BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE
OF THE 2023 OFF-CYCLE GOVERNORSHIP
ELECTIONS IN BAYELSA, IMO AND KOGI
STATES OF NIGERIA

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BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE 2023 OFF-CYCLE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTIONS IN BAYELSA, IMO AND KOGI STATES OF NIGERIA

(11-12 November 2023 Report)

FOREWORD

The role of the media in the electoral process is central and essential. In a diverse and dynamic country like Nigeria, it serves as a powerful force that informs, educates and mobilizes citizens to participate actively in the democratic process of choosing leaders into political offices. It also serves to scrutinize and hold political office holders and institutions accountable to citizens.

The content that the media produce and disseminate is important to the extent that it contributes significantly to the management and success or otherwise of the electoral process.

Hence, stakeholder institutions such as civil society conduct Media Monitoring, which entails collecting and analysing data from election-related contents of media in the various platforms – Broadcast, Print, and Online.

Professionally conducted and used media content monitoring is a useful evidence-based approach to assessing the coverage of elections by a country's media. Among other things, it helps to provide a picture of media attention to issues in the elections, the balance in the coverage of election actors and institutions as well as, the emergence and visibility of harmful content such as fake news and hate speech. It is also useful as a mechanism for early warning system (to generate red flag for potential challenges and how to mitigate them) as well as shaping stakeholder perception of various elements of the electoral process such as participation and trust.

Building on past experiences, our organisation created a Media Monitoring initiative, with a well-trained and orientated team, which took off in 2022. The initiative focused on broadcasting platforms. Hence, the monitoring activity was concentrated on the contents of radio and television stations selected across the country. The coverage period was segmented – pre-election period, election days and post-election period.

This report presents the findings of the monitoring exercise for a particular month during the electoral process. It contains valuable insights and recommendations on the coverage provided by the broadcast media during the period. We trust it will be a useful resource for media professionals, media owners, regulators, policy-makers, local and international development organisations who are involved in supporting the development of a free, independent and pluralistic media which provides fair, accurate, inclusive and credible coverage of the electoral process in Nigeria.

Dr. Akin Akingbulu

Executive Director.

BACKGROUND

On 11 November 2023, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conducted off-cycle governorship elections in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states, declaring winners afterwards.

The Nigerian media covered the process and reported election-related happenings from relevant locations. The broadcast media, closely watched by stakeholders, faced the task of promoting issues-based, hate-free, free and fair, and peaceful elections.

To gather and analyse credible data, as well as engage the broadcast media and other stakeholders to engender professionalism in the sector, the Centre for Media and Society, set up a media monitoring initiative funded by EU-SDGN II to monitor the performance of the broadcast media on the aforementioned election day.

METHODOLOGY

The monitored broadcast stations were selected based on their location in the states where the off-cycle elections were conducted. Reach, audience share, political programming, dedicated election-day reporting and online presence were key requirements for broadcast stations located outside Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states.

The following radio stations were monitored:

- Boss Radio Owerri – Imo state
- Heritage FM Owerri – Imo state

- Toast FM Owerri – Imo state
- Grace FM – Kogi state
- Jatto FM Okenne – Kogi state
- Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Abuja - Network

The following TV stations were monitored:

- African Independent Television (AIT) – Network
- Arise Television – Network
- Channels Television – Network
- Independent Television (ITV) – Network
- Liberty TV – Network
- Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) – Network
- Silverbird Television – Lagos state
- Television Continental (TVC News) – Network

Although the governorship elections were held on November 11, the broadcast media's coverage of the event was monitored for two days (11-12 November 2023) to account for the time, typically the day after the polls were closed, it took INEC to declare the results.

A total of 342 contents, across six radio stations and eight television stations selected for this study, were analysed. Out of this figure, 61 contents were from the selected radio stations while 281 were from the identified television stations.

Broadcasts were monitored and coded based on the following categories and subcategories:

- **Programme types** – These are the content formats in which the broadcasts were packaged, with a focus on news reports, discussion programmes and interviews.
- **Thematic focus** or issues - These are the topics that dominated election-day discourse in the context of this report. They are further categorised into administrative and integrity issues. Whereas administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion, integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the process.
- **Quality of broadcasts** - This focuses on broadcast stations' adherence to high ethical standards, specifically their avoidance of election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalanced reporting, campaign-like content and biased broadcasting.
- **Sources** - This categorisation assesses the status of the actors cited or quoted as content sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected broadcast stations during the period in review.
- **Perpetrators of violence** - This section highlights the status of the perpetrators of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.

- **Victims of violence** – This section highlights the status of the victims of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations.

The monitoring exercise sought to answer the following questions:

- What were the broadcast media talking about?
- Who were the actors the broadcast media gave coverage to?
- What was the quality of reporting in terms of adherence to ethical standards?
- Which perpetrators of election-day violence were visible in the broadcasts?
- Which victims of election-day violence were visible in the broadcasts?

PRESENTATION

The findings are presented in three segments. While the first segment addresses the performance of radio stations in the coverage of election-day politics, the second focuses on a similar evaluation of television stations. The third part of the findings, a merger of the preceding segments, addresses the performance of the broadcast media in general on election day.

PART I

CONTENT OF ELECTION-DAY PROGRAMMES ON RADIO

Election-day contents were monitored on the selected radio stations from 11-12 November 2023. The findings are presented in this section under the following major headings: programme types, thematic focus, quality of programmes, sources, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.

PROGRAMME TYPES

61 stories were monitored on the selected radio stations during the period in review. The contents were grouped under news reports, discussions and interviews in the context of this research.

Chart 1: Programme types featuring election-day contents on radio stations from 11-12 November 2023
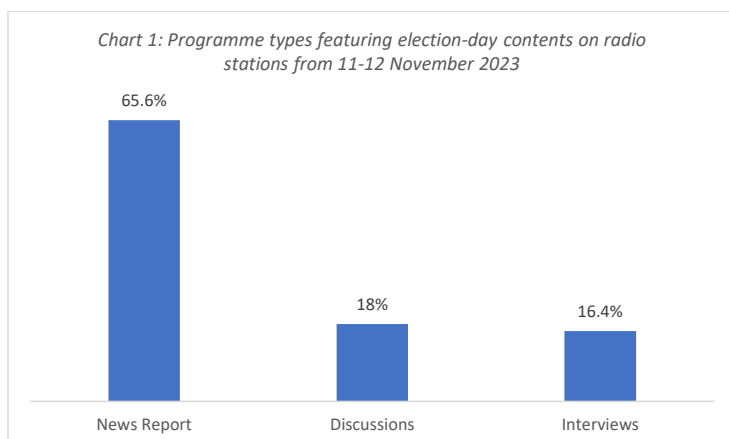
40 of the 61 contents analysed in this sectionwere news reports, accounting for 65.6% of the total as shown in Chart 1. Discussions and interviews formed 18% (11 stories) and 16.4% (10 stories) of the contents respectively.

THEMATIC FOCUS

Thematic focus highlights identified topics or issues that dominated the monitored radio broadcasts. The themes are subdivided into administrative issues and integrity issues. Whereas administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion, integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the process.

Administrative issues

Chart 2a: Administrative issues covered in election-day programmes on radio stations from 11-12 November 2023

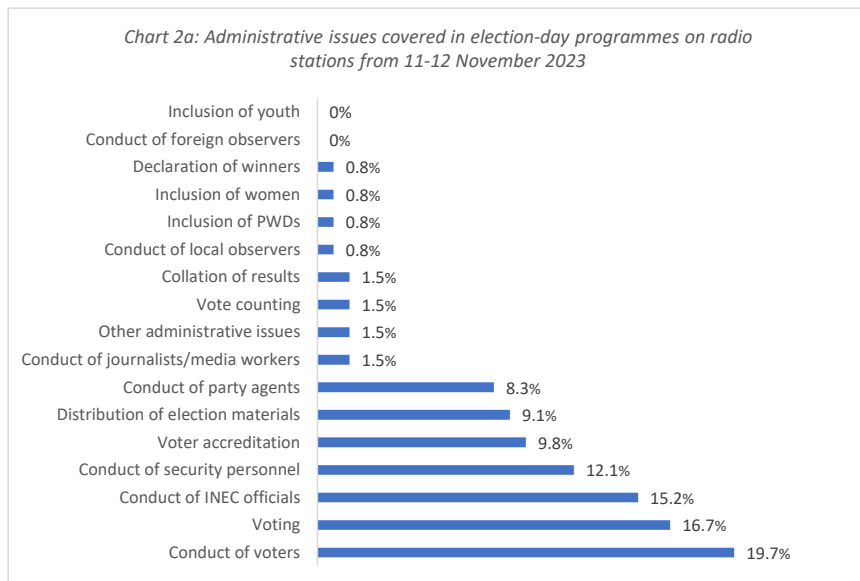| Category	Percentage
Inclusion of youth	0%
Conduct of foreign observers	0%
Declaration of winners	0.8%
Inclusion of women	0.8%
Inclusion of PWDs	0.8%
Conduct of local observers	0.8%
Collation of results	1.5%
Vote counting	1.5%
Other administrative issues	1.5%
Conduct of journalists/media workers	1.5%
Conduct of party agents	8.3%
Distribution of election materials	9.1%
Voter accreditation	9.8%
Conduct of security personnel	12.1%
Conduct of INEC officials	15.2%
Voting	16.7%
Conduct of voters	19.7%

Chart 2a shows that the conduct of voters was the most prominent administrative issue, getting 19.7% (26 in 132 instances) of the coverage. Voting, voter accreditation and vote counting got 16.7% (22 instances), 9.8% (13 instances) and 1.5% (2 instances) of the coverage respectively.

Voting commenced very early in units 5 and 6 in Ebira Community Secondary School, Kogi state, Jatto FM Okenne reported on November 11, presenting an instance when voting was featured on radio.

In another instance, Ahmed Mubarak of FRCN Abuja, reported from Lokoja, Kogi state, that voting commenced early in all the polling units visited and that security personnel, party agents, INEC officials and voters conducted themselves in an orderly manner.

The collation of results and declaration of winners got 1.5% (2 instances) and 0.8% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively.

In an instance featuring the collation of results, "the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Bayelsa State, has adjourned the collation and announcement of remaining two local government areas results to 13th November 2023," FRCN Abuja reported on November 12.

"The candidate of the APC Hope Uzodinma has been declared winner of the Imo state governorship election after vote counting and collation by INEC," the station also reported on November 12, presenting an instance when the declaration of winners was featured on radio.

Conduct of INEC officials got 15.2% (20 instances) of the coverage while distribution of election materials got 9.1% (12 instances) of the coverage. The conduct of security personnel got 12.1% (16 instances) of the coverage.

INEC is doing professionally well enough to ensure the voting process is smooth and fast, Jatto FM Okenne reported on November 11 regarding the governorship election in Kogi state. The report was an instance when the conduct of INEC officials was featured on radio. Party agents, the report added, also did what they ought to do while those who already voted waited around polling units for the ballots to be counted.

On November 11, Boss Radio reported that security agencies were not doing anything about vote buying and voter intimidation taking place in some polling units. The election day report featured instances of security agencies' conduct, vote buying, and voter intimidation, spotlighting these issues on the radio.

The conduct of party agents got 8.3% (11 instances) of the coverage while the conduct of journalists/media workers got 1.5% (2 instances) of the coverage. The conduct of local observers got 0.8% (1 instance) while the conduct of foreign observers was not featured.

Whereas the inclusion of women and that of persons living with disability (PWDs) each got 0.8% (1 instance) of the coverage, the inclusion of youth was not featured.

Ben Okufo of FRCN Abuja reported on November 11 from Kolokuma-Opokuma in Bayelsa state that the electoral process was largely peaceful and orderly with a moderate turnout of voters. He added that persons with disability (PWDs) were given special treatment. The report represented an instance when PWDs were featured in this category.In an instance featuring women, Oyiko Muhammed, also of FRCN Abuja, reported on November 11 from Okenne and Lokoja the commencement of accreditation and voting, with women turning out in larger numbers than men amid heavy security presence.

Other administrative issues got 1.5% (2 instances) of the coverage.

Integrity issues

Chart 2b: Iintegrity issues covered in election-day programmes on radio stations from 11-12 November 2023

Issue	Percentage
Malfunctioning of INEC tech	0%
Non-availability of INEC tech	0%
Omission of party logo from ballot papers	0%
Voting outside of INEC designation	0%
Underage voting	0%
Ballot stuffing	0%
Other integrity issues	5%
Campaigning at polling units	5%
Ballot snatching	15%
Voter intimidation	20%
Vote buying	55%

According to the data in Chart 2b, vote buying was the most featured integrity issue, getting 55% (11 in 20 instances) of the coverage. Voter intimidation got 20% (4 instances) of the coverage.

In an instance featuring voter intimidation, Love Nwakaeze, reporting for Heritage FM Owerri on November 11, said that voters at Unit 002 in Owerri Municipal, Imo state, were being forced to vote for a certain party. "If you are not voting for APC, you are in trouble," he said, adding that there was trouble in the area.

In a similar instance, "Today's election in Imo State is characterized by vote buying, voter apathy, voter intimidation and voter suppression," a Heritage FM Owerri journalist reported on November 11.

Ballot snatching and campaigning at polling units got 15% (3 instances) and 5% (1 instance) of the coverage. Other integrity issues also got 5% (1 instance) of the coverage.

In an instance when ballot snatching was featured on radio, a voter from Attah Ward 2 in Imo state said that a 'man of God' from Ikeduru and an APC local government chairman, C. N. N. Nwanefu, absconded with the ballot box.
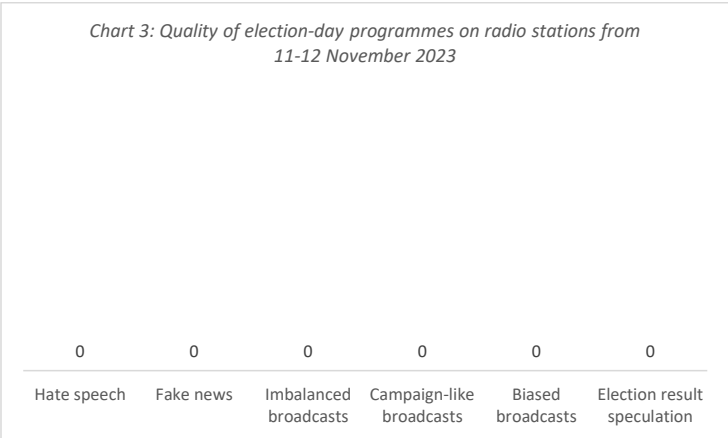
The same incident was reported by a female caller who phoned in to Heritage FM Owerri, saying that one 'Honourable Nwanefu' made away with the ballot box at a polling unit. She stated that a man suspected to be a government official was also kidnapped with his wife. The kidnapping, according to her, was related to the Imo state governorship election.

Also, Boss Radio Owerri reported that a voter was 'misbehaving' and 'dragging' with an INEC official to the extent of kicking the ballot box. This, according to the report, made security officers escort the officials away from the polling unit.

The other integrity issues identified in the chart were not featured.

QUALITY OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO

This section assesses the adherence of radio stations to high ethical standards including the avoidance of election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalance broadcasts, campaign-like content and biased broadcasts.

Chart 3: Quality of election-day programmes on radio stations from 11-12 November 2023					
0	0	0	0	0	0
Hate speech	Fake news	Imbalanced broadcasts	Campaign-like broadcasts	Biased broadcasts	Election result speculation

None of the radio broadcasts contained the instances identified in Chart 3, indicating that the selected radio stations adhered completely to high ethical standards in their election-day coverage.

SOURCES OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO

This section highlights the status of the actors used as sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.

Chart 4: Status of the sources of election-day broadcasts on radio station from 11-12 November 2023

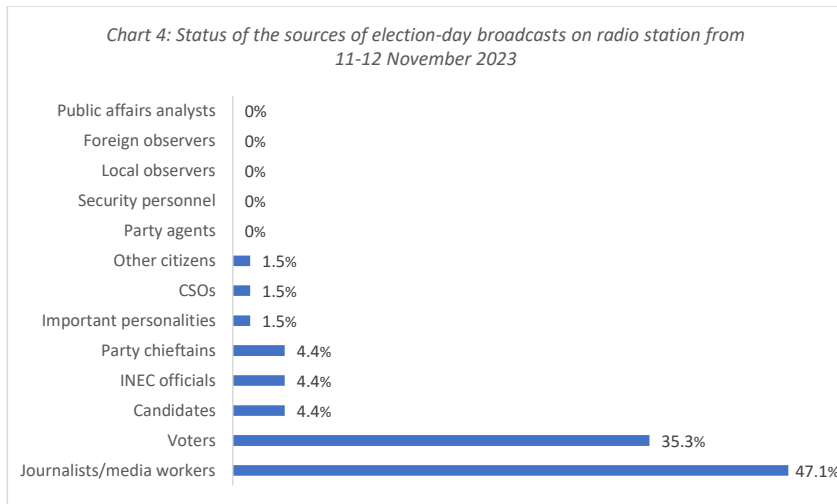| Source	Percentage
Public affairs analysts	0%
Foreign observers	0%
Local observers	0%
Security personnel	0%
Party agents	0%
Other citizens	1.5%
CSOs	1.5%
Important personalities	1.5%
Party chieftains	4.4%
INEC officials	4.4%
Candidates	4.4%
Voters	35.3%
Journalists/media workers	47.1%

Chart 4 shows that journalists/media workers who reported live from various polling units and discussed election-related issues in-studio represented 47.1% (32 in 68 instances) of the sources analysed in this section.

Whereas voters got 35.3% (24 instances) of the usage as sources, candidates, INEC officials and party chieftains each got 4.4% (3 instances). Important personalities and civil society organisations (CSOs) each got 1.5% (1 instance), and so did other citizens.

"INEC has confirmed that a boat conveying its personnel and election materials to registration area 17 in Southern Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa state has capsized," FRCN Abuja reported on November 11. INEC was the source of the radio broadcast.

On November 11, some voters in Imo state called Boss Radio Owerri to complain that they were unable to locate their polling units. They also said that INEC officials were not present at the polling units. Voters were the source of that broadcast.

The other actors identified in the chart were not featured.

PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO

This section examines the status of the perpetrators of violence who were featured in the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.

Chart 5: Status of the perpetrators of violence featured in election-day radio broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023
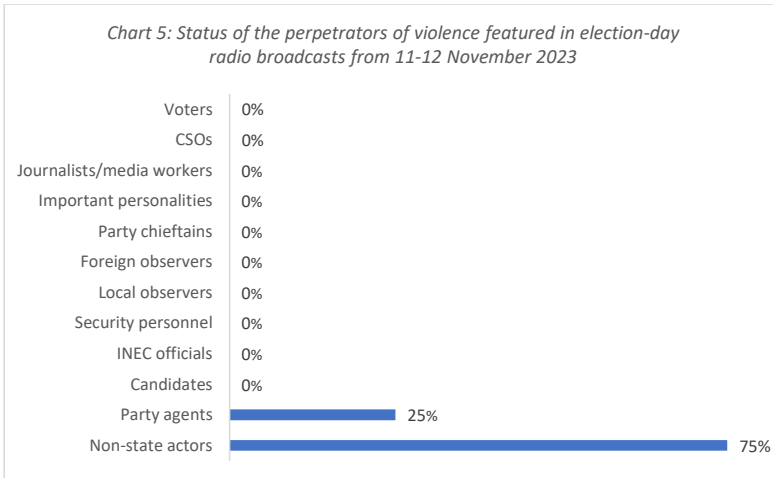
According to the data in Chart 5, 75% (6 in 8 instances) of the reports featured non-state actors as the perpetrators of violence on election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations, with party agents getting the remaining 25% (2 instances).

The other actors identified in the chart were not featured.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO

This section examines the status of the victims of violence who were featured in the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations.

Chart 6: Status of the victims of violence featured in election broadcasts on radio from 11-12 November 2023

Category	Percentage
Voters	0%
CSOs	0%
Journalists/media workers	0%
Party chieftains	0%
Foreign observers	0%
Local observers	0%
Security personnel	0%
Party agents	0%
Important personalities	17%
Candidates	33%
INEC officials	50%
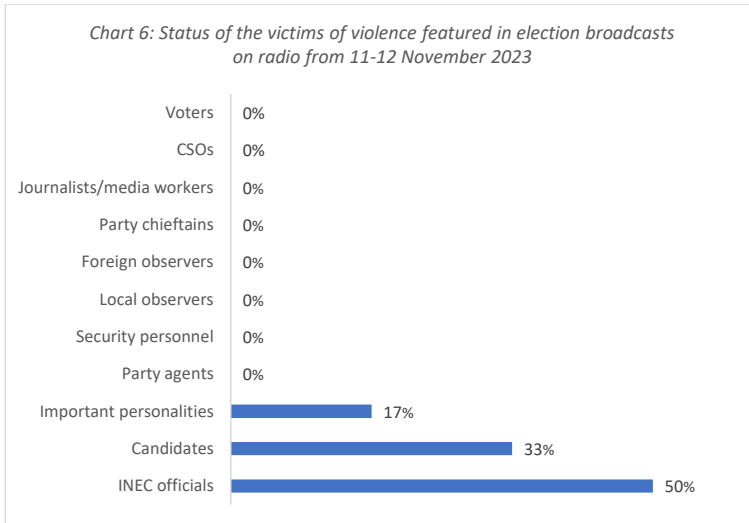
According to the data in Chart 6, INEC officials (50%; 3 in 6 instances) were the biggest victims of the election-day attacks reported on radio. Candidates and important personalities got 33% (2 instances) and 17% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively.

In an instance when violence was said to have been carried out against a political candidate, Boss Radio Owerri reported on November 11 that a governorship candidate was attacked after casting his vote but failed to name the candidate or its party. The station also cut off callers who mentioned political parties or candidates by name.

A man believed to be a government official was kidnapped alongside his wife, someone who called in to Heritage FM Owerri on election day said. This was an instance when reported violence on an important personality was featured on radio.

"An INEC supervisory presiding officer (SPO) assigned to Registration Area 6 Ossioma in Sagbama local government area of Bayelsa state has been abducted," FRCN Abuja reported on November 11, presenting an instance when violence was reportedly perpetrated against an INEC official.

The other potential victims of election-day attacks identified in the chart were not featured.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses of the radio coverage of the 2023 Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi off-cycle governorship elections showed that most of the broadcasts were packaged as news reports with a few taking the discussion and interview content formats.

The conduct of voters, voting, the conduct of INEC officials and the conduct of security personnel were the most reported administrative issues while vote buying, voter intimidation and ballot snatching were the most featured integrity issues.

Journalists/media workers and voters were the most quoted sources. INEC officials, candidates and party chieftains were also featured.

Non-state actors and party agents were the perpetrators of violence featured in the radio broadcasts with INEC officials, candidates and important personalities falling victim to election-day attacks.

The radio stations maintained high ethical standards with no instance of election result speculation, fake news, biased broadcasts, imbalanced broadcasts and other editorial pitfalls.

PART II

CONTENT OF ELECTION-DAY PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

Election-day contents were monitored on selected television stations from 11-12 November 2023. The findings are presented in this section under the following main headings: programme types, thematic focus, quality of programmes, sources, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.

PROGRAMME TYPES

281 stories were monitored on nine television stations during the period in review. The contents were grouped under news reports, discussions and interview programmes.
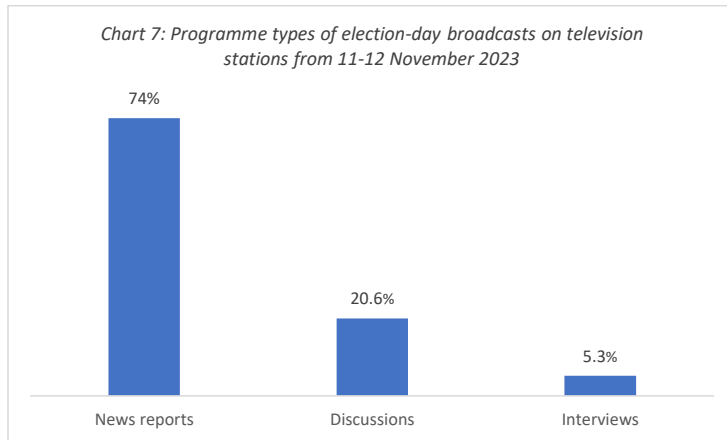
Chart 7: Programme types of election-day broadcasts on television stations from 11-12 November 2023

- News reports: 74%
- Discussions: 20.6%
- Interviews: 5.3%

Chart 7 shows that 74% (208 in 281 instances) of the television broadcasts were packaged as new reports. Discussions and interviews got 20.6% (58 instances) and 5.3% (15 instances) of the programme types respectively.

THEMATIC FOCUS

Thematic focus highlights the topics or issues that dominated the monitored television broadcasts. The topics are divided further into administrative issues and integrity issues. Administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion while integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the electoral process.

Administrative issues

Chart 8a: Administrative issues featured in election-day programmes on television stations from 11-12 November 2023

Issue	Percentage
Conduct of foreign observers	0.2%
Inclusion of youth	0.7%
Conduct of journalists/media workers	1%
Conduct of local observers	1%
Vote counting	1.2%
Inclusion of PWD	1.5%
Inclusion of women	2.5%
Voter accreditation	2.7%
Conduct of party agents	3%
Declaration of winners	3.2%
Distribution of election materials	4.5%
Other administrative issues	4.7%
Collation of results	5.5%
Voting	10%
Conduct of security personnel	13.5%
Conduct of voters	19%
Conduct of INEC officials	25.7%
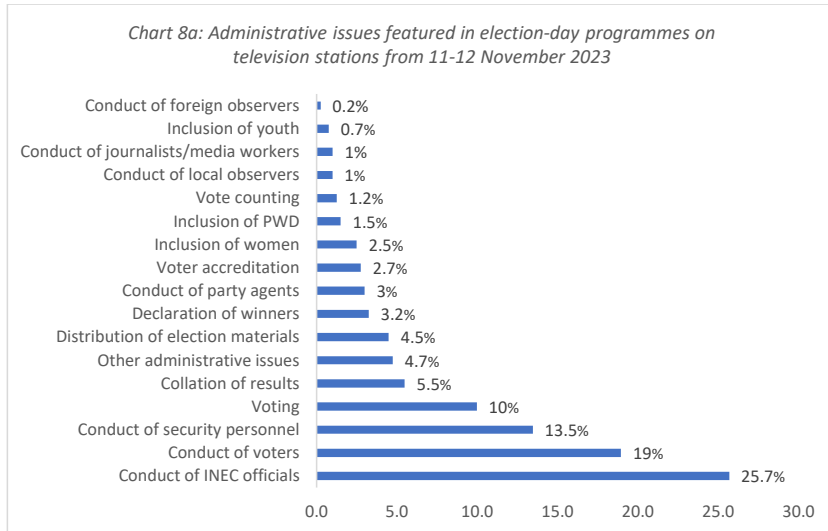
According to Chart 8a, the conduct of INEC officials (25.7%; 103 in 401 instances) was the most discussed administrative issue on television, with the distribution of election materials getting 4.5% (18 instances) of the coverage.

Silverbird Television reported on election day that some voters in Imo state were seen stranded at 8:40 am while waiting for INEC officials. The report concerned the conduct of INEC officials.

"As of 8:40am, some sensitive materials are just leaving INEC office to polling units in Bayelsa state," Silverbird also reported on election day, presenting an instance when the distribution of election materials was the focus of a television broadcast.

Voting, collation of results, declaration of winners and voter accreditation got 10% (40 instances), 5.5% (22 instances), 3.2% (13 instances) and 2.7% (11 instances) of the coverage respectively.

"Voter accreditation commenced very early in some polling units in Lokoja, Kogi state, with security personnel monitoring the environment," Silverbird Television reported on election day, presenting an instance when voter education was featured in this section.

"INEC in Imo state opens collation centre as REC asks people to be honest, just and work with facts," Arise Television reported on November 12, providing an instance when the collation of results was the administrative issue in focus.

"Collation of results begin in Kogi state," the station reported in a similar instance.

In a related instance, "INEC begins collation of results in Bayelsa amid complaints of ballot box snatching and presence of governorship candidate at collation centre," Television Continental reported on November 12.

The conduct of voters, the conduct of security personnel, the conduct of party agents and the conduct of journalists/media workers got 19% (76 instances), 13.5% (54 instances), 3% (12 instances) and 1% (4 instances) of the coverage respectively. The conduct of local observers also got 1% of the coverage while the conduct of foreign observers got 0.2% (1 instance) of the coverage.

Kogi PDP candidate "Dino Melaye commends security agencies for peaceful conduct alleges vote buying during polls," Television Continental reported on November 11, presenting an instance when the conduct of security personnel was the administrative issue in focus.

The inclusion of women, PWDs and youth got 2.5% (10 instances), 1.5% (6 instances) and 0.7% (2 instances) of the coverage respectively. Other administrative issues got 4.7% (19 instances) of the coverage.

"INEC officials give necessary consideration to voters with disability (PWDs) at a polling unit in Owerri, Imo state," Channels Television reported on November 11, presenting an instance when the inclusion of PWDs was featured on television.

In an instance involving the turnouts of women and youth, Television Continental reported on election day that women turned out in larger numbers than youth in some areas of Kogi state.

Integrity issues

Chart 8b: Integrity issues featured in election-day programmes on television stations from 11-12 November 2023

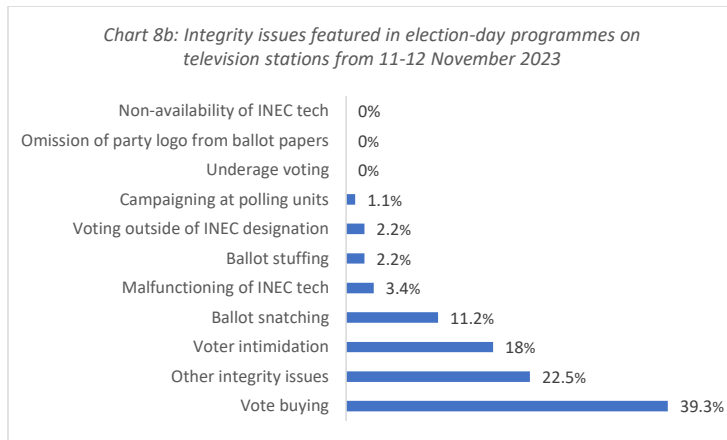| Issue	Percentage
Non-availability of INEC tech	0%
Omission of party logo from ballot papers	0%
Underage voting	0%
Campaigning at polling units	1.1%
Voting outside of INEC designation	2.2%
Ballot stuffing	2.2%
Malfunctioning of INEC tech	3.4%
Ballot snatching	11.2%
Voter intimidation	18%
Other integrity issues	22.5%
Vote buying	39.3%

Chart 8b shows that vote buying (39.3%; 35 in 89 instances) was the most reported integrity issue on television during the period under review. Voter intimidation, ballot snatching and ballot stuffing got 18% (16 instances), 11.2% (10 instances) and 2.2% (2 instances) of the coverage respectively.

"Woman apprehended over alleged vote buying in Okenne local government area of Kogi state," Silverbird Television reported on November 11, providing an instance when vote buying was the integrity issue in focus.

In a related instance, "Labour Party alleges vote buying by PDP in Bayelsa state," Arise Television reported on November 11.

"INEC suspends process in nine wards of Kogi due to use of prefilled result sheets," Nigeria Television Authority reported on November 11 in another instance bordering on the integrity of the electoral process.

Malfunctioning of INEC technology also got 3.4% (3 instances) of the coverage while voting outside of INEC designation got 2.2% (2 instances) of the coverage.

Campaigning at polling units got 1.1% (1 instance) of the coverage while other integrity issues represented 18% (16 instances) of the coverage.

QUALITY OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION

This section assesses television stations' adherence to high ethical standards including the avoidance of election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalance broadcasts, campaign-like content and biased broadcasts.

Chart 9: Quality of election-day programmes on television stations from 11-12 November 2023
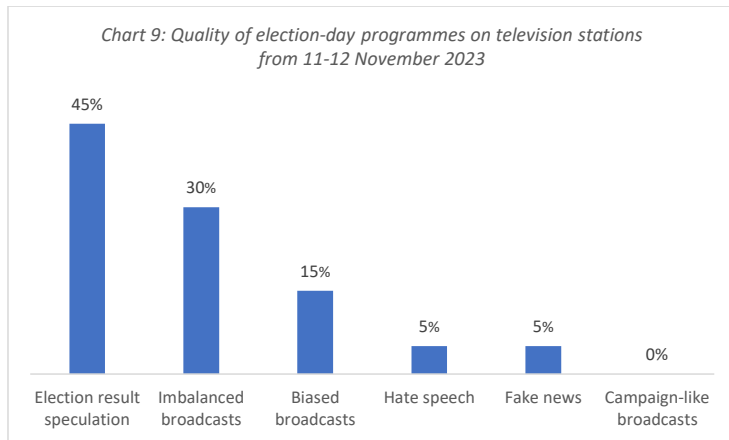
Chart 9 shows that 45% (9 in 20 instances) of applicable reports featured election result speculation while 30% (6 instances) featured imbalanced broadcasts. Whereas biased broadcasts featured 15% (3 instances) of the time, hate speech and fake news were each featured 5% (1 instance) of the time. Campaign-like broadcasts were not featured. The television stations did not engage in these editorial vices but only used their platforms to decry them.

SOURCES OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION

This section highlights the status of the sources cited or quoted in the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected television stations.

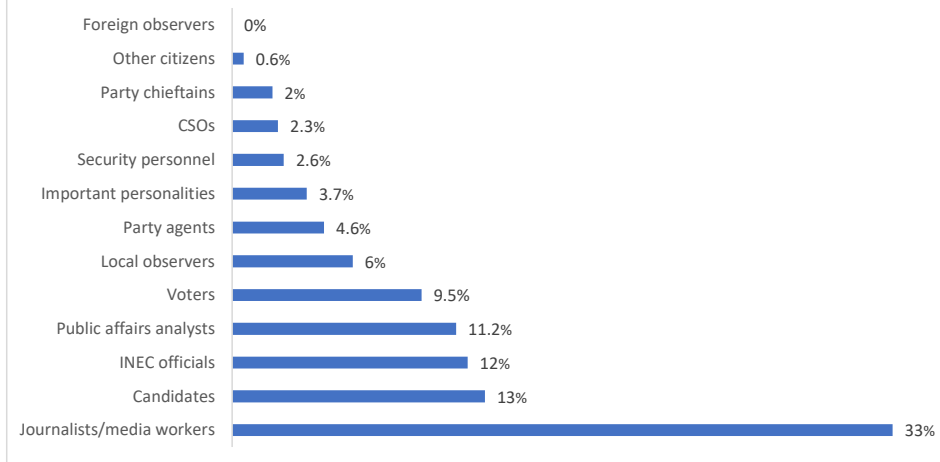*Chart 10: Status of the sources of election-day broadcasts on television stations from 11-12 November 2023*

Chart 10 shows that journalists and other media workers, who reported live from various polling units and discussed election-related issues in-studio, represented 33% (115 in 348 instances) of the sources used in this section.

Public affairs analysts got 11.2% (39 instances) of the usage as sources while important personalities got 3.7% (13 instances) of the usage. CSO workers got 2.3% (8 instances) of the usage.

Voters got 9.5% (33 instances) of the usage.

INEC officials were used as content sources 12% (41 instances) of the time while security personnel got 2.6% (9 instances) of the usage.

Candidates, party agents and party chieftains got 13% (44 instances), 4.6% (16 instances) and 2% (7 instances) of the usage respectively.

Whereas local observers got 6% (21 instances) of total usage, foreign observers were not featured. Other citizens got 0.6% (2 instances) of the usage.

PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION

This section examines the status of the perpetrators of violence who were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected television stations in the context of this research.

Chart 11: Status of the perpetrators of violence featured in election-day television broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023

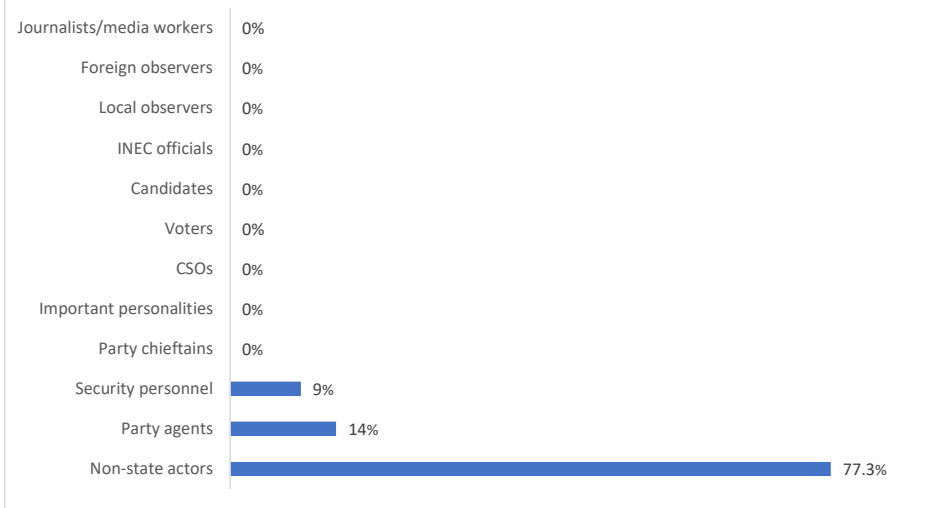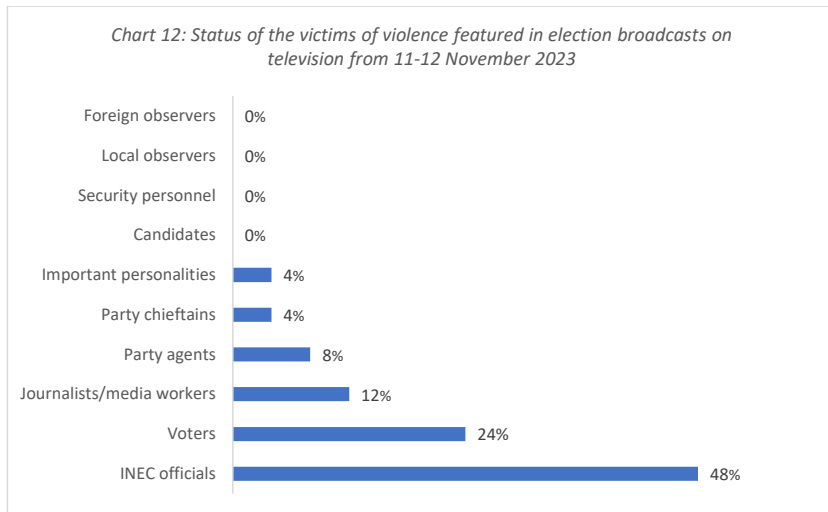|	
Journalists/media workers	0%
Foreign observers	0%
Local observers	0%
INEC officials	0%
Candidates	0%
Voters	0%
CSOs	0%
Important personalities	0%
Party chieftains	0%
Security personnel	9%
Party agents	14%
Non-state actors	77.3%

Chart 11 shows that most of the violence reported on election day was blamed on non-state actors who were featured 77.3% (17 in 22 instances) of the time. Party agents and security personnel got 14% (3 instances) and 9% (2 instances) of the coverage.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION

This section highlights the status of the victims of violence who were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected television stations.

Chart 12: Status of the victims of violence featured in election broadcasts on television from 11-12 November 2023

Category	Percentage
Foreign observers	0%
Local observers	0%
Security personnel	0%
Candidates	0%
Important personalities	4%
Party chieftains	4%
Party agents	8%
Journalists/media workers	12%
Voters	24%
INEC officials	48%

INEC officials (48%; 12 in 25 instances) and voters (24%; 12 instances) were the biggest victims of the election-day attacks reported on television, Chart 12 shows.

Journalists/media workers (12%; 3 instances) were also reported to have been victims of election-day violence. So were party agents (8%; 2 instances). Party chieftains and important personalities were each featured 4% (1 instance) of the time.

Arise Television reported on November 11 that some INEC staffers were redeployed after one of them was kidnapped in Bayelsa state, presenting an instance when a television station reported on violence perpetrated on an INEC official. The kidnapped official was later released, the television station reported on the same day.

The other potential victims of election-day attacks were not featured.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Election-day television broadcasts were mostly packaged as news reports, with a few taking the discussion and interview formats, the analyses of this section showed.

The conduct of INEC officials, voters and security personnel were the most discussed administrative issues while vote buying, voter intimidation and ballot snatching were the most covered integrity issues.

Although journalists/media workers were the most quoted sources, political candidates, INEC officials, public affairs analysts, voters and local observers were also featured.

Whereas non-state actors and party agents were the most featured perpetrators of violence, INEC officials, voters and media workers were the most featured victims.

There were instances of election result speculation, imbalance broadcasts, biased broadcasts, hate speech and fake news in the television programmes.

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PART III

CONTENT OF ELECTION-DAY PROGRAMMES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

Election-day contents were monitored on selected radio and television stations from 11-12 November 2023. The findings are presented in this section under the following main headings: programme types, thematic focus, quality of programmes, sources, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.

PROGRAMME TYPES

342 stories were analysed across six radio and eight television stations during the period in review. The contents were grouped under news reports, discussions and interview programmes.

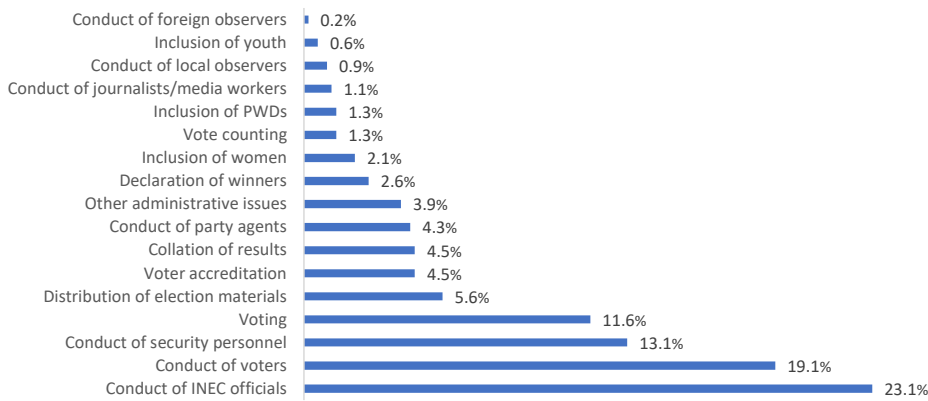*Chart 13: Programme types featuring election-day broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023*
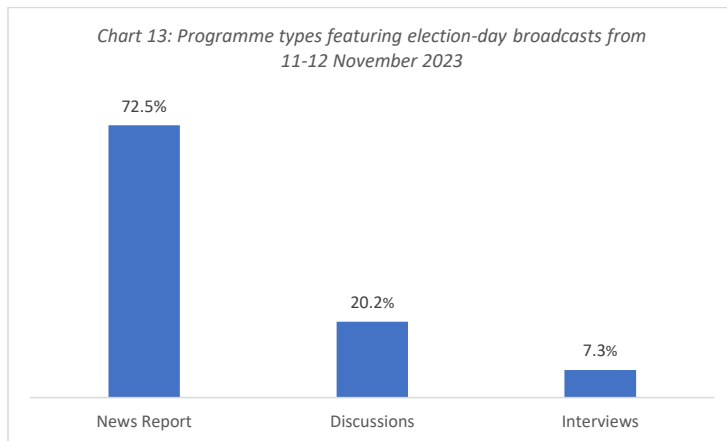
248 of the 342 contents analysed were news reports, accounting for 72.5% of the programmes as Chart 13 shows. The chart also shows that 20.2% (69 stories) of these contents were discussion programmes while 7.3% (25 stories) of the contents were interview programmes.

THEMATIC FOCUS

Thematic focus examines the topics or issues that dominated the monitored broadcasts. The topics are divided further into administrative issues and integrity issues. Administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion while integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the electoral process.

Administrative issues

Chart 14a: Administrative issues featured in election-day broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023

Category	Percentage
Conduct of foreign observers	0.2%
Inclusion of youth	0.6%
Conduct of local observers	0.9%
Conduct of journalists/media workers	1.1%
Inclusion of PWDs	1.3%
Vote counting	1.3%
Inclusion of women	2.1%
Declaration of winners	2.6%
Other administrative issues	3.9%
Conduct of party agents	4.3%
Collation of results	4.5%
Voter accreditation	4.5%
Distribution of election materials	5.6%
Voting	11.6%
Conduct of security personnel	13.1%
Conduct of voters	19.1%
Conduct of INEC officials	23.1%

According to Chart 14a, the conduct of INEC officials (23.1%; 123 in 533 instances) was the most discussed administrative issue on radio and television during the period under review, with the distribution of election materials getting 5.6% (30 instances) of the coverage.
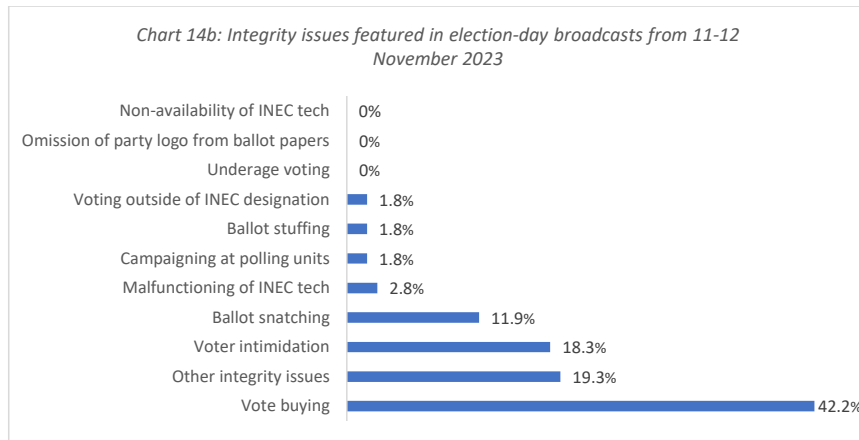
The conduct of voters, security personnel, party agents and journalists/media workers got 19.1% (102 instances), 13.1% (70 instances), 4.3% (23 instances) and 1.1% (6 instances) of the coverage respectively. The conduct of local observers got 0.9% (5 instances) of the coverage while the conduct of foreign observers was the least featured at 0.2% (1 instance).

Voting, declaration of winners and vote counting got 11.6% (62 instances), 2.6% (14 instances) and 1.3% (7 instances) of the coverage respectively. Voter accreditation and collation of results each got 4.5% (24 instances) of the coverage.

Inclusion of women, PWDs and you got 2.1% (11 instances), 1.3% (7 instances) and 0.6% (3 instances) of the coverage respectively.

Other administrative issues got 3.9% (21 instances) of the coverage.

Integrity issues

Chart 14b: Integrity issues featured in election-day broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023

Issue	Percentage
Non-availability of INEC tech	0%
Omission of party logo from ballot papers	0%
Underage voting	0%
Voting outside of INEC designation	1.8%
Ballot stuffing	1.8%
Campaigning at polling units	1.8%
Malfunctioning of INEC tech	2.8%
Ballot snatching	11.9%
Voter intimidation	18.3%
Other integrity issues	19.3%
Vote buying	42.2%

Vote buying, Chart 14b shows, was the most reported integrity issue, getting 42.2% (46 in 109 instances) of the coverage. Voter intimidation got 18.3% (20 instances) of the coverage. Ballot snatching got 11.9% (13 instances) of the coverage. Ballot stuffing got 1.8% (2 instances) of the coverage, and so did voting outside of INEC designation and campaigning at polling units. Malfunctioning of INEC technology got 2.8% while other integrity issues represented 19.3% (21 instances) of the coverage.

The other issues identified in the chart were not featured.

QUALITY OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section assesses radio and television stations' adherence to high ethical standards including the avoidance of election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalance broadcasts, campaign-like content and biased broadcasts.

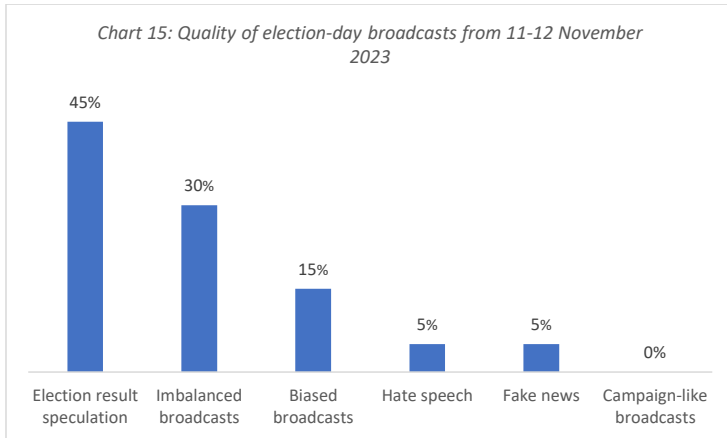Chart 15: Quality of election-day broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023

Chart 15 shows that 45% (9 in 20 instances) of applicable reports featured election result speculation while 30% (6 instances) featured imbalanced broadcasts. Biased broadcasts featured 15% (3 instances) of the time while hate speech and fake news were each featured 5% (1 instance) of the time. Campaign-like broadcasts were not featured.

SOURCES OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section examines the status of the individuals used as content sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio and television stations in the context of this research.

Chart 16: Status of the sources of election-day broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023
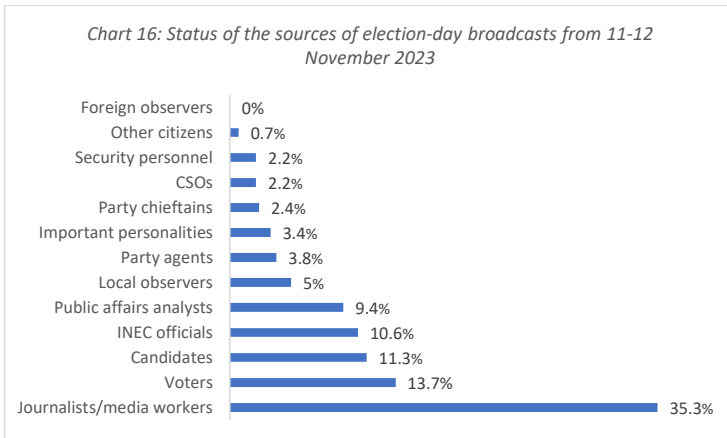
Journalists/media, Chart 16 shows, got the most usage as sources as they accounted for 35.3% (147 in 416 instances) of the usage. Public affairs analysts got 9.4% (39 instances) of the coverage.

Voters and important personalities got 13.7% (57 instances) and 3.4% (14 instances) of the usage respectively. INEC officials got 10.6% (44 instances) of the usage while security personnel and CSOs each got 2.2% (9 instances) of the usage.

Candidates, party agents and party chieftains got 11.3% (47 instances), 3.8% (16 instances) and 2.4% (10 instances) of the usage respectively.

Local observers got 5% (21 instances) of the usage but foreign observers were not featured. Other citizens got 0.7% (3 instances) of the usage.

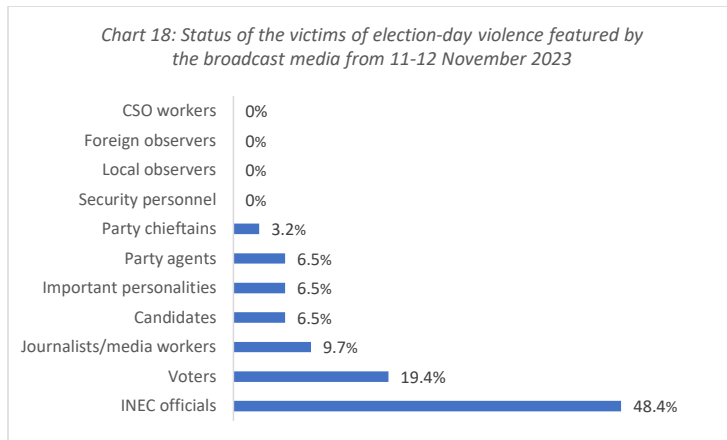**PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS**

This section highlights the status of the perpetrators of violence who were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio and television stations in the context of this research.

Chart 17: Status of the perpetrators of violence featured in election-day broadcasts from 11-12 November 2023
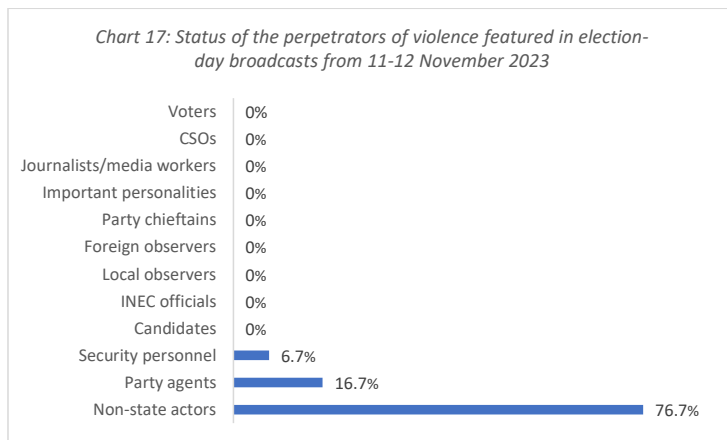
According to the data in Chart 17, non-state actors were the most featured perpetrators of violence, accounting for 23 of 30 reports (76.7%). Party agents and security personnel accounted for 16.7% (5 instances) and 6.7% (2 instances) of the reports respectively. The other potential actors identified in the chart were not featured.

VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section highlights the status of the victims of violence who were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio and television stations during the period in review.

Chart 18: Status of the victims of election-day violence featured by the broadcast media from 11-12 November 2023

CSO workers	0%
Foreign observers	0%
Local observers	0%
Security personnel	0%
Party chieftains	3.2%
Party agents	6.5%
Important personalities	6.5%
Candidates	6.5%
Journalists/media workers	9.7%
Voters	19.4%
INEC officials	48.4%

INEC officials were the biggest victims of the election-day attacks reported on radio and television, getting, as Chart 18 shows, 48.4% (15 in 31 instances) of the coverage in this section. Journalists/media workers got 9.7% (3 instances) of the coverage.

Voters and important personalities got 19.4% (6 instances) and 6.5% (2 instances) of the coverage respectively. Candidates and party agents also got 6.5% of the coverage while party chieftains got 3.2% (1 instance) of the coverage.

The other potential victims identified in the chart were not featured.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Election-day broadcasts, the analyses in this section showed, were mostly packaged as news reports, with a few taking the discussion and interview formats.

The conduct of INEC officials, voters and security personnel were the most covered administrative issues while vote buying, voter intimidation and ballot snatching were the most reported integrity issues.

Voters, candidates, INEC officials and public affairs analysts dominated the status of individuals used as sources for election-day broadcasts.

Election-day attacks were blamed on non-state actors, party agents and security personnel, with INEC officials, voters and journalists/media workers emerging as the biggest victims.

The monitored radio stations maintained high ethical standards with no instance of identified editorial vice. The television stations, however, featured discussions around election result speculation, imbalance broadcasts, biased broadcasts, hate speech and fake news. The television stations did not engage in these editorial vices but only used their platforms to decry them.
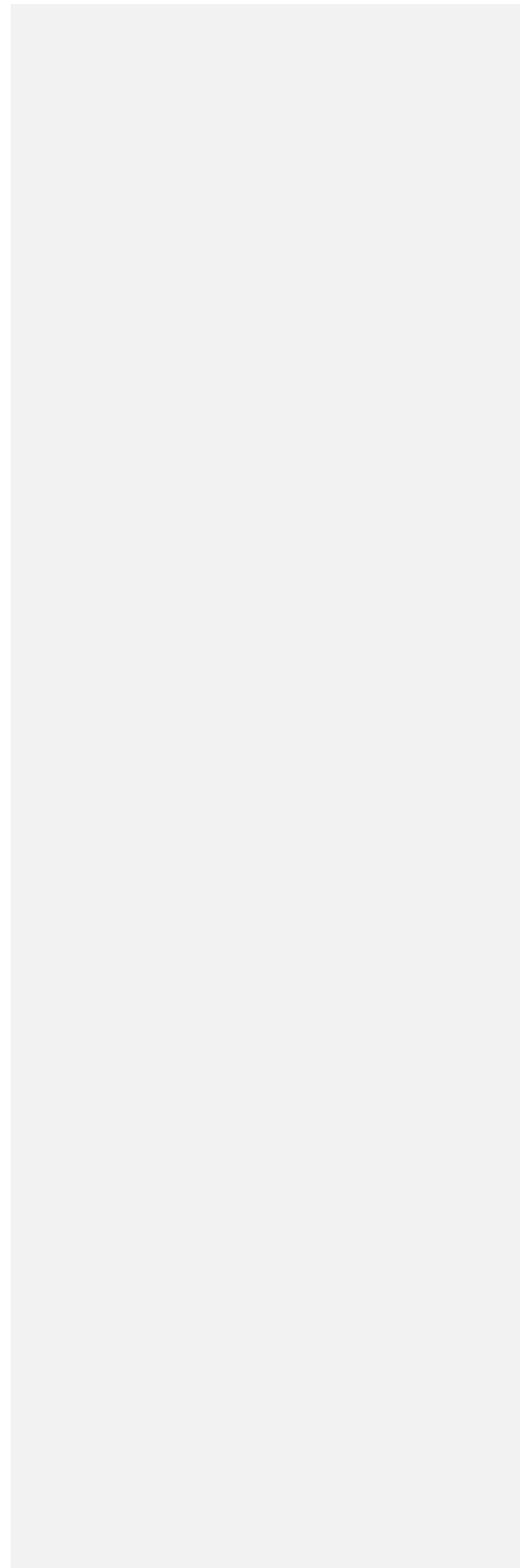
IMS Head Office:

No.3, Emina Cresent,
Off Toyin Street,
Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
+234 (0) 903 294 3342
www.imesoimeso.org
info@imesoimeso.org
imesoimeso@hotmail.com

EU-SDGN Secretariat:

12 Charles de Gaulle Street,
Asokoro, FCT 9000211,
Abuja-Nigeria
+234 (0) 818 932 2858
nigeria@eces.eu
www.democracy-support.eu/nigeria
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