents, government owned stations had 91.7%. Significantly, both private and government owned media stations were balanced in their patterns of presenting and reporting political-related programmes and issues.

Chart 37: Comparison of private and government broadcast stations on balanced reporting



CONCLUSION

The broadcast media gave substantial attention to a wide range of post-election issues. The focus changed a bit from the electoral period to reflect changes in the electoral status of the country. The issue of post-election conflicts (violent and non-violent) dominated the political sphere and received huge attention in the media. The major opposition party (PDP), the ruling political party (APC), the Executive and the Judiciary received major attention of the media. Also, the CSOs and FBOs enjoyed considerable coverage from the media in the month under review.

However, the visibility of young people and women has significantly reduced in media contents. Worse still, persons living with disabilities were hardly mentioned in broadcast contents of the month under review. This has been found to be unhealthy for political development of any nation.

In addition, a majority of news reports and programmes focused on urban areas without considering the fact that politics should be inclusive. This is another problem. Contrary to expectations, young people featured less in broadcast contents and the media concentrated on those in other age groups. News predominated other formats of broadcast programmes.

In the quality of contents monitored for the month, it was observed that the media houses were significantly balanced in the presentation of political-related programmes for the month under review.

AUGUST 2019 REPORT



BACKGROUND

The media act as the ombudsman and have the responsibility to disseminate information that will enable their target audience to make informed decisions. Election is important because it helps to sustain democracy and in addition it grants the citizens the right to choose their government. Hence it is essential for the media to disseminate credible political information to their audience. The media serve as a watchdog of the democratic process. Worldwide, the media play significant roles in disseminating information, and enlightening the people by providing a platform where political parties and even aspirants can communicate with the electorate. Such platforms enable public feedback. In addition the candidates engage in debates organized by various broadcast stations; the media report election results and monitor the electoral process. Furthermore, the media is expected to provide electoral information in a manner that does not incite the people or trigger election-related violence.

The Nigeria media play a tremendous role throughout the electoral process. For instance, the media educate the people on how to thumbprint on ballot papers. They hold the government accountable. This role in turn helps to uphold excellent governance. The media also enlighten the public on the menace and consequences of engaging in electoral malpractice.

This is a report of how the media continued to discuss election-related matters even after the election. To achieve this, the contents of radio and television stations were monitored, examined and compared to ascertain roles played by the media in the 2019 general elections. This is a report of the monitoring for the month of August, 2019.

The team monitored 33 media stations: 17 radio stations and 16 television stations all over the country.

The radio stations monitored are listed as follows:

1. Adamawa Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Yola
2. Anambra Broadcasting Service (Awka 88.5 FM), Awka
3. Arewa Radio, Kano
4. Dream FM, Enugu
5. Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Network
6. Glory FM (Bayelsa State Broadcasting Corporation, BSBC), Yenagoa
7. Gotel Radio, Yola
8. Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) Radio, Kaduna
9. Nigeria Info, Network
10. Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC), Osogbo
11. Progress FM Gombe
12. Radio Benue, Makurdi
13. Radio Kwara, Ilorin
14. Radio Lagos
15. Radio Lagos/Eko FM
16. Rhythm 93.7, Network
17. Splash FM 105.5 Ibadan

These are the monitored television stations:

1. African Independent Television (AIT), Network
2. Adamawa Television (ATV) Yola
3. Channels Television, Network

4. Desmims International Television (DITV), Kaduna
5. Galaxy Television, Lagos
6. Gotel TV, Yola
7. Independent Television (ITV), Benin City
8. Kaduna State Television (KSTV), Kaduna
9. Liberty Television, Abuja
10. Lagos Television (LTV), Lagos
11. Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Network
12. Ogun State Television (OGTV), Abeokuta
13. Rivers State Television (RSTV), Port Harcourt
14. Silverbird Television (STV), Network
15. TV Continental (TVC), Lagos
16. Wazobia Max TV, Network

We coded 148 items on radio, and 372 broadcast items on television stations. In order to do this, it was essential to observe the thematic focus of the stations being examined, the visibility of various main actors to the electoral process and the language and professionalism of members of the media. This report, therefore, presents the breakdown of radio broadcast contents, television broadcast contents, and a combination of the two contents.

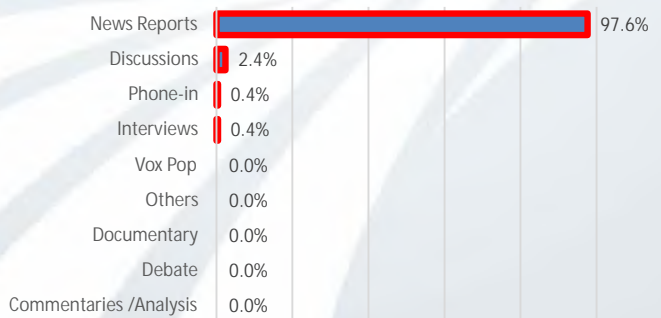
PART I:

CONTENTS OF POLITICAL BROADCASTS ON RADIOPROGRAMME TYPES USED IN POLITICAL BROADCASTS ON RADIO

News Reports, discussions, phone-in, interviews, vox-pop, others, documentary, debate and commentaries/analysis and other types of broadcast contents were analysed to determine how the media fared in August as regards reportage of post-election issues.

Result presented in Chart 1 indicates that majority of the radio broadcasts that focused on election matters came in the format of news reports. This covered a large scope of 97.6% of the total airtime. Discussions accounted for 2.4%. Interviews and phone-in were next with less than 1 percent each.

Chart 1: Programme types used by radio stations in political broadcasts - August 2019



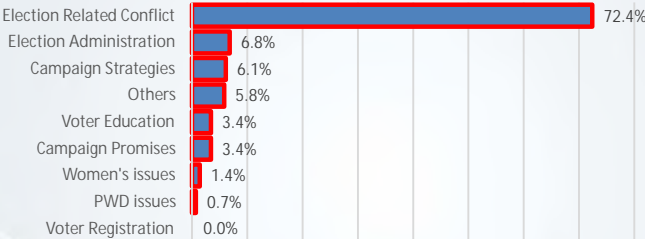
Programme types such as commentaries/analysis, debate, documentaries and other issues aired on these radio stations did not cover election issues.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE CONTENT OF RADIO BROADCAST

We analysed the themes that emerged from the broadcast media contents. The most common of these themes was election-related Conflicts with 97.6%. This was not surprising because after the elections, there were a lot of

post-election conflicts in especially court cases. About this time, electoral preparations were on in Bayelsa and Kogi states and there were aspects of violent and non-violent conflicts going on. Many appeals were given to dissuade violence. For example, youths were advised to shun violence and every form of electoral malpractices ahead of the 2019 Bayelsa State Governorship election during a programme on a Glory FM BSBC report.

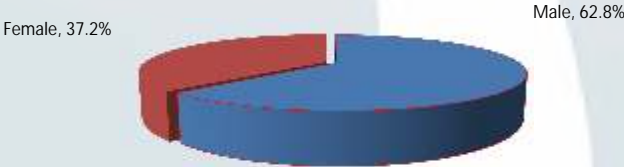
Chart 2: Thematic Focus of Radio Broadcasts



This also explained why election administration continued to feature: The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was busy planning for the elections in those two states: Kogi and Bayelsa.

Chart 3 presents the visibility of men and women in the content of radio Broadcasts. The men dominated radio broadcasts contents by 62.8%, while the women got 37.2%. Chart 3 shows that visibility of men and women in the content of radio broadcasts was not balanced. The result shows a tilt towards more males in the broadcasts than females. The wide margin between the males and females proves that the radio content concentrated on the male actors.

Chart 3: Visibility of male and female actors in the content of radio broadcasts



Where women featured, the reports were often of their support for electoral candidates who were men, or their appeal for peace during the campaigns and election. Splash FM highlights the disparity on News at 6PM with a report headlined, “IPAC takes steps to include more women, youth and people living with disability in future elections”. This shows that the media were aware of the disparity.

Chart 4: Visibility of PWD and other people in the content of radio broadcasts

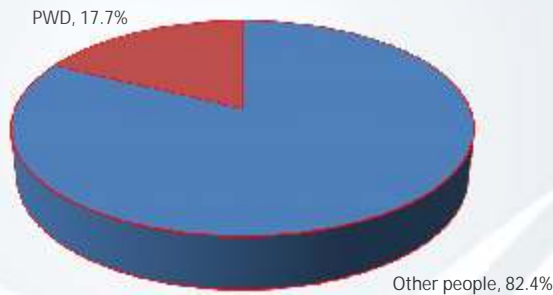
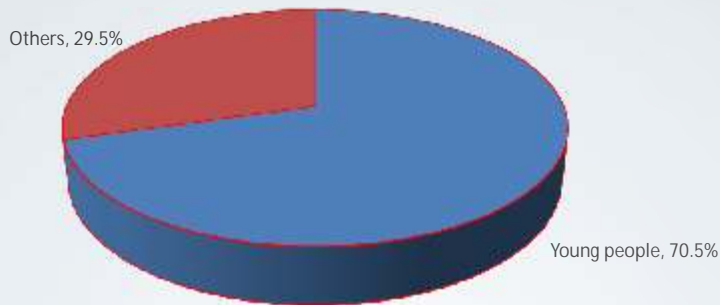


Chart 4 illustrates that people living with disabilities (PWD) were largely neglected in the election-related contents of broadcasts; they got only 17.7%, while those not living with disabilities got 82.4% of the mentions.

We detected that the visibility of young people was extremely high compared to the trend in April where youth visibility decreased. Chart 5 shows that the visibility of young people were 70.5% compared to people in a different age range whose visibility was 29.5%.

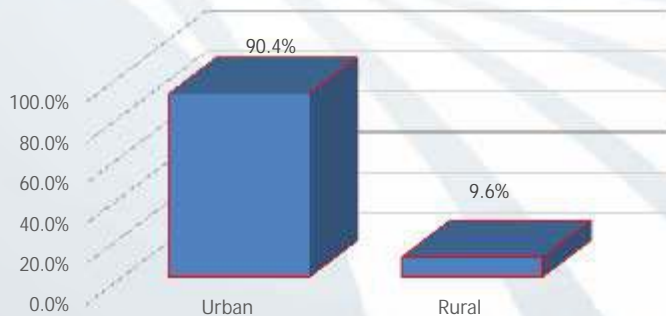
Chart 5: Visibility of young people in the radio broadcasts



The high visibility of young people in radio content is commendable because the youths are expected to refresh and advance the politics of a nation.

We also examined the visibility of rural and urban locations in the contents of radio. Chart 6 shows the usual trend of high concentration of the media in the urban areas.

Chart 6: Urban -rural visibility in the content of radio broadcast

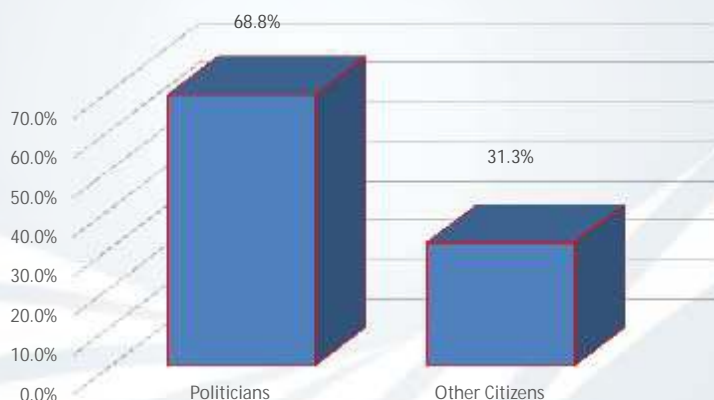


The Politicians accounted for 68.8 %, while other citizens accounted for 31.3%. In a sense, this is predictable. The cases in courts which were being reported on hardly involved ordinary citizens. An example of such election-related court cases included the one reported by Glory FM that election tribunal in Yola dismissed suit challenging Senator Elisha Abba's election.

Slightly over 90% of the contents was on urban areas, while rural areas got only 9.6% of the contents. The implication of this is that if significant election-related events happened in the rural areas, they hardly got reported on in the radio contents.

Next, we present the comparison of the attention given to politicians and that given to other citizens in the contents of radio broadcasts in the month under review. Chart 7 shows that the focus of the contents was largely on politicians.

Chart 7: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in radio broadcasts



Another news report on Gotel Radio reported that the presidential election petition tribunal was slated for September 13th, 2019 to decide the fate of President Muhammadu Buhari in the petition filed by People's Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate Atiku Abubakar challenging Buhari's victory in the February 23rd elections.

Elections typically involve different arms of government especially the Executive and the Judiciary. We examined the extent to which the radio stations covered the different arms of government with regard to their roles in the elections.

Chart 8: Relative visibility of the arms of government in radio broadcasts

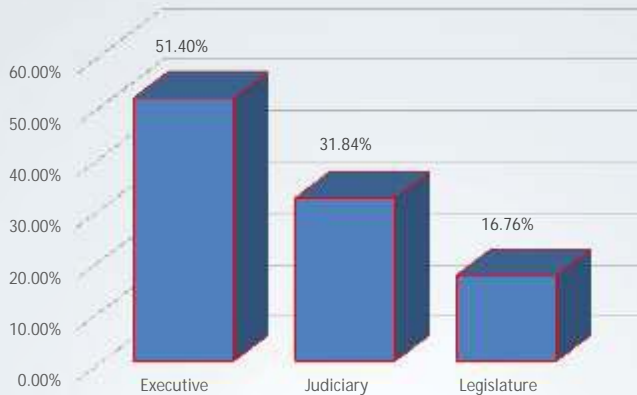
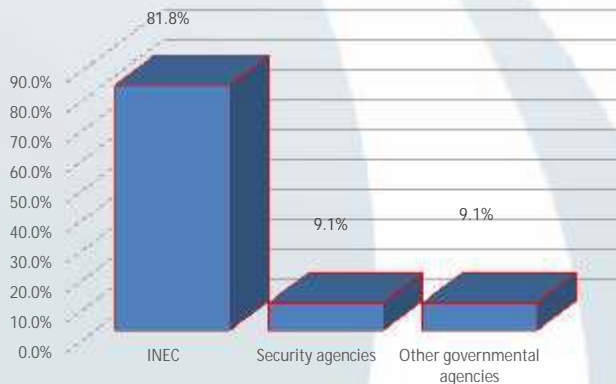
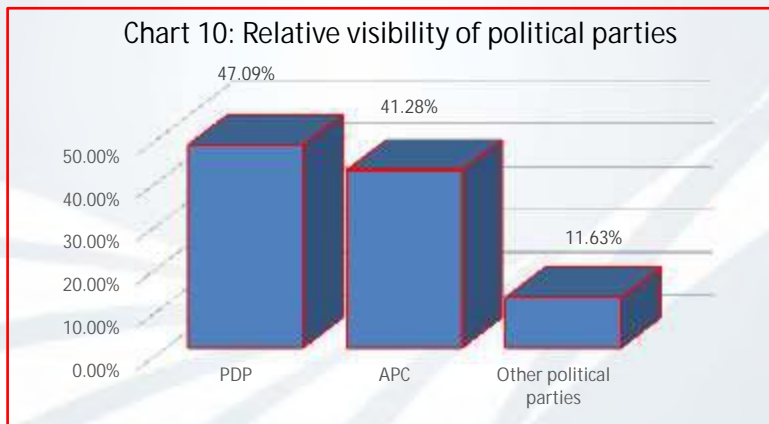


Chart 8 shows that the Executive with 51.1% of the airtime was reported more than the other two arms of government. The Judiciary accounted for 31.8% of radio contents, while the Legislature accounted for 16.76%. This was most likely because of the various litigations going on in the month under consideration. These litigations put the Judiciary at the centre of reports. A report on Nigeria Info covered the Judiciary thus: “Federal High Court affirmed the decision of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to adopt indirect primaries to produce the governorship candidate for the party ahead of the Kogi governorship elections”. It is usual for media attention to follow where the major events are happening.

Chart 9: Visibility of government agencies in radio broadcasts



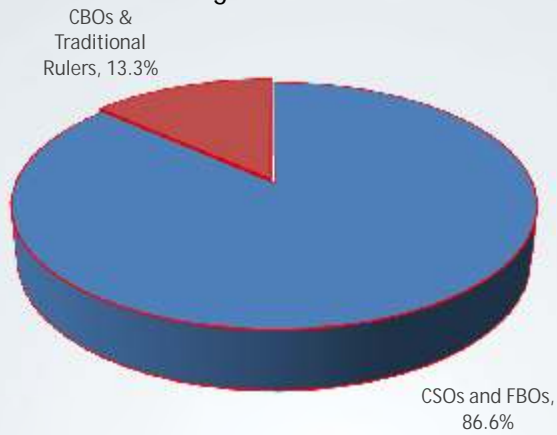
The visibility of INEC was extremely high compared to what the security agencies and other governmental agencies got. Chart 9 shows that INEC received 81.8%, while security agencies and other governmental agencies received a total of 18.2 % of the entire radio airtime. This is understandable because at the centre of all elections is INEC. Its activities easily become news headlines even months after the elections. The little presence of others, especially security agencies, may denote a diminishing role of these agencies in the electoral matters. Elections have ended; therefore, election-related violent conflicts that attract security officials have reduced or ended, while enlightenment and other campaigns about elections that attract other agencies were no longer necessary.



PDP got a higher coverage than APC (the ruling party at the federal level) did. It is remarkable that PDP got a higher share than APC did. This suggests that post-election, the main agitation especially litigation and press releases were by PDP as it protested its losses in the elections. All the other 89 political parties got extremely low radio coverage of 11.63%. Some of the reports on these other parties were about the problems and challenges they were facing. For example, Nigeria Info reported on "NEWS at 6PM" that AAC suspends its presidential candidate Omoyele Sowore for the 2019 elections.

Chart 11 shows that Community Society Organisations (CSOs) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) took the largest share of radio broadcasts. The CBOs and traditional rulers had the least share of radio broadcasts of 13.3%.

Chart 11: Visibility of non-governmental organisations



The implication of the foregoing result is that the activities of the CSOs and FBOs continued post-election; those of community-based organisations and traditional rulers waned.

Chart 12a: Balanced versus not balanced reports

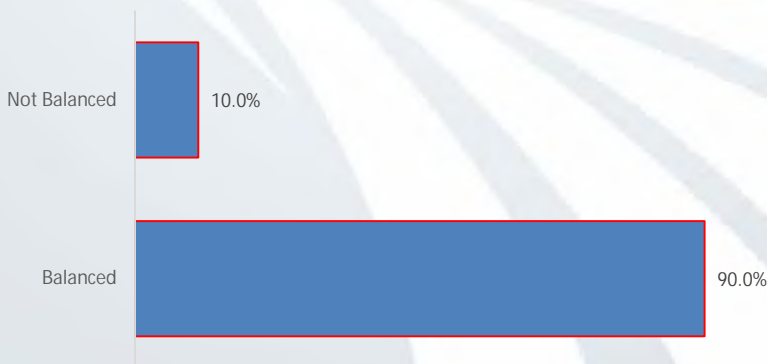
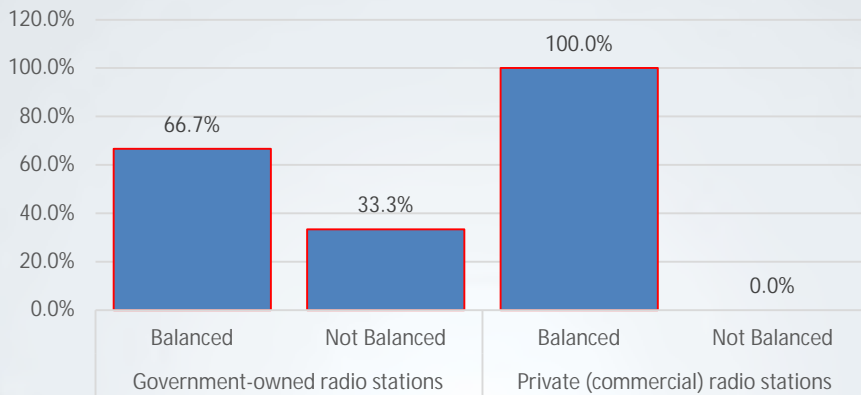


Chart 12a confirms that both the private and government radio stations news reports were balanced. The balanced reports accounted for 90.0%, while the unbalanced news reports had only 10.0%.

Chart 12b: Comparison of private and government radio stations on balanced reporting



Reports by private radio stations were all balanced. Surprisingly, nearly one-third of the reports by government radio stations were not balanced. This suggests that on some occasions, the government radio stations failed to seek dissenting views or opinions or confirmation of the other party to a discussion.

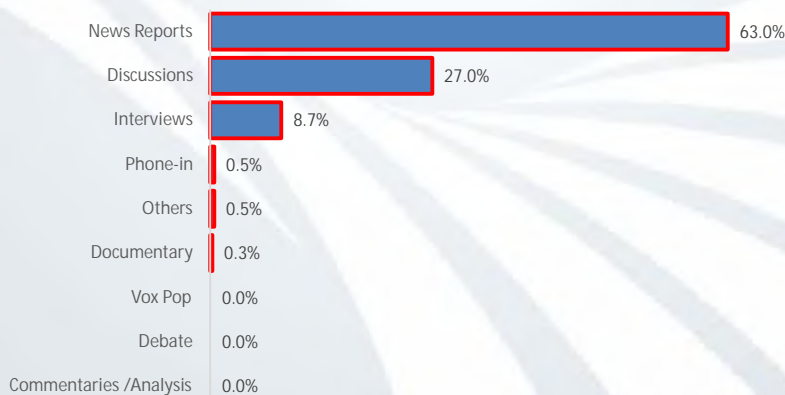
PART II:

CONTENTS OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

Programme formats used by television stations

A total of 372 television items were coded nationwide. Purposive method was adopted as attention was paid to only programmes that focused on current electoral matters. Various programme types were studied. Programme types such as news reports, discussions, interviews, phone-ins, commentaries, analysis, debates, vox-pop and documentaries were examined as shown in Chart 13. News reports had the highest frequency.

Chart 13: Programme types of television broadcasts



Various programme types of television broadcast are displayed on Chart 13. The highest broadcast featured was news reports which had 63.0% followed by discussions with 27.0%, Interviews got 8.7% , phone-in , documentaries and other issues had 1.3%, while vox pop, debate and commentary/analysis all had 0%. The Chart shows the programme types in top in the order of prominence.

Election tribunal results, court decisions and party defections were the most reported issues in the news reports. STV in its programme “Arewa News” reported that a lot of APC Members defected to PDP in states where PDP won the gubernatorial elections. Such states include Zamfara where more than 12,562 APC members defected to PDP. The presidential election tribunal also fixed 21st of August for closing arguments. That was also widely reported in the news.

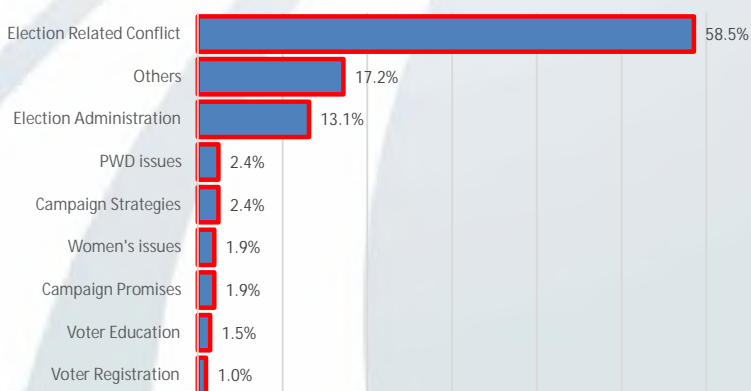
Thematic Focus of Television Broadcasts

This section captures the focus of television broadcasts in August 2019 in relation to election matters. The themes along which we coded were election related conflicts, other issues, election administration, political parties' campaign strategies, women's issues, voter education, people with disabilities issues (PWD), campaign promises, and voter registration.

QUALITY OF REPORTS- BALANCE

Election Related Conflict themes lead with 58.5%. Other issues got 17.2%; election administration had 13.1%, people living with disability (PWD) got 2.4%, while women issues accounted for 1.9%. This shows the media gave little attention to PWD and women matters. Going forward the media should improve in this regard.

Chart 14: Thematic Focus of Television Broadcasts



Campaign strategies garnered 2.4% while campaign promises got 1.9%. Voter's education got 1.5%. This is understandable because little of campaigning was going on in August; no voter's registration was going on. The little that was going on in terms of election administration, campaign promises, voter education and registration were about the approaching election in Kogi and Bayelsa states.

VISIBILITY OF THE ACTORS IN THE CONTENT OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Visibility of Individual Actors

The charts in this subsection show how diverse groups served as sources and instances in which they were mentioned on the contents of television broadcasts in the month of August. The team analysed the visibility between the genders, politicians government agencies, arms of government, People

Chart 15: Visibility of male and female actors in the content of television broadcasts

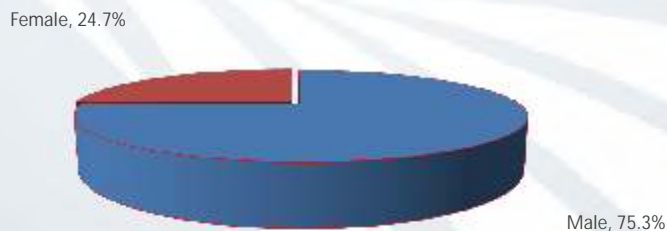
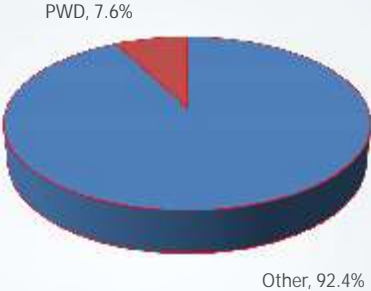


Chart 15 shows an enormous difference between the visibility of males and females in the contents of television broadcasts. While the females got a coverage of only 24.7%, males led with a 75.3% visibility. This suggests men's dominance in television stations coverage of electoral issues. This matter is of concern to women. For instance, NTA on April 23, 2019 reported APC women's meeting with APC women leaders to advocate good

governance and to express their dissatisfaction with the low representation of women recorded in the 2019 general elections. As women continue such lobbying and advocacy, the coverage of women is expected to increase.

Just like females people living with disabilities (PWD) got little attention; in fact, much less than females got. Chart 16 portrays the pattern..

Chart 16: Visibility of PWD and other people in the content of television broadcasts



The coverage of the other people outweighed the attention given to people living with disabilities on television broadcasts. PWD got a mere 7.6%, while other people got 92.4%.

INEC embarked on a lot of activities to make voting easy for PWD but these are not getting good mention even in the run up to the election in Bayelsa and Kogi states.

Chart 17: Visibility of young people in the television broadcasts

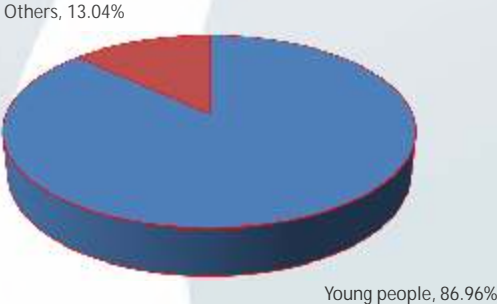
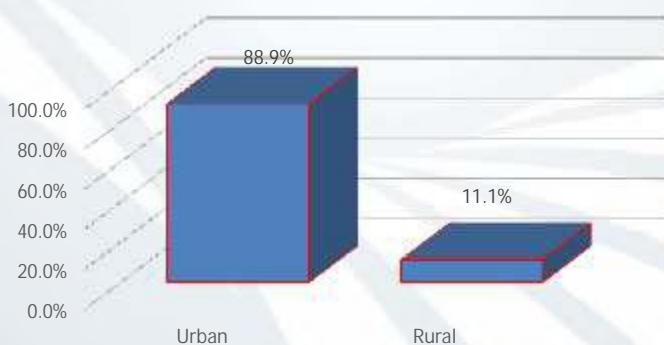


Chart 17 presents a wide difference in representation between the youths and others in television broadcasts. The youths got a much higher percentage of 86.96%, while others got the least with 13.04%. The young people participate actively in the electoral process by contesting, participating in the youth arms of various political parties, organizing campaign rallies, even participating as electoral ad-hoc staff. It is commendable that the media gave the youths' wide coverage.

We considered the extent to which the television stations reflected rural areas in their coverage because significant electoral issues happen in the rural areas as well. Chart 18 brings a disappointing verdict in terms of rural-urban disparity.

Chart 18: Urban -rural visibility in the content of television broadcast



Rural areas got a mere 11.1% compared to urban areas which accounted for 88.9%. Rural areas were indeed marginalised. The television thus failed to be the voice of the voiceless in August the month under evaluation.

Democracy is about the people. Thus, we expected television stations to focus on the activities, viewpoints and other forms of issues concerning the ordinary citizens. In August, we examined the extent to which other citizens and politicians featured on television and in television reports. Chart 19 shows the result.

Chart 19: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in television broadcasts

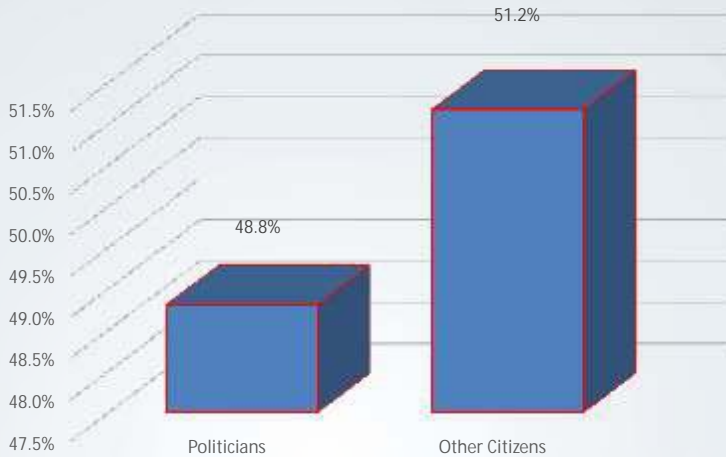


Chart 19 shows that the visibility of ordinary citizens was high compared to that of politicians'. The other citizens got 51.2% visibility of television broadcasts. The media, while reporting political matters, focused more on other citizens.

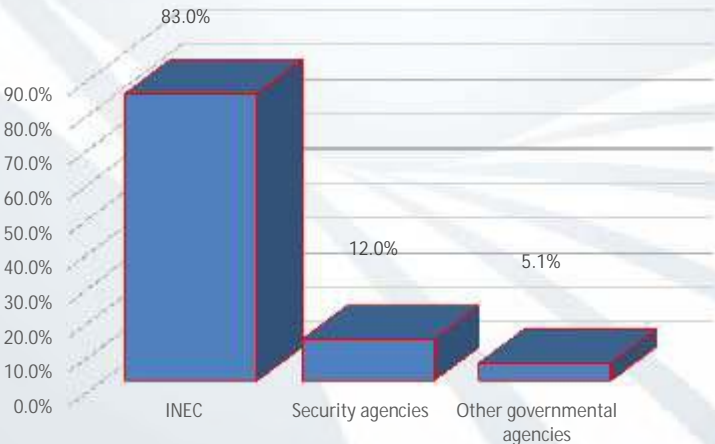
Chart 20: Relative visibility of the arms of government in television broadcasts



The Judiciary garnered more attention on various television items. The Executive and Legislature got an equal but low coverage. They had 15.07% each. Again, this was expected because there were litigations all over the country which thus put the Judiciary at the centre of media reports.

Examples of such reports include a news report on Liberty TV that the Supreme Court dismissed PDP's request to inspect INEC server. Other examples are on AIT news at 2PM, DITV news at 6pm, and OGTV "NEWS at 12 NOON which stated that the Supreme Court struck out PDP Atiku's appeal against Presidential Election Petition Court Ruling. DITV on its own reported in August that Atiku's request to inspect server was declined by the court.

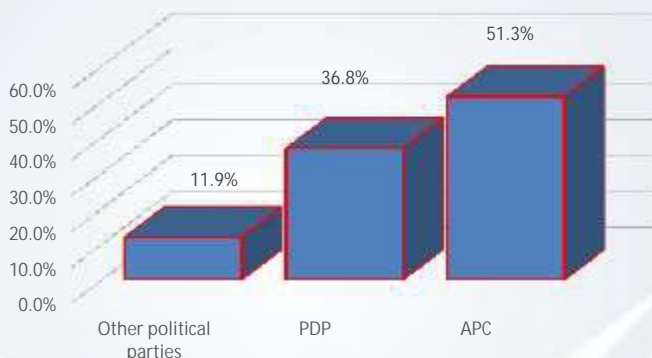
Chart 21: Visibility of government agencies in television broadcasts



Result presented in Chart 21 shows that INEC, security agencies and other governmental agencies visibility in television broadcasts was 83.0%, 12.0% and 5.1% respectively. It was obvious that INEC had the largest percent of television coverage. There were some instances INEC was featured on television broadcasts. NTA network news in August stated that INEC relieved the Cross River REC's appointment due to political ambition. INEC

staff are not expected to contest for election so the electoral body's decision was in order. It was a decision that would make the people confident that INEC was not supporting any candidate. DITV reported in the news that Adamawa State INEC had declared that election would take place on Nov 9 to elect chairman and councillors in the 21 Local Government Areas of the State.

Chart 22: Relative visibility of political parties



PDP and APC which are the two major political parties in Nigeria had far more relative visibility than the other 89 political parties did. This majority share of the APC can be attributed to the fact that the Party is the ruling party, while PDP is the opposition. The other parties had 11.9% which was the least; the PDP had 36.8%, while the ruling party maintained a lead of 51.3% as seen in Chart 22. This is not to be taken as a totally positive pattern as there was a mixture of positive and negative reports for the ruling party. For instance, the rancour within the party got immense attention. For instance, Liberty TV news report had it that APC governorship aspirant Mohammed Yahaya Audu accused Adams Oshiomhole of sabotaging his governorship ambition. In a similar negative vein, STV reported that 12,562 members of the APC including former Commissioner and Local Council officials had defected to the PDP and they were received by Governor Bello Matawalle in Gusau.

We pulled the non-governmental organisations together and compared them on their visibility in television broadcast contents. Chart 23 shows the outcome.

Chart 23: Visibility of nongovernmental organisations

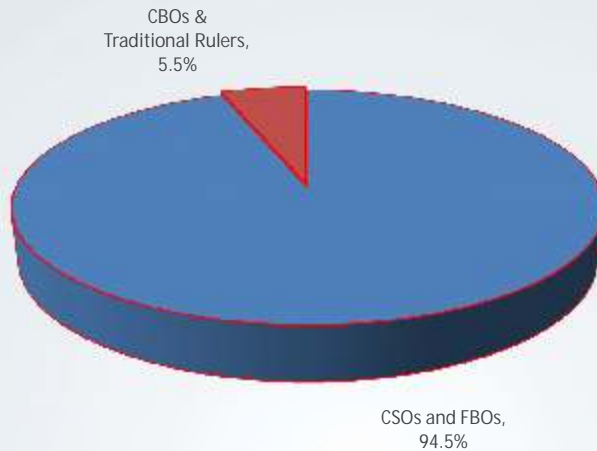
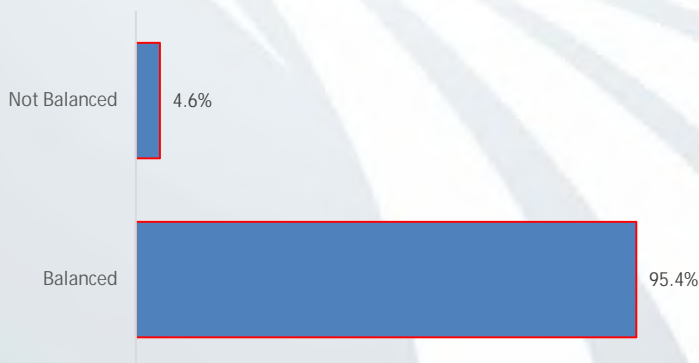


Chart 23 shows that 94.5% of television reports of both government-owned and private television stations concentrated on CSOs and FBO. Meanwhile, the CBOs & Traditional Rulers got a mere 5.5%. The media reports were lopsided.

Chart 24a: Balanced versus unbalanced reports



As evident in the result presented in in Chart 24a, there was a broad difference between the balanced versus unbalanced reports. The **not** balanced reports were extremely minimal compared to the balanced reports.

Chart 24b: Comparison of private and government television stations on balanced reporting

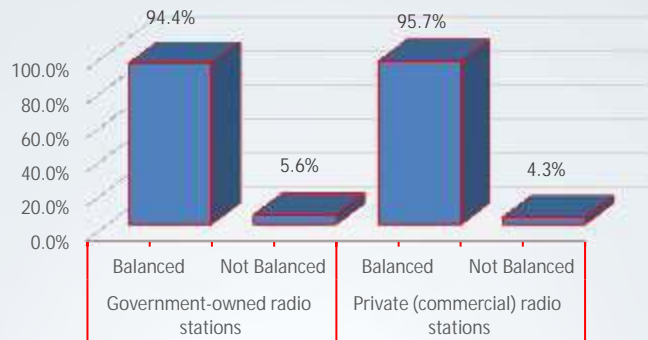


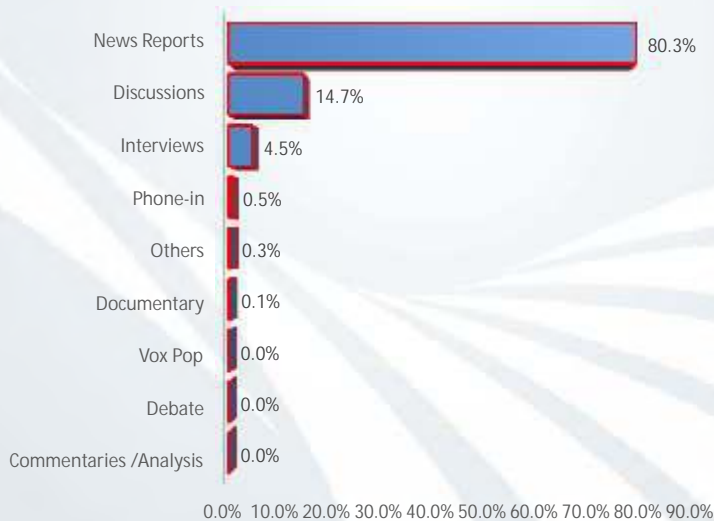
Chart 24b shows that private television stations performed better than government stations. The government stations had 5.6% of balanced report, while the private stations had 4.3%.

PART III:

COMBINED REPORTS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

This section present a combined analysis of both radio and television data. We present this along the same topics presented separately earlier. We begin with the programme types employed by the broadcast stations. Chart 25 reflects the result of analysis of programme types.

Chart 25: Programme types of the selected broadcasts

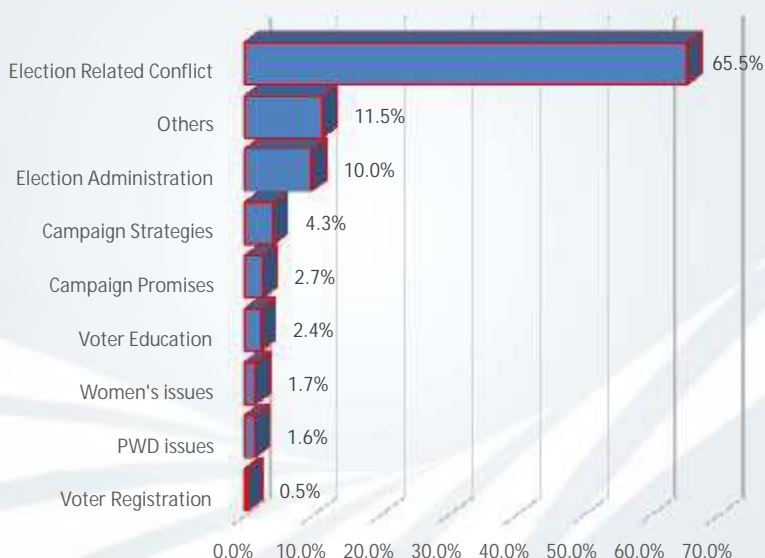


News reports dominated the contents (80.3%) followed by discussions (4.5%). Interviews (4.5%) came third and the fourth was 0.5%. Other formats got 0.3%, while documentaries got 0.1%. There were no vox pop and debates. Generally, the broadcast stations did poorly in reflecting the opinions and views of the people. They also failed to use formats (such as commentaries/analysis) which could help them to set agenda and perform their surveillance role. News alone could only inform; absence of critical formats robs the media of its potency to influence the Nigerian democratic

process.

Chart 26 shows the thematic focus of the broadcasts. Here we see that election-related conflicts dominated broadcast contents of both radio and television stations.

Chart 26: Thematic focus of the broadcasts



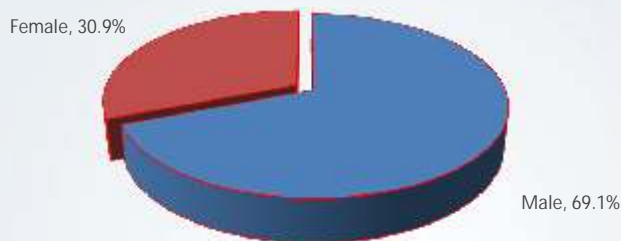
Election-related conflicts got a major part of the media contents (65.5%). These were reports of court actions, defections and others. Election administration was minimal (10.0%) and campaign promises and strategies were even less. As usual, campaign promises and issues (2.7%) were less than campaign strategies (4.3%). The least represented were the PWD issues and women issues.

VISIBILITY OF ACTORS IN ELECTION BROADCASTS

About whom did the broadcast media report in relation to the elections? Results of our analysis, as presented the charts in this subsections, show that the media were hardly even in covering the activities of the various actors.

Certain loci of power got the predominant attention of the broadcast media. We began with the comparative visibility of men and women. Chart 27 shows the outcome.

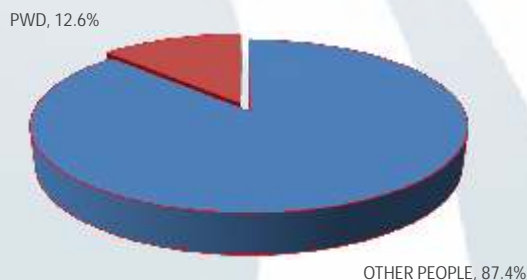
Chart 27: Visibility of males and females in the broadcast contents



Women were less represented in the report than men. Male actors (69.1%) got more of the visibility of male and female actors. This usual trends are worrisome in spite of what stakeholders have been doing. Even NTA organised a discussion on women and politics in the month under review.

If women were grossly under-represented, people living with disabilities (PWD) were even more grossly so. Chart 28 shows that concerns and activities of PWD attracted little attention from the broadcast media in August.

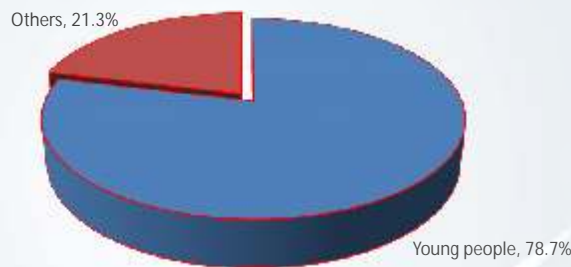
Chart 28: Visibility of PWD and other people in the broadcast contents



The PWD got only 12.6% of the broadcast media attention, while able-bodied people received over 84%.

The reverse to this was the case in favour of young people. As Chart 29 shows, young people got the lion's share of the broadcast media focus.

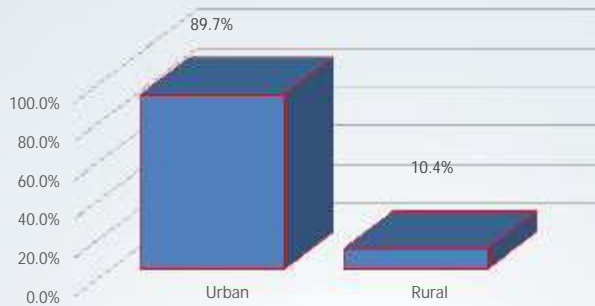
Chart 29: Visibility of young people in the broadcast contents



As presented in Chart 29, the visibility of young people in broadcast contents was 78.7%, while other people's visibility was a mere 21.3%. The media paid attention to the youths in their electoral broadcasts. The media gave youths the opportunity to state their political views. For example, on Liberty TV, Northern youths expressed mixed feelings over Bola Tinubu's rumoured intention to run for presidency 2023. Typically youths actively participate in the electoral process.

The broadcast media remained urban-centric in their contents. Only a small fraction of their attention went to the rural areas as Chart 30 shows.

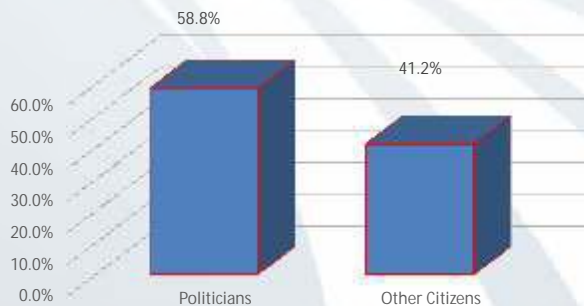
Chart 30: Urban-rural visibility in the the broadcast contents



The urban areas enjoyed a wide visibility of 89.7% of broadcast contents. The gap between the visibilities of the urban- rural areas is as wide as ever. In August the month under review, the broadcast media seemed to have viewed rural-related issues as unimportant.

Still on the visibility of the actors on the electoral landscape, we compared the attention given to politicians and ordinary citizens.

Chart 31: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in the broadcast contents



As seen in Chart 31, visibility of other citizens in broadcasts contents was relatively low at 41.2%, while the media contents on politicians was higher at 58.8%. It appears that reports and events on other citizens had climbed up in order of priorities for the media but not as much as that for politicians.

Chart 32: Relative visibility of the arms of government in the broadcast contents



Chart 32 shows that the media gave 49% of coverage to the Executive, 23.5% to the Judiciary, while they gave 15.9% to the Legislature. Despite the fact that the Judiciary was at the centre of the post-electoral litigations that were going on, they still did not match up to the Executive in terms of media coverage. To avoid bias, the media must ensure as much as possible that each arm of government is well represented.

Chart 33: Visibility of government agencies in the broadcast contents

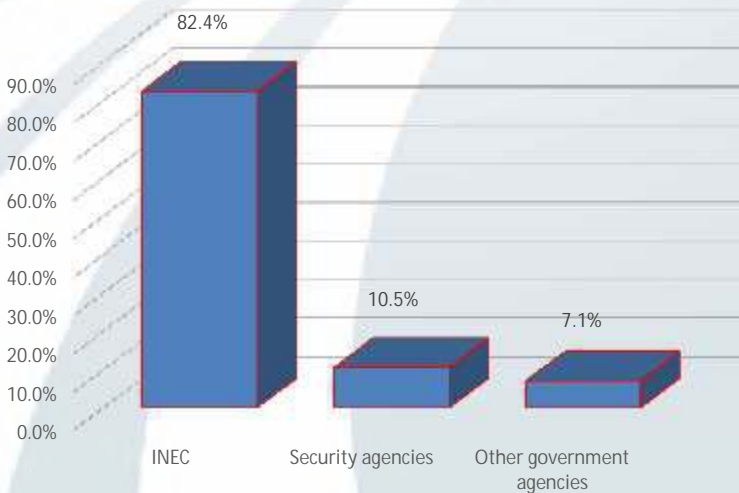
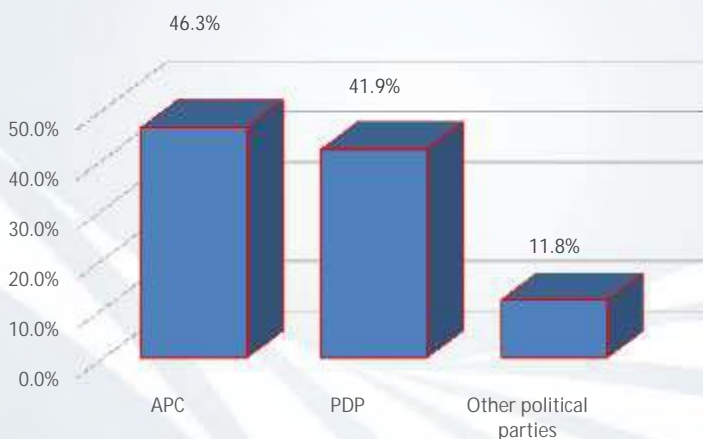


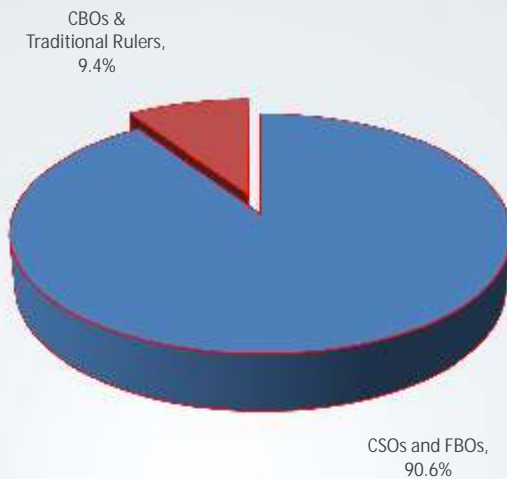
Chart 33 shows that INEC got a significant coverage at 82.4%; both the security agencies and other government were poorly represented getting altogether less than 20%. As the electoral contestations had now moved from the field to the courts, the role of security agencies seemed to have diminished. Agencies such as the National Orientation Agencies (NOA) that was active in voter education had reduced their activities since the elections had come and gone. This leaves only INEC at the centre of broadcast reports.

Chart 34: Visibility of political parties



Result presented in Chart 34 shows that APC and PDP were well almost equally represented, while all the 89 other parties were poorly represented. This could be attributed to the fact that in August the PDP presidential candidate challenged the presidential result; he also demanded to inspect INEC's server. However, the Election Tribunal rejected the PDP and its presidential aspirant's request. This issue garnered a lot of controversy and was widely reported by broadcasts media. In August, TVC reported that in Kogi State, APC cleared 9 aspirants ahead of gubernatorial race primaries. Little was said or heard about the other political parties some of whom were already even closing their offices.

Chart 35: Visibility of non-governmental organisations in the broadcast contents



The CSO and FBO were thickly represented by 90.6%, while CBO and FBO were thinly represented with 9.4%. In August INEC reacted to report by Civil Society Groups which portrayed the 2019 general elections as being below standard set by the electoral commission in its conduct of 2015 elections.

This implies the CSO attempted to ensure the electoral commission struck to ethical guidelines. CBO and Traditional Rulers hardly featured in the broadcast contents. Traditional rulers usually advise politicians on diverse matters such as political matters. For example the Emir of Guzzau advised politicians to shun violence. However, their activities did not match up to those of the CSO's and FBO's.

Were the broadcast reports balanced or lopsided? With regard to the items where balance was expected, we found that in most cases, the broadcast media were balanced. They sought out the views of the different people that were involved in a story or an issue.

Chart 36: Balanced versus not balanced reporting

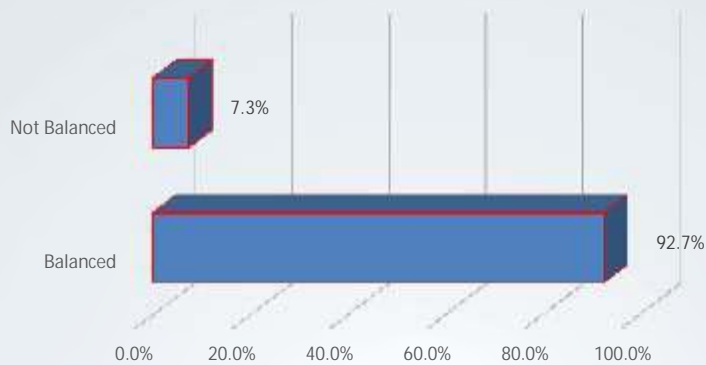


Chart 36 shows that the broadcast media maintained a balanced approach in reporting. It means the journalists must have observed media ethics, investigating all sides of a matter and reporting it objectively and accurately. The not balanced reports were just 7.3%, while the balanced reports accounted for 92.7%.

Chart 37: Comparison of private and government broadcast stations on balanced reporting

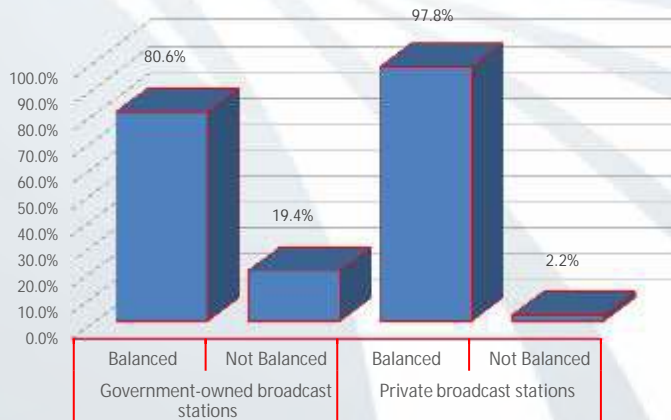


Chart 37 shows the comparison of balance reporting by government-owned stations and private broadcast stations. Both broadcast stations maintained a high level of balance in broadcast contents but private broadcasts stations had a higher percentage of 97.8 %.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The media focused on different political matters. It was obvious that even after the elections, the media covered the electoral reports and electoral tribunal cases. Election matters were featured on both radio and television stations. Different arms of government also received attention. All parties were covered but the major parties (APC and PDP) had more visibility than the 89 other parties. Election-related conflicts intertwined sometimes with other themes such as the activities of INEC, and both got high attention from the broadcast media. The Traditional Rulers, PWD and women received little mentions and they hardly served as news sources of information.

If the media are to be the voice for PWD and women then they must ensure that they give PWD and women issues to feature more in their programmes. Traditional Rulers too need to receive more coverage because they are in a position to hold their subjects who hold political offices accountable. It was also clear that the media under-reported the rural areas, but they paid greater attention to the urban areas.

The lop-sidedness in the reports in terms of visibility of actors, and the media's preference for news to the utter neglect of agenda-setting critical formats such as commentary/analysis are two issues that undermine the potency of the broadcast media to fully contribute to the overall success of the electoral system in Nigeria.

SEPTEMBER 2019 REPORT



Background

The role of the broadcast media in the society is exceptional and must not be underrated. The primary functions of the media to inform, mobilise, entertain and serve as the watchdogs and gatekeepers require them to furnish the public with specific messages that can help create and shape public opinion. These roles are important during elections. For instance, the media release information to the society, monitor the electoral process, hold the government accountable and douse election-related tension before, during and after elections. As a result, the media are regarded as one of the institutions that help guarantee the success of a democratic society.

Just as the media play a significant role in all elections around the world, the 2019 elections was not an exemption. Long before the elections, various activities that served as a preamble to the general elections were seen on both new and traditional news media. In September 2019, being the month under review, the activities of the media helped prepare, educate and inform members of the society and electorates of the electoral process, advising them to be registered voters, appealing to people to exercise their voting rights, and informing members of the public about election-related conflicts.

During the election period, the media also served as voices and channels for individual and corporate actors in the electoral process. These key actors are the many political parties both old and new, the various arms of the government, security agencies, non-governmental organisations and the general electorate. More so, the media produced various adverts, campaigns, jingles, hosted debates and talk shows for the aspirants. They also ensured that these activities were discussed and replicated on social media.

Given the crucial role of the media before, during and after the election, it is, therefore, imperative to monitor their activities and operations during the elections. This consideration set the purpose for this report. To achieve this objective, the contents of radio and television stations were monitored, examined and compared to ascertain their roles in the 2019 general elections. This is a report of the monitoring for the month of September, 2019.

The Team monitored 35 media stations; 17 radio stations and 18 television stations all over the country. The list below highlights the stations.

The radio stations monitored are listed as follows:

1. Adamawa Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Yola
2. Anambra Broadcasting Service (Awka 88.5 FM), Awka
3. Arewa Radio, Kano
4. Dream FM, Enugu
5. Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Network
6. Glory FM (Bayelsa State Broadcasting Corporation, BSBC), Yenagoa
7. Gotel Radio, Yola
8. Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) Radio, Kaduna
9. Nigeria Info, Network
10. Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC), Osogbo
11. Progress FM Gombe
12. Radio Benue, Makurdi
13. Radio Kwara, Ilorin
14. Radio Lagos
15. Radio Lagos/Eko FM

16. Rhythm 93.7, Network
17. Splash FM 105.5 Ibadan

These are the monitored television stations:

1. African Independent Television (AIT), Network
2. Adamawa Television (ATV) Yola
3. Channels Television, Network
4. Desmims International Television (DITV), Kaduna
5. Galaxy Television, Lagos
6. Gotel TV, Yola
7. Independent Television (ITV), Benin City
8. Kaduna State Television (KSTV), Kaduna
9. Liberty Television, Abuja
10. Lagos Television (LTV), Lagos
11. Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) Network
12. Ogun State Television (OGTV), Abeokuta
13. Rivers State Television (RSTV), Port Harcourt
14. Silverbird Television (STV), Network
15. TV Continental (TVC), Network
16. Wazobia Max TV, Network

A total of 125 radio broadcasts and another 231 television broadcasts were studied. We examined the programme types, the thematic focus of the stations being monitored, the visibility of the different key actors to the electoral process and the language and professionalism of members of the media. This report, therefore, presents the analysis of radio contents, television contents, and a merger of the two contents.

PART I:

CONTENTS OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO

Programme Types Used in Political Broadcasts on Radio

To determine which programme types were used by the radio stations in the month under review, we considered various types of broadcast such as news reports, discussions, interviews, vox pop, phone-ins, commentaries, debates, documentaries and other forms of broadcast.

Chart 1: Programme types used by radio stations in political broadcasts - Sept. 2019

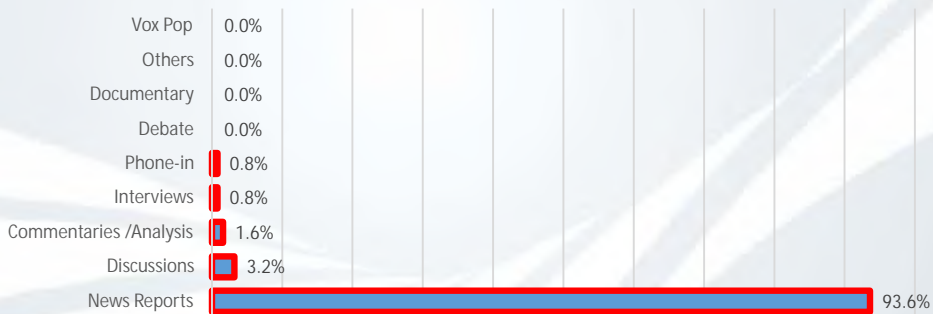


Chart 1 shows that most of the radio broadcasts dedicated to politics within September were predominantly News Reports, which represents 93.6% of total broadcast contents. Discussion programmes followed remotely by 3.2%, while commentaries/analysis got 1.6% of total political contents. However, interviews and phone-in programmes accounted for less than 1 percent of the broadcast contents allotted to political issues. The figures presented in Chart 1 indicate that more political issues were addressed in news reports than in other programme types.

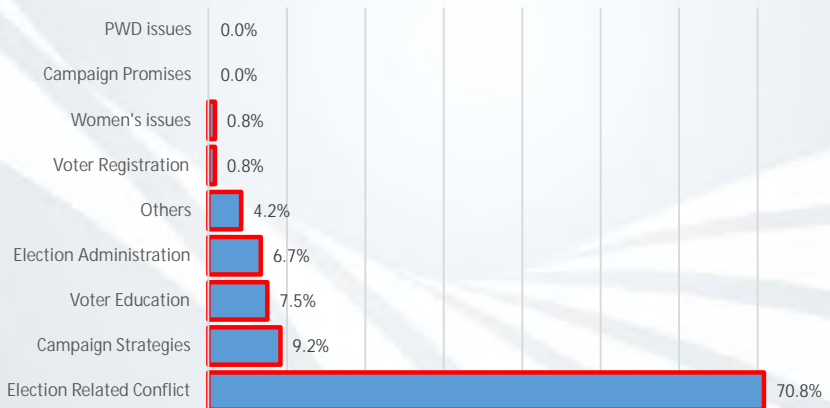
Thematic focus of the contents of the radio

An analysis of the thematic focus of political radio broadcasts reveals that in the month of September 2019, the central points for political discussions on radio were Campaign strategies, Voter Education, Election Administration,

Voter Registration, Women issues among other issues.

The result presented in Chart 2 illustrates varying distribution of themes identified in the radio broadcasts analysed. Chart 2 shows that majority (70.8%) of the radio items focused on election-related conflicts, while 9.2% of total radio content analysed focused on campaign strategies. Followed closely is the theme of voter education, which got 7.5% of radio broadcasts. For instance, Glory FM (Bayelsa State Broadcasting Corporation) reports that “Commissioner for Trade, Industry and Development calls on Bayelsans and the PDP to work towards Sen Ediri's victory in the coming elections.”

Chart 2: Thematic Focus of Radio Broadcasts



Our analysis of this theme features a “News commentary on Adhering to the guidelines of the Political broadcasting code.” Election Administration, which is in the purview of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) constitutes 6.7% of total radio broadcasts. For instance, Gotel radio Yola (AM/FM) reports that “the chairman of The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmoud Yakubu has disclosed that the commission will deploy twenty four thousand (24,000) ad-hoc staff for the Kogi and Bayelsa elections on November 16th.” Similarly, Glory FM (Bayelsa Broadcasting Station) reports that INEC organised training for

media practitioners and security agencies ahead of Bayelsa Governorship elections.

Furthermore, themes about women issues and voter registration received less than one percent coverage, while other uncategorised themes represent 4.2% of the total political radio broadcasts. Basically, the result in Chart 2 shows that the major issues that were mostly discussed in any of the political radio broadcasts were about campaign strategies of political parties, voter education issues and election administrations.

VISIBILITY OF ACTORS IN THE CONTENT OF RADIO BROADCAST

To find out the level of visibility of individual and corporate actors in the radio broadcasts monitored we observed, we observed the visibility of men and women, young persons, politicians and other citizens, and contrasted the visibility of persons with disabilities (PWD) with that of able persons,. Furthermore, we evaluated the visibility of corporate institutions like the arms of government, NGOs, Government Agencies, Urban-Rural population and political parties.

Chart 3: Visibility of male and female actors in the content of radio broadcasts

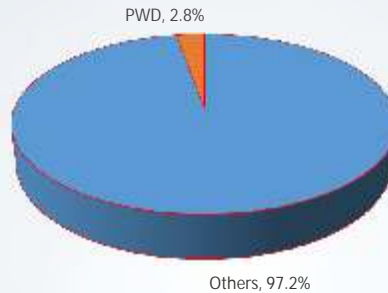


The finding illustrated on Chart 3 shows that the visibility of male and female actors in the radio broadcasts monitored is uneven. Male were 66.7% visible, while females were 31.3% visible. For example, only a broadcast item on Glory FM's discussion programme focused on “violence against women in politics and mentioned medical women association.” Every other radio broadcast featured men.

Furthermore, persons with disabilities (PWD) have even lower visibility in

contrast with able people. Chart 4 illustrates the disparity between the visibility of PWD and able people. Persons with disabilities (PWD) had 2.8% visibility in the radio broadcasts monitored, while able persons were visible in 97.2% of the radio broadcast contents that we analysed.

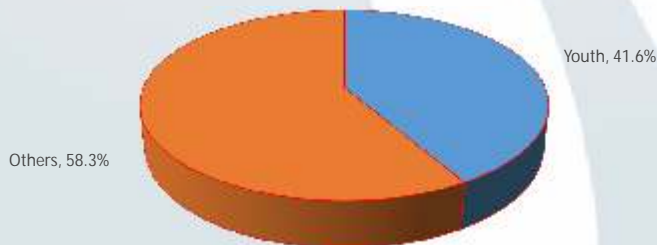
Chart 4: Visibility of PWD and other people in the content of radio broadcasts



Evidences from the radio broadcasts show that no single report mentioned or referred to PWD, but many reports included able persons. Therefore, if the role of the media is to serve as the voice for the voiceless, this finding clearly points to the failings of the media to serve as a voice for persons with disability (PWD), particularly when political issues are addressed in the media.

We extended our analysis to the visibility of young persons in radio broadcast but discovered, as shown in Chart 5, that young people had 41.6% visibility in political radio broadcasts, while other age groups have 58.3%. Young people that were mentioned in reports from Glory FM and Rhythm FM talked about youth leaders that are involved in politics, while people of other age groups were either politicians or aspirants.

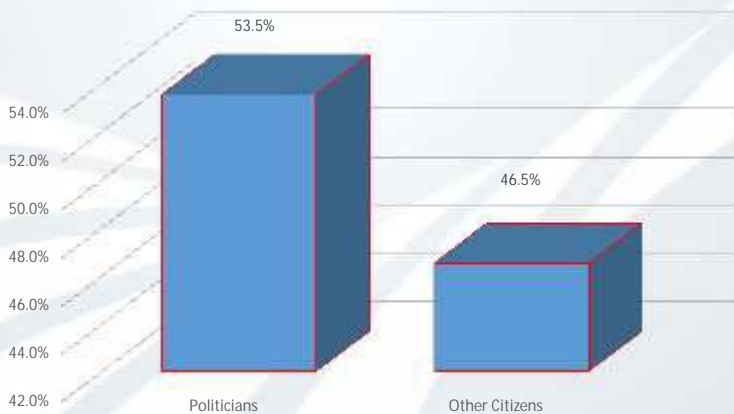
Chart 5: Visibility of young people in the radio broadcasts



For instance, an excerpt from Glory FM reports that “Sagbama youths congratulates Gov. Dickson on the conduct of the PDP in Bayelsa state; commends the choice of running mate for the PDP flag bearer. In sum, Chart 5 illustrates that even in September 2019, young people and other age grades had a relatively close volume of visibility. Just that youths were slightly less visible than others.

Another group of individual actors that we considered in our content analysis of political radio broadcasts were politicians and ordinary citizens. The finding in Chart 6 represents the inequality in the level of visibility of both group of persons.

Chart 6 : Visibility of politicians and other citizens in radio broadcasts



As shown in Chart 6, politicians got 53.5% visibility while other citizens/ordinary citizens were 46.5% visible. Reports like “Presidential election tribunal overturns Atiku's Petition to nullify Buhari's victory in the 2019 elections,” on Rhythm FM, and Dream FM's “Oyo Election Tribunal upholds the victory of Kola Balogun of PDP in Oyo Guba polls,” assert that in the month of September 2019, politicians were mentioned more in radio broadcasts than they did ordinary citizens.

The same way we analysed the visibility of individual actors, we also analysed corporate actors in the election. Our analysis show that the relative visibility of the Executive arm of government was more than other arms of government.

Chart 7: Relative visibility of the arms of government in radio broadcasts

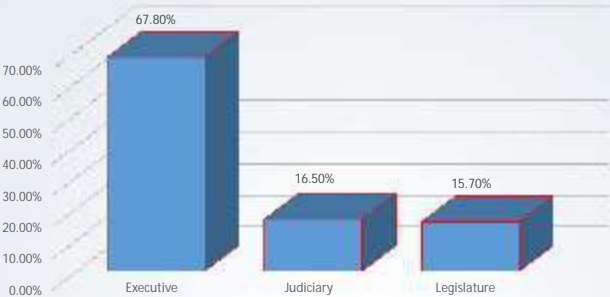
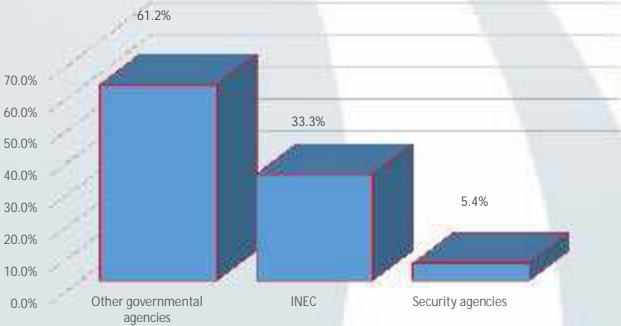


Chart 7 presents the visibility of the Executive at 67.8%, the judiciary at 16.5%, and the Legislature at 15.7%. This shows that in the month of September, 2019, the Executive arm of government—at national or state levels—appeared more in radio broadcasts than other arms of government, although these had a mean level of coverage during this period. Excerpts from the radio broadcasts monitored shows that the Executive was reported through various offices and parastatals that are connected to the Executive. For instance, Glory FM reports that “Ambassador calls for free and fair PDP primaries devoid of violence,” while Rhythm FM also reports how “Wike congratulates Buhari on his tribunal victory.”

Chart 8: Visibility of government agencies in radio broadcasts



The data presented in Chart 8, shows that government agencies that featured in the radio broadcast monitored for the month of September 2019 are security, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other governmental organisations. Chart 8 further reveals that other governmental agencies, like the tribunal, were more visible at 61.2% than INEC, which had 33.3% visibility, and the security agencies that were visible at 5.4%. Broadcasts similar to Rhythm FM's report on how “Rivers State election petition tribunal turns down AAC appeal,” illustrates that within the period under review, tribunals were more prominent on radio than INEC or the security agencies.

Chart 9: Relative visibility of political parties

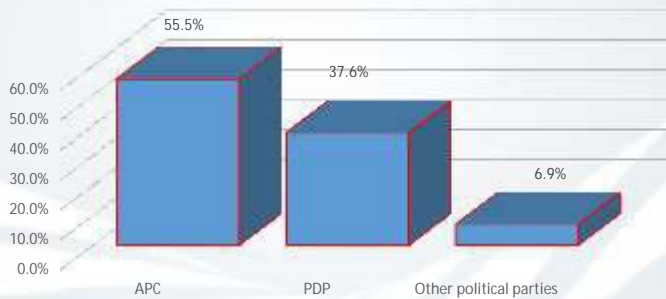
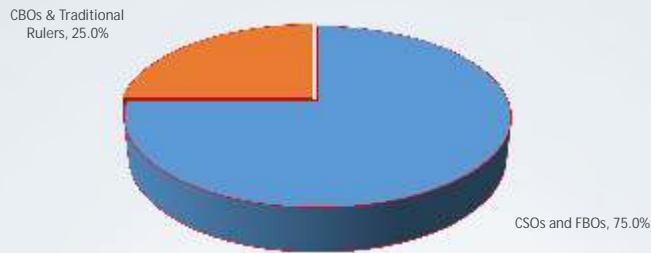


Chart 9 captures the relative visibility of political parties and it shows that the All Progressives Congress (APC)—the party that eventually won the election—had 55.5% visibility, which is the highest. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) had 37.6% visibility, while other political parties had 6.9% visibility. Broadcast items that were analysed mentioned either APC or PDP, while less reports featured other political parties. For instance, Rhythm 93.7 in Port Harcourt and OSBC in Osun state reports that “APC Primaries scheduled to hold today in Bayelsa,” while Governor Oyetola in Osun State congratulates President Buhari and the leadership of the APC for their victory at the tribunal. Similarly, Rhythm FM reports about both political parties within the same broadcast as “APC files a counter appeal to the supreme court after PDP's appeal against the ruling of the Presidential election Tribunal.” The broadcasts that were coded recorded more mentions for APC than for PDP or other political parties.

Chart 10: Visibility of non -governmental organisations



Result of the analysis of radio broadcasts monitored in September 2019 is represented in Chart 10. It shows the high disparity between the visibilities of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBO) in comparison with Community-Based Organisations (CBO) and traditional rulers. CSO and FBO had 75%, which is the highest visibility value. While Traditional rulers and CBO had 25% visibility in the total radio broadcast analysed. CSO like other pressure groups appeared in many radio reports like this one on Glory FM which says “Pressure group endorses Sen Ediri for PDP Primary ticket...” This is an evidence that FBO and CSO assert their relevance during election periods through endorsements and by making their opinion known in the media.

QUALITY OF REPORTS – BALANCE

An evaluation of the quality of reports and programmes aired on radio produced the result represented in Charts 11a and b.

Chart 11a: Balanced versus not balanced reports

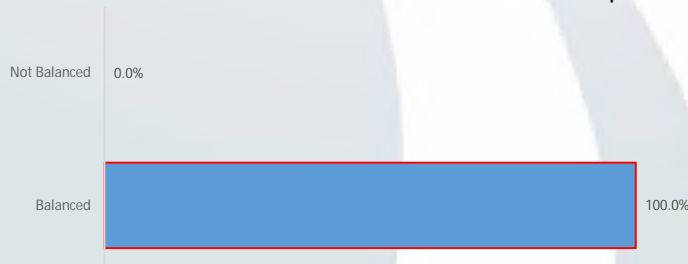
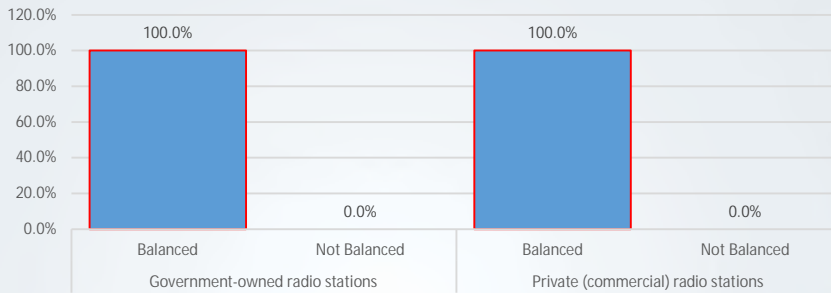


Chart 11a illustrates that the reports and programmes dedicated to political radio broadcasts were 100% balanced.

Chart 11b: Comparison of private and government radio stations on balanced reporting



However, as revealed in Chart 11b, further evaluation of government-owned radio stations and private/commercial radio stations shows that both were 100% balanced in reporting political issues.

PART II:

CONTENTS OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

The programme types examined include news reports, discussions, interviews, phone-ins, commentaries/analysis, debates, Vox-pop and documentaries.

Chart 13: Programme types of television broadcasts

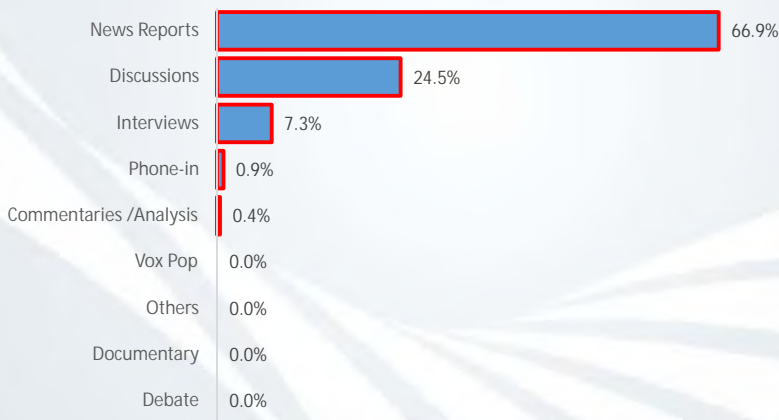


Chart 13 shows that out of all the programme types observed in television broadcasts, the frequency of news reports was the highest at 66.9%. Far behind news reports are discussion programmes, which constitutes 24.5% of total television broadcast for the month. We also observed a scanty amount of interviews at 7.3%, while phone-in and commentary/analysis programmes represents less than 1 percent of the programme type used for television broadcast of political issues.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Under this subsection, the result presented in the charts reveal the themes that were predominant in television broadcast of political issues for September, 2019.

Chart 14 presents categories of themes that were noticeable in the television broadcasts monitored for the month. These themes include Election-related conflicts, election administration, other issues, campaign strategies, voter education, women issues, and voter's registration.

Chart 14: Thematic Focus of Television Broadcasts

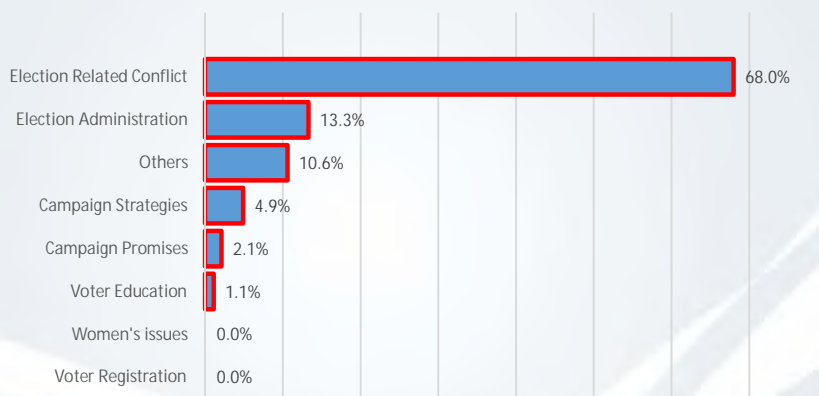


Chart 14 shows that 68% of the television broadcasts that were coded focused mostly on election-related conflicts. For instance, AIT's discussion programme on presidential election petition at the Supreme Court with two lawyers, Monday Ejeh and Tochukwu Ohazurike, examined the sixty-six (66) grounds of appeal by the PDP and its presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, at the 2019 presidential election. While only 13.3% of television contents addressed election administration by INEC, other issues such as disqualification of candidates, election petition or appeal constituted 10.6% of television broadcasts.

In addition, while voter education received a meagre prominence of 1.1%, campaign strategies represented 4.9%, and campaign promises got 2.1% of total political television broadcasts. In sum, the finding illustrates that a large proportion of television broadcasts that were aired in September 2019 focused on election-related conflicts.

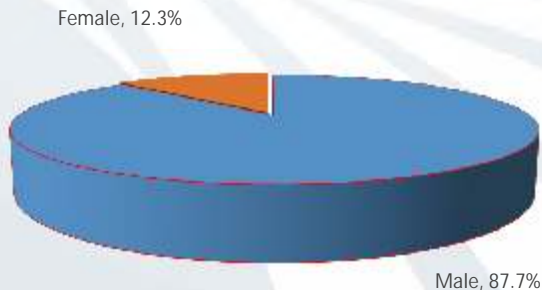
VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE ELECTION ACTORS IN THE CONTENT OF TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Our content analysis of television broadcasts for the month of September 2019, identified and compared the visibility of individuals and corporate actors within the electoral process in the television broadcasts analysed. We disaggregated Individual actors into men and women, people with disabilities (PWD) and able people, young people and other age grades, politicians and ordinary citizens. On the other hand, we have corporate actors like government agencies, arms of government, CBO, CSO, traditional rulers, FBO, rural and urban people.

INDIVIDUAL VISIBILITY

Using character count, we observed the comparative visibility of men and women in the contents of election-related television broadcasts. Chart 15 shows that women were a small minority indeed.

Chart 15: Visibility of male and female actorS in the content of television broadcasts



Altogether, females accounted for only 12.3% of the characters or players in the television programmes and items while males accounted for 87.7%.

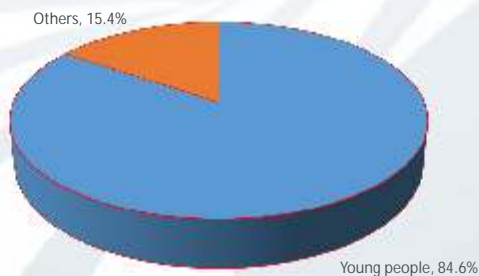
Visibility of PWDs and other People

Chart 16: Visibility of PWD and able people in the content of television broadcasts



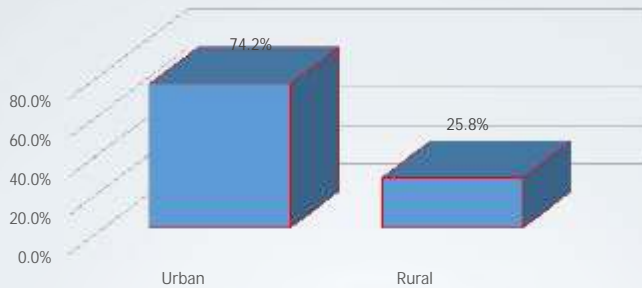
The result represented in Chart 16 shows a huge disparity between the visibilities of PWD and able people. Persons with disabilities only constituted a small 7.0% of total television broadcasts for the month, while able persons featured in 93.0% of total television broadcasts analysed. These figures indicate that less attention was given to PWD in television broadcasts than was given to able persons.

Chart 17: Visibility of young people in the television broadcasts



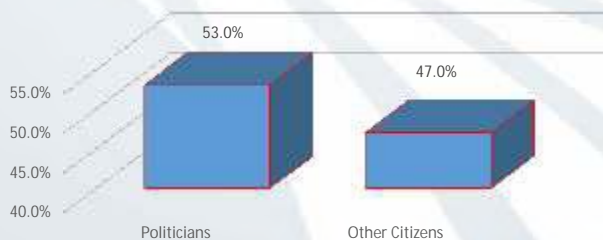
The volume of visibility that young people have on television broadcasts is higher than other age grades. Chart 17 shows that youths were 84.6% visible in political television programmes than other age groups, who had 15.4% of total television broadcasts. OGTV and other stations had similar reports that featured "discussion based on youths' involvement in governance."

Chart 18: Urban-rural visibility in the content of television broadcast



Urban-rural visibility as represented in Chart 18 shows that television broadcast contents in September, 2019 focused more on urban areas than rural areas. The inequality in media attention influenced urban visibility to be as high as 74.2% and rural visibility to be as low as 25.8%. Reports from the television stations monitored only captured urban people. These patterns basically reveal that rural areas are not adequately given attention in television broadcast contents.

Chart 19: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in television broadcasts



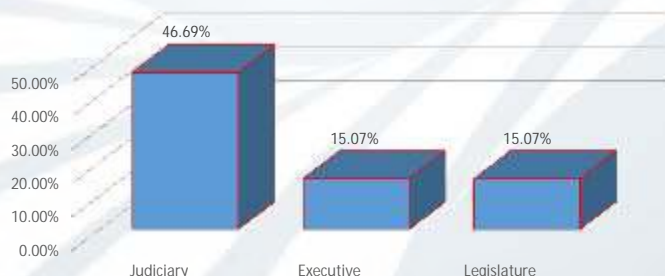
A comparison between the visibility of politicians and other citizens in television broadcast content for the month of September 2019 is presented in Chart 19. The Chart illustrates that politicians gained more visibility in television broadcast than ordinary citizens. Issues about politicians made up 53% of total television broadcasts, while discussions about other citizens constitutes 47% of political television broadcast. This suggests that in the

month under review, political television programmes gave politicians and ordinary citizens relatively reasonable attention, although it is expected that politicians got a little bit more visibility. For instance, names like President Buhari (TVC), Atiku Abubakar (ITV), Sanwo-Olu (TVC), Dino Melaye (Channels), to cite a few instances, were mentioned often in television broadcasts.

CORPORATE VISIBILITY

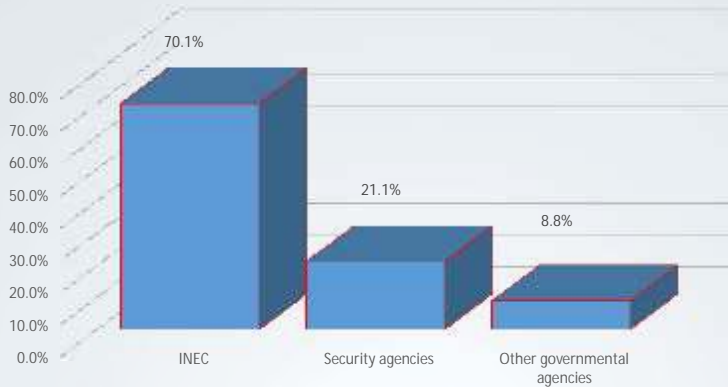
Charts 20-22 illustrate corporate election actors who got visibility during the month of September, 2019. The finding in Chart 20 shows that the Executive arm of government and the Legislature had the same share of visibility in television broadcast content, while the Judiciary had the largest volume of visibility. Many of the television stations reported lots of election court cases and trials.

Chart 20: Relative visibility of the arms of government in television broadcasts



While the Judiciary constitutes 46.69% of television broadcasts, the Executive and the Legislature individually got 15% share of prominence. AIT reports that "...Sen., Tolu Adebisi ascribes victory to judiciary, lauds Gov., Abiodun's landmark achievements." TVC also reports that "Atiku goes to court to challenge electoral tribunal judgement which upheld Buhari's victory at the 2019 presidential elections." These reflect that in the month under review, more election-related conflicts were addressed by the Judiciary, hence the reason for the prominence at this period.

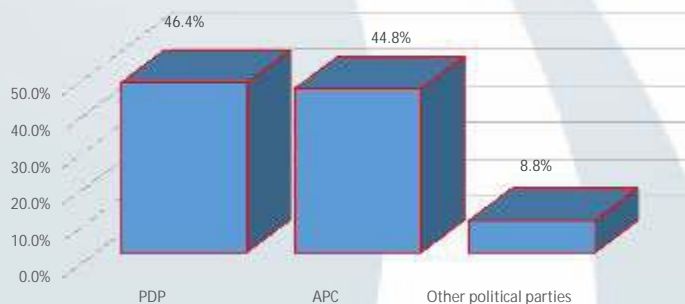
Chart 21: Visibility of government agencies in television broadcasts



According to the result presented in Chart 21, INEC had the highest share of visibility, which totals 70.1% of political television broadcasts. The reason for this prominence as observed from the broadcasts analysed is due to the many electoral court cases and the preparation for the election set to hold in Bayelsa and Kogi states. Liberty TV reports that “the INEC resident electoral commissioner in Kogi state, Prof. James Apam has expressed worries over possible violence during the November 16 governorship elections in the state.” Similarly, TVC reports that “INEC, NOA screen movie against electoral violence.”

Following remotely in visibility are the security agencies that had 21.1% visibility, while other governmental agencies got as low as 8.8% visibility.

Chart 22: Relative visibility of political parties



Analysis of television broadcasts monitored for September, 2019 shows that the opposition party (PDP), and the ruling party (APC) gained relatively equal level of visibility. Therefore, Chart 22 reveals that while other political parties had a meagre 8.8% visibility; APC that eventually won the election got 44.8% visibility. The visibility of APC is just slightly lower than the 46.4% volume of visibility that PDP the opposition party got in television broadcasts. This trend is attributable to the tussle between the two parties (APC and PDP) at the tribunals as well as preparations for the elections set to hold in Bayelsa and Kogi states. Channels TV reports that "Presidential election tribunal APC files counter appeal over PDP's appeal." Also, TVC reports that "PDP gubernatorial aspirants hold session with journalists in Bayelsa," while Rivers State Television also reports that "INEC gives primary release of Kogi and Bayelsa State governorship elections."

Chart 23: Visibility of non-governmental organisations

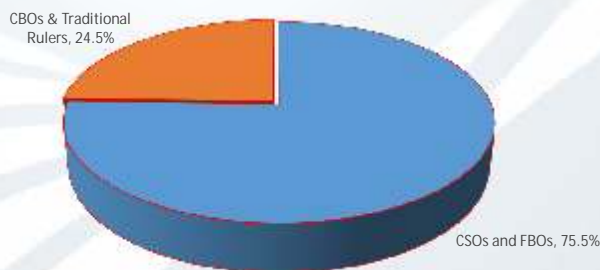
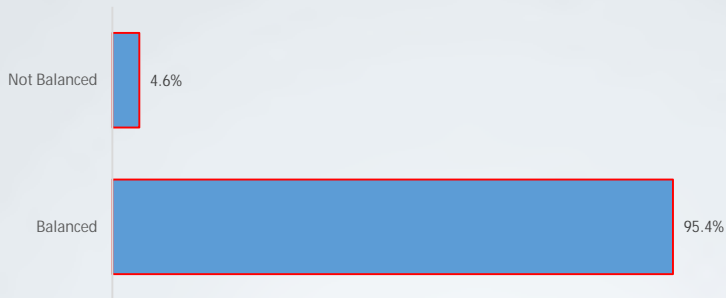


Chart 23 displays the share of visibility that non-governmental organisations pulled. The chart shows that Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Faith Based Organisations (FBO) constituted 75.5% of the contributions made on television broadcasts for the month, while Traditional Rulers, and Community-Based Organisations (CBO) had a low 24.5% visibility.

QUALITY OF TELEVISION REPORTS: BALANCE

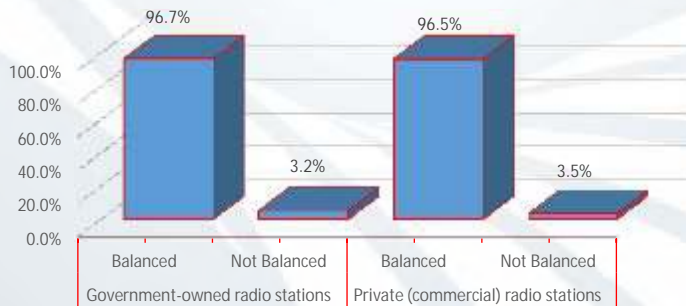
Charts 24a and 24b illustrate the quality of political television broadcasts in the television stations monitored for the month of September, 2019.

Chart 24a: Balanced versus not balanced reports



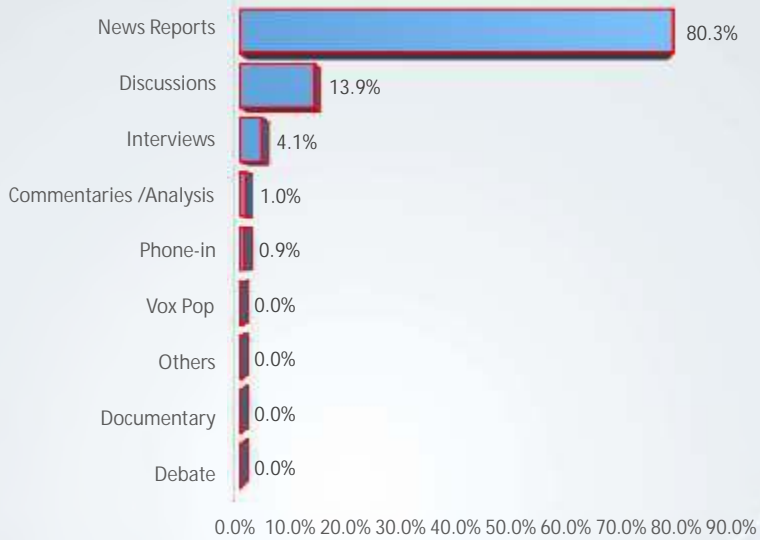
The data presented in chart 24a shows that 95.4% of television reports that were monitored was balanced, while 4.6% of the television reports was not balanced.

Chart 24b: Comparison of private and government television stations on balanced reporting



As illustrated in Chart 24b, a close disaggregation between private and government owned television stations reveals that 96.5% of the reports in private or government owned television stations were balanced political reports, while only 3.5% of the reports were not balanced.

Chart 25: Programme types of the selected broadcasts

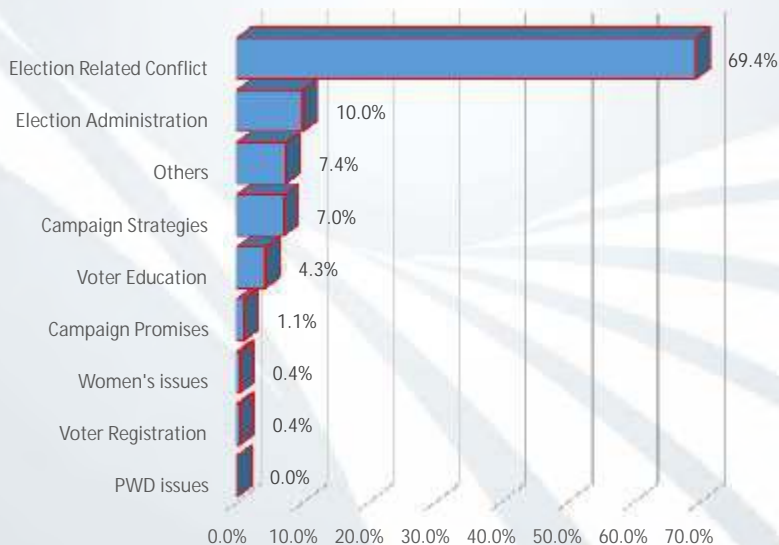


PART III:

COMBINED REPORT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

All the broadcast contents that were analysed for the month of September are 356. Radio contents accounted for 125, while television broadcasts items were 231. The programme types that we analysed include news reports, discussions, debates, phone-ins, vox pop, interviews, documentaries, others, commentaries and analysis. Chart 25 reflects the result of data analysis.

Chart 26: Thematic focus of the broadcasts-



The programme type that gained dominance on both radio and television broadcasts was News reports (80.3%), followed distantly by discussion programmes (13.9%), and Interview programmes, which made up 4.1% of broadcast contents. Programme types like phone-in and commentaries/analysis barely made 1% of the political broadcasts on radio and television.

Chart 27: Visibility of male and female actors in the broadcast contents

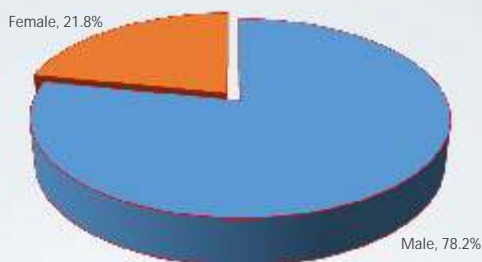
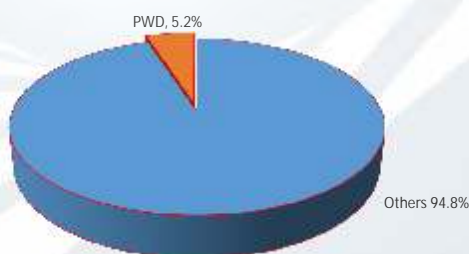


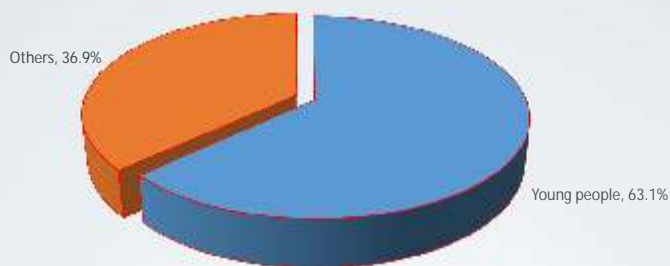
Chart 27 shows that males appeared in 78.2% of political broadcasts, while females featured with a distant volume of 21.8%. What these figures show is that in the month under review, more males featured in political discourses on radio and television than females

Chart 28: Visibility of PWD and other people in the broadcast contents



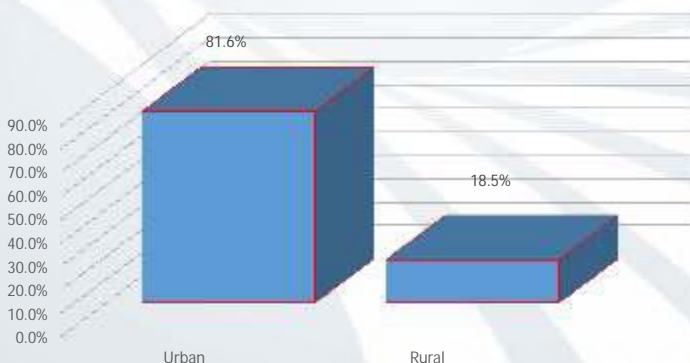
Once again, Chart 28 reinforces the fact that people with disability are still much under-represented in the media. The finding presented in the chart indicates that just 5.0% of the contents on broadcast media included PWDs in political issues, while 94.8% of the reports included other persons in their political broadcasts.

Chart 29: Visibility of young people in the broadcast contents



A careful look at Chart 29 shows that the political broadcast contents that we analysed for the month of September reflect a high visibility of young people and a fair visibility of other age grades in radio and television broadcasts. Other age grades had 36.9% visibility, while youths got 63.1% visibility. These youths were mostly youth leaders.

Chart 30: Urban-rural visibility in the the broadcast contents



Now to the visibility of urban and rural areas, Chart 30 shows that rural issues gained 18.5% visibility, while urban issues constituted 81.6% visibility in broadcast media contents. These figures indicate that the broadcast media have not balanced the attention they give to both urban and rural issues.

Chart 31: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in the broadcast contents

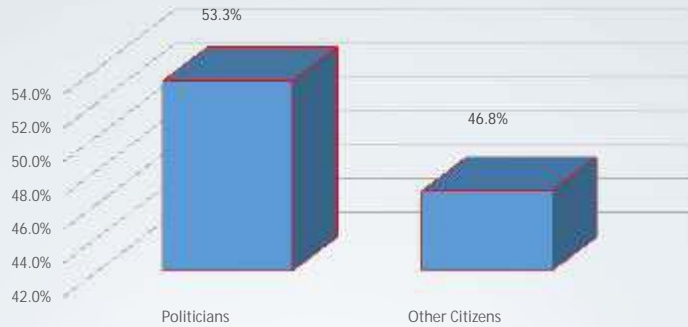
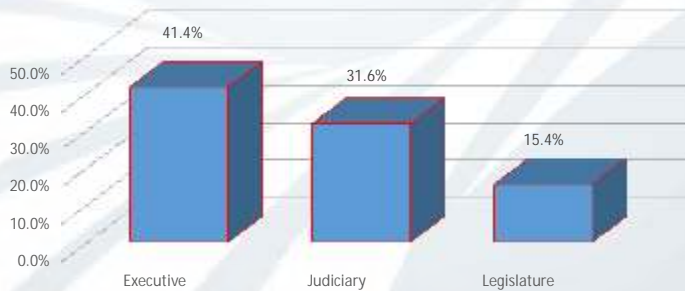


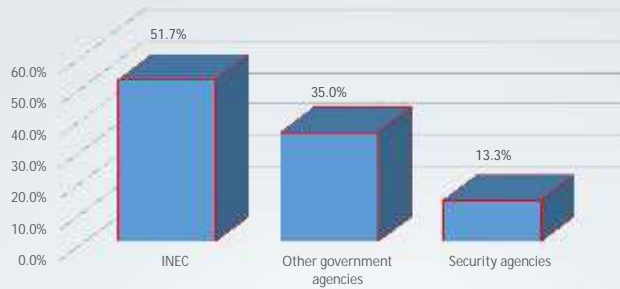
Chart 31 represents the level of visibility that politicians and ordinary citizens got in the broadcast media for the month of September, 2019. The chart shows that with 53.3%, politicians gained more visibility while at 46.8% other citizens gained less visibility.

Chart 32: Relative visibility of the arms of government in the broadcast contents



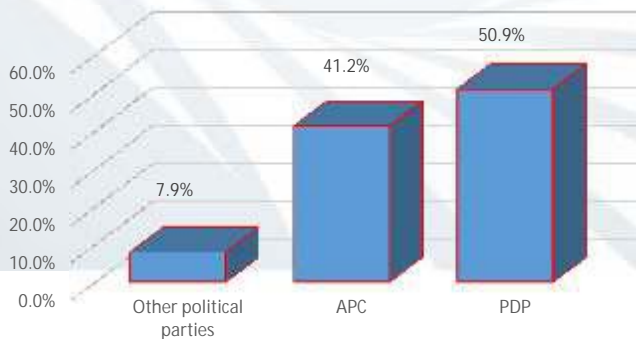
An illustration of the analysis of corporate actors like the arms of government in Chart 32, shows that the Executive gained 41.4% more visibility in the month of September than the Judiciary which followed a little closely with 31.6% visibility and the Legislature with 15.4% visibility. This shows that in the broadcast media, attention is given more to the Executive and the Judiciary than to the Legislature. This is expected since more of the dominated issues reported in the broadcast media focused on politicians and issues relating to elections conflicts.

Chart 33: Visibility of government agencies in the broadcast contents



Finding presented in Chart 33 shows that 51.7% of total broadcast contents in September 2019 gave visibility to INEC, the main body in charge of election administration. Meanwhile, other government agencies got 35.0% visibility and security agencies only pulled 13.3% prominence. These figures illustrate that in the month of September, the broadcast media had more attention on INEC and other government agencies than it gave to security agencies.

Chart 34: Visibility of political parties



The result in Chart 34 shows that both dominant parties had a relatively fair visibility in September. In overall broadcast contents, APC which is the ruling party had less visibility than PDP, the opposition party. PDP had 50.9% visibility in all broadcast media contents, while APC had 41.2% visibility. Although in Chart 7, APC had more visibility than PDP on radio, Chart 22 shows a contrary trend that indicates that APC and PDP had almost the same volume of visibility on television. In all the cases, the remaining 89 political parties had little attention.

Chart 35: Visibility of non-governmental organisations in the broadcast contents



The overall analysis of the visibility of non-governmental organisations as illustrated in Chart 35 reveals that 75.3% of broadcast contents included Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) in their political broadcasts, while Community-Based Organisation (CBO) and traditional rulers had as low as 24.8% visibility. The chart reflects that the contributions of community organisations and traditional rulers are still very minimal in political broadcast media contents. The finding presented in Chart 35 also reinforces the influence that civil societies and faith-based organisations have during election period. They assert their influence through endorsements and their criticisms.

QUALITY OF REPORTS

Our analysis of the quality of reports presented in the broadcast media is illustrated in Chart 36.

Chart 36: Balanced versus not balanced reporting

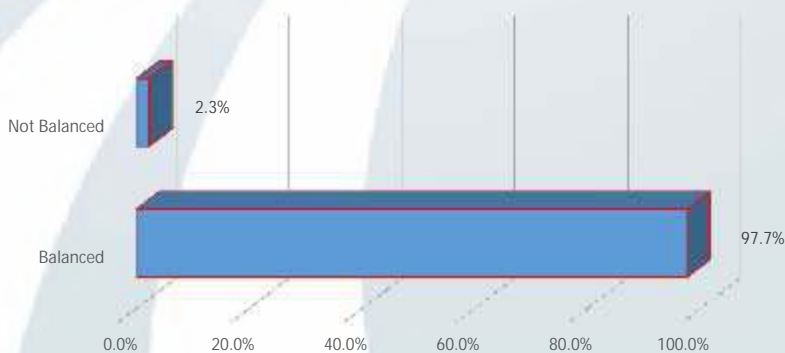
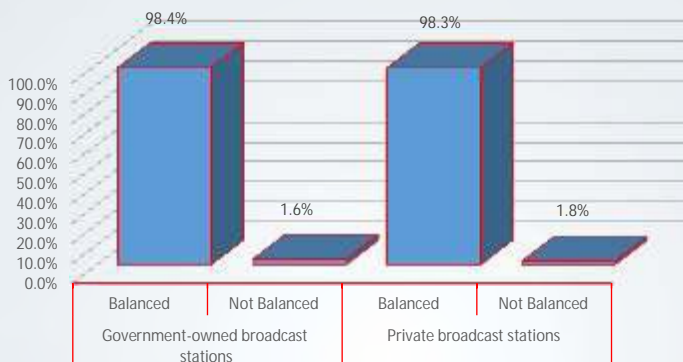


Chart 36 shows that 97.7% of the reports in the broadcast media about political issues was balanced while just a minute volume of 2.3% was not balanced.

Chart 37 Comparison of private and government broadcast stations on balanced reporting



A further disaggregation of private and government owned broadcast media as presented in Chart 37 shows that 98.0% of the reports on political issues was balanced in both private and government owned media. Just 2% of the reports was not balanced.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The broadcast media gave attention to different electoral issues in the month of September. Given the fact that in the month under review, there were on-going tribunal cases and preparations for elections in some states like Kogi and Bayelsa, the predominant theme was election-related conflicts. However, a closer examination of the results reveals that radio broadcast gave more preference to discussing campaign strategies, while television gave more prominence to election-related conflicts.

On the issue of visibility and prominence, the broadcast media gave visibility to some state election actors than others. For instance, individual actors like men, able people, young people and politicians were given more visibility while under-reporting their counterparts such as women, PWD, other age grades, and ordinary citizens. Also, corporate actors such as the Executive and the Judiciary arms of government, urban communities, PDP and APC,

CSO and FBO attracted political broadcast media attention. On the other hand, the Legislature, rural communities, other political parties, Community-Based Organisations (CBO) and traditional rulers had minimal visibility across all channels of the broadcast media.

Furthermore, most of the broadcast items that addressed political issues were predominantly news reports although other programme types like discussion programmes, interviews, commentary and analysis and phone-ins were manifest.

In terms of professionalism, private and government owned broadcast media presented balanced reports of most of the political broadcast contents they aired.

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019 REPORT



Introduction

This report examines the role of the broadcast media in reporting the election during the third quarter of the year 2019. It is a significant quarter in Nigeria because INEC was attending to post-election issues even while also preparing for the elections scheduled to hold in Kogi and Bayelsa states. As anticipated, the broadcast media informed and educated citizens about issues that surfaced after the general elections and about the election that was going to hold in Kogi and Bayelsa states.

Throughout the quarter, that is, July to September 2019, we analysed 506 radio broadcasts and 888 television broadcasts recorded from 17 radio and 16 television stations. These gave a total of 1,394 items. The radio and television stations monitored are listed as follows:

The radio stations:

1. Adamawa Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Yola
2. Anambra Broadcasting Service (Awka 88.5 FM), Awka
3. Arewa Radio, Kano
4. Dream FM, Enugu
5. Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Abuja
6. Glory FM (Bayelsa State Broadcasting Corporation, BSBC), Yenagoa
7. Gotel Radio, Yola
8. Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) Radio, Kaduna
9. Nigeria Info, Networks

1. Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC), Osogy
2. Kaduna State Television (KSTV), Kaduna
3. Liberty Television, Abuja
4. Lagos Television (LTV), Lagos
5. Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) Networks
6. Ogun State Television (OGTV), Abeokuta
7. Rivers State Television (RSTV), Port Harcourt
8. Silverbird Television (STV), Networks
9. TV Continental (TVC), Networks
10. Wazobia Max TV, Networks

In monitoring the broadcast contents, we concentrated on four important questions that are central to the elections:

1. What were the broadcast media talking about?
2. Who were the actors given coverage by the broadcast media?
3. What was the quality of reporting with reference to balance?
4. Were there traces of incitement or hate speech in the broadcasts?

We examined the thematic focus of the stations in connection with the election, visibility of the different actors, balance of reporting, and language of reporting as regards instances of hate or inciting speech.

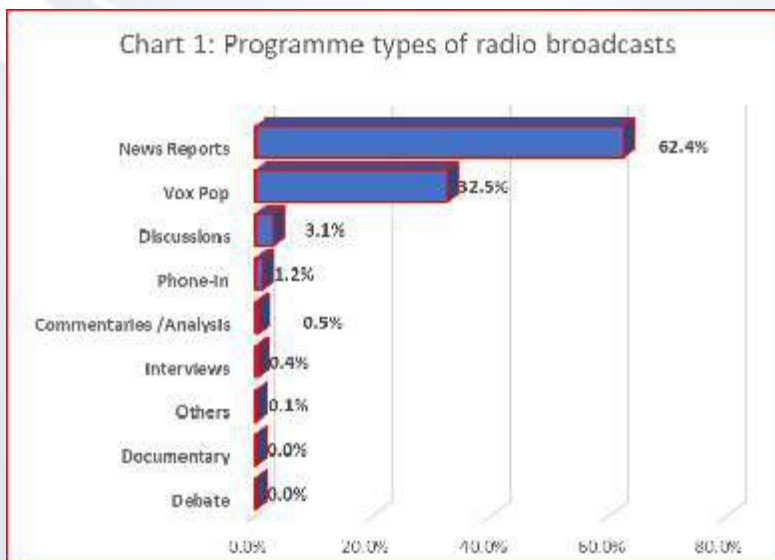
In this report, we first present the findings from the radio broadcasts, followed by those from the television broadcasts. We then end with a consolidation of the two broadcast categories.

PART I:

CONTENTS OF RADIO BROADCASTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2019

PROGRAMME TYPES OF THE RADIO BROADCASTS

The result of our analysis of the radio broadcasts as presented in Chart 1 shows that the most frequently used programme type is news reports (62.4%). Besides news reports, Vox pop (32.5%) was also used noticeably. This suggests that besides informing the citizens about the elections, the media was also concerned about getting people's reactions and opinion about the issues arising post-election.

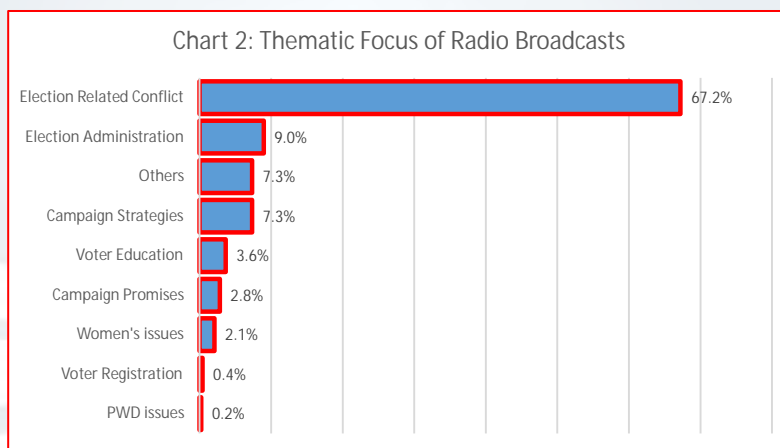


Moreover, debate, documentary and other programmes types seemed to fade-out completely in this quarter, while discussions (3.1%), interviews (0.4%), commentary/ analysis (0.5%) and phone-ins (1.2%) were used sparsely. The absence of debates, and the insignificant presence of

interviews, commentary/analysis is surprising because elections were still scheduled to hold in states like Kogi and Bayelsa.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE RADIO BROADCASTS

We proceed to analyse the various issues that characterised the coverage of the radio broadcasts in the quarter under review. As illustrated in Chart 2, election-related conflicts (67.2%) is the most dominant theme. This can be alluded to the numerous post-election dissatisfactions that ended in the courts or the election tribunals.

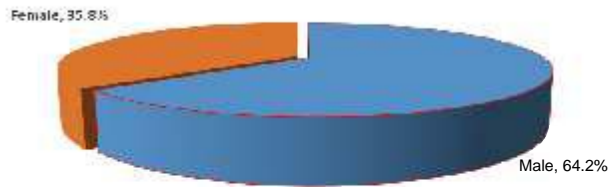


More so, Chart 2 above reveals a not so surprising result that shows the minimal, almost sparse coverage that the issue of voter registration (0.4%), campaign promises (2.8%) voter education (3.6%), other issues (7.3%), campaign strategies (7.3%), and election administration (9.0%) gained. This can also be linked to the fact that the quarter is post-election period. Besides, issues related to Persons with disabilities (0.2%) and Women (2.1%) were barely reported.

MEN OR WOMEN: WHO WERE MORE VISIBLE IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS?

Chart 3 illustrates the extent of coverage given to the female and the male genders. It shows that men (64.5%) were more visible in the radio broadcasts analysed for the quarter than women (35.8%).

Chart 3: Visibility of male and female actors in the content of radio broadcasts



The statistics presented here also reinforces the reason issues related to women were not part of the themes that dominated radio broadcast in the quarter under review. This only shows that the female gender still experiences so much exclusion from the media and importantly from political discourse. This also points to the reality that in terms of representation, males are more represented in politics than females.

VISIBILITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

Having explored the visibility of actors by gender, we proceeded to analyse the radio broadcasts to establish the level of visibility that persons with disabilities (PWD) had in relation to able persons. Chart 4 illustrates the result.

Chart4: Visibility of PWD and other people in the content of radio broadcasts

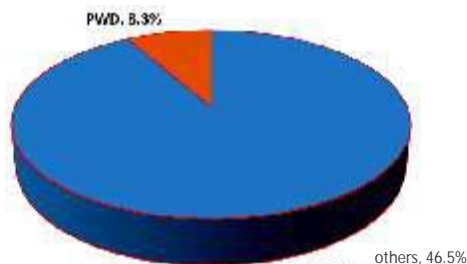


Chart 4 above shows that persons with disabilities (PWD) had a very low visibility (8.3%), while able persons had extremely high visibility (91.8%).

The statistics suggests that with regards to pre and post-election periods, issues relating to persons with disabilities (PWD) are rarely given attention to and their inability to participate in the last elections or forthcoming ones may not be addressed adequately.

YOUTH VERSUS OTHERS: WHO WERE MORE VISIBLE IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS?

Next, we examined the radio broadcasts to determine the visibility of youths in relation to other age groups. The result illustrated in Chart 5 shows that in the quarter under review, radio broadcasts gave more attention to other age groups than it gave to youths.

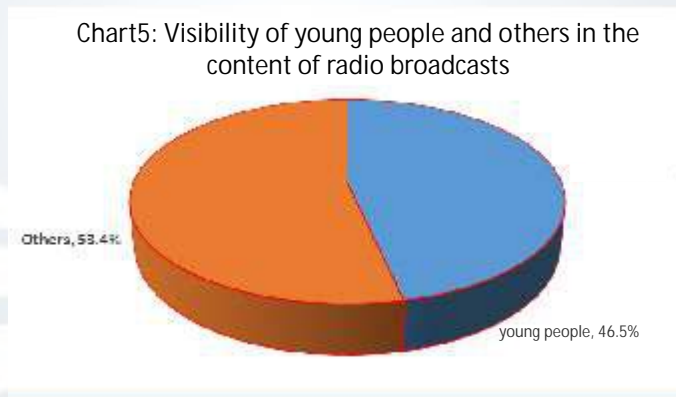


Chart 5 above shows that 46.5% of the radio broadcasts addressed young people, while the remaining 53.4% gave attention to other age groups. The result also shows that despite the *#NotTooYoungToRun* Bill, youths were still under-represented in radio broadcasts. The reason for this low visibility of youths in radio broadcasts needs to be checked because the case is not same on television broadcasts.

VISIBILITY OF POLITICIANS AND OTHER CITIZENS

We also analysed the broadcasts to determine who got the highest media attention between citizens and politicians in the quarter under review. The result is presented in Chart 7.

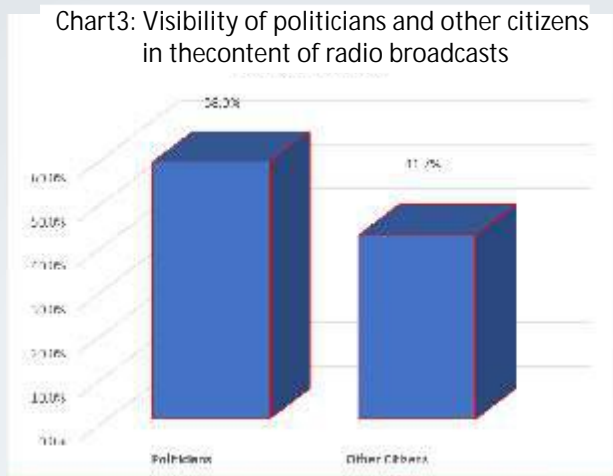


Chart 7 shows that politicians (58.3%) got more attention than other citizens (41.7%). This result is expected because politicians were primary actors in the numerous election related conflicts that dominated radio broadcasts in the quarter under review. Meanwhile, other citizens who are the electorate had less dominance within this period.

URBAN-RURAL VISIBILITY IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

There is a general assumption in literature that rural issues do not get visibility in the media unless they have a visit from a politician, an event or a disaster. Therefore, we analysed the radio broadcasts to see the visibility of rural population compared to urban population. We illustrated the result in Chart 6.

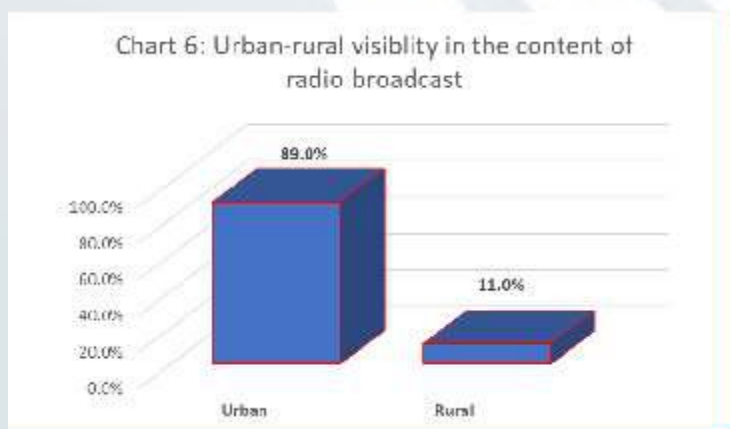
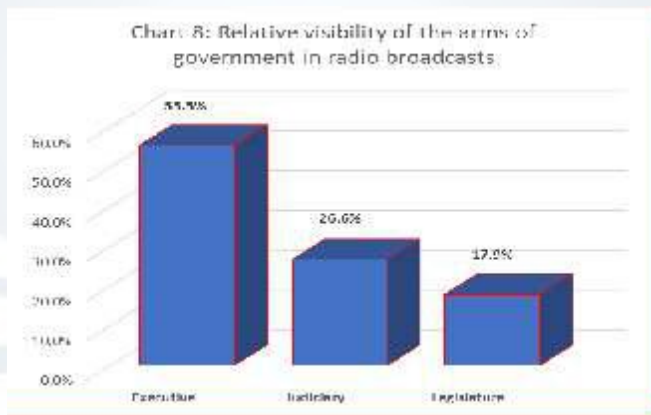


Chart 6 shows that the visibility of rural issues was extremely low (11%) in comparison to urban issues (89%). This result conforms to the general assumption stated earlier that rural issues do not naturally get visibility.

RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF THE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

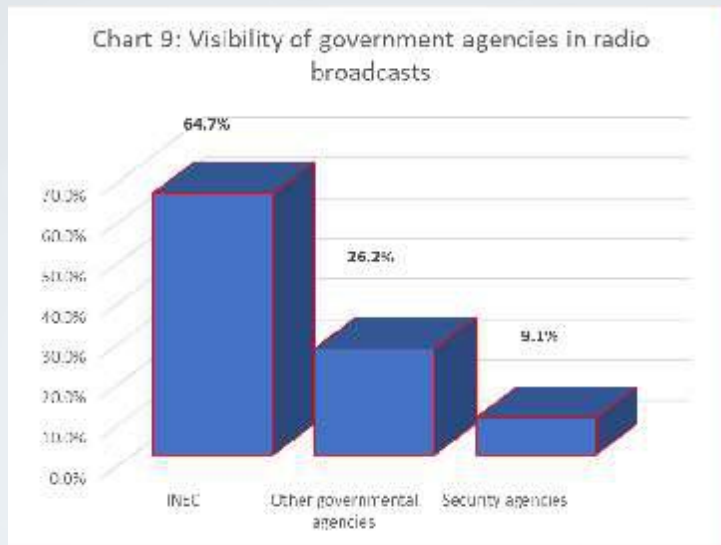
We analysed the dominance of the arms of government, and the result illustrated in Chart 8 shows that the Executive had the highest visibility at 55.5%, while the Legislature had the lowest visibility at 17.9%. The Judiciary has a noticeable level of visibility at 26.6%.



The prominence of the Executive was expected because of the level of interest people have in knowing about the activities of members of the Executive arm of government. Meanwhile the visibility of the Judiciary is as a result of dominant issue being discussed in the media, which is, election-related violence. The low visibility of the Legislature also says something about the level of interest and attention that issues relating to the Legislature got after the elections had ended.

VISIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

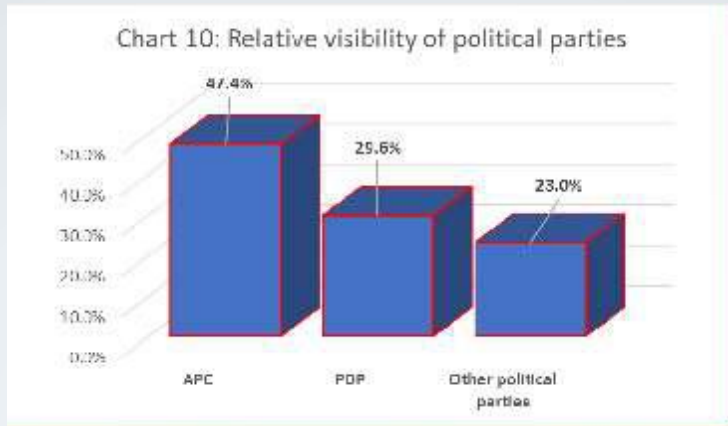
We proceed to analyse the visibility of government agencies in the radio broadcasts for the quarter. Chart 9 illustrates the result.



The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) got a high visibility (64.7%), while the security agencies had an extremely low visibility. Meanwhile, other governmental agencies were noticeable at 26.2%. The results shows that INEC remains very active even after the general elections had ended. Although this prominence is also attributable to two possible reasons, the ongoing election-related conflicts that are still being resolved in the election tribunal and INEC's preparation for another election in Kogi and Bayelsa states. The low visibility of security agency (9.1%) is anticipated, especially because their responsibility to ensure a peaceful, free and fair elections was essentially over.

RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS?

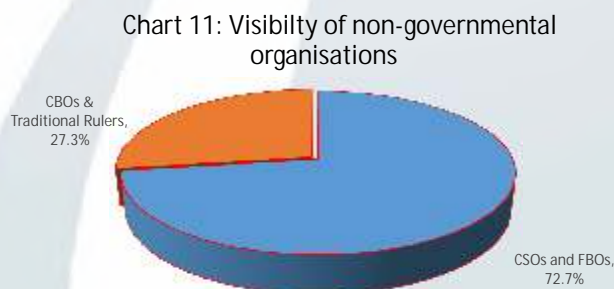
We proceeded to analyse the visibility of political parties. The result is presented in Chart 10. In chart 10, we see that the All Progressives Congress (APC) had the highest visibility (47.4%), followed distantly by the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) with 29.6% and other political parties got the lowest visibility with 23%.



Considering the victory of the APC in the last general elections, we expected that the party would have more visibility because there was an increased level of interest in what the APC as a party and its candidates has to say or do post-elections. Similarly, the performance of the PDP and their dissatisfaction about some of the major results also made them a prominent object of interest though not as much as the ruling party-APC.

VISIBILITY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

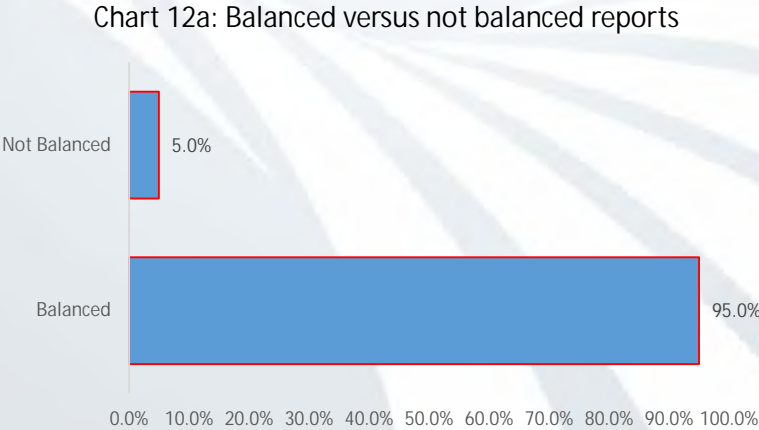
In chart 11, we present the breakdown of our analysis of non-governmental organisations' visibility in the radio broadcasts for the quarter under review. The categories of non-governmental organisations that were analysed are Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Faith-Based organisations (FBO) on the one hand. On the other hand are Community Based Organisations (CBO) and Traditional Rulers.



Our analysis shows that CSO and FBO had the highest visibility at 72.7%, while CBO and traditional rulers had the lowest visibility at 27.3%. This result is anticipated because in our previous analysis for the quarter, rural population were largely marginalised as opposed to the focus given to urban population. Consequently, CBO and Traditional Rulers are not going to be at the fore of media attention if there is no presence of an urban element in the story. Likewise, the high visibility of CSOs and FBOs reflects the massive attention of the media on urban areas. This also suggests that CSO and FBO are engaging post-election issues more than CBO and Traditional Rulers.

BALANCED VERSUS UNBALANCED REPORTS IN THE RADIO BROADCASTS

Researchers and public affairs analysts are always interested in how the mass media have achieved balance in their coverage of interests, issues and people in the society. We examined the level of balance in the radio broadcasts and present the result of our analysis in Chart 12.



The result presented in Chart 12 shows that majority (95.0%) of the radio broadcasts for the quarter under review was balanced. This defies the general assumption that ownership and partisan politics in the media, beat reporting, among other unprofessional conducts influences media reportage of elections. However, one cannot dismiss the influence heavy regulations and

sanction meted out by the regulatory body—the National Broadcasting Commission.

BALANCED REPORTING: COMPARING PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT RADIO STATIONS

To better appreciate the performance of radio broadcasts in furnishing balanced reports, we unbundled the activities of government owned and private/commercial radio stations. The result of our analysis is presented in Chart 12b.

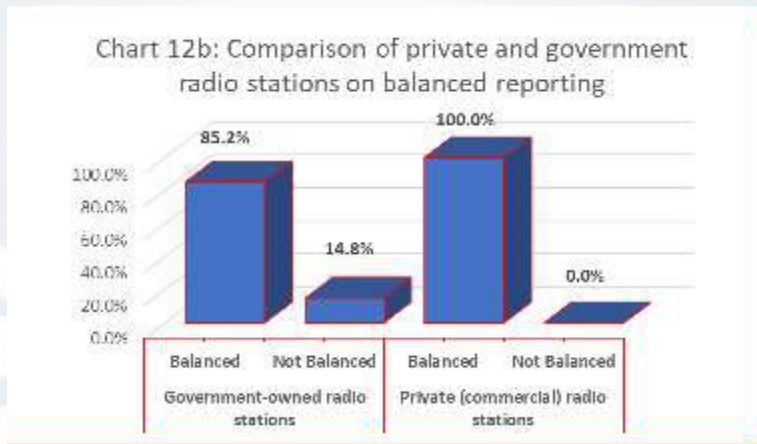


Chart 12b above shows that in the quarter under review, private radio broadcast stations had more balanced reports (100%) than government-owned radio stations did (85.2%). given the fact that a new administration has emerged from the concluded elections, government-owned radio stations are expectedly going to be biased to issues relating to the incumbent political actors than to other political actors. This is because the government controls government radio stations through funding and staff recruitment.

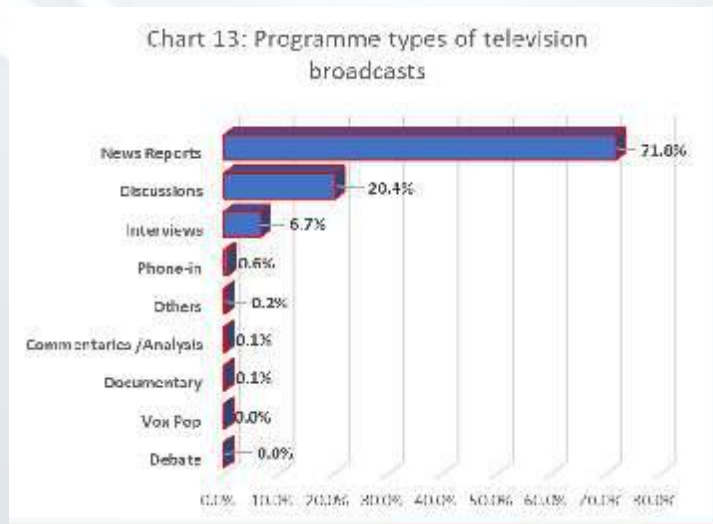
PART II:

CONTENTS OF TELEVISION BROADCAST IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2019

Since we are analysing the role of the broadcast media in the coverage of the elections, we examined the radio medium in the previous section. Now we shall present the result of the analysis for the television broadcasts. In the television broadcasts monitored during the quarter under review, we examined the same parameters as we did with radio broadcasts.

PROGRAMME TYPES OF THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

In chart 13, we present the result of our analysis of the programme types that were employed in discussing election issues on television during the quarter under review.



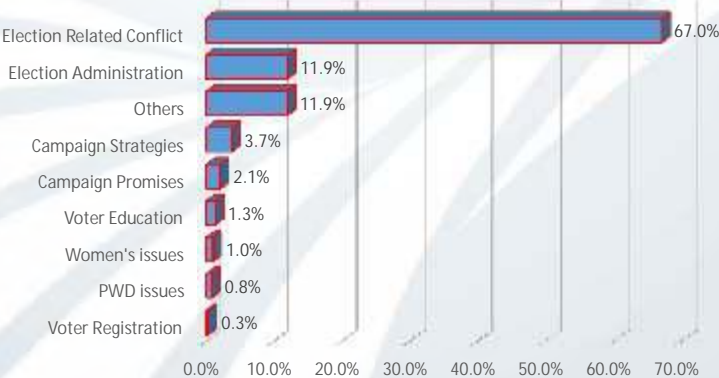
From the result presented in Chart 13 above, it is clear that news reports, discussions and interviews constitute the programme types that were employed in television broadcasts to report about the elections in the period under review. Note that news reports dominated with 71.8%, while

discussion programme was noticeable at 20.4% and interviews were sparsely used at 6.7%. Others, phone-ins, commentary/analysis and documentary programme types altogether constituted a percent of the television broadcasts for the quarter. This result is slightly different from the result we got from our analysis of the same parameter in radio broadcasts. While radio broadcasts used a combination of News reports, Vox pop and discussions, television broadcasts employed a mixture of news reports, discussions and interviews. However, it is noticeable that on both broadcast medium, news reports dominates.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

We present in Chart 14 the issues/themes that were dominant in the television broadcasts for the quarter. Similar to what we observed on radio broadcasts, election related conflict, election administration and other issues were prominent.

Chart 14: Thematic Focus of Television Broadcasts

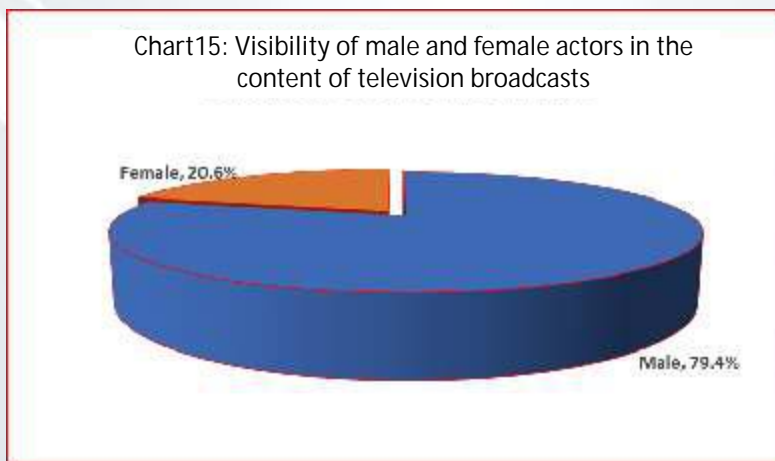


Out of all the prominent issues noticeable, election related conflict was the most (67%) predominant, while election administration and other issues have equal (11.9%) level of attention. Other issues such as campaign strategies (3.7%), campaign promises (2.1%), voter education (1.3%), women issues (1%) and PWD issues (0.3%) altogether constituted eight percent of the television broadcasts for the quarter. As we noted in our analysis of radio broadcasts, the period under consideration is largely post-election except for

states like Kogi and Bayelsa where elections would hold at a later date. Essentially, issues relating to dissatisfactions with election results are being addressed at the election tribunals and the courts. More so, the visibility of election administration, campaign strategies, campaign promises and other pre-election issues reflects that the television broadcasts were trying to pay attention to elections scheduled to hold in Kogi and Bayelsa.

MEN OR WOMEN: WHO WERE MORE VISIBLE IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS?

Chart 15 illustrates the pattern of visibility for men and for women in the television broadcasts analysed for the quarter. The result shows that the male gender is more (79.4%) visible than the female gender that had less (20.6%) visibility.



Again, this finding reiterates the reality that there is still a dominant female marginalisation or underrepresentation of women from political discourse—both in the media and in political turfs.

VISIBILITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

The visibility of persons with disability (PWD) is compared with that of able persons. We present the result in Chart 16.

Chart 3: Visibility of male and female actors in the content of radio broadcasts

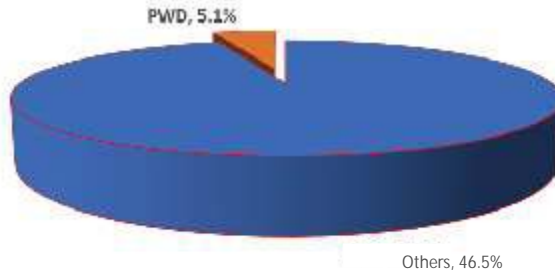
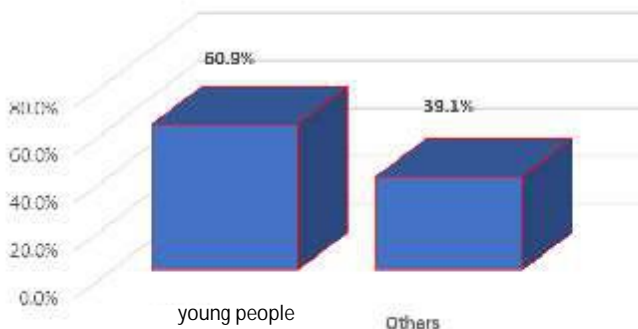


Chart 16 above shows that persons living with disability (PWD) had an extremely low visibility (5.1%) when compared with able persons that had extremely high visibility (97.5%). This result again re-echoes the reality of exclusion and marginalisation that PWD face both in the media and in the electoral process.

YOUNG PEOPLE VERSUS OTHERS: WHO WAS MORE VISIBLE IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS?

We progressed in our analysis to also look into the visibility of youth vis-s-vis other age groups in the television broadcasts for the quarter. The result is presented in chart 17.

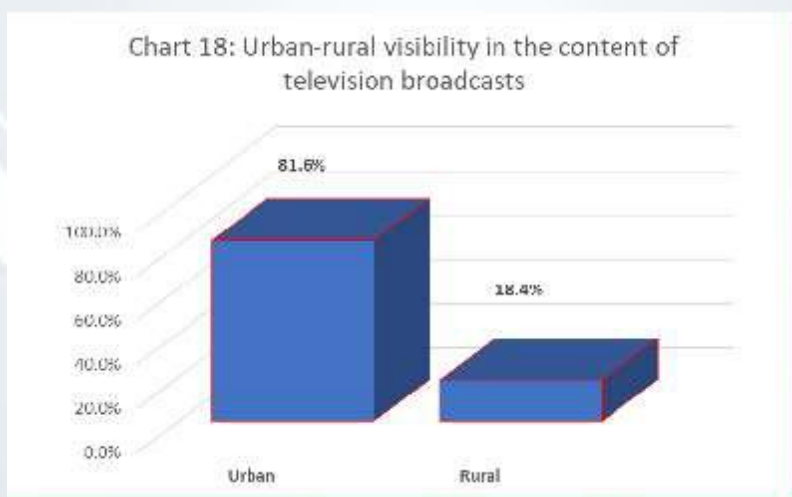
Chart 17: Visibility of young people in the television broadcasts



The result illustrated above shows that young persons were more visible (60.9%) in television broadcasts than other age groups with less visibility (39.1%). This is a contrast to what obtains in radio broadcasts where other age groups had more visibility than young persons did.

URBAN-RURAL VISIBILITY IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

In Chart 18, we examined the visibility of urban-rural issues in television broadcasts. The result shows that rural issues gained a very high visibility (81.6%), while rural issues gained a very low visibility (18.4%) in television broadcasts.

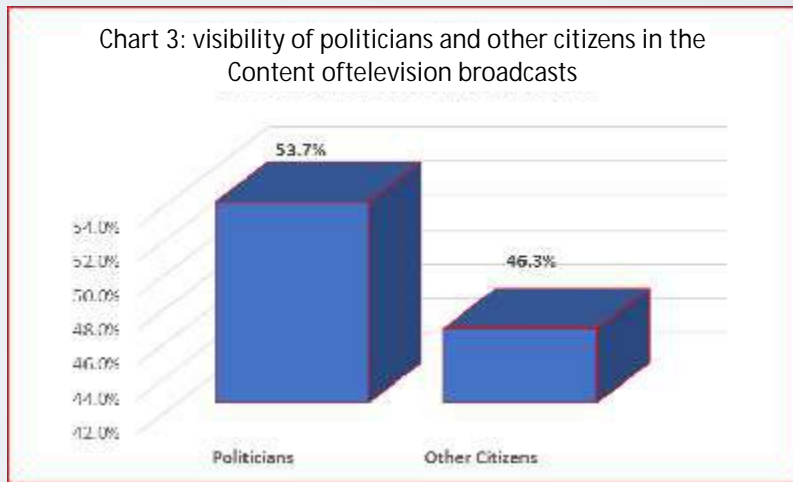


Once again the result illustrated in Chart 19 above reinforces the reality that the rural population are excluded, marginalised and underrepresented in the media. Except there is an urban intervention, rural issues are discussed at a minimum level in the media.

VISIBILITY OF POLITICIANS COMPARED WITH ORDINARY CITIZENS IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

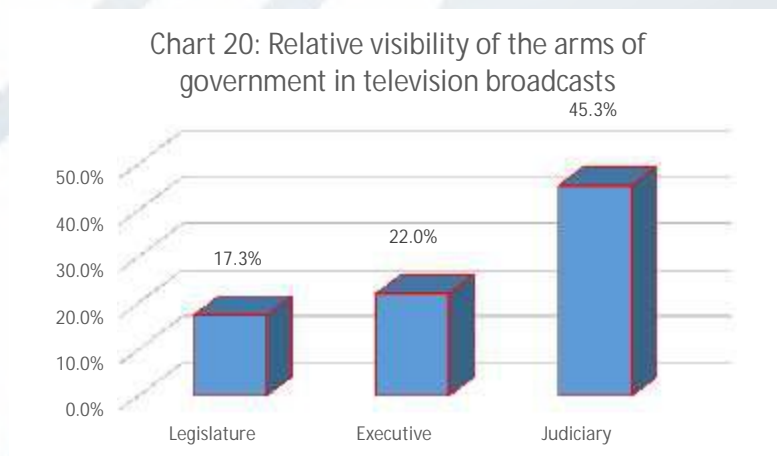
Chart 19 illustrates the visibility of politicians in comparison to the visibility of ordinary citizens in the television broadcasts. Politicians had more visibility (53.7%) than other citizens that had low visibility (46.3%).

This is expected because the dominant issues in the media such as election-related conflicts, election administrations, and campaign strategies, draw more attention to politicians than to other citizens.



RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF THE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Further, we explored the relative visibility of the arms of government. The result of our analysis is presented in Chart 20.

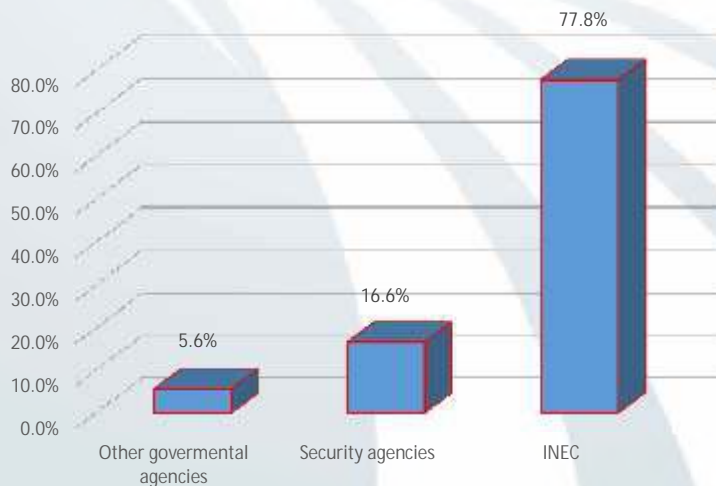


The result illustrated in Chart 20 above reveals that the Judiciary was the most visible in the television broadcasts for this quarter, followed by the Executive with 22% visibility, and then the Legislature as the least visible arm of government with 17.3%. This result is quite contrary to what we recorded in the radio broadcast which revealed that the Executive was more visible than other arms of government. What these figures suggest is that television broadcasts media focus more on the arm of government that resolved election-related conflicts than it did on the executive arm of government. Note that the Legislature seemed to have less visibility in this quarter, possibly because they had less post-election conflicts when compared to the Executive or the media just did not pay huge attention to issues relating to post-legislature elections.

VISIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Next is the analysis of the prominence attributed to government agencies in the quarter under review. The result is presented in Chart 21.

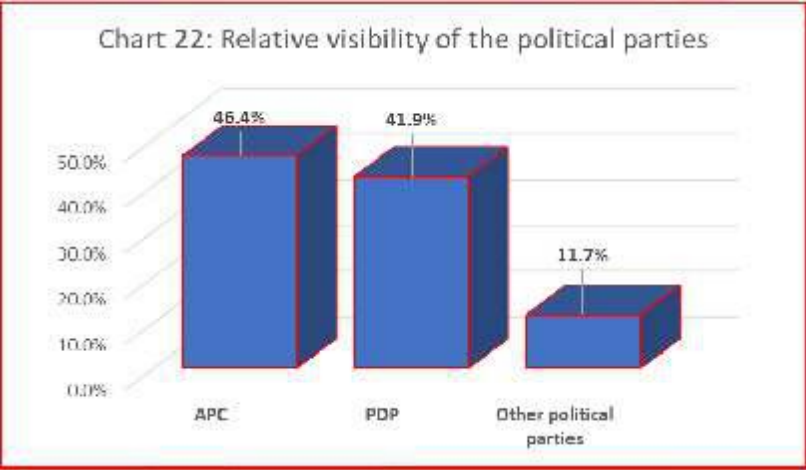
Chart 21: Visibility of government agencies in television broadcasts



The data above shows that the INEC had the highest visibility (77.8%) in the quarter under review, while security agencies had a low visibility (16.6%), and other governmental agencies had the lowest visibility (5.6). It was expected that the visibility of security agencies and other governmental agencies would be low because the elections were over. However, we can ascribe the high visibility of INEC possibly to the on-going election-related conflicts and election administration regarding the elections set to hold in Bayelsa and Kogi states.

RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS?

Logically, we can say that through the activities of candidates, members and party officials, political parties are active and major players in the elections. Thus, we present in Chart 22 the result of our analysis of the visibility of political parties during the quarter under review.



The data presented above shows that the most visible parties are APC, which had 46.4% visibility and PDP with 41.9% visibility. Meanwhile, other political parties had an extremely low visibility at 11.7%. These figures suggest that the television broadcast media tried to give balanced reports about the major parties that contended closely in the last elections. However, we can see that the ruling party (APC) still managed to be more visible (5%)

than the major opposition party (PDP).

VISIBILITY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Chart 23 illustrates the visibility of non-governmental organisations which are categorised into Community-Based Organisations and traditional institutions on one the hand, and the Civil Society Organisations and Faith-Based Organisations on the other hand.

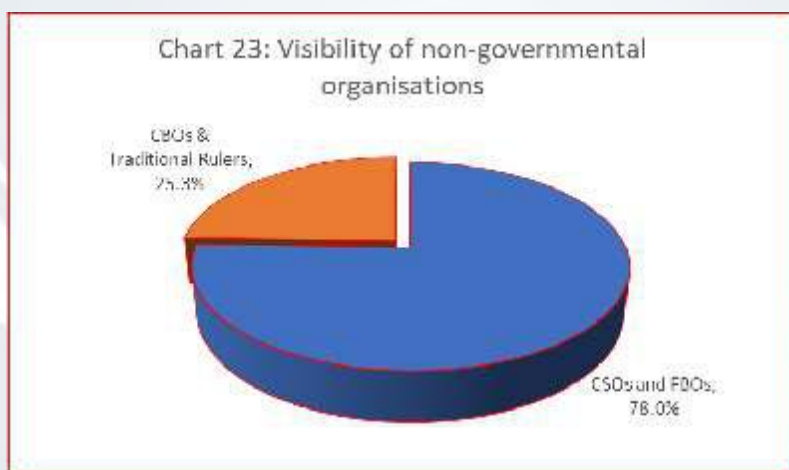
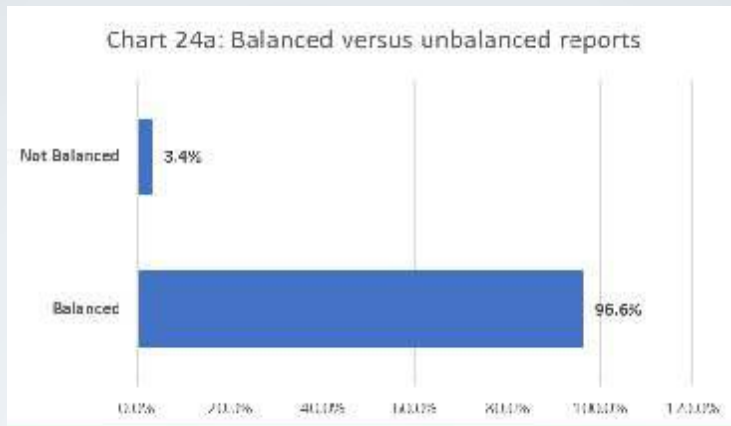


Chart 23 above shows that CSO and FBO were more visible (78%) than CBO and Traditional Rulers with very low visibility (25.3%). This result reiterates the fact that CBO and Traditional Rulers do not always have as much visibility as CSO and FBO. This is because CBO and Traditional Rulers are located among the rural population which seem remote from the media.

BALANCED VERSUS **NOT** BALANCED REPORTS IN THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS

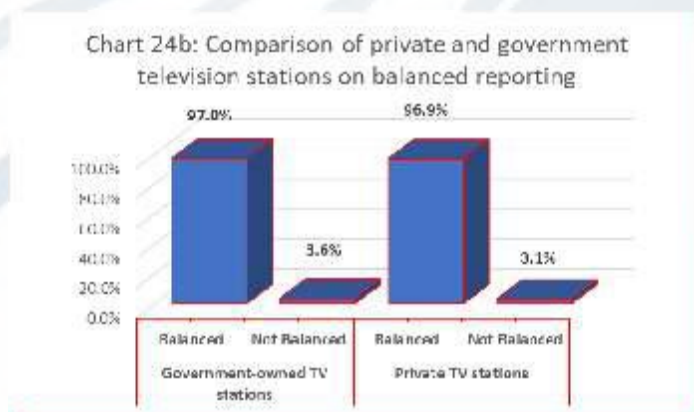
Having examined the visibility of individual and corporate actors, we focused our analysis now on the quality of reports delivered by the television broadcasts within the quarter under review. Chart 24a illustrates the result.



The result in Chart 24a above shows that most (96.6%) of the television broadcasts were balanced although there were some (3.4%) that were not balanced.

BALANCED REPORTING: COMPARING PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT TELEVISION STATIONS

To better understand the data presented in Chart 24a, we unbundled the television broadcast media outlets into government owned broadcast media and private/commercial broadcast media. The result of this is presented in Chart 24b.



Result in Chart 24b above shows that both government owned and private/commercial television stations had the same level of balanced reports (97%) and about the same extent of unbalanced reports (3.5%).

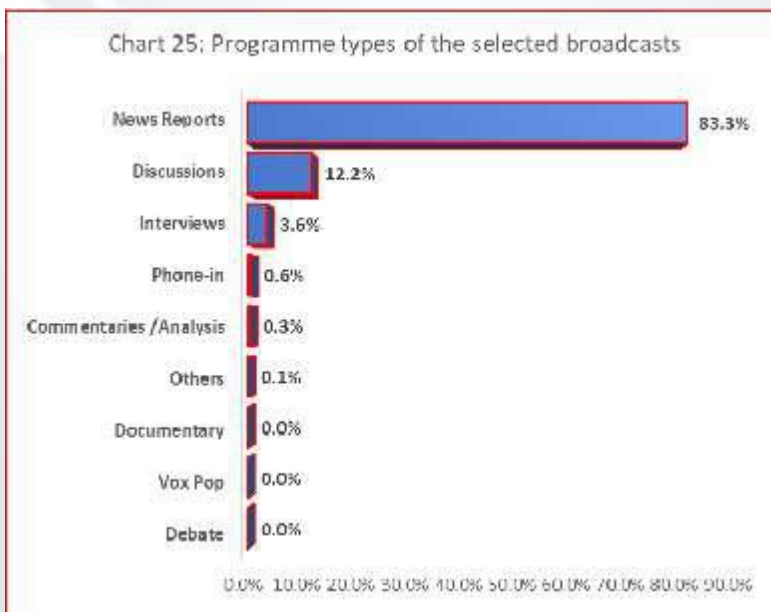
PART III:

COMBINED CONTENTS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2019

This section is a combination of the radio and television broadcasts. A total of 1394 broadcast items, made up of 506 radio and 888 television broadcast items, were analysed.

PROGRAMME TYPES OF THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

We analysed the combination of data presented from July to September to determine the programme type that was predominantly used in the broadcast media in the quarter under review. Chart 25 illustrates the result of our analysis.

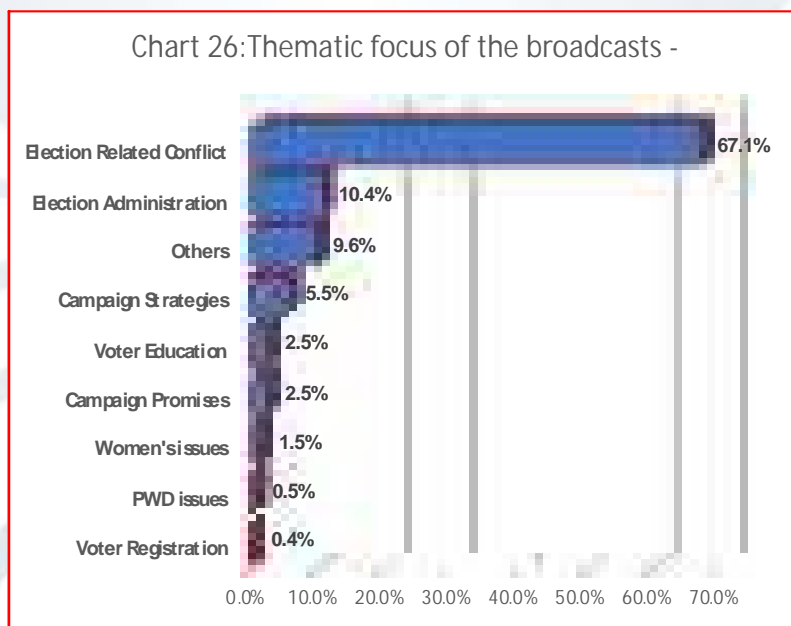


The programme types that were noticeable in the broadcast media during the third quarter of 2019 are news reports, discussions and interviews. Out of all these programme types, the most prominent is news reports (83.3%),

followed by discussions (12.2%) and interviews, which was sparsely (3.6%) used in the coverage of elections. Note that phone-ins, commentary/analysis and others formed just one percent of the broadcast contents analysed for the quarter under review. Just as we pointed out in our discussion in the radio and television broadcasts sections, the media need to move beyond just informing people about electoral matters; they need to promote other programme types that will encourage investigations and in-depth analysis of the election and post-election events.

THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

We examined the thematic areas that were dominant in the broadcasts analysed for the quarter. The result is presented in Chart 26.



The most dominant theme was election-related and non-violent conflicts (57.1%). This result suggests that this quarter is marked heavily with post-election issues. The broadcasts that manifested the theme were reports that contained election-related conflicts like election petitions, which spread across the states, presidential election petition, and other conflict issues that

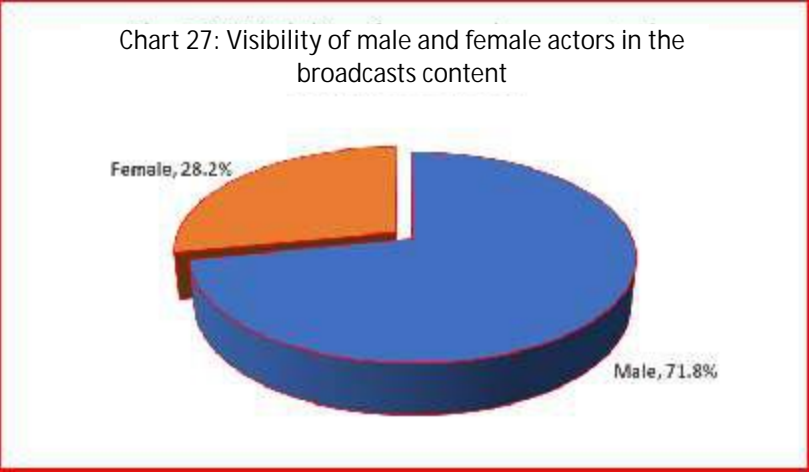
concerns party primaries. For instance, Radio Benue on 30 July, 2019 reported that the election petition tribunal had dismissed the APC governorship candidate's application to amend the defective witness statement of one of his witness. Similarly, AITV reported that the Supreme Court dismissed Adebayo Shittu's lawsuit against the APC for excluding his name from the list of gubernatorial aspirants in the part primaries for 2019 general elections.

Following the predominant theme distantly is election administration (10.4%), which is a major duty of the independent electoral commission (INEC). This theme manifests in broadcasts that addressed conducting free and fair elections, deployment of electoral staff, among other related reports. Note that gubernatorial and legislature elections were set to hold in Kogi and Bayelsa, states respectively. For example, Gotel radio Yola reported that the Chairman of INEC had disclosed that the commission would deploy twenty-four thousand ad-hoc staff for Kogi and Bayelsa elections in November 16. Also, ITV reported that the APC said it was ready to conduct a free and fair primaries in Kogi State.

While a meagre 9.6% was given to other issues, there was a sparse presence of issues relating to pre-election period like campaign strategies (5.5%), voter education (2.5%) and campaign promises (2.5%). This can be connected to the preparation on-going for the elections to be held in Bayelsa and Kogi states.

MEN OR WOMEN: WHO WERE MORE VISIBLE IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS?

To answer the question of which gender enjoyed more visibility in the quarter under review, we present Chart 27 the result of our analysis in this respect.



The male gender had a high (71.8%) visibility while the female gender had low visibility (28.2%). For instance, FRCN Abuja aired a programme where a woman, who was also the presidential aspirant of a political party expressed her dissatisfaction with the ministerial list because it had a low representation of women. In another report by ABC Yola, “only two out of two-hundred women that indicated interest to contest for the various political offices during the last general elections in Adamawa State were elected at the poll.” These show that the inability of the female gender to have equal level of visibility as the male gender in the broadcast media mirrors the reality that women are still highly excluded from politics. Besides, the media is also not doing enough to amplify issues that concern women in the society.

VISIBILITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

Chart 28 shows the visibility of people with disabilities in comparison with able persons in the broadcast media contents within the quarter under review. The result is illustrated below.

Chart 28: Visibility of PWD and other people in the broadcasts content

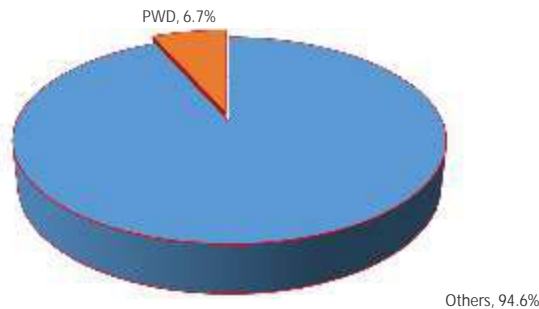
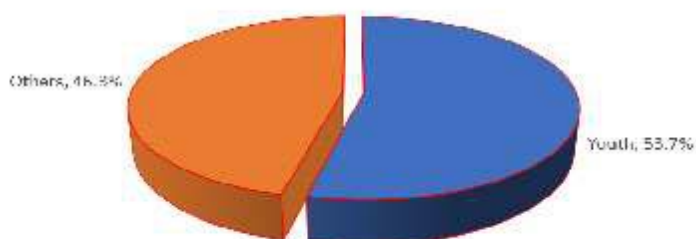


Chart 28 shows that while persons with disability struggled to be visible at 6.7%, others dominated with 94.6% of the broadcast media during the third quarter of the election year. Maybe the PWD that reflected in our analysis was as a result of one or two occasions where an issue that concerns them was mentioned. Again, the media need to step-up in their responsibility to be the voice to the voiceless and not an instrument for only these who have the ability to be heard.

YOUTH VERSUS OTHERS: WHO WERE MORE VISIBLE IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS?

We proceed to examine how the youths were performing in terms of visibility vis-à-vis other age groups. Chart 29 illustrates our findings.

Chart 29: Visibility of young people in the broadcast contents

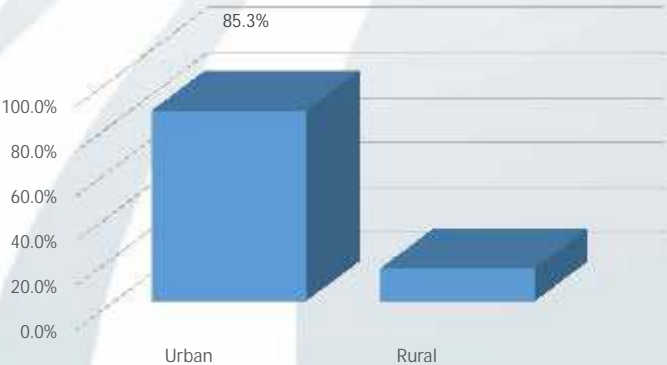


Youths were more visible (53.7%) in this quarter than other age groups were although the difference in visibility between youths and other age groups was only 7%. However, we need to note if youths were more visible for positive or negative mentions. For instance, DITV reports a case where Senator Elisha Abbo, a young person, harassed a nursing mother. However, PDP presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar, urged Abbo to apologise for his actions. In another report, Glory FM said “Sagbama youths congratulate Governor Dickson for the choice of running mate and for the conduct of PDP in Bayelsa State.” Given the fact that elections were over, it is impressive that the media still give much attention to youths especially since the *Not Too Young to Run Bill* had been passed. Gradually, we are seeing improvement in the inclusion of youths in political discourse.

URBAN-RURAL VISIBILITY IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

Since we looked at the visibility of youths, we also examined the broadcasts for the quarter to determine the visibility of urban-rural issues. Chart 30 shows the result.

Chart 30: Urban-rural visibility in the the broadcast contents



As it has been the trend, urban issues gained more visibility (85.3%) than rural issues which had a low visibility (14.7%). The reasons for the visibility of the urban population is not far to seek. For instance, the election petition tribunals, the courts, INEC and the political parties are largely sited in urban areas. Also, the politicians, civil society groups, faith based organisations and individuals who lend their voices to pre and post-election discourse in the media are usually from the urban areas. Therefore, just as we establish earlier in our analysis of radio and television broadcasts media, rural population do not get media coverage except someone or an intervention from the urban population is present in the story.

VISIBILITY OF POLITICIANS COMPARED WITH ORDINARY CITIZENS IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

Chart 31 illustrates the result of the analysis of the visibility of politicians and other citizens in the broadcasts media.

Chart 31: Visibility of politicians and other citizens in the broadcast contents

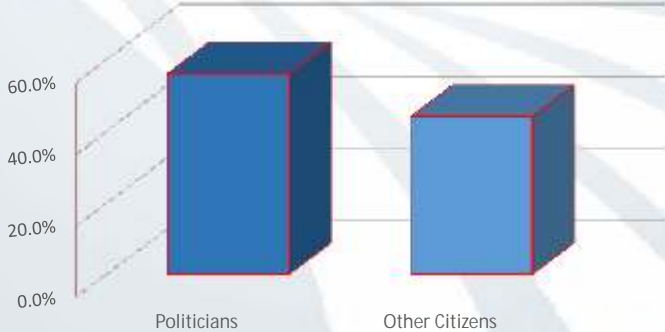
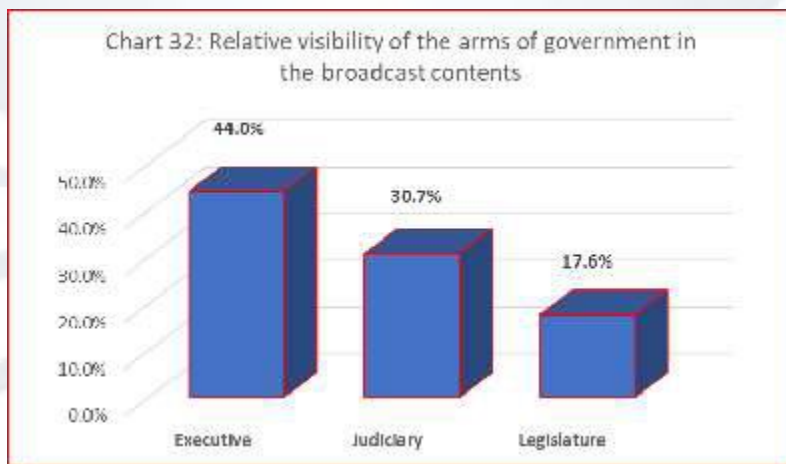


Chart 31 above shows that politicians were more visible (56%) than other citizens (46%) in the quarter under review. The high visibility of politicians is traceable to their appearances in election-related or non-violent conflicts among other issues. For instance, DITV reported that “Senator Ademola Adeleke, the candidate of the PDP in the 2018 Osun State governorship

election, has congratulated Governor Gboyega Oyetola on his victory at the Supreme Court.” Meanwhile, the noticeable presence of other citizens still shows that the media try to project the voice of other people who are not politicians but have an opinion about the political and electoral process.

RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF THE ARMS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

Chart 32 shows the visibility of the arms of government. The result illustrated in Chart 32 below reveals that in the overall analysis of the third quarter of 2019, the Executive was the most visible (44%) followed closely by the Judiciary (30.7%), while the Legislature was least visible (17.6%).

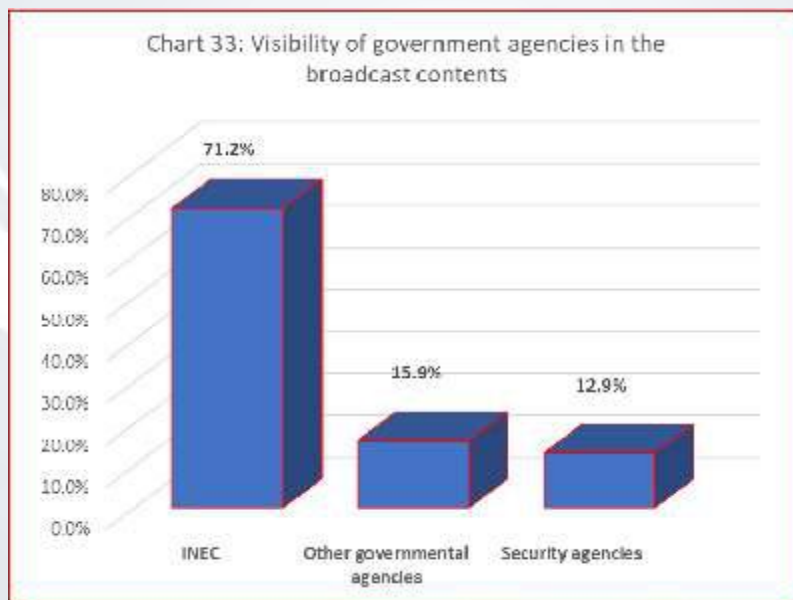


The visibility of the Executive and the Judiciary is expected because the quarter under review was dominated by election petitions and conflicts that concern filling positions in the Executive. More so, the petitions were being resolved by the Judiciary. Besides the reasons stated earlier, it is important to note that the broadcast media pay more attention to candidates vying for Executive positions than those vying for a position in the Legislature. Note that the visibility of the Legislature was very low, hence, we need to draw the attention of the media to reporting more about the Legislature during elections, particularly the potential candidates and the incumbent

lawmakers at all levels.

VISIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS

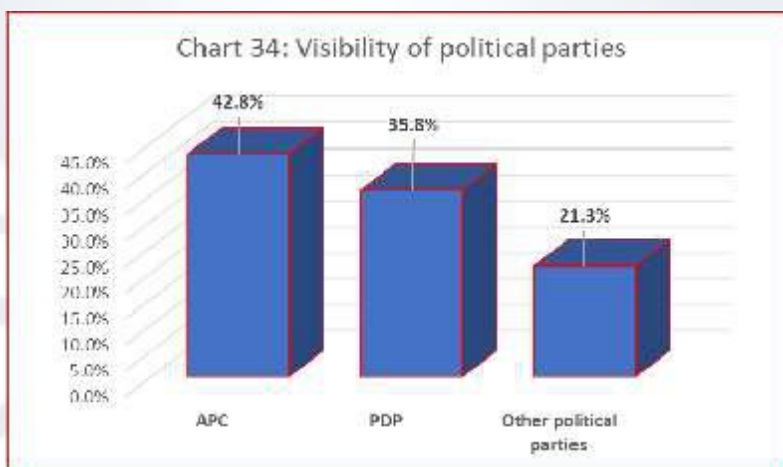
The questions driving this analysis guided us to examine the visibility of government agencies in the broadcast media. The result is illustrated in Chart 33.



Despite the conclusion of the elections, INEC still had a very high visibility (71.2%) in the media. Other government agencies that are connected to the elections struggle to be visible (15.9%), while the security agencies were becoming even less visible (12.9%). These results were expected for the security agencies and other governmental agencies. However, the high visibility that INEC had is attributable to election administration in Kogi and Bayelsa and largely because of the predominance of election-related and non-violent conflicts being addressed post-election.

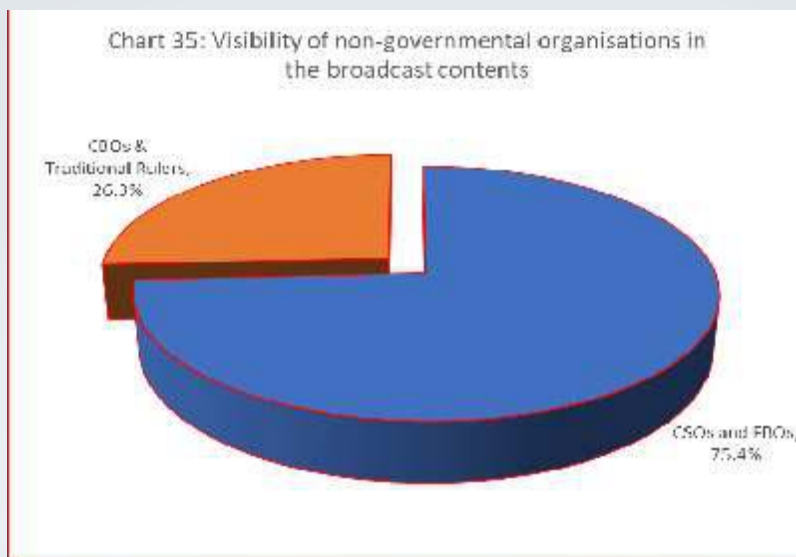
RELATIVE VISIBILITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE BROADCAST CONTENTS?

Chart 34 shows that in the quarter under review the ruling party, APC (42.8%) had the highest level of visibility, followed closely by PDP, the major opposition party. Other political parties trailed behind with a low visibility at 21.3%. However, the broadcast media seemed to focus a little more on the ruling party than on the opposition party or other political parties. For instance, TVC reported that in Kogi State, “APC cleared nine aspirants ahead of gubernatorial race primaries. Little or nothing was said or heard about the other political parties some of whom were already even closing their offices.”



Similarly, FRCN Abuja reported that a group of political parties jointly threatened to boycott an election in Niger State. According to the report, “over 60 political parties under the auspices of the Inter Party Advisory Council of Nigeria (IPAC) in Niger state have threatened to boycott the proposed Local Government Council elections scheduled for July 31 by the state INEC over unresolved issues.”

Result in Chart 35 illustrate the visibility of non-governmental organisations in the broadcast media during the quarter under review. The CSO and FBO on the one hand and the CBO and Traditional Rulers on the other.

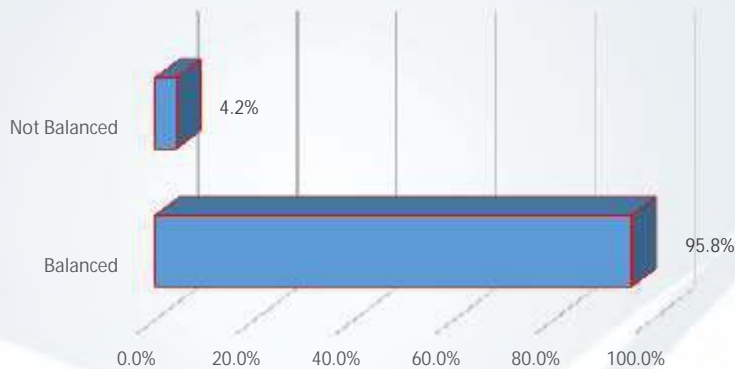


The chart above shows that CSOs and FBOs were more visible at 75.4% than CBO and Traditional Rulers with low visibility at 26.3%. We cannot overstretch the influence that the urban location of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Faith-Based Organisations (FBO) has on their ability to gain much attention from the media. This is because it is easy for the media to report about urban events because the media are likewise located in the urban areas, than to report rural events which are distant from the broadcast media representative. For instance, civil society groups declared the 2019 elections as lacking in credibility, free-will and fairness. Liberty TV reports that “Civil society organisation situation room has claimed that 2019 general election has failed to meet the minimum standard of free, fair and credible polls, saying there were differences between number of accredited voters and total number of vote cast.” Similarly, Radio Gotel also reports that non-governmental organisation (Democracy and Transparency Network), raised an alarm over the alleged plot to undermine justice in the hearing of petitions filed by PDP and its governorship candidate in Katsina State that challenged the election of the State's Governor.

BALANCED REPORTING: COMPARING PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT BROADCAST STATIONS

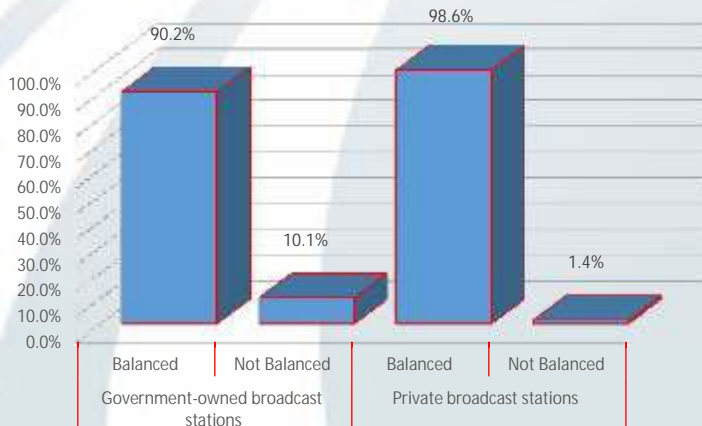
Chart 36 illustrates the quality of broadcast media reports in the quarter under review. The result shows that majority of the broadcasts reports were balanced (95.7%) while 4.2% appeared not balanced.

Chart 36: Balanced versus not balanced reporting



To appreciate the quality of news broadcasts, we disaggregated the broadcast stations into government owned and private/commercial broadcast stations. The result is shown in Chart 37.

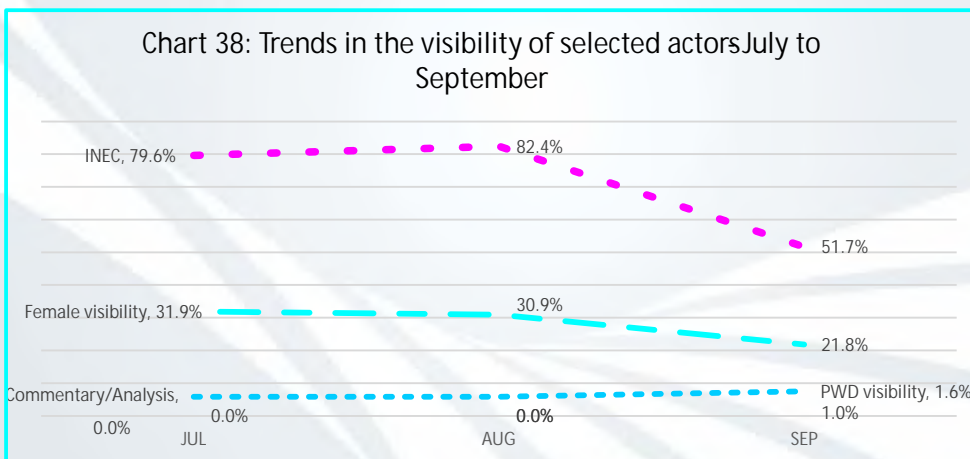
Chart 37: Comparison of private and government broadcast stations on balanced reporting



The percentage of balanced report in private/commercial broadcast stations is about 8% more than the percentage of balanced reports in government-owned broadcast stations. On the other hand, the result also shows that government-owned broadcast stations had more incidence of reports that are not balanced than it is in private/commercial stations.

TRENDS IN VISIBILITY OF SOME ACTORS ACROSS THREE MONTHS

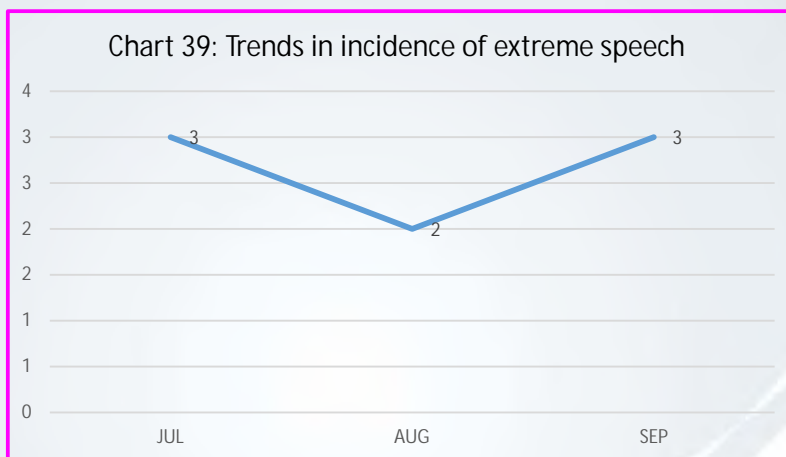
Chart 38 shows the trends in the visibility of some actors across July, August and September, 2019.



Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), recorded the highest visibility (82.4%) in August but began to drop gradually as the month of September approached. Over the quarter, the visibility of females was lowest in September (21.8%) because it kept dropping from the beginning of the quarter. In addition, persons with disabilities experienced a meagre increase in visibility in September (1.6%), although they had been obscure since the beginning of the third quarter. Lastly, the trend in the quarter shows a total absence of the programme type—commentary and analysis from political discourse.

TRENDS IN THE INCIDENCE OF EXTREME SPEECH

Lastly, we explored the broadcasts over the three months under review to see the incidence of extreme speech. The result is presented in Chart 39.



The month of July witnessed a decline in the incidence of extreme speech until August when the rate of extreme speech increased to reach its peak in September. This suggests that for most of the time in the third quarter, the media could not prevent the incidence of hate speech in their reportage. This result corroborates the declaration of the National Broadcasting Commission in a report aired by Dream FM that broadcast stations violated the broadcast code in relation to hate speeches and incitement of the public during the 2019 general elections.

CONCLUSION

In the third quarter of the year 2019, the media brought to the fore election-related and non-violent conflicts as well as issues relating to election administration in Kogi and Bayelsa states. The peculiarity of the dominant theme in the broadcast media influenced the high visibility of INEC, politicians, major political parties, the Executive and the Judiciary during this quarter. These are active actors in the post-election periods.

Also in the third quarter, the media continued to side-line issues related to women, rural population, and persons with disability. More so, the broadcast media did little reporting on the Legislature and this should call for concern mainly because the Legislative arm of government is also as important as other arms of government in the election process.

It should be noted that the visibility of youths was higher than other age groups. This is commendable. However there is need to also be mindful of the reasons youths are visible—positive or negative.

In this quarter, the broadcast media experienced a high incidence of extreme hate speech. This trend is not good for the polity and the professionalism of the media. This needs to be checked.

Lastly, the predominant programme types that were used in this quarter were news reports, interviews and discussions. There were no commentaries and analyses. The broadcast media need to encourage more in-depth reporting of pre and post-election activities in order to educate and inform the citizens accurately.

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