

Monitoring of Print & Online Newspapers' Reporting of the 2019 Electoral Process

July - September 2019 Score Card

(An analysis of trends in reportage of the 2019 post- election issues by 12 print/online newspapers and INEC online media platforms for the period July- September, 2019)



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report covers the outcome of the monitoring of twelve (12) print and online newspapers for the months of July, August and September, 2019. The newspapers are ***The Punch, The Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, ThisDay, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation, Leadership, Daily Trust, Blue Print (online version), The Cable*** (published online only) and the **Premium Times** (published online only). Also monitored was the INEC's twitter handle (<https://twitter.com/inecnigeria>) and INEC website <https://www.inecnigeria.org/>

The report highlights the findings and analysis of trends in the reportage of the 2019 electoral process, with particular focus on the of post-election issues reported by the twelve print/online newspapers, especially as they concerned INEC's activities in relation to its engagement with the community of voters and the citizens through the dissemination of information on its social media and online platforms.

The overarching framework for the media monitoring is provided by component 4b: Support to the Media of the **European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN)** Project being implemented by the International Press Centre (IPC), Lagos-Nigeria. The exercise entails a 24-month media monitoring activity, structured to span the three key phases of the electoral/governance process, namely: the pre-election/voter registration phase (8 months); the electoral campaigns/voting phase (6 months) and the post-election/governance phase (10 months).

The purpose of this report is to provide evidence-backed information on state of media performance in the coverage of the electoral processes and the 2019 elections, highlighting observed gaps and shortcomings, and using the outcome as a tool for continuous engagement with journalists, media managers and media gate keepers on the need to ensure media professionalism. In furthering the cause of actions, quarterly media roundtables are normally convened by IPC to enable media and other electoral stakeholders draw relevant lessons relating to the need to adhere to professional and ethical standards in the coverage of the electoral process and governance issues with a view to avoiding hate speech, being conflict-sensitive and giving prominence to the issues of citizens, women, youths, persons living with disabilities (PLWDs), etc.

The monitoring exercise also included the documentation of electoral (campaign) promises of presidential candidates as reported by the media outlets being monitored. With the declaration of President Muhammadu Buhari as the winner of the elections, his documented campaign promises has since been released by IPC.

As a final outcome of the media monitoring activity, 2,000 hard copies of the final report, capturing key highlights from the entire monitoring process shall be published, disseminated and also made available online.

2.0 SCOPE

The monitoring covers all relevant reports about the political and electoral process published by the newspapers during the three-month period under review.

The categories of issues monitored were:

- **Political Parties**

Here, the stories (news, features, interviews, editorials, analysis, etc.) were monitored to determine compliance with regulatory and professional frameworks on covering the political parties, especially in relation to giving equitable media opportunity to diverse sides of the political and electoral equation.

- **Aspirants/Candidates**

Here, the stories were monitored to determine access/coverage of campaign activities of aspirants/ candidates across political parties. Candidates in this respect include incumbents as well as new entrants.

- **Youths and the Electoral Process**

Here, the stories were monitored to specifically determine the extent of media access/coverage given to electoral activities by or about youths.

- **Women and the Electoral Process**

Here, the stories were monitored to specifically determine the scope of media access/coverage given to electoral activities involving or about women.

- **People Living with Disabilities (PWDS) and the Electoral Process**

Here, the stories were monitored to specifically determine the scope of media access/coverage given to electoral activities involving or about PWDs.

- **The Electoral Management Body (EMB) - INEC**

Here, the stories were monitored on media coverage of the activities of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as they relate to the types of issues reported about the election management body.

- **Professionalism**

Here, the stories were monitored to determine their compliance with professional ethics and the code of elections coverage, including issues of hate speech and conflict sensitivity.

- **Editorials**

Here, the editorials were monitored to determine the kind and relevance of the electoral issues engaging the attention of the respective media outlets.

- **Prominence**

Here, the newspapers were monitored to assess the page location of the various political and electoral stories with a view to determining the importance attached to them.

- **Sources**

Here, the reports were monitored to assess the types of stakeholders consulted to lend credence to identified relevant reports.

- **Reporting Format (Genre)**

Here, the relevant reports were monitored to know the form of reporting, that is, whether reported as news, editorial, features, interview, Letter to the Editor, Photograph, Opinion etc.

- **Campaign Promises**

Here, the reports were monitored to determine and document the campaign promises of the presidential candidates of the political parties.

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3.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in extracting the required information and indices for analysis entailed a number of structured techniques used by trained media monitors tasked with respective activities and duties. A six member team of trained monitors were involved in the day-to-day assessment of reports in the newspaper under the guidance of a head supervisor and a monitoring analyst. Both Quantitative and Qualitative approaches were adopted for the monitoring, with a daily and weekly input into a data storing system specifically designed for the exercise.

- **The quantitative approach**

The quantitative approach entailed the collection and coding of data, the use of a specifically designed media monitoring template and the making of entry into a specially designed data-base programme. The coding allows for the capturing of the frequency at which the media reports of each of the given indices in this exercise occurred. The data, within the context of the different indices, were then processed and analysed to arrive at specific results which are also represented in graphs, charts and tables in the body of this report.

- **The qualitative approach**

The qualitative approach entailed content analysis of the individual newspapers' reports, photographs, letters, and interviews published within the period under review. The use of the qualitative approach was to engender open debate and discussions with stakeholders on the thematic focus of the democratic and electoral issues published by the selected media.

- **Units of Analysis**

The monitoring exercise involved analysis of media contents devoted to some specific issues in the monitored newspapers. The units of analysis, among others include indices on:

- Prominence of Issues and Reports;
- Sources of News Reports;
- Who and what gets mentioned in the Media;
- Types of Reports;
- Thematic Focus etc.

- **Specific Issues monitored**

The specific issues being monitored under thematic focus include reportage bordering on:

- Issues of Gender (inclusivity/media access)
- Issues of Youth
- Issues of Persons Living with Disabilities
- Voting
- Political Conflict (Violence)
- Election Disputes,

The other specific issues monitored under thematic focus also included reportage in terms of:

- Continuous Voters' Registration;
- Campaigns
- Language use
- Voter and Civic Education
- Coverage of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and
- Campaign Finance.

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1 Total Relevant Reports

A total of 4,217 news/editorial items were found relevant to the media content monitoring exercise in the 12 newspapers (that is, as falling under the pre-identified thematic focus and other specific issues).

For the print monitoring, **BluePrint** published the highest number of relevant reports with 715 (at 17%) followed by **Daily Sun** which published 409 relevant reports (at 9.7%). **Nigerian Tribune** published 407 relevant reports (9.65%); **Daily Trust** published 397 reports (9.4%) and **Leadership** published 396 (9.39%). **Vanguard** published 365 (8.65%).

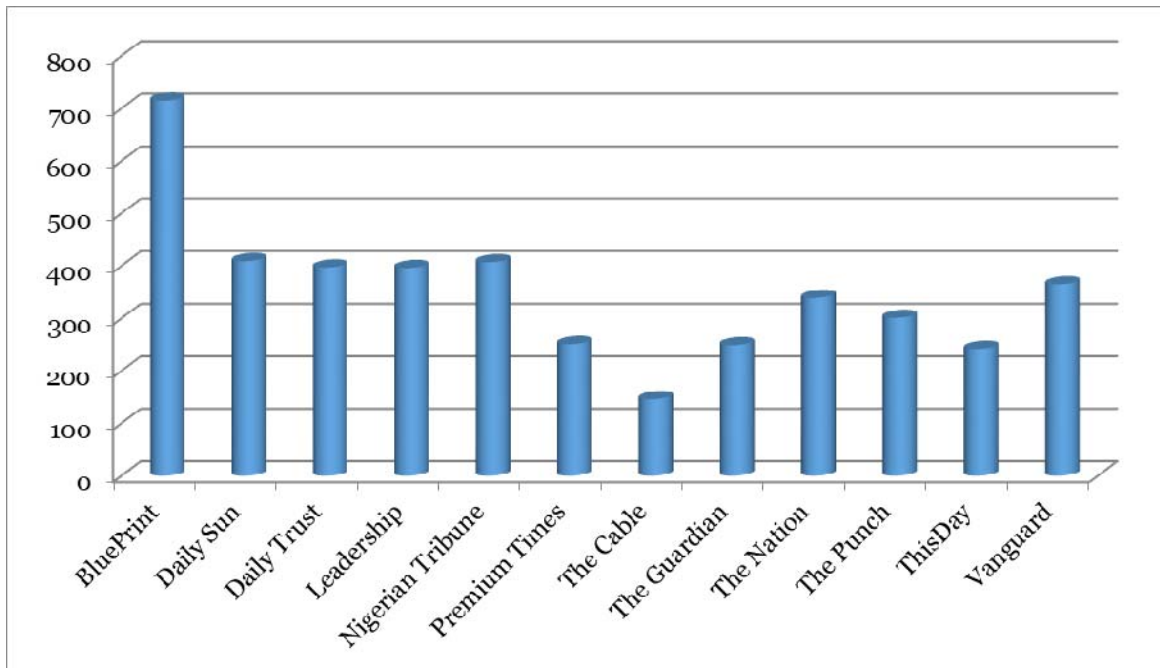
Others include **The Nation** which published 339 reports (8%); **The Punch**, 301 relevant reports (7.1%); **Premium Times** published 251 reports (5.95%); **The Guardian**, 249 (at 6%)

ThisDay published 242 relevant reports (5.06%), while **The Cable** published 146 (3.46%).

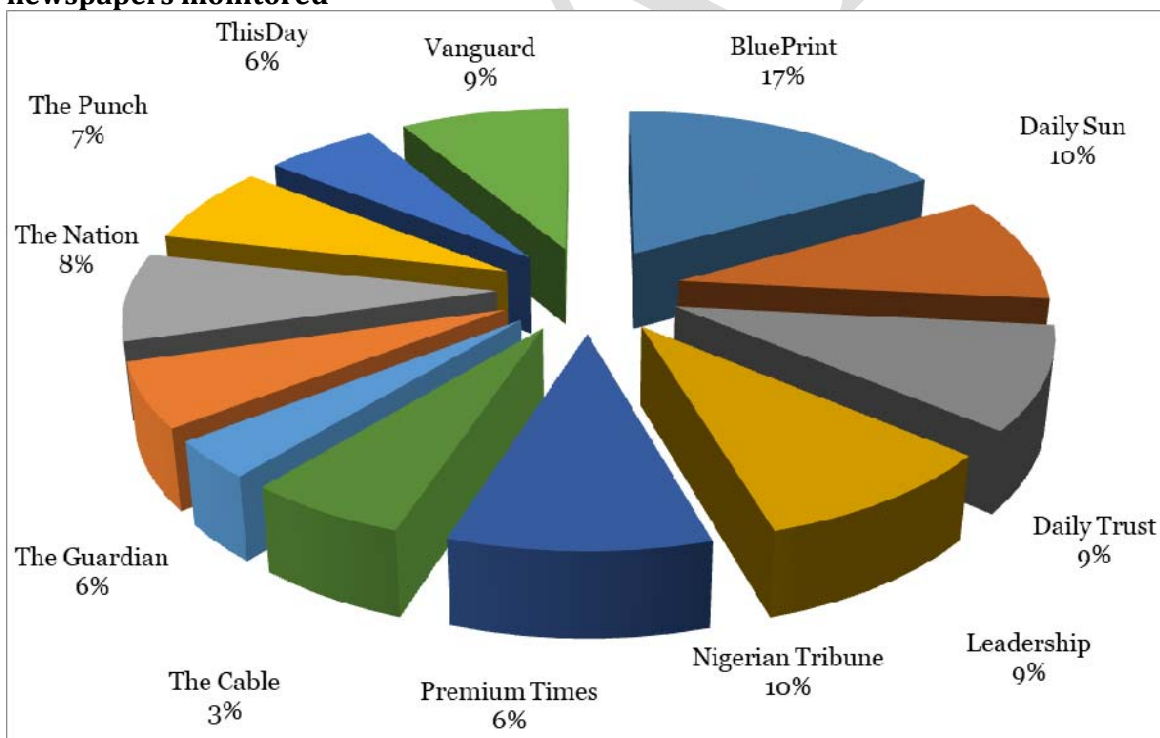
The table below shows the frequency of publication of relevant reports by the newspapers monitored:

Ser. No.	Publication	Frequency/ Items	Total	Percentage (%)
1.	BluePrint	715		17%
2.	Daily Sun	409		9.7%
3.	Daily Trust	397		9.4%
4.	Leadership	396		9.39%
5.	Nigerian Tribune	407		9.65%
6.	Premium Times	251		5.95%
7.	The Cable	146		3.46%
8.	The Guardian	249		6%
9.	The Nation	339		8%
10.	The Punch	301		7.1%
11.	ThisDay	242		5.7%
12.	Vanguard	365		8.65%
Total		4,217		100%

The chart below shows the frequency of publication of relevant reports by the newspapers monitored



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of publication of relevant reports by the newspapers monitored



4.2. THEMATIC FOCUS: Political Parties' Reporting

4.2.1 Outcomes on coverage of Political Parties

i. Mentions

Between July and September, 2019, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) got the highest number of mentions at 781 times (48.39%), followed closely by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) which got 709 mentions (at 43.93%).

Most of the other political parties did not have any media mentions while few had very little mention as follows:

- **Social Democratic Party (SDP)**, 32 mentions (2%);
- **All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)**, 30 mentions (1.86%) and
- **Peoples Redemption Party**, 18 mentions (1.1%)

Table showing political parties that got "mentions" as covered in the media

	Political Parties	Blue Print	Daily Sun	Daily Trust	Leadership	Nigerian Tribune	Premium Times	The Cable	The Guardian	The Nation	The Punch	This Day	Vanguard	Total (mentions)
1	African Democratic Congress	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2	All Progressive Congress	141	60	82	92	75	38	22	33	73	67	29	69	781
3	All Progressive Grand Alliance	4	6	2	1	3	3	0	2	1	3	3	2	30
4	Alliance For New Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
5	Allied Congress Party Of Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
6	Allied People's Movement	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	5

7	Democratic Alternative	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
8	Democratic People Congress	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9	Grassroots Development Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10	Kowa Party	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
11	Labour Party	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
12	Mass Action Joint Alliance	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Mega Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
13	National Conscience Party	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14	New Nigeria People Party	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	Nigeria Peoples Congress	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
16	People Party of Nigeria	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

17	Peoples Democratic Party	136	61	74	58	63	47	40	34	44	37	39	76	709
18	Peoples Progressive Party	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
20	Peoples Redemption Party	5	2	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	18
21	Progressive Peoples Alliance	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
22	Social Democratic Party	8	0	5	4	12	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	32
23	United Democratic Party	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
24	Unity Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
25	Young Democratic Party	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
26	Zenith Labour Party	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
27	Total	301	130	169	161	170	90	62	73	119	113	72	154	1,614

Note: The table above contains only Political Parties that got "mentions" in the media during the period

4.2.2. Frequency of mentions of political parties by the newspapers (July-September 2019)

Blue Print had the highest number of mentions of the activities of the **All Progressives Party (APC)** with 141 reports. This was followed by **Leadership** newspapers with 92 mentions.

On mentions of the activities of the **People's Democratic Party (PDP)**, **BluePrint** also had the highest mention with **136** reports, followed by Vanguard with 76 mentions.

On mentions relating to the **Social Democratic Party (SDP)**, **Nigerian Tribune** had the highest with 12 mentions; while **Daily Sun** reported **All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)** the most with 6 mentions.

4.2.3 Thematic Focus: Governance and Political Reporting

A total of 3,145 reports on political and governance issues were tracked between July and September. These issues bordered on the following:

4.2.3.1 Political Conflict

171 reports were published on political conflicts, accounting for 5.44% of identified relevant reports.

4.2.3.2 Election Petition:

49.22% of all political and governance issues reported were on election petitions with 1,548 reports.

4.2.3.3 Campaigns:

A total of 688 reports were published on campaigns by political parties' Candidates, representing 21.88%. The reports were in the context of the buildup of political and campaign activities ahead the **Kogi** and **Bayelsa** States' gubernatorial elections on November 16, 2019.

4.3 Hate speech

No evidence of hate speech was observed in the monitored reports.

4.4. Youths and the Electoral Process

i. Number of relevant items

Only 36 items (1.14%) were published on Youths out of 3,143 reports monitored on thematic issues.

ii. Mentions

Youths got 8 mentions (1.5%) out of 536 reports on Men, Women, PLWDs, Youths and INEC.

iii. Use as sources

Of all the sources used in the media reports, the perspectives of youths as sources were few, constituting 0.85% or 33 instances.

4.5 Women and the Electoral Process

i. Number of relevant items

A total of 81 items out 3,145, constituting 2.6% were published on women issues.

ii. Mentions

In terms of mentions, Women got 22 (4.1%) out of 536 mentions.

iii. Women as Sources

Of the total sources of **3,905** persons identified, **women's** voices made only 3.22%, representing 126 of people whose voices were heard in the news.

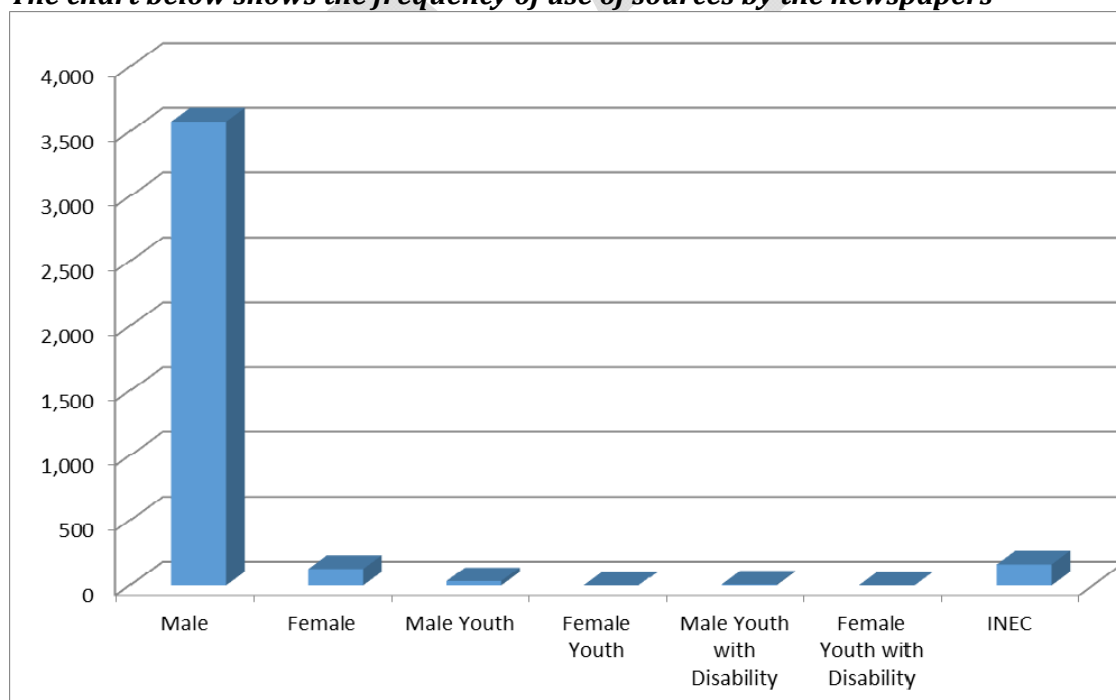
iv. Portrayal

No negative portrayal of women was recorded during the period.

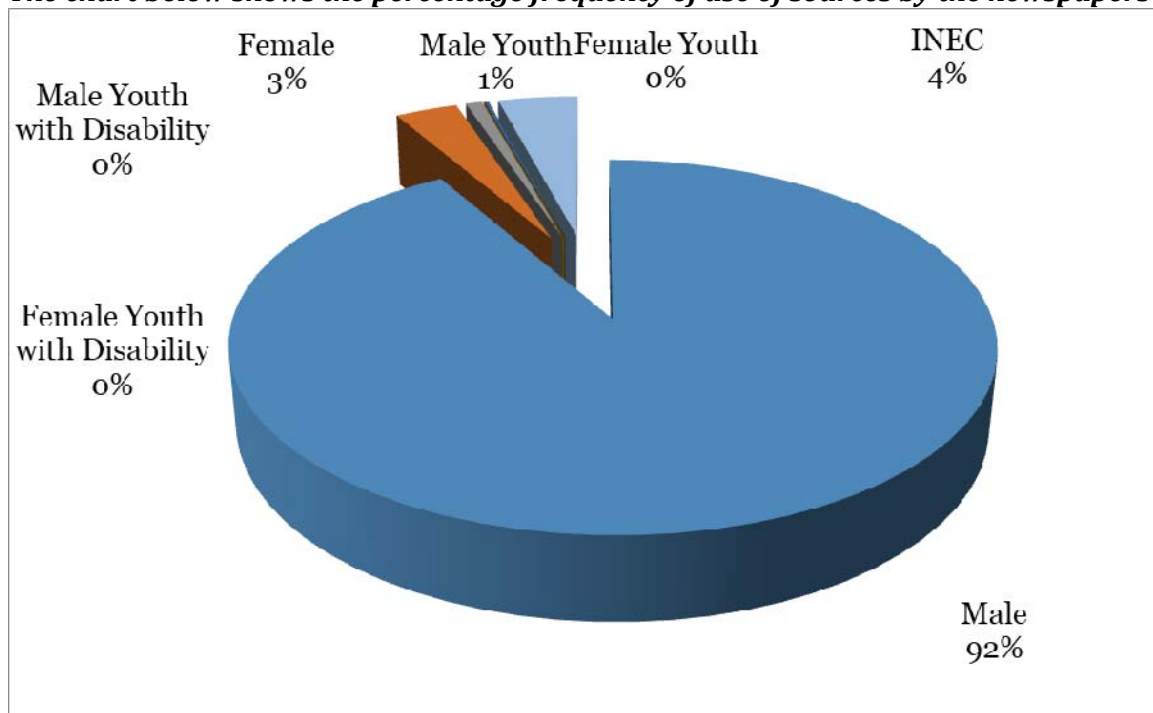
The table below shows the frequency of use of sources by the newspapers

Newspapers	Male	Female	Male Youth	Female Youth	Male Youth with Disability	Female Youth with Disability	INEC	Total
BluePrint	606	23	7	0	3	0	24	663
Daily Sun	331	17	5	0	0	0	16	369
Daily Trust	329	5	4	0	1	0	26	365
Leadership	331	20	5	0	0	0	11	367
Nigerian Tribune	348	18	2	0	0	0	11	379
Premium Times	220	7	1	0	1	0	8	237
The Cable	129	2	1	0	0	0	8	140
The Guardian	217	8	0	0	0	0	8	233
The Nation	299	3	1	0	0	0	14	317
The Punch	255	13	3	0	1	0	14	286
ThisDay	204	2	0	0	0	0	14	220
Vanguard	309	8	4	0	1	0	7	329
Total	3,578	126	33	0	7	0	161	3,905

The chart below shows the frequency of use of sources by the newspapers



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of use of sources by the newspapers



4.6. People Living with Disabilities (PLWDS) and the Electoral Process

i. Number of relevant items

There were 20 relevant editorial reports published on PLWDS out of 3,145 items monitored on the thematic issues, representing 0.64%.

i. Mentions

Apart from 20 relevant editorial reports published on PLWDS between July and September, 2019, no other story mentioned PLWDS.

ii. Use as Sources

There were only 7 stories, representing 0.2% where **PLWDS** were cited as sources.

4.7 Others:

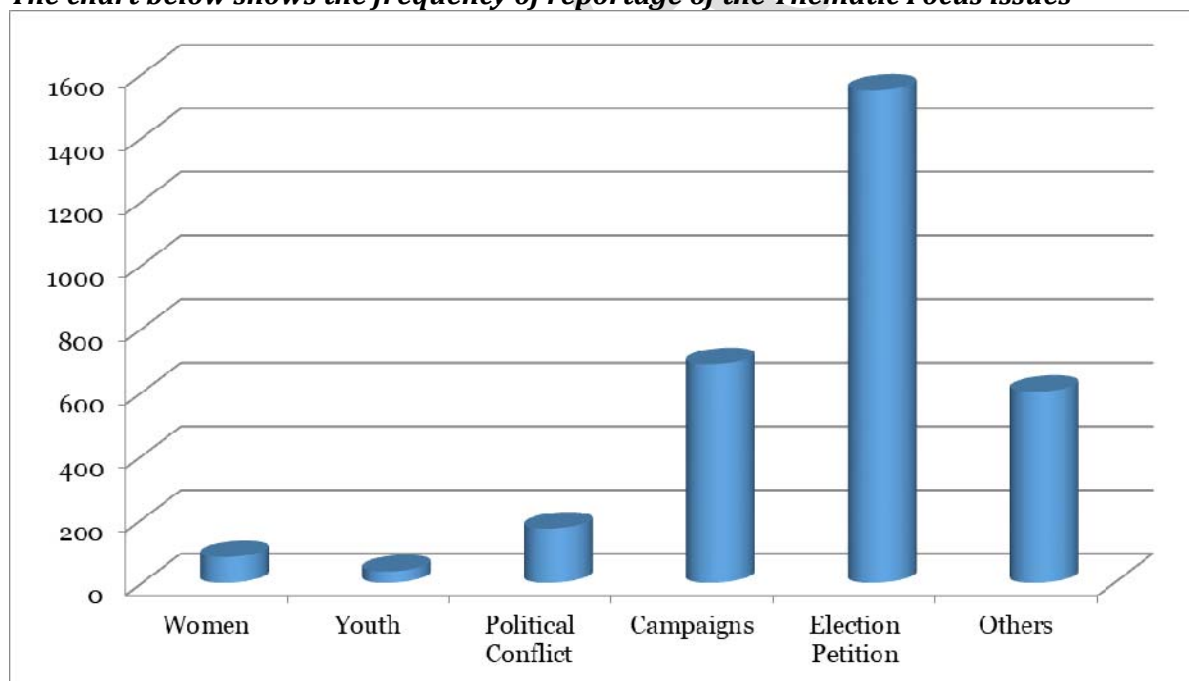
A total of 601 items were monitored under the category of "Others" (at 19.1%). These refer to other relevant issues on democratic governance and electoral reform that do not fall into the aforementioned categories in this report.

The table below shows the frequency of reportage of the Thematic Focus issues

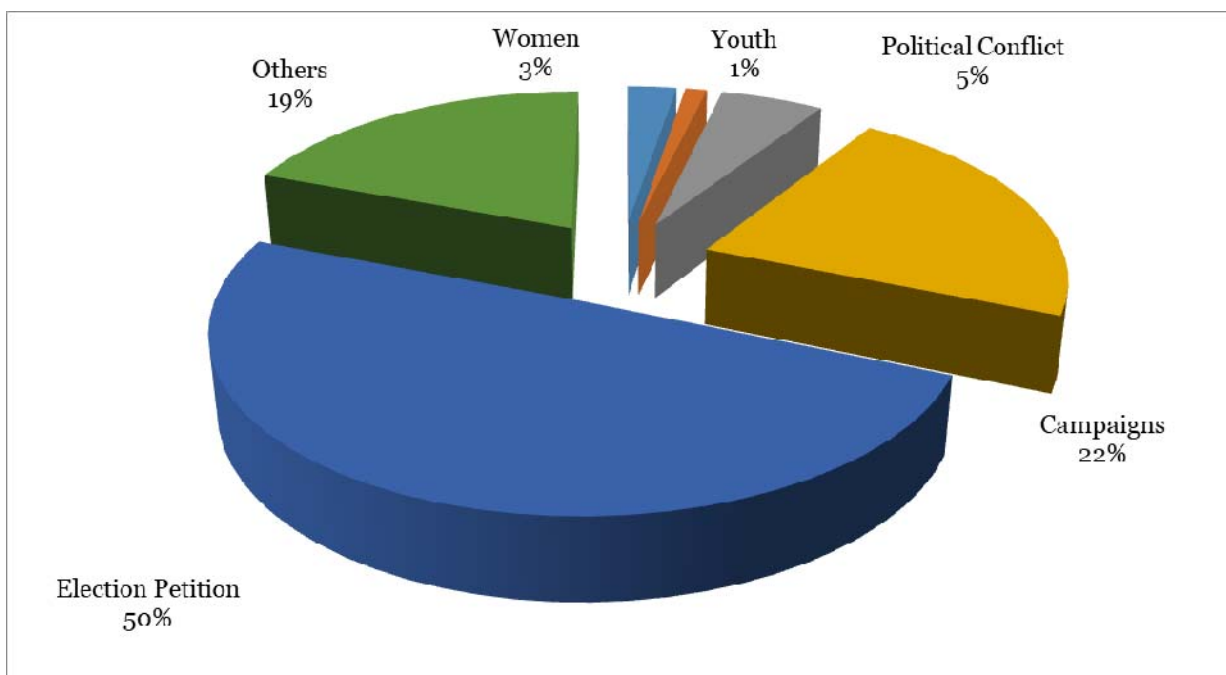
Thematic Focus	Blue Print	Daily Sun	Daily Trust	Lead ership	Nigerian Tribune	Premium Times	The Cable	The Guardian	The Nation	The Punch	This Day	Vanguard	Total
Governance	14	7	2	14	10	5	2	9	3	3	1	11	81

e Issue:													
(Women)													
Governanc e Issues:	10	2	0	8	3	2	2	2	2	3	0	2	36
Youth													
Person Living with Disabiliti es	6	0	1	3	3	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	20
Political Conflict	18	28	9	15	15	10	8	19	22	10	9	8	171
Campaign s	102	58	59	70	93	40	21	30	55	50	44	66	688
Election Petition	232	194	159	126	111	105	63	88	124	99	109	138	1548
Others	127	53	46	59	48	32	22	36	52	57	18	51	601
Total	509	342	276	295	283	195	120	185	258	224	181	277	3,145

The chart below shows the frequency of reportage of the Thematic Focus issues



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of reportage of the Thematic Focus issues



4.8. Placement/Page Prominence

i. Location of relevant items

Of the 4,217 relevant reports identified and analysed, a total of 2,979 reports (70.64%) were published on the **Inside Pages**. Another 402 reports, (9.53%) were published on the **Front Pages** while 6 relevant reports were published on the **Back Pages** (accounting for 0.14%) and 22 reports (0.52%) were published as **Editorials**.

ii. Placement in Online newspapers

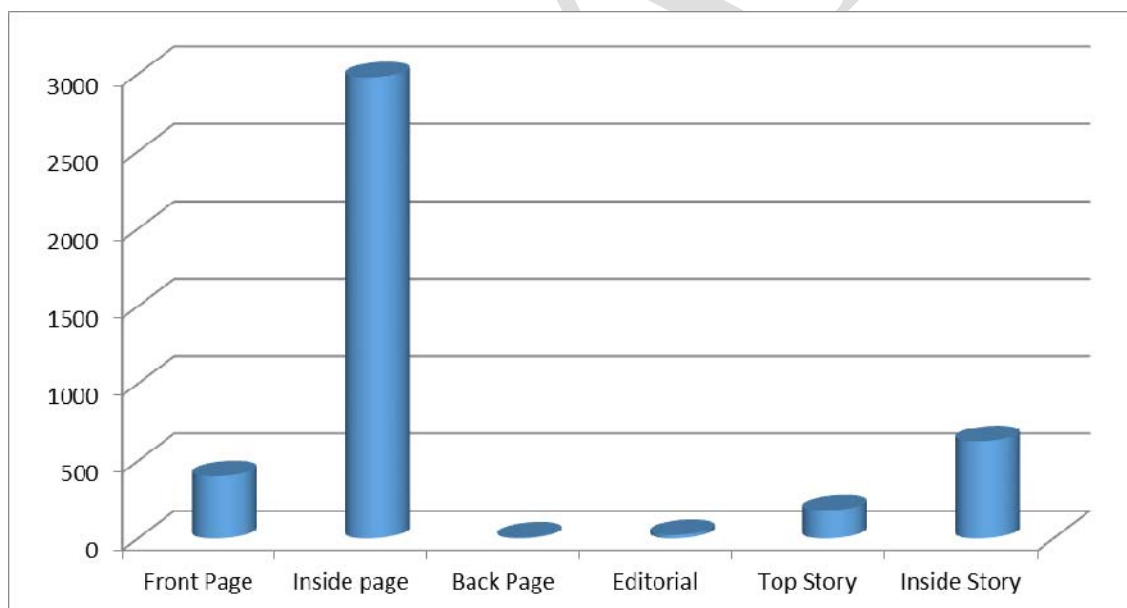
Placement in Online newspapers was established from whether the reports were published as **“Top Story or Inside Story”**. While 180 reports were published as **Top Stories** (at 4.27%); 628 reports were published as **Inside Stories**, representing 14.89%.

The table below shows the degree of prominence given to identified relevant reports

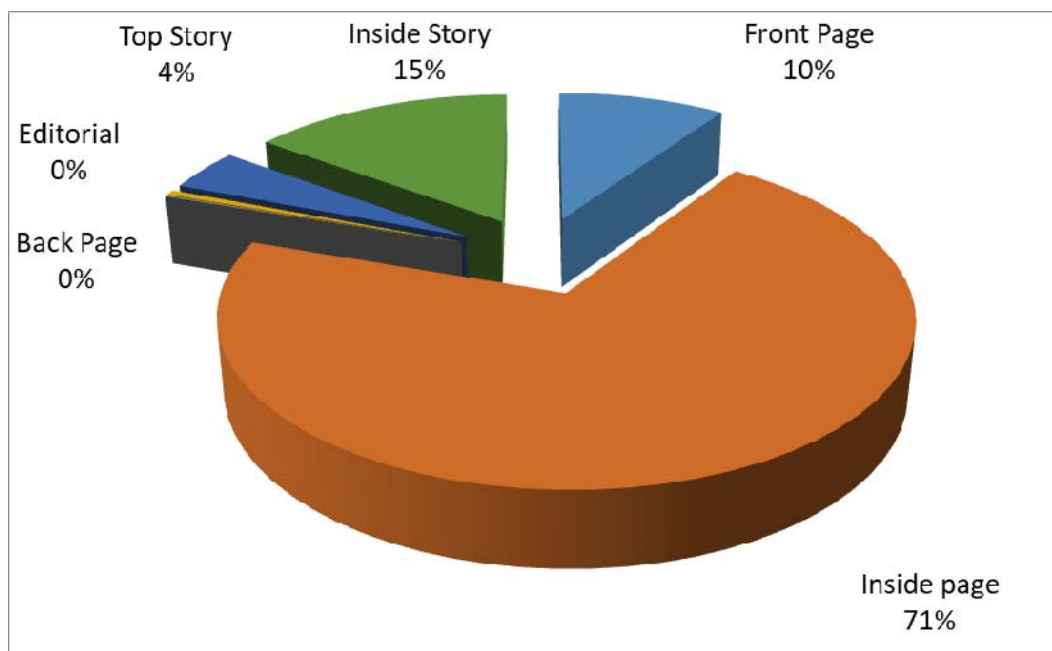
Newspapers	Front Page	Inside page	Back Page	Editorial	Top Story	Inside Story	Total
Blueprint	74	162	0	7	0	472	715
Daily Sun	58	343	3	5	0	0	409
Daily Trust	31	366	0	0	0	0	397
Leadership	35	356	3	0	0	2	396

Nigerian Tribune	50	353	0	4	0	0	407
Premium Times	3	36	0	0	108	104	251
The Cable	5	19	0	0	72	50	146
The Guardian	24	224	0	1	0	0	249
The Nation	41	298	0	0	0	0	339
The Punch	22	279	0	0	0	0	301
ThisDay	27	212	0	3	0	0	242
Vanguard	32	331	0	2	0	0	365
Total	402	2979	6	22	180	628	4217

The chart below shows the degree of prominence given to identified relevant reports



The chart below shows the degree of prominence given to identified relevant reports



4.9. Report Formats

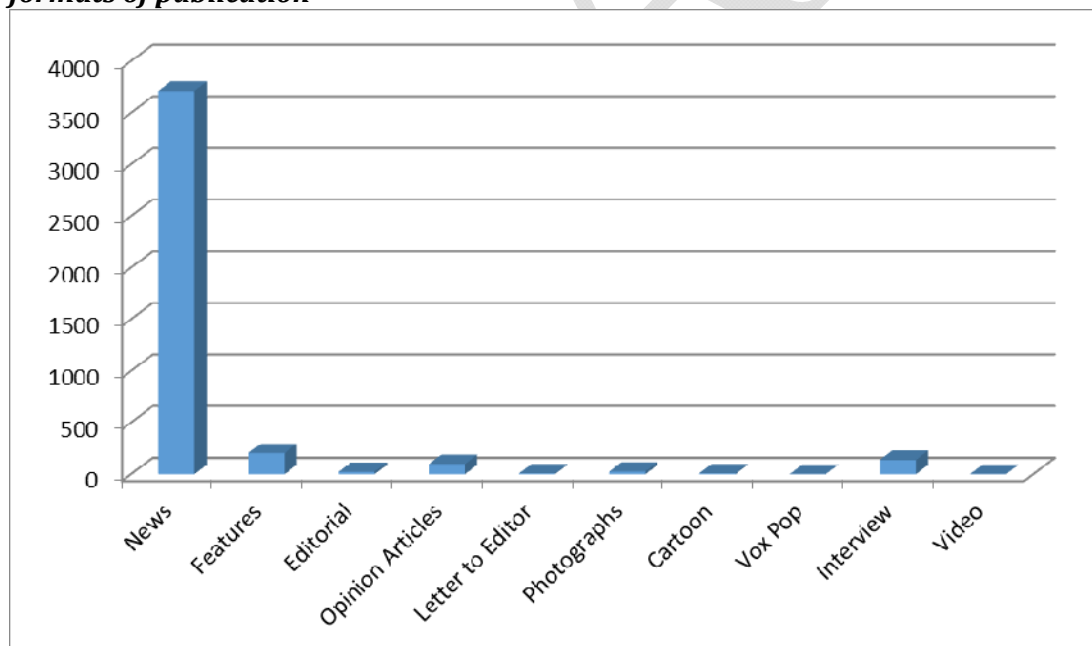
Out of 4,217 total reports identified as relevant and monitored, 3,710 reports were published as **News** (at 88%) while 204 of the relevant reports were published as **Features** at (4.8%). There were 23 **Editorials** at (0.55%); 98 reports were **Opinion articles** at (2.32%); 7 reports were **Letters to the Editor** (0.17%) and 26 were **photographs** (0.62%). Others include 9 reports published as **Cartoons** (0.2%); 1 as **Vox Pops** (0.02%) and 138 **Interviews** making 3.3%. One **Video** was found relevant within the period, representing 0.02%.

The table below shows the frequency of reportage of identified relevant items in various formats of publication

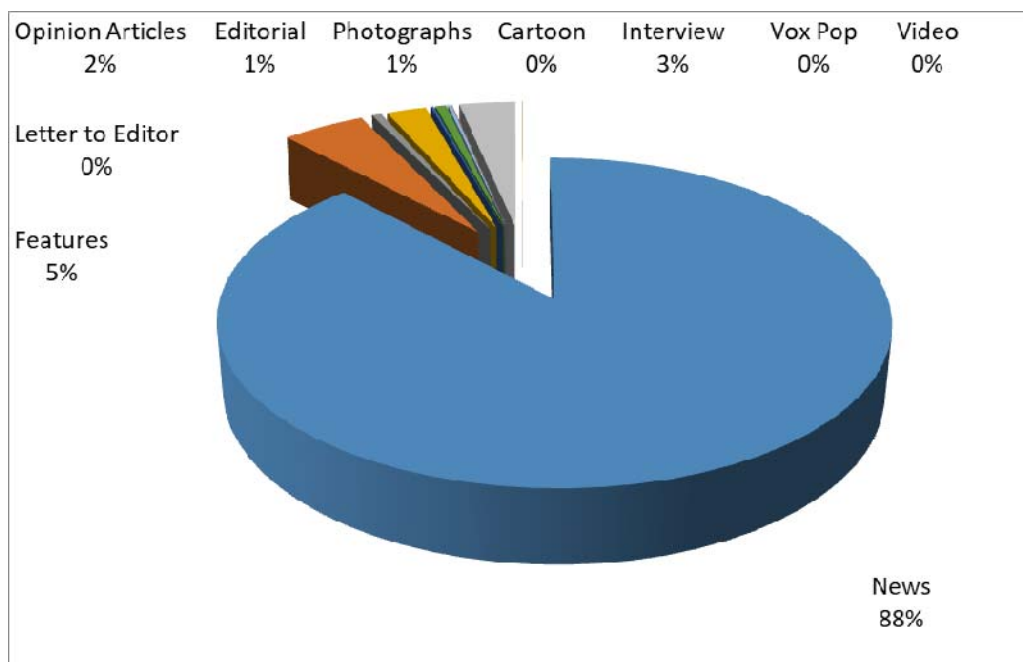
	New s	Feat ures	Edit oria l	Opini on Articl es	Lette r to Edito r	Phot ogra phs	Cart oon	Vox Pop	Inter view	Vide o	Total
BluePrint	675	5	7	18	0	3	0	0	7	0	715
Daily Sun	332	18	5	16	0	2	2	0	34	0	409
Daily Trust	362	15	0	4	0	1	0	1	14	0	397
Leadership	320	36	1	20	0	1	3	0	15	0	396

Nigerian Tribune	358	14	2	4	2	9	1	0	17	0	407
Premium Times	243	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	251
The Cable	144	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	146
The Guardian	204	31	2	3	1	3	0	0	5	0	249
The Nation	274	30	1	8	1	1	2	0	22	0	339
The Punch	276	13	0	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	301
ThisDay	192	26	2	11	3	3	0	0	5	0	242
Vanguard	330	14	3	8	0	2	1	0	7	0	365
Total	3710	204	23	98	7	26	9	1	138	1	4,217

The chart below shows the frequency of reportage of identified relevant items in various formats of publication



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of reportage of identified relevant items in various formats of publication



5.0. The Electoral Management Body (EMB) - INEC

i. Number of relevant items

A total of 233 reports were published on the activities of **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** within the period under review.

Of these, **BluePrint** published the highest number of 43 stories on INEC (18.46%), followed by **Daily Trust** with 28 stories (at 12%). Nigerian Tribune published 23 stories (9.9%); Daily Sun, 21 stories (At 9%); each of **The Punch** and **ThisDay** published 17 stories (each at 7.3%); each of the **Premium Times**, **Leadership** and **The Nation** published 16 stories (6.9%); **Vanguard** published 10 stories (4.3%) while **The Cable** published the lowest with 7 stories (3%).

5.1 Specific Issues monitored around INEC include:

With gubernatorial elections scheduled to hold in Kogi and Bayelsa States, there were only 4 media reports out of the 233 reports on INEC's **Civic and Voter Education** for July-September (1.7%) while the issue of **Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs)** were published in 12 reports (at 5.15%). Issues on **Campaign Finance** had 14 reports (at 6%) while **Administrative Procedures** (reports on independence, impartiality and professionalism of the INEC as panacea for free and fair election) were reported in 144 stories at 61.8%. **Electoral Reform: Constitution Amendment** had 22 reports (9.44%) while **Electoral Reform: Political Parties** (focused on the need for INEC to review mechanism for the registration, de-registration and control of political parties) had 10 reports (4.3%). Meanwhile, **Electoral Reform: Security** had 7 reports (3%), focused on the discussion around the need to review the operations and the deployment of security details during elections.

The table below shows the frequency of media reports on issues around INEC

Issues around INEC	Blue Print	Daily Sun	Daily Trust	Leadership	Nigerian Tribune	Premium Times	The Cable	The Guardian	The Nation	The Punch	This Day	Vanguard	Total
Electoral Reform: Constitutional Amendment	3	2	4	4	2	1	1	3	0	1	1	0	22
Electoral Reform: Political Parties	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	10
Electoral Reform: Security	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	7
Electoral Reform: Voting Mechanism	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	8
Electoral Reform: Electoral Offence	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	12
Voter and Civic Education	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Continuous Voters Registration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent Voters Card	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	12
Administrative Procedure	33	13	16	8	13	11	5	12	11	10	7	5	144
Campaign	2	2	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	14

Finance													
Voting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	43	21	28	16	23	16	7	16	19	17	17	10	233

- **Electoral Reform: Voting mechanism**

In view of governorship elections in Kogi and Bayelsa States, 8 reports (3.4%) focused on INEC'S review process of mechanism for future voting.

- **Electoral Reform: Electoral Offence**

12 reports (5.15%) focused on calls for punishment for electoral offenders and need for INEC to review its handling of election offences.

- **Voting:**

No report on voting was recorded within the period.

5.2. INEC in the Print Media VS INEC on Social Media (Twitter)

This section highlights how INEC was reported in the newspapers within the period under review (comprising print media and online media) and the extent to which the Commission engaged the media and citizens on its twitter handle. Specific issues around INEC which were tracked within the period in the print, online and social media were:

- Electoral Reform
- Continuous Voters' Registration
- Voter and Civic Education
- Administrative Procedures
- Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs)
- Gender Perspective, and
- PLWDs
- Campaign Finance

Findings show that while INEC was covered in 233 reports in the print and online newspapers' reports, a total of 305 tweets were posted by INEC on its twitter handle between July 1 and September 30, 2019. The major difference is in the specific issues focused upon in the mainstream and the social media where INEC engaged citizens and was also engaged by the media and the citizens as well.

However, there seems to be a gap in terms of INEC's followership in respect of engagement by the citizens on social media. For instance, whereas, as at the end of September, 2019, INEC had a total of 1,400,000 followers, its total tweets for the period generated only 3,045 retweets; 11,189 'likes' and 1,687 comments, despite the large followership.

The findings from the comparison of the specific issues of INEC covered both in the mainstream and the social media are highlighted below:

5.2.1. Electoral Reform

While reports on **Electoral Reform** took 25.29% of all stories on INEC in the Print and Online newspapers, the case was different on the commission's twitter handle as discussions around

reviews and need for **Electoral Reform** were the most tweeted with a record of 151 tweets (at 49.51%).

5.2.2. Administrative Procedures

In the Print and Online newspapers, while stories on **Administrative Procedures** of the INEC were the most reported with 61.8%, the case was quite different on the Commission's twitter page as only 15.74% of all tweets focused on administrative procedures.

5.2.3. Permanent Voters' Cards (PVC)

While 5.15% of stories in the mainstream media were on PVC, it garnered 6% on INEC's twitter.

5.2.4. Voter and Civic Education

While this was reported the lowest in the mainstream at 1.7%, it took 4.92% on INEC's twitter page.

5.2.5. PLWDS, WOMEN

While mainstream media did not publish any report on INEC as relating to the issues of **Women and Persons with Disabilities** in the electoral process within the period, discussions around **gender (women)** and PLWDs garnered 12.46% and 5.65%) respectively.

5.2.6. Campaign Finance

While reports on **campaign finance** took 6% of stories in the mainstream media, nothing was tweeted about it on INEC's twitter account.

The table below shows details of INEC's engagement within the period under review:

Timeline	Retweets	Comments	Likes	Specific Issues of Monitoring	Focus of INEC Tweets
1/07/2019	169	57	336	Electoral Reform, constitutional amendment	"National Review Meeting on the Conduct of 2019 General Elections: Engagement with Political Parties"
2/07/2019	34	10	106	Reform on election security	Review of the 2019 General Elections: Meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security
3/07/2019	169	59	363	Electoral reform	Review of the 2019 General Elections with Civil Society Organizations
4/07/2019		56	540	Administrati	Review of the 2019 General

	113			ve procedure	Elections in its series...today is with the Media.
5/07/2019	113	18	215	Administrati ve procedure	Timetable...Bye-Election Into Pengana State Constituency of Plateau State.
8/07/2019	140	24	581	Electoral Reform	Post 2019 General Elections Review Meeting with the Media
9/07/2019	164	48	550	Electoral Reform	Review of the 2019 General Election: Meeting with State Collation Officers
10/07/2019	93	28	383	Electoral Reform	2019 Post-Election Review Meeting with Administrative Secretaries
11/07/2019	119	25	418	Electoral Reform	2019 Post Election Review Meeting with Resident Electoral Commissioners
12/07/2019	48	17	228	Administrati ve procedure	Faces at the Post-2019 Elections Review with Resident Electoral Commissioners
19/07/2019	58	13	171	Civic & Voter Education	Candidates Contesting in Pengana (Bassa 1 - Plateau) State Bye-Election...
20/07/2019	67	18	181	PVCs	PVCs Collected for Bye-Election: Pengana (Bassa 1) State Constituency, Plateau State.
21/07/2019	26	11	70	Administrati ve Procedure	...State Constituency Bye Election: Delimitation Data Summary.
29/07/2019	49	17	162	Administrati ve procedure	4-Day Workshop on Media Monitoring for Some Publicity Officers of the Commission
31/07/2019	77	75	233	Administrati ve procedure	Press Release
2/08/2019	5	21	85	Administrati ve procedure	...organized the Post 2019 Elections Training Audit
4/08/2019	42	124	361	Administrati ve procedure	organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on 2nd - 3rd August, 2019
5/08/2019	9	37	148	Women, Youth and	Symposium on Promoting Inclusivity in the Electoral

				PWDs	Process: Women, Youth and PWDs
6/08/2019	27	68	260	Women, Youth and PWDs	Symposium on Promoting Inclusivity in the Electoral Process: Women, Youth and PWDs
7/08/2019	14	70	255	Administrative procedure	ECONEC: Sixth Ecowas Network Electoral Commission's Biennial General Assembly
8/08/2019	14	60	223	Administrative procedure	Private screening of the film titled "4th Republic" for the Independent National Electoral Commission
9/08/2019	39	93	205	Administrative procedure	Press Release; On the Reported Resignation of Dr. Briyai as Resident Electoral Commissioner.
15/08/2019	14	69	291	PWDs	National Strategy Meeting on Elections and Data Capturing of Persons with Disabilities
16/08/2019	17	47	319	PWDs	National Strategy Meeting on Elections and Data Capturing of Persons with Disabilities
20/08/2019	51	159	287	PVC	Collection of Permanent Voters Cards(PVCs) for Bayelsa and Kogi states
21/08/2019	13	76	216	PVC/Voter & Civic Education	Kogi & Bayelsa Governorship Elections: Modalities for Collection of Permanent Voters' Cards.
22/08/2019	8	70	128	Administrative procedure	Kogi & Bayelsa Governorship Polls: Timeline for Conduct of Primaries & Nomination of Candidates.
23/08/2019	13	13	80	Administrative procedure	Senior Officials of CENI of the Republic of Chad, today paid courtesy visit to the Commission
28/08/2019	21	35	188	Administrative procedure	Federal Polytechnic, Nassarawa Chapter led by a lecturer in the Department of mathematics & Statistics
04/09/2019	33	4	69	Reform	2-Day meeting to review the 2019 General Elections

05/09/2019	125	29	357	Admin Procedure	Close of Nomination For Bayelsa And Kogi Governorship Elections.
06/09/2019	18	7	76	Admin Procedure	Review of the Election Monitoring & Support Centre (EMSC).
08/09/2019	36	6	81	Admin Procedure	#INEC Unveils Communication Policy
09/09/2019	39	8	115	Admin Procedure	submission of nominations by party officials for Kogi & Bayelsa
11/09/2019	59	11	140	Admin Procedure	Results of Primaries By Political Parties
12/09/2019	70	12	186	Admin Procedure	Press Release List And Particulars Of Candidates For Kogi Bayelsa
13/09/2019	44	9	126	Admin Procedure	Day 2 of the Election Monitoring and Support Centre (EMSC)
15/09/2019	49	16	122	Others	Screening of the Movie "4th Republic" with Key Stakeholders in Lokoja
16/09/2019	83	14	282	CVE	Voter Education and Publicity
17/09/2019	55	8	266	Others	Screening of the Movie "4th Republic" for students
19/09/2019	74	17	141	PVC	commencement of the collection of Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs)
24/09/2019	49	11	93	PVC	collection of Permanent Voters' Card for #KogiBayelsaDecides
25/09/2019	55	6	155	Others	The TEI-Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool (EVMAT)
26/09/2019	125	27	446	Women	Review of the 2019 General Elections from Gender Perspectives with INEC
27/09/2019	318	56	669	Women	Review of the 2019 General Elections from a Gender Perspective
28/09/2019	19	6	50	PVC	collection of Permanent Voters' Cards for #BayelsaKogiDecides
29/09/2019	46	14	101	PVC	collection of Permanent Voters' Cards for #BayelsaKogiDecides
30/09/2019	51	7	128	Admin Procedure	Final List of Candidates #KogiDecides2019

Total	3,045	1,687	11,189		
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6.0. Analysis on INEC website (INEC press release portal and INEC NEWS)

For the period July-September 2019, the home page of INEC's website www.inecnigeria.org contained sub portals to access information on the following:

- Kogi And Bayelsa Election Updates
- INEC Press Release
- All You Need To Know About The 2019 General Elections
- What Happens On Election Day?
- Election Observers
- Talk To INEC

With respect to the Press release on the portal at <https://www.inecnigeria.org/resources/press-release/>, six press releases were posted for the period July-September with the following headlines;

- INEC urges UNDP to support SDE phase 1 project;
- INEC trains staff on media monitoring/ information management;
- INEC commissions survey group on 2019 elections;
- INEC fixes August 30 for close of receipt of application by observer groups for Kogi and Bayelsa elections;
- Four parties field candidates for Pengana state constituency by-election;
- INEC expresses sensitivity to cost of elections.

However, under the INEC NEWS sub domain, <https://inecnews.com> there was no post for the period under review as the last post under the INEC NEWS was in June 2019.

Overall, it can be deduced that there is a general under-utilization or very little utilization of INEC's website for the dissemination of updated or current information (press releases, updates or videos) on INEC's activities when compared to the tweets on the Commission's Twitter social media platform.

OBSERVATIONS/CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Observations/conclusion

- This report, which represents a part of the post-election coverage and reportage of the electoral process and democratic governance issues, has established that media reporting continues to be skewed in favour of the two leading political parties: the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the main opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) as major news source with the two political parties getting a combined 92.32% of the total media coverage given all the political parties. While APC got 781 media mentions amounting to 48.39%, PDP got 709 mentions which accounts for 43.93%. However out of all the other 89 parties, only 27 parties, representing 8%, had media coverage, and this showed a consistent pattern as had been witnessed in previous media monitoring that focus on the pre-elections and the election period. The two other political parties that came third and fourth in the scale of media coverage are much far behind in terms of the scope of media coverage they got: while Social Democratic Party (SDP) got 32 mentions or 2%, the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) got 30 mentions at 1.86%.
- With the general elections over, the media coverage expectedly shifted to the election petition cases with 1,548 reports published on this issue: this took 49.22% of all political and governance issues reported. This is encouraging as the media paid attention to the right of the public to know what was happening at the election tribunals and the courts.
- Women, People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs), and Youths continued to get lower media coverage compared to the Men, a trend which has been observed since the beginning of the monitoring project. Of 3,143 reports monitored within this period on Governance Issue, a total of 36 items (1.14%) were published on Youths; 81 items constituting 2.6% were published on women; and 20 relevant editorial reports representing 0.64% were published on PLWDs.
- As sources of relevant editorial items, the men also dominated as sources that the media contacted and whose voices were mainly reflected. Men's perspectives were captured in 3,578 reports or a whopping 91.62% whereas women were contacted as sources 126 times or 3.22%; Youths were used as sources 33 times constituting 0.85% and PLWDs in only 7 instances, constituting 0.2%.
- The absence of hate speech and the degree of conflict sensitivity shows impressive compliance with the provisions of the Nigerian Media Code of Election Coverage relating to avoidance of hate speech and being conflict sensitive. Unfortunately, there

was no substantial compliance with the provisions of the Code on equitable access for parties and candidates, women, youths and PLWDs.

Recommendations

The Media

It has consistently been emphasised the elections and democratic governance reporting should be all-inclusive. The female folks and the youths constitute meaningful percentage of the Nigerian population; so also PLWDs, who also have their special needs and need adequate media space to project their issues. For these and other reasons, there is also a need for conscious consideration for these sets of stakeholders in media reportage so that their issues are properly brought into the limelight to ensure that they are not consigned to the backyard of national discourse and political representation. It is therefore imperative for the media to inculcate inclusive diversity into the reportage of political and governance issues.

- Media managers need to sit with their editorial teams to strategise on the best ways of ensuring inclusive political and electoral reporting and equitable coverage of all political stakeholders, especially the political parties and candidates.

☐ Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

- There is the need for INEC to issue press releases regularly in response to the concerns of parties, candidates, the media, civil society groups, the citizens, etc, while also striving to ensure that such press releases and other information dissemination are more evenly reported in the media through monitoring.
 - INEC should strive to bridge the observed gaps in its engagement of followers on its twitter handle. It is worrisome that while there are about 1.4 million followers of INEC on twitter, engagement of its post generated only 3,045 retweets; 11,189 'likes' and 1,687 comments, despite the large followership. This may however be an indication that 305 tweets was not much for a three-month period or that the tweets were not of much importance to its followers.
- There is the need for INEC to conduct an administrative appraisal on its information dissemination strategies, both in the mainstream and on social media platforms.
 - To the extent that the monitoring report also shows very minimal or almost passive utilization of the INEC website, particularly the Press Release and INEC news sub portal for information dissemination, there is the need for INEC to rejig its information dissemination approach, especially in utilizing its website as priority information dissemination channels for its Press Release and News Update information.