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

(An analysis of trends in reportage of the 2019 electoral process by 12 print/online newspapers in April, May, and June, 2019)

Table of Contents

1.0   INTRODUCTION

This report covers the outcome of the monitoring of twelve (12) print and online newspapers conducted in the months of April, May and June 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).

It highlights the findings and analysis of trends in reportage of the 2019 electoral process by the twelve print/online newspapers listed above, undertaken as a media content monitoring activity under component 4b of the **European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN)** Project being implemented by the International Press Centre (IPC), Lagos-Nigeria.

The 24-month media monitoring activity is structured to span 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 is to provide evidence-backed information on state of media performance in the coverage of the on-going electoral processes and the 2019 elections. The report therefore highlights observed gaps and shortcomings in the monitored reports.

The outcome is expected to be used as tools to engage with journalists, media managers and media gate keepers, including at quarterly media roundtables to be convened as part of the EU-SDGN project, on the need to adhere to professional and ethical standards in the coverage of the electoral process and elections while 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 incorporates the documentation of electoral (campaign) promises of presidential candidates as were reported by the media outlets being monitored in their reportage of campaign and other activities geared towards the 2019 elections. The campaign promises shall be collated, documented, printed and widely disseminated.

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 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 amount of media access/coverage given to electoral activities involving or about youths.

- ➢ **Women and the Electoral Process**

Here, the stories were monitored to specifically determine the amount of media access/ overage 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 amount 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 relating 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 sources used.

> ➢ **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 aspirants of the political parties.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in extracting the required information and indices for analysis entailed a number of structured techniques and methodology by trained media monitors tasked with respective tasks 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 "Mentions" 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);
- Campaign Finance.

4.0   FINDINGS

4.1 Total Relevant Reports

For the three months: April, May and June, 2019 that this report covers, a total of 4,126 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 specific issues).

For the print monitoring, **BluePrint** published the highest number of relevant reports with 635 (at 15.39%) followed by **Daily Sun** which published 502 relevant reports (at 12.16%). **Daily Trust** published 441 relevant reports (10.68%); **Vanguard** published 402 reports (9.74%) and **The Nation** published 377 (9.13%). **Nigerian Tribune** published 322 (7.8%).

Others include **The Guardian** which published 284 reports (6.9%); **The Punch**, 278 relevant reports (6.73%); **Premium Times** published 269 reports (6.51%); **Leadership**, 247 (at 6%)

ThisDay published 209 relevant reports (5.06%), while **The Cable** published 160 (3.9%).

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

Ser. No.	Publications	Total Items	Percentage
1.	Blueprint	635	15.39%
2.	Daily Sun	502	12.16%
3.	Daily Trust	441	10.68%
4.	Leadership	247	6%
5.	Nigerian Tribune	322	7.8%
6.	Premium Times	269	6.51%
7.	The Cable	160	3.9%
8.	The Guardian	284	6.9%
9.	The Nation	377	9.13%
10.	The Punch	278	6.73%
11.	ThisDay	209	5.06%
12.	Vanguard	402	9.74%
Total		4,126	100%

The chart below shows the frequency of publication of relevant reports by the newspapers monitored
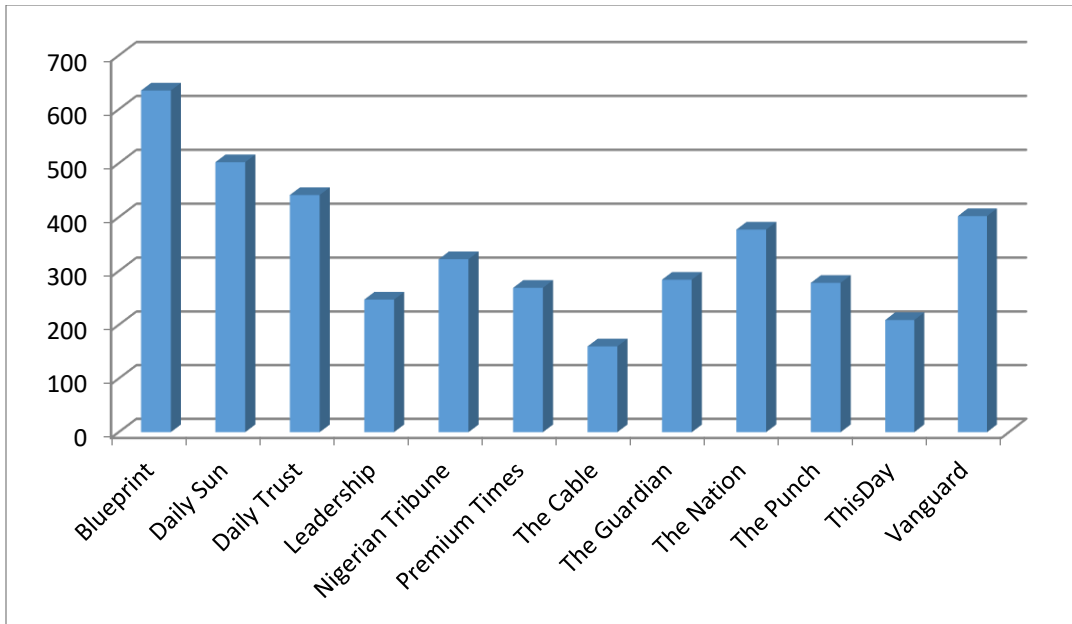
The chart below shows the percentage frequency of publication of relevant reports by the newspapers monitored
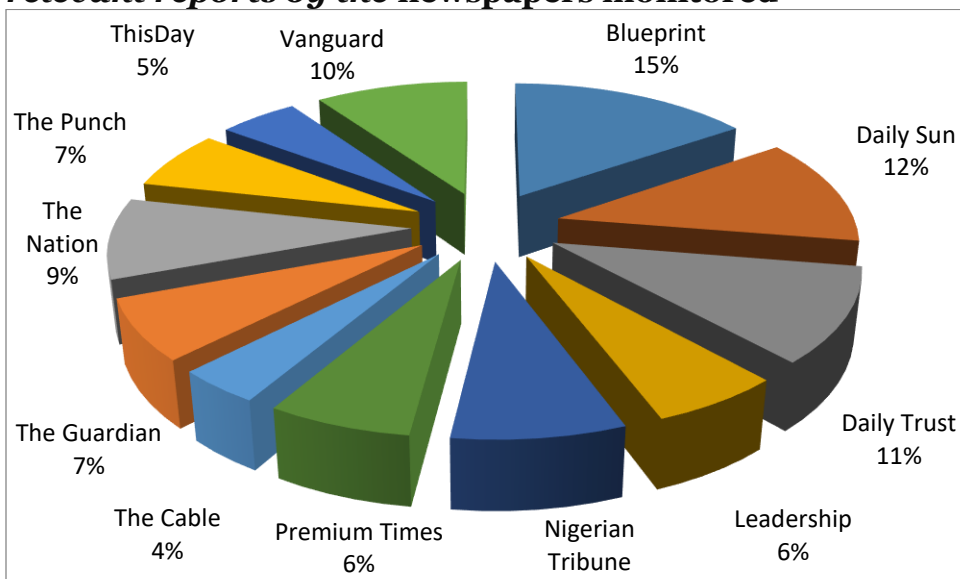
4.2. THEMATIC FOCUS

Of the total 4,126 reports found relevant and monitored between April and June, 2019 on all the relevant thematic issues published in the newspapers, the following were found:

4.2.1 Outcomes on coverage of Political Parties

i. Mentions

Between April and June, 2019, the ruling All Progressives Congress (**APC**) got the highest number of mentions at 705 times (55.95%), followed by the People's Democratic Party (**PDP)** which got 452 mentions (at 35.87%).

Other political parties were not equally covered. Some of these include:

- **All Progressives Grand Alliance** (**APGA**) also got 55 mentions (at 4.36%).

- **Social Democratic Party (SDP)** got 8 mentions (0.63%);

- **Young Progressives Party (YPP) also** got 10 mentions (0.79%).

ii. Frequency of mentions in the newspapers (April, May and June, 2019)

BluePrint had the highest number of mentions on the activities of the **All Progressives Party** (APC) with 119 reports. This was followed by **Daily Trust** newspapers with 97 mentions.

On mentions of the activities of the **People's Democratic Party** (PDP), **BluePrint, Daily Trust and Daily Sun** each had the highest mention with **66** reports.

On mentions relating to the **Social Democratic Party** (SDP), **BluePrint** had the highest with 2 mentions each;

Vanguard and Leadership each reported **Young Progressives Party (YPP)** the most with 3 mentions.

The table below shows the frequency of reportage given each of the registered political parties by the newspapers monitored

S/N	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
1.	African Democratic Congress	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
2.	All Progressive Congress	119	72	97	54	60	43	32	35	64	38	27	64	**705**
3.	All Progressive Grand Alliance	14	21	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	10	**55**
4.	Alliance For Democracy	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	**3**
5.	Allied Congress Party Of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
6.	Allied People's Movement	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**
7.	Democratic Alternative	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**3**
8.	Democratic People Congress	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**2**

No.	Party													Total
9.	Kowa Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
10.	Labour Party	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	**4**
11.	Mega Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
12.	National Conscience Party	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
13.	People Party of Nigeria	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**2**
14.	Peoples Democratic Party	64	64	64	27	38	28	23	25	30	30	19	40	**452**
15.	Peoples Progressive Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
16.	Peoples Redemption Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
17.	Peoples Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
18.	Progressive Peoples' Alliance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
19.	Re-Build Nigeria Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

20.	Reform and Advancement Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
21.	Restoration Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
22.	Social Democratic Party	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	**8**
23.	Socialite Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
24.	United Democratic Party	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
25.	United Nigerian People's Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
26.	United Progressive Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
27.	Unity Party of Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
28.	YES Electorates Solidarity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
29.	Young Progressive Party	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	**10**

30.	Young Democratic Party	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
31.	Zenith Labour Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		204	163	167	88	102	74	56	66	97	73	48	122	1260

4.2.2 Political Conflict

There were 115 reports on political conflicts, accounting for 3.2% of identified relevant reports.

4.2.3   Election Petition:

There were 1,133 reports (at 31.41%) published on **Election Disputes**

4.3   Campaigns:

A total of 345 reports were published on campaigns by **political parties' Candidates,** particularly during the period of election re-runs in April, 2019. This represents 9.6%.

4.4 Conflict Sensitivity

There was no evidence of conflict-insensitive reporting observed in the course of the monitoring.

4.5 Hate speech

No evidence of hate speech was observed in the monitored reports

4.6. Youths and the Electoral Process

i.   Number of relevant items

A total of 15 items (0.41%) were published on Youths out of 3,607 reports monitored on thematic issues.

ii. Mentions (where youths are not the focus of the story)

At 4%, Youths got 105 mentions.

iii. Use as sources

The perspectives of youths as sources were few with **Yout**hs constituting 0.71% or 26 instances.

4.7 Women and the Electoral Process

A total of 50 items out 3,607, constituting 1.38% were published on women issues.

i. Mentions (where women are not the focus of the story)

At 2.63%, Women got 10 mentions.

ii. Women as Sources

A total of 3,642 persons were recorded as sources speaking in the identified relevant reports within the period. (Sources are the persons who were either directly quoted or indirectly paraphrased or referenced in the relevant reports that were analysed).

Of the total sources, **women** made only 2.91% of people whose voices were heard in the news as their voices and perspectives were captured in **106** of the relevant editorial items monitored.

In contrast, men's perspectives were captured in 3,265 reports or 89.64%, thereby dominating as sources of news reports.

iii.   Portrayal

No negative portrayal was recorded during the period.

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

There were 7 relevant editorial reports published on PLWDs out of 3,607 items monitored on the thematic issues, representing 0.19%.

i.   Mentions ((where PLWDs are not the focus of the story)

PLWDs were mentioned once in each of **The Guardian, The Nation** and **BluePrint** between April and June, 2019.

ii.   Use as Sources

The **PLWD**s constituted 0.1%, having been used in 3 occasions as sources.

4.9. The Electoral Management Body (EMB) - INEC
i.   Summary of findings

A total of 588 reports were published on the activities of **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** and its personnel out of 3,607 items monitored on the thematic issues. These reports on Nigeria's elections ombudsman, represent 16.3%.

ii. Mentions (where INEC is not the focus of the story)

At 23.72%, INEC got 90 mentions out of 379 total mentions allotted to Men, Women, PLWDs, Youths and INEC.

iii. INEC: Use as source

INEC officials were sources in 242 reports (at 6.6%) of all the stakeholders whom the media consulted for information.

Other findings around INEC include:

- **Continuous Voters' Registration:**

This was not reported at all. INEC had declared registration closed earlier before this period under review.

*The table below shows the frequency of publications on the thematic Focus areas by the newspapers monitored*

Thematic Focus	Blue Print	Daily Sun	Daily Trust	Leader Ship	Nigerian Tribune	Premium Times	The Cable	The Guardian	The Nation	The Punch	ThisDay	Vanguard	Total
Gender (Women)	14	4	5	5	2	2	0	6	5	3	1	3	50
Youth	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	15
PLWDs	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	7
Political Conflict	11	33	10	14	10	5	6	6	8	3	6	3	115

Election Disputes	199	72	121	45	122	114	64	70	82	102	51	91	**1133**
Campaigns	70	48	42	8	33	18	9	27	38	15	8	29	**345**
Voter and Civic Education	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	**5**
Continuous Voters Registration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Permanent Voters Card	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	**2**
INEC	97	95	59	19	59	48	23	42	51	42	25	28	**588**
Campaign Finance	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	**7**
Voting	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**3**
Others	178	177	141	81	75	60	42	111	153	94	78	147	**1337**
Total	579	433	380	176	301	248	145	266	344	262	170	303	**3,607**

The chart below shows the frequency of publications on the thematic Focus areas by the newspapers monitored
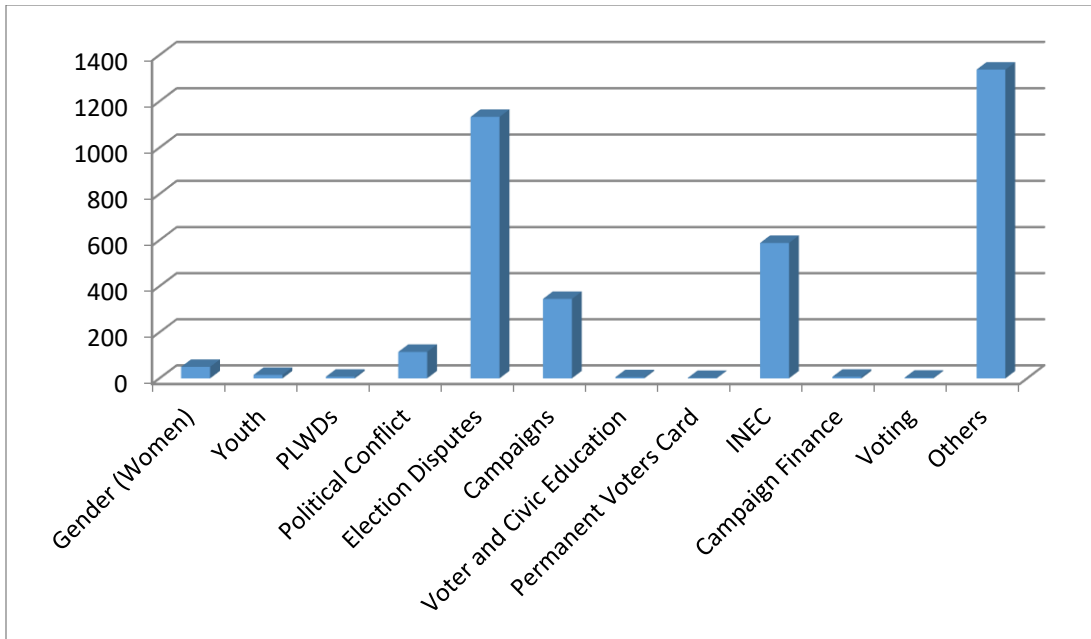
The chart below shows the percentage frequency of publications on the thematic Focus areas by the newspapers monitored
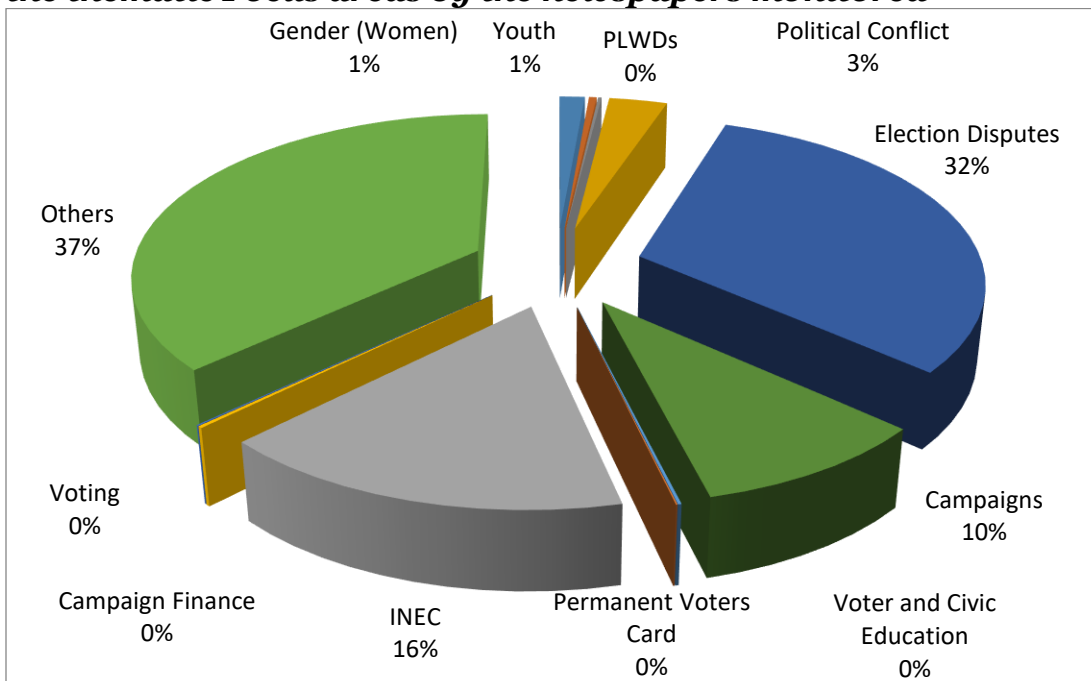
4.10   Civic and Voter Education:

There were also 5 reports on **Civic and Voter Education** out of 3,607 reports on all thematic issues, (representing 0.13%); while **Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs)** had 2 reports (at 0.05%).

4.11 Campaign Finance:

There were 7 reports focused on **Campaign Finance** (at 0.19%).

4.12 Voting:

3 reports (0.08%) were published on voting.

4.13 Others:

A total of 1,337 items were monitored under the category of "Others" (at 37.06%). These refer to other relevant issues on democracy and election which did not fall under any of the thematic issues relevant to this monitoring exercise.

The table below shows the frequency of use of the different sources for identified relevant items

Media	Male	Female	Male Youth	Female Youth	Male Youth with Disability	Female Youth with Disability	INEC	Total
BluePrint	455	25	10	0	1	0	50	**541**
Daily Sun	378	6	4	0	0	0	26	**414**
Daily Trust	348	20	5	0	0	0	22	**395**

Leadership	226	6	0	0	0	0	3	**235**
Nigerian Tribune	261	7	2	0	0	0	17	**287**
Premium Times	181	6	0	0	0	0	34	**221**
The Cable	129	4	0	0	0	0	15	**148**
The Guardian	233	6	2	0	1	0	14	**256**
The Nation	305	12	0	0	1	0	17	**335**
The Punch	237	5	1	0	0	0	16	**259**
ThisDay	182	4	1	0	0	0	9	**196**
Vanguard	330	5	1	0	0	0	19	**355**
Total	**3265**	**106**	**26**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**242**	**3,642**

The chart below shows the frequency of use of the different sources for identified relevant items
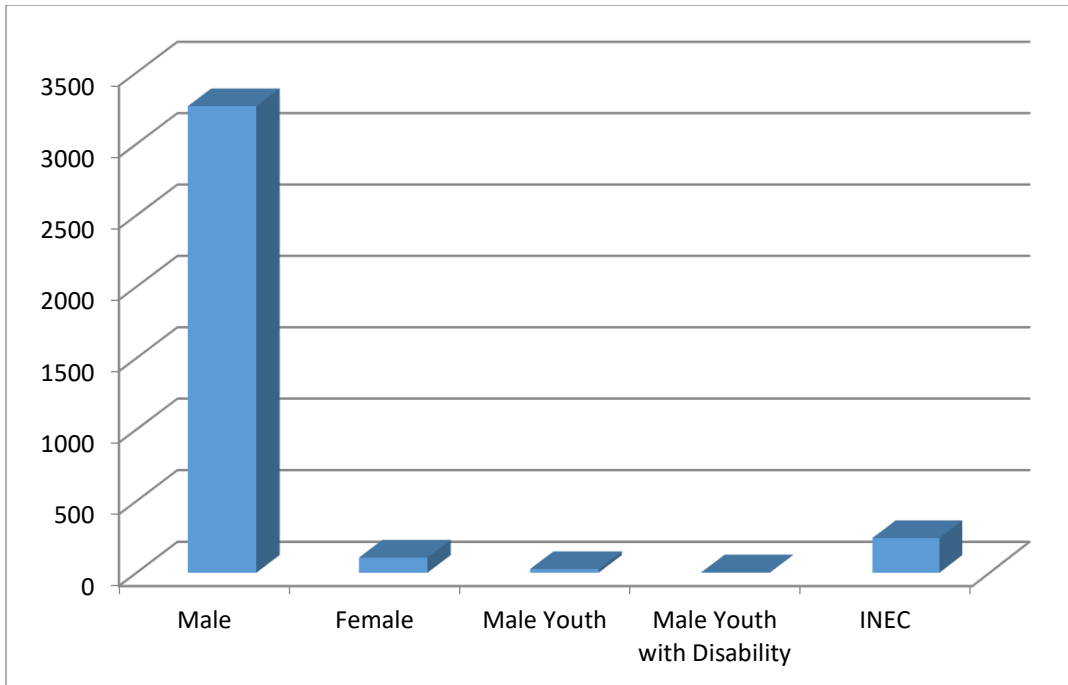
The chart below shows the percentage frequency of use of the different sources for identified relevant items
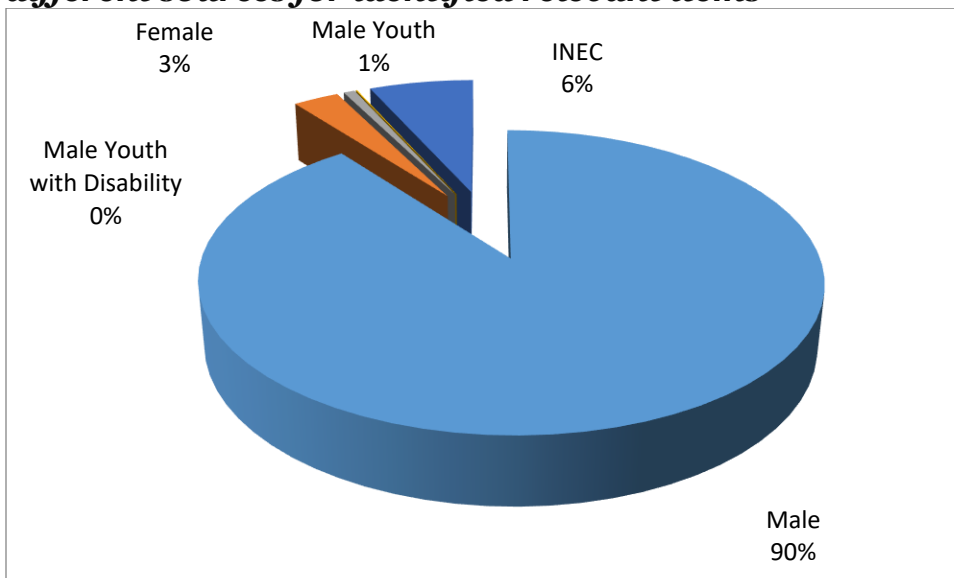
4.14 Placement/Page Prominence

i. Location of relevant items

Of the 4,126 relevant reports identified and analysed, a total of 2,622 reports (63.54%) were published on the **Inside Pages.** Another 418 reports, (10.12%) were published on the **Front Pages** while 12 relevant reports were published on the **Back Pages** (accounting for 0.29%) and 19 reports (0.5%) 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 320 reports were published as **Top Stories** (at 7.75%); 735 reports were published as **Inside Stories**, representing 17.8%.

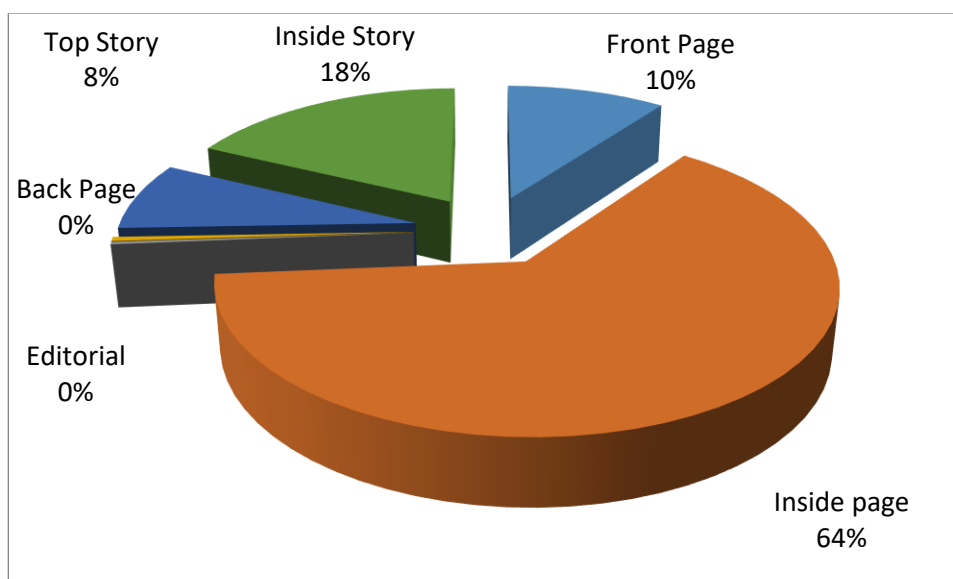*The table below shows the degree of prominence given to identified relevant reports*

Newspapers Monitored	Front Page	Inside page	Back Page	Editorial	Top Story	Inside Story	Total
BluePrint	0	0	0	2	137	496	**635**
Daily Sun	58	436	5	3	0	0	**502**
Daily Trust	48	389	0	4	0	0	**441**
Leadership	16	230	1	0	0	0	**247**
Nigerian Tribune	75	243	2	2	0	0	**322**
Premium Times	0	0	0	0	91	178	**269**

The Cable	3	4	0	0	92	61	**160**
The Guardian	36	247	0	1	0	0	**284**
The Nation	55	321	0	1	0	0	**377**
The Punch	48	226	0	4	0	0	**278**
ThisDay	39	164	4	2	0	0	**209**
Vanguard	40	362	0	0	0	0	**402**
Total	**418**	**2622**	**12**	**19**	**320**	**735**	**4,126**

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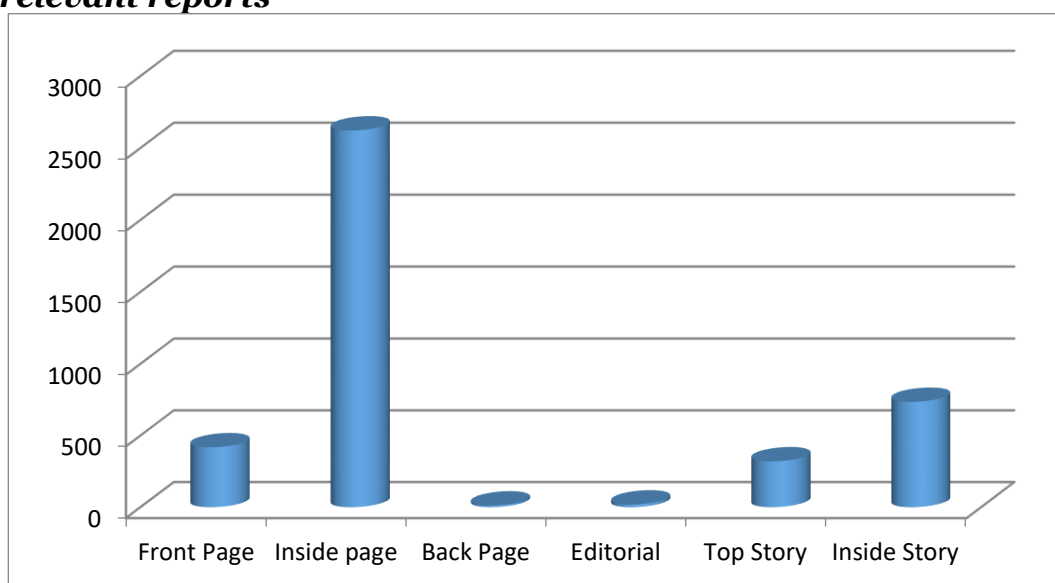
The table below shows the percentage degree of prominence given to identified relevant reports

Pie chart:
- Top Story 8%
- Inside Story 18%
- Front Page 10%
- Back Page 0%
- Editorial 0%
- Inside page 64%

4.15. Report Formats

Out of 4,126 total reports identified as relevant and monitored, 3,506 reports were published as **News** (at 85%).

Another 180 of the relevant reports were published as **Features** at (4.36%). There were 25 **Editorials** at (0.6%); while 188 reports were **Opinion articles** at (4.55%).

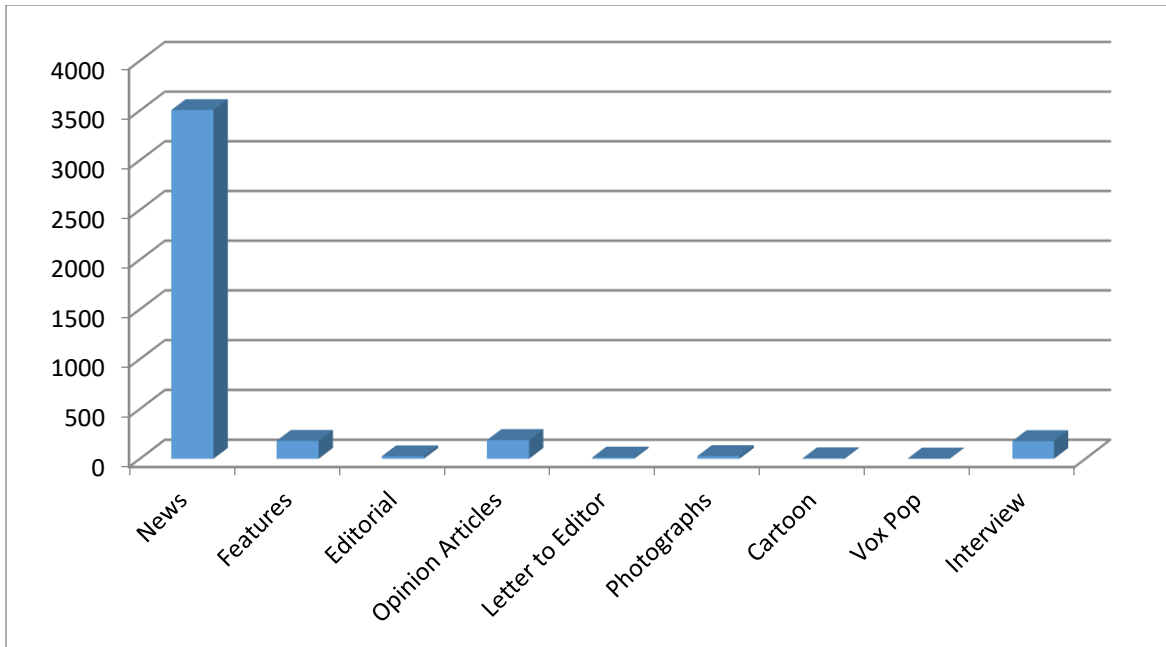Another 13 reports were **Letters to the Editor** (0.31%); and 27 were **photographs** (0.65%).

Others include 5 reports published as **Cartoons** (0.12%); 3 as **Vox Pops** (0.07%) while 178 **Interviews** were published at (4.31%).

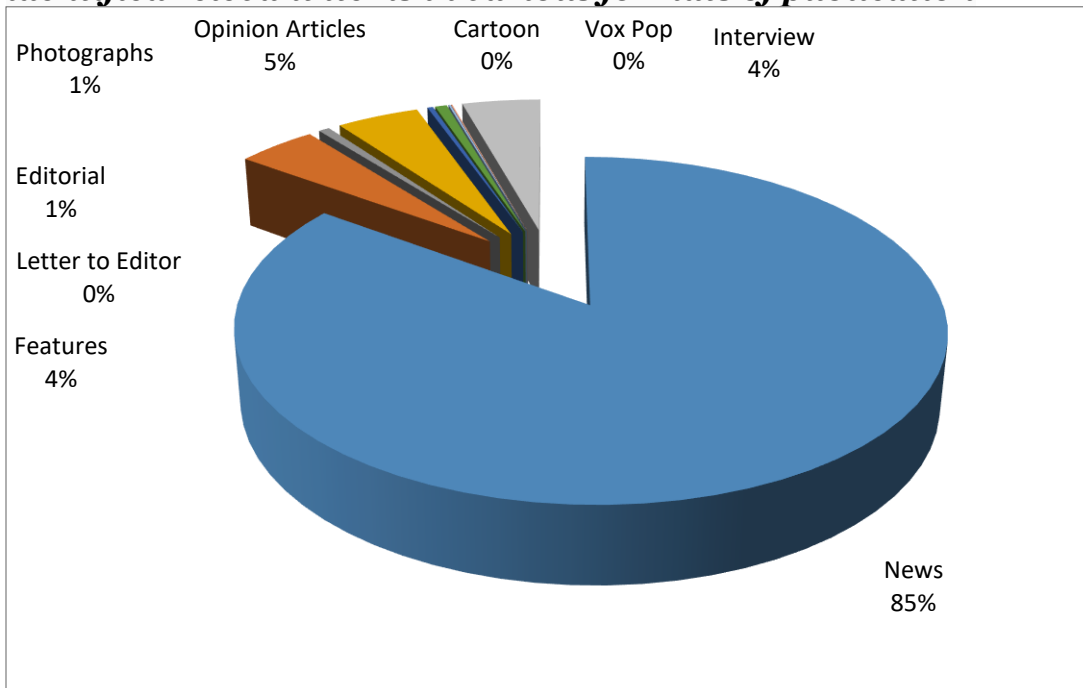1 **Video** was found relevant within the period, representing 0.02%.

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

Newspapers Monitored	News	Features	Editorial	Opinion Articles	Letter to Editor	Photographs	Cartoon	Vox Pop	Interview	Video	Total
BluePrint	580	21	3	12	0	5	0	0	14	0	**635**
Daily Sun	361	17	3	45	0	7	1	0	68	0	**502**
Daily Trust	383	19	5	12	2	3	1	0	16	0	**441**
Leadership	199	12	1	22	0	0	2	0	11	0	**247**
Nigerian Tribune	271	14	2	11	2	2	0	2	18	0	**322**
Premium Times	247	9	2	6	0	0	0	0	4	1	**269**
The Cable	155	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	**160**
The Guardian	233	30	1	14	2	1	0	0	3	0	**284**
The Nation	294	31	2	23	3	1	1	0	22	0	**377**
The Punch	260	2	3	5	2	0	0	1	5	0	**278**
ThisDay	167	10	1	22	2	2	0	0	5	0	**209**
Vanguard	356	12	2	16	0	5	0	0	11	0	**402**
Total	**3506**	**180**	**25**	**188**	**13**	**27**	**5**	**3**	**178**	**1**	**4126**

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

Opinion Articles 5%
Cartoon 0%
Vox Pop 0%
Interview 4%
Photographs 1%
Editorial 1%
Letter to Editor 0%
Features 4%
News 85%

5. Comparative Analysis of Findings Generated between January-March (2019) and April-May, 2019 (2019)

i.   Total relevant reports

A total of 17,485 stories were identified and analysed during the period of **January-March, 2019.** These dropped by about 75% to 4,126 between April and June, 2019.

ii.   Performance of the Newspapers in both periods

In **January-March, 2019, w**hile **The Punch** published the highest number of 1,863 relevant reports (**10.63%)** out of 17,485 stories monitored during the period, **BluePrint** published the highest number of relevant reports with 635 (at 15.39%) out of 4,126 reports in **April-June, 2019**,

iii.   Coverage of Political Parties
(January-March, 2019)

Of the total 17,485 stories found relevant, while **All Progressives Party** (**APC**) got the highest number of mentions at 2,765 times (54.43%), **People's Democratic Party** (**PDP)** got 1,735 mentions (at 34.15%).

It therefore means that **APC** got an average of one mention in **6 reports** within the period, while **PDP** got an average of one mention in **10 reports** respectively.

(April-May, 2019)

Of a total of 4,126, while **APC** got the highest number of 705 mentions (55.95%), **PDP** got 452 mentions (35.87%).

It also shows that **APC** got an average of one mention in approximately **6 reports**, while **PDP** got an average of one mention in approximately **10 reports** respectively.

iv.   Media in Relation to Political Parties' Reporting
(January-March, 2019)

In reporting political parties, **The Nation** had the highest number of mentions on the activities of the **APC** with 377 reports; while, **Vanguard** reported the **PDP** the most with **199** reports.

(April-June, 2019)

While, **BluePrint** had the highest number of mentions on the activities of the **APC** with 119 reports; **BluePrint, Daily Trust and Daily Sun** each had the highest mention with **66** reports on **PDP**.

v.   Thematic Issues: Political Conflict

(January-March, 2019)

Of **15,079** reports found to be on thematic issues, 463 **(3.07%)** reports focused on Political Conflicts. Of these, **The Nation** published the highest with 66 reports (14%).

(April-June, 2019)

Of **3,607** reports on thematic issues, **115** reports focused on political conflicts, **(3.2%).** Of these, Daily Sun published the highest with **33** items **(28.7%)**

vi.   Thematic Issues: Election Disputes

(January-March, 2019)

1,083 reports focused on **Election Disputes (7.2%)**. Of these, **Vanguard** published the highest with **140 reports (13%).**

(April-June, 2019)

Reports of **election disputes** rose to **1,133 (31.41%).** Of these, **BluePrint** published the highest with **199 reports (17.56%).**

vii.   Thematic Issues: Campaigns

(January-March, 2019)

15,079 reports were monitored on thematic issues within the period. Of these, media reports on Campaigns were 3,804 (**25.23%). Of these, Daily Sun** published the highest with **564** reports (**14.83%).**

(April-June, 2019)

Though there were a couple of re-run/supplementary elections within this period, reports on Political Campaigns dropped to **345 (9.56%).** Of these, **BluePrint** published the highest with **70 reports (20.28%).**

viii. Thematic Issues: Youths

(January-March, 2019)

There were 69 reports published on **Youth affairs (0.46%)**. Of these, **Daily Trust** published the highest on **Youths** with 14 reports (20.3%).

(April-June, 2019)

The data on Youths came down to **15 reports (0.41%)**. Of these, **BluePrint** published the highest on **Youths** with **5 reports (33.33%).**

ix.   Thematic Issues: Gender Sensitive Reporting

(January-March, 2019)

55 reports focused on Women within the period **(0.36%)**. Of these, **The Guardian** published the highest on women with 10 reports (18.18%).

(April-June, 2019)

50 reports focused on Women within the period **(1.4%)**. Of these, **BluePrint** published the highest on women with **14 reports (28%).**

x.   Thematic Issues: People Living with Disabilities (PWDS)

(January-March, 2019)

21 reports (0.14%) focused on PWDs. Of these, **Blueprint** published the highest with **5 reports** (24%)**.**

(April-June, 2019)

A total of 7 reports (0.19%) were published on **PLWDs.** Of these, **The Nation** published the highest with **2 reports (28.6%)**

xi.   The Electoral Management Body (EMB) - INEC

(January-March, 2019)

2,532 **(16.8%)** were published on INEC within the period. Of these, **The Punch** published the highest with 389 reports (15.36%).

(April-June, 2019)

Reports on INEC dropped to 588 (16.30%). Of these, BluePrint published the highest with 97 reports (16.5%).

xii.   Location of relevant items

(January-March, 2019)

Of the total of 17,485 reports identified and analysed within the period, 1,549 reports (8.86%) were on the **Front Pages**; 13,779 (**78.8%)** on the **Inside Pages;** 127 reports (**0.73%)** were on the Back Pages. **Only 167 (0.9%)** of all reports were featured on the Editorial Pages.

(April-June, 2019)

Total reports within this period dropped to 4,126. Of these, 2,622 reports (63.54%) were published on the **Inside Pages.** Another 418 reports, (10.12%) were published on the **Front Pages** while 12 reports were published on the **Back Pages** (accounting for 0.29%) and 19 reports (0.5%) were published as **Editorials.**

xiii. Reports' genre

(January-March, 2019)

Of the total of 17,485 reports, 14,007 reports (80.1%) were **News;** 966 reports (5.52%) as **Features** and 124 reports (0.7%) as **Editorials.**

(April-June, 2019)

Out of 4,126 total reports identified as relevant and monitored within the period, 3,506 reports were published as **News** (at 85%).

Another 180 reports were published as **Features** at (4.36%). There were 25 **Editorials** at (0.6%).

6.   Observations/Conclusion and Recommendations

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) continued to dominate the media space as much as 705 media mentions accounting for 55.95% of the total media mentions of political parties. In the same vein, the main opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) came a close second to APC garnering 452 mentions (at 35.87%) of the total coverage/reportage of political parties. This quarter, the two parties alone got a total of 91.82 or approximately 92% of media mentions of the 31 political parties the media reported while the rest 29 of the reported parties shared a paltry 8%. In short, no newspaper mentioned the activities of 60 parties at all.

Women, youth and people living with disabilities also continued to be reported much less than men: them men continued to dominate media coverage as they were in the majority in terms of mention and as sources.

Reportage on women, Youths and People Living with Disabilities ((PLWDs) was on the low side as with other quarters reported. As thematic focus areas, the three stakeholders got only a combined total of 2% of all mentions. In no area of analysis did coverage of these stakeholders reach two digits in percentage terms.

A total of 50 items constituting 1.38% out of 3,607 were published on women issues; Women got 10 mentions accounting for 2.63% of the total mention of stakeholders; women made only 2.91% of people whose voices were heard in the news as their voices and perspectives were captured in 106 of the relevant editorial items monitored.

Issues on People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) were the subjects of editorial reports just twice in all the three months this report covers; there were 7 relevant editorial reports published on PLWDs and they constituted 0.1%, having been used in 3 occasions as sources.

The perspectives of youths as sources were few: these were 26 instances constituting 0.71% of the total; Youths got 105 mentions at 4% while there total of 15 items (0.41%) were published on Youths

In contrast, men's perspectives were captured in 3,265 reports or 89.64%. In other words, the media effectively marginalized women, youths and PLWDs in reportage.

Recommendations

The call for a policy of affirmative action or deliberate efforts to ensure the reportage of the 'lesser known' or 'unknown' parties become imperative else when Nigerians hear of these 'unknown' parties they will ask if they are Nigerian political parties. The media has the power to project some of these parties and it should do. It is recommended that in such situation where there is a contest of any sort, the media should take deliberate efforts to report all sides in the contest even if some do not seem to be doing anything.

Considering the percentage of women and youths in Nigeria's population demography, they need to be given far higher visibility and voice. In the Same vein, PLWDs, as critical stakeholders need their voices to be heard and their issues addressed. The media is the most potent vehicle through which this can be done.

For these groups therefore, the media need to put in place deliberate efforts/affirmative action to put their issues always on the table of national discourse.