

Monitoring of Print & Online Newspapers' Reporting of the 2019 Electoral Process
(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 January-April, 2020)



Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Scope	4
Methodology	8
Findings	9
The Electoral Management Body (EMB) – INEC	26
Monitoring of Media Coverage of Progress Made on Presidential Campaign Promises	30
Observations/Conclusion and Recommendations	33

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report covers the outcome of the monitoring of twelve (12) print and online newspapers for the months of January, February, March and April, 2020. 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 twitter handle Nigeria's elections ombudsman, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The report highlights the findings and analysis of trends in the reportage of the post-2019 electoral process, with particular focus on the post-election activities reported by the twelve print/online newspapers, especially as they concern the reportage of political party activities, democratic governance issues and INEC's activities in relation to its engagement with the community of voters and the citizens.

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. A part of the EU-SDGN project entailed a 24-month media monitoring activity from May 2018 through to April 2020, which was 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 overall objectives of the media monitoring is to provide evidence-backed information on the state of media performance in the coverage of the electoral processes and the 2019 elections, highlighting observed gaps and shortcomings, and utilizing 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 have since been released by IPC.

This report, which captured the last four months of the media monitoring exercise (January-April 2020) shall form part of the final output of the media monitoring activity. This shall entail the compilation of findings from all previous reports with key highlights and for publication and dissemination to diverse stakeholder groups.

2,000 copies of the report shall be published 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 four-month period under review.

The categories of issues monitored were:

- **Political Parties**

Here, the stories (news, features, interviews, editorials, analyses, 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 the 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 (PLWDS) 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 PLWDS.

- **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, by the media and through INEC's online/social media platforms.

- **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 in respect of the political/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, and interview, Letter to the Editor, Photograph, and Opinion etc.

- **Campaign Promises**

Here, the reports were monitored, in particular reference to the implementation of post-election governance issues, with special attention on reports associated with the implementation of President Buhari's campaign promises.

Draft

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 newspaper 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 2,852 news/editorial items were found relevant to the media content monitoring exercise in the 12 newspapers. These items were considered as falling under the pre-identified thematic focus and other specific issues.

For the print newspapers, **BluePrint** published the highest number of relevant reports with 369 (at 13%) followed by **Leadership** which published 336 relevant reports (at 11.78%). **The Nation** which published 333 relevant reports (at 11.7%) came third. Each of **Vanguard** and **Daily Sun** published 291 relevant reports (at 10.2%) each. **The Punch** published 255 reports (8.94%) and **Daily Trust** published 252 (8.84%). **The Guardian** published 185 (6.49%).

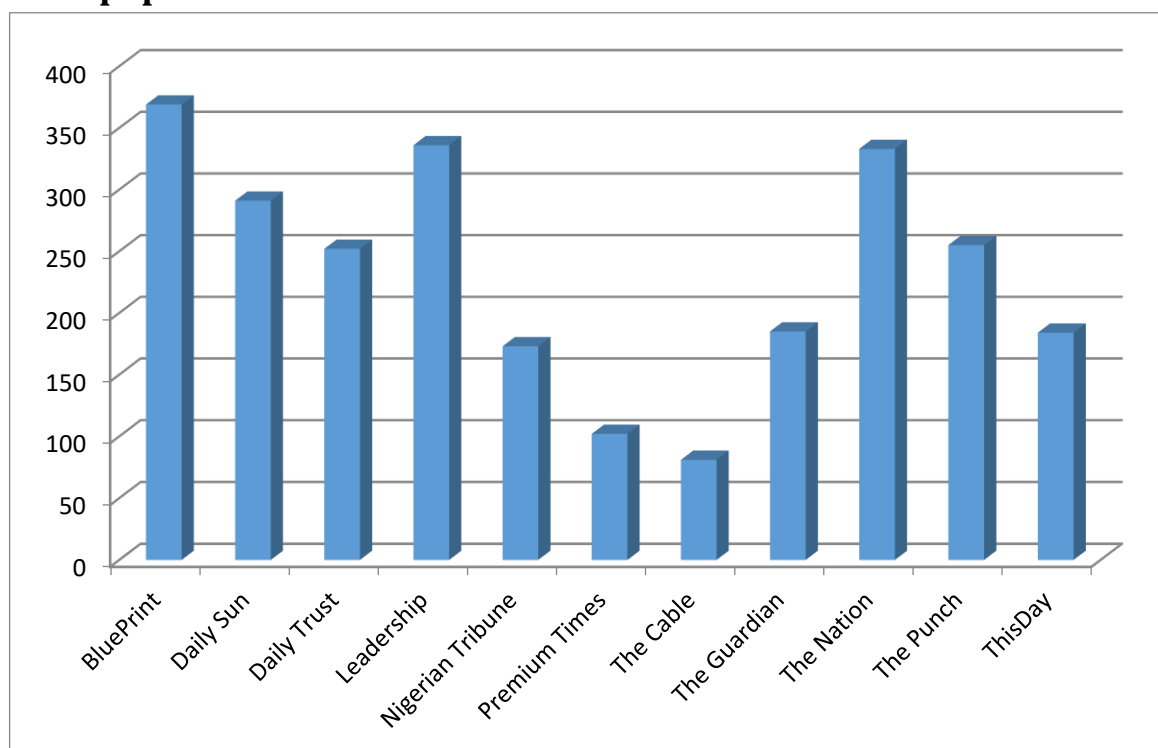
Others include **ThisDay** which published 184 reports (6.45%); Nigerian Tribune published 173 at 6%; **Premium Times** published 102 reports (3.6%); while **The Cable** published 81 (2.84%).

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

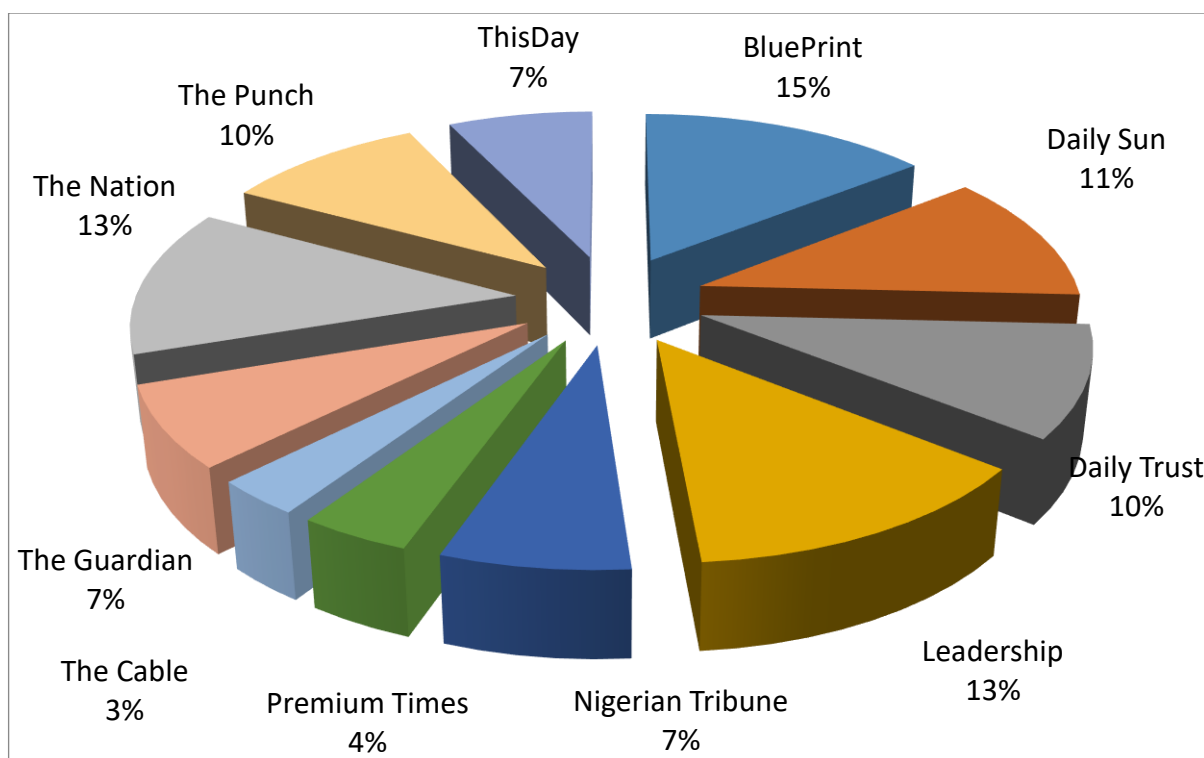
Ser. No.	Publication	Frequency/Total Items	Percentage
1.	BluePrint	369	13%
2.	Daily Sun	291	10.2%
3.	Daily Trust	252	8.84%
4.	Leadership	336	11.78%
5.	Nigerian Tribune	173	6%
6.	Premium Times	102	3.6%
7.	The Cable	81	2.84%
8.	The Guardian	185	6.9%
9.	The Nation	333	11.7%
10.	The Punch	255	8.94%
11.	ThisDay	184	6.45%

12.	Vanguard	291	10.2%
Total		2852	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

Outcomes on coverage of Political Parties

i. Mentions

Between January and April, 2020, fourteen political parties were mentioned in the media under review. Of these, the ruling **All Progressives Congress (APC)** got the highest media reportage/mentions, more than half of media mentions with 755 media mentions (69%), followed by the **People's Democratic Party (PDP)** which got 290 mentions (at 26.5%) while each of **Social Democratic Party (SDP)** and **All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA)** got 12 mentions (1%).

Other political parties that got mentions include: **African Democratic Congress (ADC)** 5 (at 0.5%); **Allied People's Movement (APM)** with 9 mentions (0.82%); **Young Progressives Party (YPP)** 7 at 0.63%; **Young democratic party (YDP)** and each got 6 mentions (at 0.54%); Table showing political parties that got "mentions" as covered in the media

The table below shows the frequency of publication of relevant reports by the newspapers monitored on the Political Parties

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
African Democratic Congress	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
All Progressive Congress	71	47	55	29	61	33	15	44	96	54	20	82	607
All Progressive Grand Alliance	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Alliance For Democracy	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Allied People's Movement	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9
Democratic People Congress	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Freedom and Justice Party	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Grassroots Development Party of Nigeria	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kowa Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Labour Party	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

New Nigeria People Party	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nigeria Community Movement Party	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peoples Democratic Party	32	40	36	27	57	20	9	28	35	48	26	36	394
Peoples Redemption Party	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peoples Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Progressive Peoples Alliance	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Social Democratic Party	5	4	5	3	9	4	1	3	4	5	2	4	49
United Democratic Party	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Young Progressive Party	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	7
Young Democratic Party	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	6

Note that 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

The Nation had the highest number of mentions of the activities of the **All Progressives Party** (APC) with 105 reports. This was followed by **Vanguard** newspaper with 100 mentions.

On mentions of the activities of the **People's Democratic Party** (PDP), **BluePrint** published had the highest mention with **44** reports, followed by **The Punch** with 41 mentions.

On mentions relating to the **Social Democratic Party** (SDP), **BluePrint** had the highest with 6 mentions; while **Daily Sun** reported **All Progressives Grand Alliance** (APGA) the most with 5 mentions.

4.2.3: Thematic Focus: Governance and Political Reporting

Out of a total of 2,852 stories monitored within this period, 2,132 of them focused on political and governance issues. These issues are categorised thus:

4.2.3.1 Political Conflict

A total of 258 reports were published on political conflicts, accounting for 12% of identified relevant reports under political and governance reporting.

4.2.3.2 Election Petition:

The newspapers published 701 reports or 32.88% on election petitions of all political and governance issues published.

4.2.3.3 Political Parties' Activities:

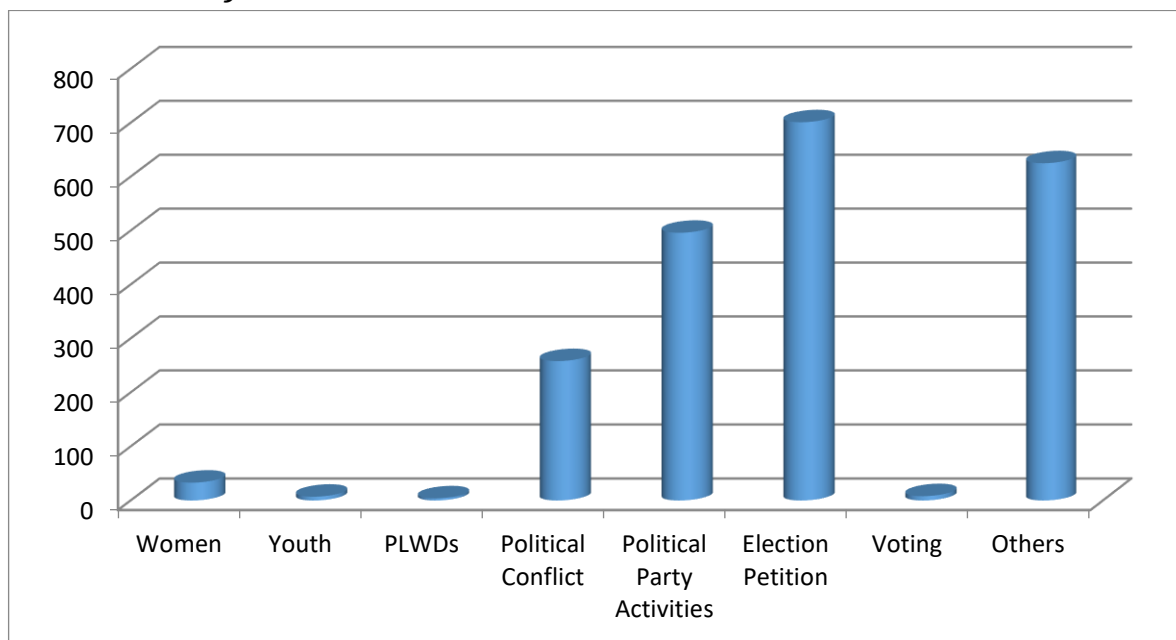
496 reports were published on various activities undertaken by political parties, representing 23.36%.

The table below shows the frequency of publication of relevant reports by on the thematic focus areas

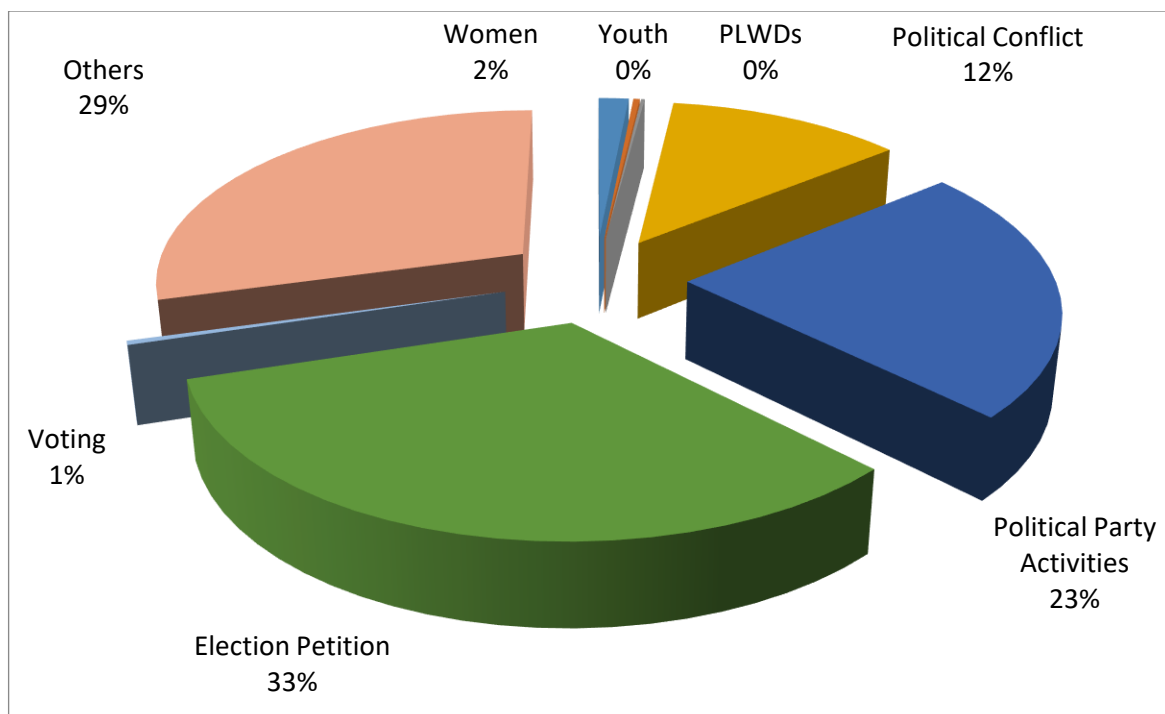
	Women	Youth	PLWDs	Political Conflict	Political Party Activities	Election Petition	Voting	Others	Total

Total	33	7	4	258	496	701	8	625	2,132
%	1.54%	0.33%	0.19%	12%	23.36%	32.88%	0.38%	29.32 %	100%

The chart below shows the frequency of publication of relevant reports by on the thematic focus areas



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of publication of relevant reports by on the thematic focus areas



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 7 items (0.5%) were published on Youths out of 2,852 reports monitored on political reporting.

ii. Mentions

Apart from reports published on the political lives of Men, Women, PLWDs, Youths as well as issues around INEC, they were merely mentioned in 565 times in other stories. Of these, Youths got 2 mentions throughout the period, representing 0.35%.

iii. Use as sources

Of all the sources used in the media reports, there were only 11 instances where youths were cited as sources, constituting only 1%.

4.5 Women and the Electoral Process

i. Number of relevant items

A total of **33** items out of **2,132**, constituting **1.54%** were published on women issues.

ii. Mentions

Out of the 565 total mentions used, women got 17 mentions (3%).

iii. Women as Sources

Of the total sources of **2,586** persons identified, women were used as source 56 times, representing only 2%, of people whose voices were heard in the news.

iv. Portrayal

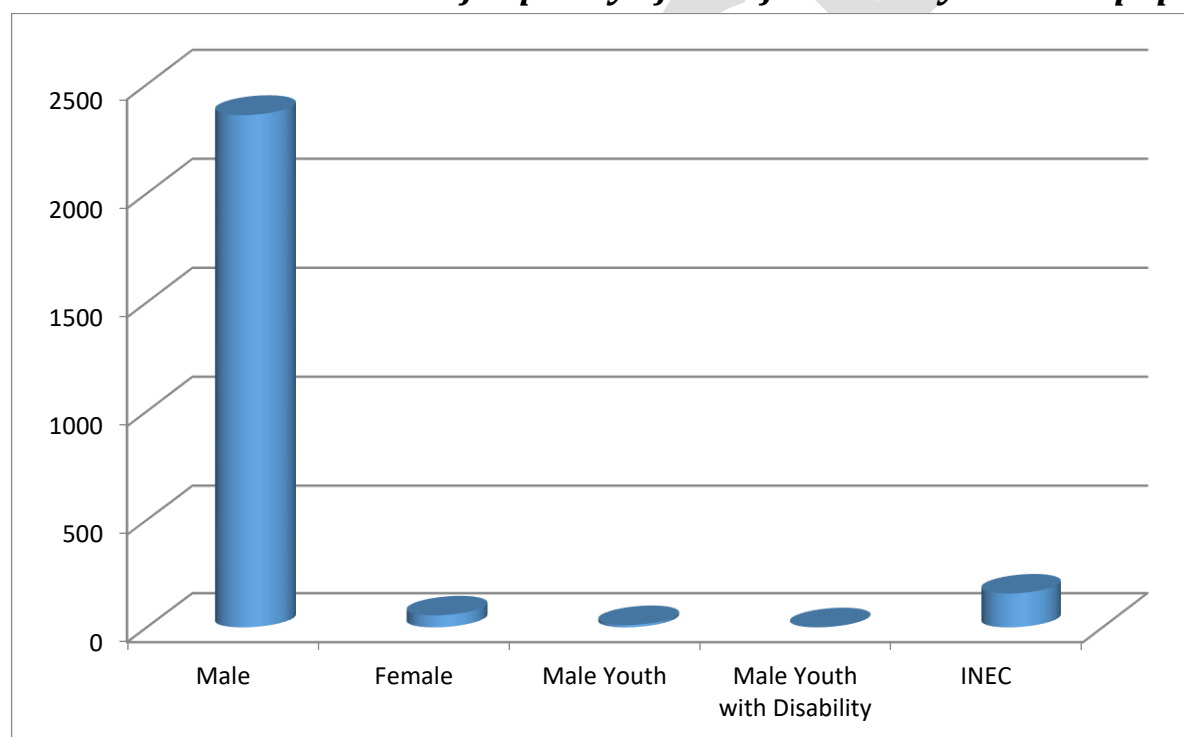
No negative portrayal of women was recorded during the period.

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

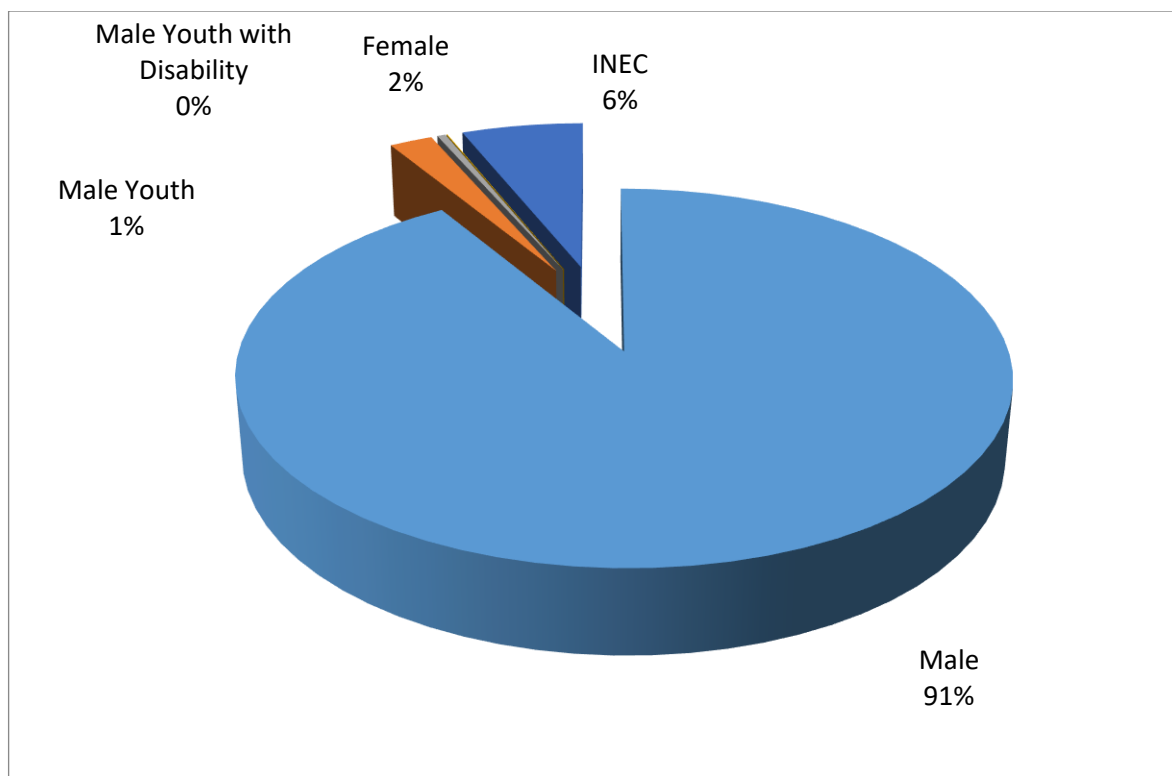
Newspapers	Male	Female	Male Youth	Male Youth with Disability	INE C	Total
BluePrint	285	7	0	0	32	324
Daily Sun	230	8	4	0	16	258
Daily Trust	189	8	3	1	19	220
Leadership	295	9	1	0	9	314
Nigerian Tribune	146	6	0	0	11	163
Premium Times	79	3	0	0	14	96
The Cable	65	1	0	0	7	73
The Guardian	157	4	2	0	8	171
The Nation	291	2	0	0	15	308

The Punch	222	3	1	0	13	239
ThisDay	151	3	0	0	8	162
Vanguard	250	2	0	0	6	258
Total	2,360	56	11	1	158	2,586

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 only 4 relevant editorial reports published on PLWDS out of 2,132 items monitored on the thematic issues, representing 0.19%.

i. Mentions

PLWDS were mentioned 4 times.

ii. Use as Sources

PLWDS were cited as sources in (1) report

.

4.7 Others:

A total of 625 items were monitored under the category of “Others” (at 29.32%). 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 use of sources by the newspapers

Used as sources	Male	Female	Male Youth	Female Youth	Male Youth with Disability	Female Youth with Disability	INEC	Total
Frequency	2,360	56	11	0	1	0	158	2,856
Percentage	91.26%	2.17%	0.53%	0%	0.01%	0%	6%	100%

4.8. Report Formats

Out of 2,852 total reports identified as relevant and monitored, 2,326 reports were published as **News** (at 81.56%) while 240 of the relevant reports were published as **Features** at (8.4%). There were 55 **Editorials** at (1.93%); 78 reports were **Opinion articles** at (2.74%); seven reports were **Letters to the Editor** (0.25%) and 12 were **photographs** (0.42%).

Others include 11 reports published as **Cartoons** (0.4%); five as **Vox Pops** (0.2%) and 117 **Interviews** making 4%.

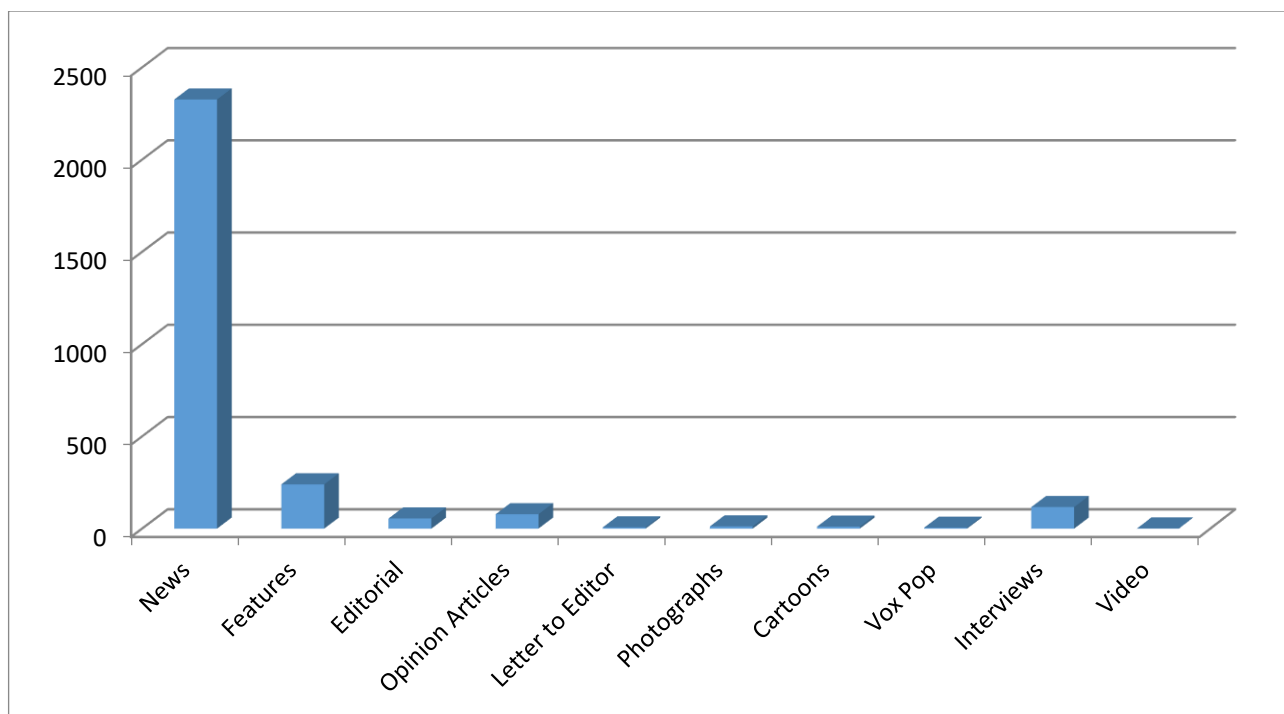
Only one **Video** (at 0.04%) in the **cable online**, was found relevant within the period.

The table below shows the frequency of publication of relevant stories in the different editorial formats

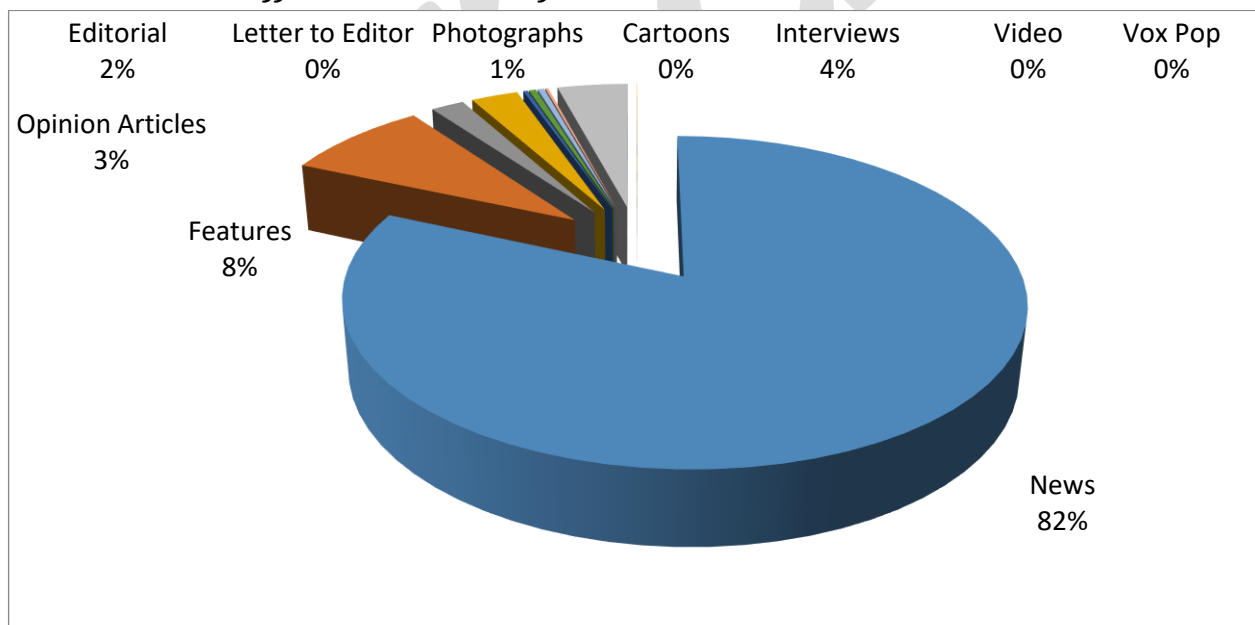
Newspapers	News	Features	Editorial	Opinion Articles	Letter to Editor	Photographs	Cartoons	Vox Pop	Interviews	Video	Total
------------	------	----------	-----------	------------------	------------------	-------------	----------	---------	------------	-------	-------

BluePrint	313	7	32	6	0	8	0	0	3	0	369
Daily Sun	219	21	3	23	0	0	0	0	25	0	291
Daily Trust	215	19	3	5	0	0	1	0	9	0	252
Leadership	246	65	4	8	0	0	3	0	10	0	336
Nigerian Tribune	141	10	1	4	0	0	0	0	17	0	173
Premium Times	101	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102
The Cable	76	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	81
The Guardian	151	28	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	185
The Nation	269	28	4	10	5	0	0	0	17	0	333
The Punch	223	9	1	3	0	0	4	0	15	0	255
ThisDay	136	29	4	5	2	0	0	0	8	0	184
Vanguard	236	22	3	10	0	1	3	5	11	0	291
Total	2326	240	55	78	7	12	11	5	117	1	2852

The chart below shows the frequency of publication of relevant stories in the different editorial formats



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of publication of relevant stories in the different editorial formats



5.0. The Electoral Management Body (EMB) - INEC

i. Number of relevant items

A total of 305 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 66 stories on INEC (21.62%), followed by **The Nation** with 29 stories (at 9.5%). **Daily Sun** and **Daily Trust** published 27 stories (8.85%); **The Punch**, 25 stories (at 8.2%); **Nigerian Tribune**, 24 (7.86%); **The Guardian** and **Leadership** each published 23 stories (at 7.54%); **ThisDay** and **Premium Times** each published 20 stories (6.56%); **Vanguard** published 13 stories (4.3%); **The Cable**, 8 reports (2.62%).

Findings on thematic issues around INEC include:

Electoral Reform: Voting mechanism

In view of needs to review mechanisms used in the 2019 general elections, the recent bye-elections in states before COVID-19 pandemics and other re-run elections in Nigeria, there were 15 reports (5%) that focused on INEC'S review process of mechanism for future voting.

- **Electoral Reform: Administrative Procedures**

This received the greatest attention in the media regarding issues around INEC. 166 reports (55%) focused on internal operations of INEC and how these affected the Commission.

- **Electoral Reform: Electoral Offence**

Nine reports (3%) focused on calls for punishment for electoral offenders and need for INEC to review its handling of election offences.

- **Voter and Civic Education (CVE)**

Only 1 report (at 0.3%) focused on INEC's efforts in educating the public on the political and electoral processes.

- **Electoral Reform: Continuous Voters' Registration (CVR)**

Only one report (0.3%) focused on the need for INEC to review its handling of registration process.

- **Electoral Reform: Permanent Voters' Cards (PVC)**

Another 2 reports (0.7%) focused on why INEC should review the processes around PVC for subsequent elections.

- **Electoral Reform: Campaign Finance**

3 reports (1%) focused on the need for the Commission to ensure political parties abide by the laws guiding electoral funding.

- **Constitutional Amendment**

60 reports (16.4%) identified the need for INEC to push for amendment of grey areas affecting its operations.

- **Electoral Reform: Security**

Seven reports (3%) focused on how security arrangement during elections affect INEC's operations.

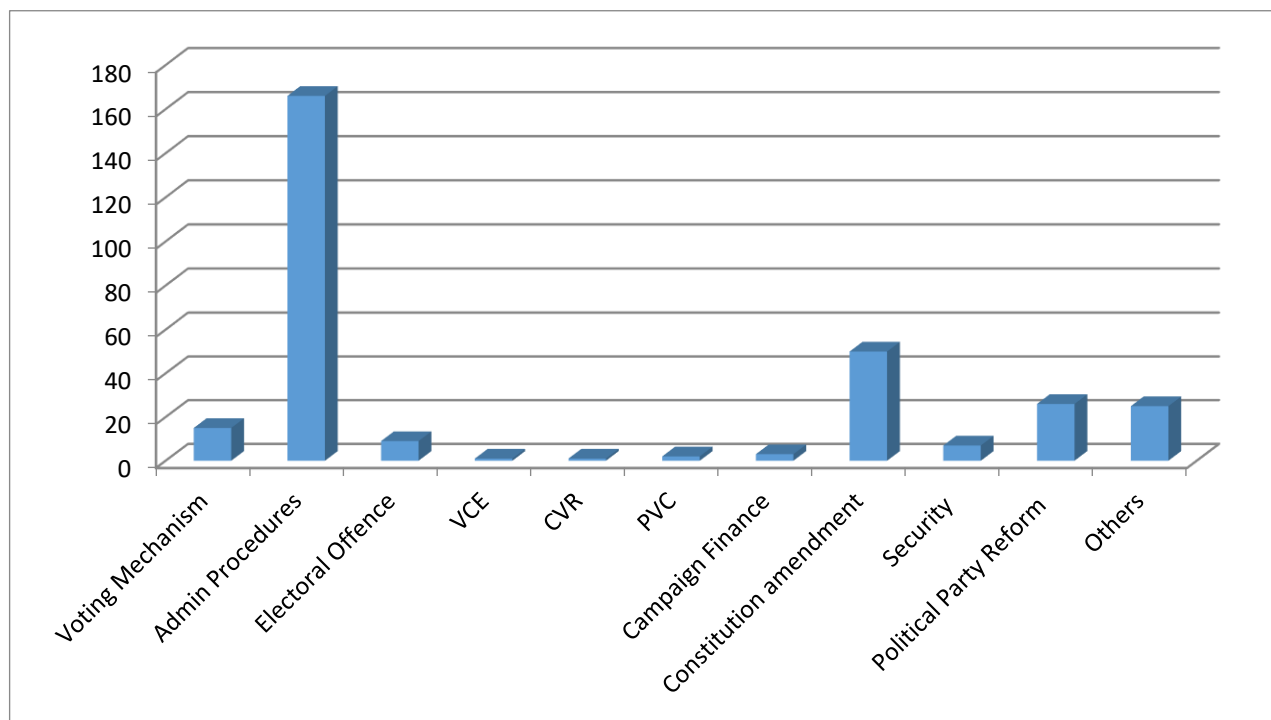
- **Political Parties' Reform**

Another 26 reports (8.5%) focused on the huge number of parties in Nigeria, its effects on INEC's operations and need for reforms.

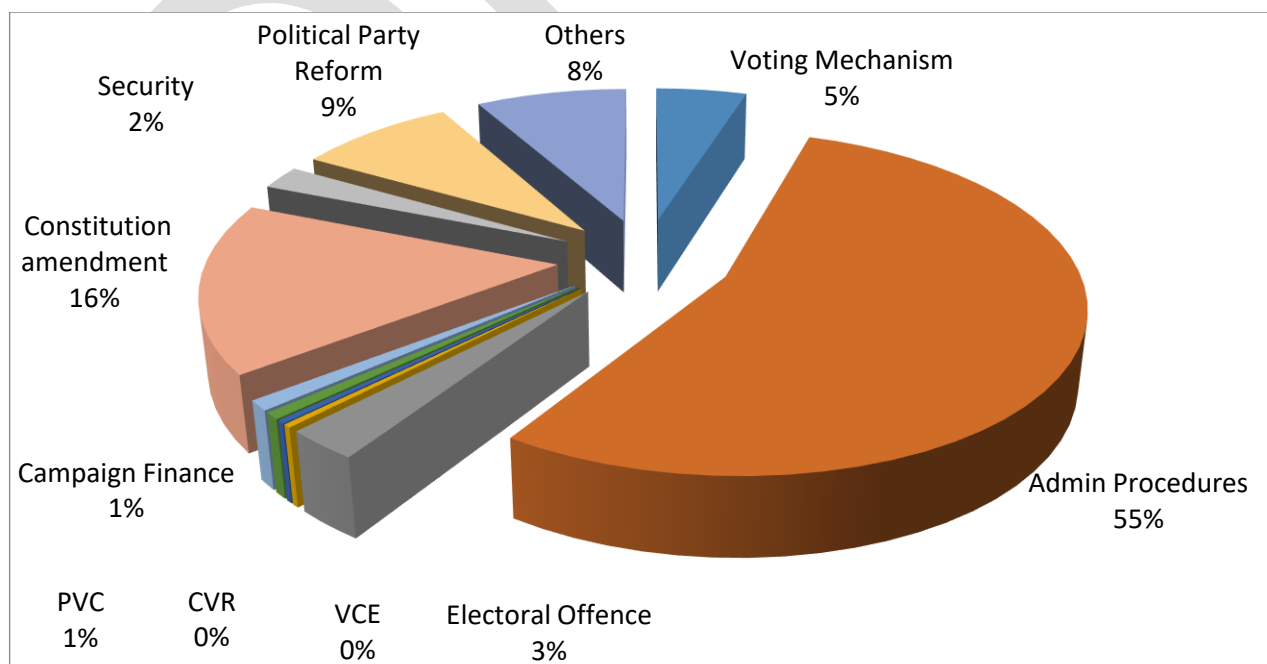
The table below shows the frequency of reports published on thematic issues around INEC

Voting Mechanism	Admin Procedures	Electoral Offence	VCE	CVR	PVC	Campaign Finance	Constitutional amendment	Security	Political Party Reform	Others	Total
15	166	9	1	1	2	3	50	7	26	25	305
5%	54%	3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	1%	16.4%	3%	8.5%	8%	100%

The chart below shows the frequency of reports published on thematic issues around INEC



The chart below shows the percentage frequency of reports published on thematic issues around INEC



MONITORING INEC'S WEBSITE AND TWITTER HANDLE

This section presents an assessment of INEC's engagement with members of the public via its website and social media account (twitter).

INEC's Website

There is a couple of sections through which INEC publishes its activities on its website. These include **Homepage, Office of the Chairman, "Voter Education, Political Parties, Elections, INEC NEWS, Resources**, and a section on **Contact Us**. For the purpose of this monitoring exercise, it was only the section on **INEC News** that was monitored. Findings showed that only six stories were published between January and April, 2020 on 'INEC News' portal.

In January, INEC published only 2 reports, titled:

- ***INEC Gets two New Recs*** (January 21, 2020)
- ***INEC, Security Chiefs Vow to Checkmate Perpetrators of Electoral Violence, Fraud*** (January 11, 2020).

In February, INEC published three items on its News Portal. These include the report of a press conference sequel to the conduct of 28 rerun elections ordered by the Supreme Court, titled:

- ***Our staff conduct elections under difficult circumstances*** (Feb. 4, 2020): the second was captioned:
- ***INEC Complies with Supreme Court Judgement, on Balyesa Governorship Election*** (February 13, 2020); the third captioned:
- ***Yakubu Implores Political Parties to Nominate Qualified Candidates for Edo, Ondo Governorship Elections*** (February 21, 2020).

In March, the only News item published was captioned:

- ***Electoral Act Amendment: INEC Chairman Lists Eight Critical Factors*** (March 3, 2020).

- In April, no news report was published.

Table showing number of News published on INEC's News Portal (Jan—April, 2020)

January	February	March	April	Total
2	3	1	Nil	6

Analysis here shows INEC's public engagement machinery was active more in January till March, except in April which coincided with the period of national lockdown. This highlights the effect of COVID-19 on the electoral body in particular and the nation in general.

On Twitter

- INEC was more active on its social media platform than its website.
- Between January and April, 2020, the commission engaged its audience with a total of 221 tweets.
- These messages were equally shared in a number of 3,811 retweets. They were liked in 11,732 times and generated 1,690 comments.
- In January, 56 issues were tweeted (representing 25.34%);
- February recorded 96 tweets (43.44%);
- There was a decline in March with 60 tweets, representing 27.15%;
- April recorded a paltry of 9 tweets (4.07%).

The table below shows the frequency of tweets published on INEC's twitter handle

Timeline	Tweets %	Retweets %	Comments %	Likes %
January, 2020	56 (25.34%)	905 (23.75%)	470 (27.81%)	3,431 (29.24%)
February, 2020	96 (43.44%)	1670 (43.82%)	351 (20.77%)	3,595 (30.64%)

March, 2020	60 (27.15%)	1027 (26.95%)	223 (13.2%)	3,120 (26.59%)
April, 2020	9 (4.07%)	209 (5.48%)	646 (38.22%)	1586 (13.52%)
Total	221	3811	1690	11732

Draft

Thematic Focus of Issues Tweeted by INEC (Jan. -April, 2020)

- A total of 161 tweets focused on administrative procedure, constitution amendment, security issues and political party reforms.
- Of these total, issues bordering on administrative procedure was published the highest with 129 tweets (80.12%).
- While issues on voting mechanism, electoral reform, voter education, continuous voter registration, permanent voters' card and campaign finance were not tweeted at all, constitution amendment was published the second highest with 13 (8.15%), security issues got 2 tweets (1.24%), and political party reform, 4 tweets at 2.5%.
- Only 11 tweets were published under the category of "others" at 6.8%.

Table showing the thematic issues tweeted by INEC (January-April, 2020)

Timeline	Voting Mechanism	Admin Procedures	Electoral Offence	VCE	CVR	PVC	Campaign Finance	Constitution amendment	Security	Political Party Reform	Others	Total
January	0	27	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	8	40
February	0	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	68
March	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	44
April	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Total	0	129	0	2	0	0	0	13	2	4	11	161

6.0 MONITORING OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROGRESS MADE ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN PROMISES

(JANUARY-APRIL, 2020)

In June, 2019, the International Press Centre (IPC) released a list of thirty documented campaign promises made by President Muhammadu Buhari. The idea behind this was to encourage citizens and particularly the media to ask questions and keep track of these promises in their reportage in the post-election period.

The promises were derived from quoted statements of the President in *The Nation*, *The Punch*, *Daily Sun*, *Daily Trust*, *Vanguard*, *ThisDay*, *Leadership* and *Nigerian Tribune* newspapers over a four-month period from November 2018 to February 2019. These promises are:

1. To engage one million N-power graduates and skill up 10 million Nigerians in partnership with the private sector.
2. To expand the school feeding programme from 9.3m to 15 million children, creating 300,000 extra jobs for food vendors and farmers.
3. To complete the Ibadan/Kano phase of the Lagos/Kano rail link.
4. To complete the Port Harcourt/Maiduguri line.
5. To complete the Itakpe/Warri link to Abuja, through Lokoja.
6. To complete the Second Niger Bridge and the East West Road connecting Warri, Delta State, to Oron, Akwa Ibom State, through Kaiama in Bayelsa State and Port Harcourt in Rivers State.
7. To establish a peoples Moni bank.
8. To institutionalize the giving of soft loans of up to 1million naira to small traders, artisans and commercial drivers.
9. To increase the beneficiaries of trader Moni, market Moni and farmer Moni from 2.3 million to 10million.
10. To create more room for inclusion in government by achieving 35% in female appointments.
11. To give more access to youths as aides of cabinet members and through opportunities for appointments in board and agencies.

12. To introduce special mentoring programme in governance with young graduates working with ministers and other appointees.
13. To reinterpret the education curriculum through coding, robotics, animations and design thinking.
14. Retraining of all teachers in public primary and secondary schools to deliver digital literacy.
15. Remodeling and equipping of 10,000 schools per year.
16. To complete the 365 road projects under construction in all parts of the federation.
17. Provision of infrastructure and rebuilding the economy.
18. To sustain the anti-insurgency war and curb insecurity.
19. To fight corruption and revamp the economy.
20. To develop 6 industrial Parks in each of the geopolitical zones.
21. To establish 109 Special Production and Processing Centres (SPPCs) across each senatorial district of Nigeria.
22. To develop the Special Economic zone to quickly concretize our made in Nigeria for export (MINE) plan.
23. To expand the social investment program so as to eradicate poverty.
24. To ensure completion of Mambilla Dam and Bridge.
25. To ensure the construction of the Makurdi Taraba Borno rail project.
26. To complete the bridges across the stretch of River Benue in Ibi local government area.
27. To continue to pursue agricultural policy by ensuring that fertilisers are made available at all the local government areas across the country, for easy access by farmers.
28. To resuscitate the Ajaokuta Steel Company.
29. To ensure the completion of the on-going Zungeru Hydro Power project.
30. To include persons of integrity in the cabinet.

On August 21, 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari swore-in 43 ministers from all the thirty six states of the federation, including the FCT to help actualise these campaign promises.

As part of IPC's efforts at tracking good governance, accountability and ensuring citizen's engagement in the electoral and governance process, there has been a regular follow-up on the progress of these presidential campaign promises as reported in the national dailies being monitored.

Over 90 media reports containing specific claims and promises made by the president, or on his behalf by government officials including ministers and coordinators of MDAs were tracked and documented between October and December, 2019.

Below shows the extract of the report on the implementation of campaign promises for January-April, 2020.

No	Promise/Claims	Headline	Date	Media	Source	Context
1	"With this funds, the country is expected to purchase 10,000 units of tractors, 50,000 units of assorted implements and equipment for assembly in Nigeria"	Nigeria seeks \$1 billion loan to boost mechanised farming – Minister	Jan. 24, 2020	Premium https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/374241-nigerian-seeks-1-billion-loan-to-boost-mechanised-farming-minister.html	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, (Sabo Nanono)	At the inauguration of the committee on the Green Imperative Programme in Abuja.

2	"we haven't got money for Ibadan-Kaduna rail'	We Haven't Got Money For Ibadan-Kaduna Rail – Amaechi	Jan. 25, 2020	Daily Trust (P.7)	Minister of Transportation (Rotimi Amaechi)	After an emergency inspection of Ebuttemetta to Apapa axis of the Lagos-Ibadan rail project
3	"We will provide railway for Port Harcourt to Maiduguri... The President has assured me. We are discussing and announcement would be made on the project soon"	Plans ongoing to construct Port Harcourt—Maiduguri Rail-line, says Amaechi	Jan. 29, 2020	Daily Sun, (P.2)	Minister of Transport (Rotimi Amaechi)	During the Deloitte in dialogue: Nigeria Economic Outlook 2020
4	the government spends N70 per pupil daily in executing the school feeding programme...to improve the health and educational outcome of public pupils	FG Targets Feeding 120,300 Pupils In Fct Public Primary Schools	Feb. 1, 2020	Leadership (P.13)	Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, (Sadiya Umar Farouq)	While flagging-off the programme in Karu Model Primary school, Abuja.
5	"5,000 persons will be given loans of between N100, 000 to N5m without interest...Out of	FG Empowers 5,000 Rivers Women, Youths With N750m	Feb. 5, 2020	The Guardian (P.9)	Minister of Transportation (Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi)	At the Women and Youth Empowerment Programme

	the 5,000 beneficiaries, let's give 3,000 women, because they are good managers."					in Rivers State.
6	"We have to train our extension officers, because the market supply is huge. Over the next three years, we will train 50,000 extension workers"	FG To Train 50,000 Agricultural Extension Workers, Document Assets	Feb. 5, 2020	The Guardian (P.26)	Minister of Agriculture, (Sabo Nanono)	while speaking at a special interactive meeting with stakeholders
7	"government...h as committed that the assets will support and assist in expediting the construction of three major infrastructure projects across Nigeria: the Lagos - Ibadan Expressway, Abuja - Kano Road and the Second Niger Bridge"	\$318.4m Recovered Abacha Loot For Lagos-Ibadan Road, Others	Feb. 5, 2020	The Nation (P.43)	Minister of Justice (Abubakar Malami)	While signing an agreement on the repatriation of the money with the United States and the authorities of Jersey Island.

8	“By April 2020, we are out of site, depending on when the president is ready to inaugurate the project, and by then, the project would have been completed”.	Amaechi: Operations of Lagos—Ibadan Rail Line Commences April	Feb. 5, 2020	ThisDay (P.27)	Minister of Transportation (Rotimi Amaechi)	In an interview with ThisDay reporter
9	“Each LGAs will have service centres, and each centre will have a brand new tractor fully equipped with admin and IT workshop”	FG to begin mechanized farming in 632 LGAs	Feb. 9, 2020	The Punch (P. 31)	Minister of Agric and Rural Devt (Mohammad Nanono)	...when he received the executive governor of Benue State, Samuel Ortom
10	“the ministry prior to the inauguration of these two committees has already taken a number of critical steps to ensure the successful take off of the project”	FG Inaugurates C'ttee' 40-Year-Old Mambilla Power Project	Feb. 11, 2020	BluePrint https://www.blueprint.ng/fg-inaugurates-cttee-40-year-old-mambilla-power-project/	The Minister of Power (Saleh Mamman)	During the inauguration of the committee in Abuja,

11	“So, we have to design an additional lane on both sides comprising of 365 kilometers each way and we have to also make a new design for about 66 bridges across the entire length...”	FEC Approves N867m Design for Kano-Abuja Highway Additional Lane	Feb. 12, 2020	BluePrint	Minister of Works and Housing (Babatunde Fashola)	While briefing State House Correspondents after NEC meeting in Abuja
12	“the beauty of it is that we got funding. The Russian Export Centre...pledged a sum of \$460 million towards this project, while Afrexim Bank ...pledged a million dollar”	FG secures \$1.46bn to complete Ajaokuta mills	Feb. 21, 2020	Vanguard (P.1)	Minister of Mining and Steel Development (Olamilekan Adegbite)	In an interview with Vanguard in Abuja
13	“This, we are working to achieve in line with the SDG 17...”	FG to include robotics, artificial intel in school curriculum	Feb. 24, 2020	The Punch (P.55)		At the 2019/2020 Nigerian championship in robotics
	“the Federal Government is concentrating on providing an enabling environment and a level	Food Security: FG to develop agro-industrial processing zones	Feb. 24, 2020	Daily Sun (P.31)	Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mustapha	During the Ecobank Agribusiness Summit in Lagos

	playground for stakeholders at all levels to enhance investment and capital flow into the agric sector”				Baba Shehuri,	
14	“the contracts were approved as part of strategies to implement the administration’s Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), to boost trade and economy”	FG Approves #30bn for construction of roads linking Jigawa-Sokoto to Niger Republic border	Feb. 26, 2020	The Cable https://www.thecable.ng/fg-approves-n30bn-for-construction-of-roads-linking-jigawa-sokoto-to-niger-republic-borders	Minister of Works and Housing (Babatunde Fashola)	at the end of this week’s federal executive council (FEC) meeting.
15	There is an on-going process of overhauling the N-Power scheme...to ensure maximum transparency...	473,137 youths enrolled into N-Power scheme--FG	March 3, 2020	Daily Trust (Pg 10)	(Sadiya Farouq) Minister Humanitarian Affairs...	while receiving members House of Representatives C’ttee on Poverty Alleviation
16	“we are going to support the contractor to make sure that we complete this project”	FG to complete 10MW Katsina wind power soon	March 3, 2020	Daily Trust (pg 20)	(Sale Mamman) Minister of Power	while inspecting the plant in Lambar Rimi community..

17		FG eyes N45b grant for out-of-school children	March 12, 2020	The Nation (P. 37)	Minister of Education (Adamu-Adamu)	At the 2020 Commonwealth Celebration in Abuja
18	“to date, 18 out of the 43 interventions have been completed and today, we are inaugurating this one in the Federal Polytechnic Offa...”	<i>FG to fix 43 Internal Roads in Tertiary Institutions</i>	March 13, 2020	ThisDay (pg 49)	(Raji Fashola) Minister of Works and Housing	While inaugurating the rehabilitated 2.23km road within Federal Poly, Offa
19	“The Ministry will soon come out with a plan of releasing N20billion to the contractors after signing the tripartite agreement in line with Presidential directives...”	FG releases N20bn for East-West road	March 18, 2020	The Nation (P.42)	Minister of Niger Delta Affairs (Godswill Akpabio)	...when he met with the contractors handling Section I-IV of the road.
20	“The Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health...has since deployed their personnel across the country to	FG Activates Health Desks in 774 LGAs	March 30, 2020	ThisDay (pg 46)	(Mohammed Abubakar) Minister of Environment	in a press statement

	disinfect...public places...					
21	"We give them monthly stipends of N5000 and we give them two months advance payment..."	FG begins disbursement of N20,000 to 1m Nigerians	April 2, 2020	Vanguard (Front Page)	Minister of Humanitarian Affairs	At Kwali Local Govt. Council, Abuja
22	"The logistics is purely NEMA affairs. Ours is to hand over to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs"	Fed Govt begins release of 70,000 tons of garri, others to the vulnerable	April 8, 2020	The Nation, Pg. 7	Minister of Agric. and Rural Devt.	At the Minna silo complex in Niger State.
23	"The president was targeting ordinary Nigerians who are neither PDP or APC or just anything. They just want get jobs; they just want to feed their family"	FG inaugurates committee to employ 774,000 Nigerians	April 30, 2020	Daily Trust (pg 7)	(Festus Keyamo) Minister of State for Labour	While inaugurating the committee in Abuja

Observations and Recommendations

General observations:

- The period of this monitoring fell within the time of the spread of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as a result of which media attention was

mostly focused on this scourge. This accounted for the low number of reportage of relevant electoral and governance issues.

Coverage of political parties:

- It was observed that the report followed the pattern as documented in previous monitoring report, wherein the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), got the highest media reportage/mentions. It was followed by the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP). It is to be noted that the two parties maintained this trend from the beginning of this monitoring to the end.
- The finding revealed that other political parties which should constitute part of opposition with the PDP were barely reported. PDP was therefore the lone voice as opposition party.

Coverage of women:

- Men continued to dominant as sources. With 91% of the report using men as sources, the media presented the electoral and political/governance landscape from the point of view of men. This therefore indicates that all other stakeholders consulted, including: Female without disability, Male Youth, Male Youth with Disability, and INEC accounted for just about 9% of the sources. The views/voices of Female Youth, whether with or without Disability were never reflected in the relevant reports.

Recommendation:

- The media should endeavor to beam the spotlight on the lesser known political parties. Aside covering their activities, the media should also project their voices on important governance issues. This should be a deliberate media strategy through affirmative action reporting of the lesser popular parties.

- There's the need for the media to deliberately engender women into journalism reports. The management of the media organization should therefore ensure that editorial policies in this respect are put in place.
- The media should hold the government to account by writing and administering FOI requests on various aspects of governance as well as President Buhari's campaign promises and use the responses they get to write features and editorials that beam media searchlight on the status of each promise.
- The media should constantly remind President Buhari of his campaign promises as well as get citizens to remind him of them. The media should also bring these promises to the notice of the opposition parties and seek their opinions on them.
- State governors, local government Chairpersons; national, state and local government legislators should not be left out of persons elected into offices that the media should hold accountable. The media should profile them, extract from them their understanding of democracy and how they have or intend to enhance a robust and viable democracy where good governance is the hallmark.
- It would not be out of place for the Independent National Electoral Commission to encourage citizens to regularize their registration now that the general elections are still far off and not going to be held soon. During the buildup to the general elections, when INEC is apparently overwhelmed with preparations, education/sensitization and actually conducting the elections, there is usually the rush to register, correct information, transfer voting centre etc. Such last minutes actions that overwhelm INEC can be avoided. Now that INEC offices are not overwhelmed.
- The media should encourage the election ombudsman, INEC to regularly sensitise and encourage citizens to regularize their registrations so that during general elections, voters' registration, transfer and information regularization will be minimal.
- The media should also capture electoral matters that are still in courts nearly one year after the general elections and draw attention to the

consequences of such to our democracy and for the constituents of the officials whose matters are still pending in courts.

Draft