

# 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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



## Table of Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Scope .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Methodology .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Findings .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. Observations .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>6. Conclusion/Recommendations .....</b>	<b>45</b>

### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report covers the outcome of the monitoring of twelve (12) print and online newspapers conducted in the months of June, July and August, 2018. 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 above mentioned print/online newspapers, 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

### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



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 may be reported by the media outlets being monitored in the course of campaign and other activities toward 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 and also made available online.

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

## 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/ 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 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.

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

### 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 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.

## **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



## 4.0 FINDINGS

The findings generated during the monitoring period are highlighted below.

### 4.0.1 Total Relevant Reports

A total of 10,389 reports were found relevant to the media content monitoring exercise in the 12 newspapers (as falling under the pre-identified thematic focus and specific issues) within the three-month period that this report covers.

For the print monitoring, **The Nation** published the highest number of relevant reports with 1,318 (at 12.7%) followed by **Vanguard** which published 1,262 relevant reports (12.15%), **Daily Sun**, which published 1,226 relevant reports (11.80%), **Nigerian Tribune**, which published 1,180 reports (11.36%) and **Daily Trust**, which published 1,071 (10.20%), respectively.

Others include **The Punch** which published 755 reports (7.30%); **Leadership** with 736 relevant reports (7.08%); **The Guardian** with 711 reports (6.84%), and **ThisDay**, with 648 reports (6.24%).

For the online monitoring, **Blue Print**, **The Cable** and the **Premium Times** were monitored as online newspapers.

**Blueprint** published relevant 532 reports (5.12%); **Premium Times** published 525 relevant reports (5.05%), while **The Cable** published 425 (4.09%).

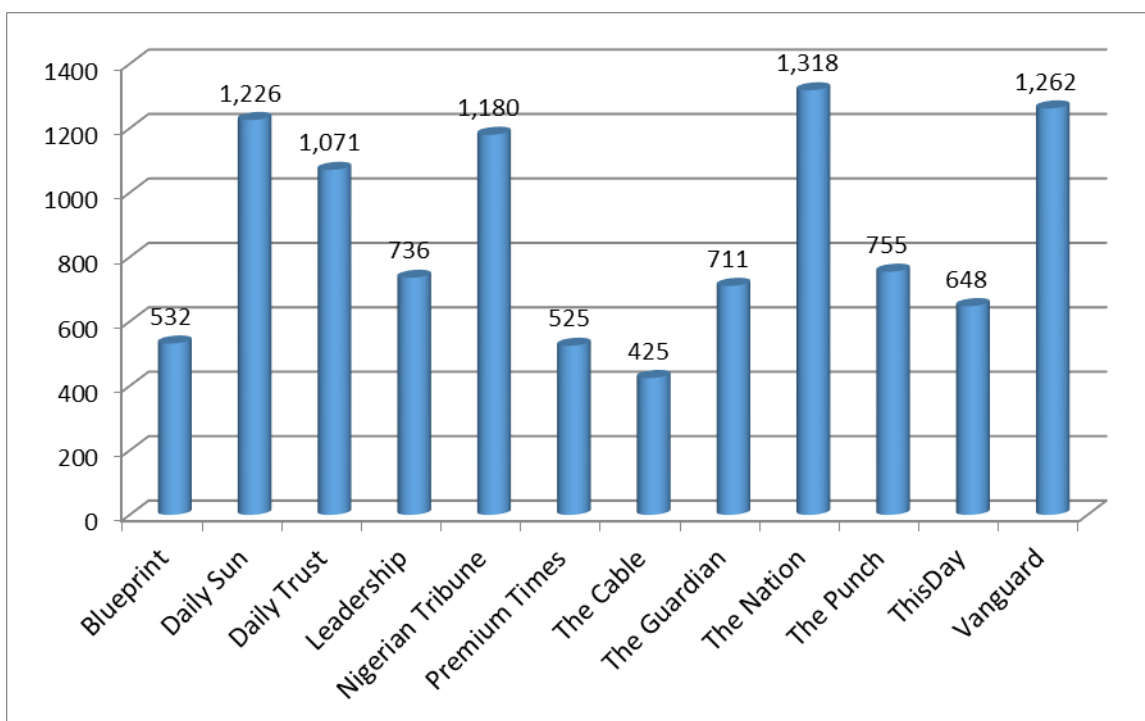
*The table below shows total number of relevant reports as published by the newspapers*

Publication	Frequency/Total Items	%
Blueprint	532	5.12%
Daily Sun	1226	11.80%
Daily Trust	1071	10.20%
Leadership	736	7.08%
Nigerian Tribune	1180	11.36%
Premium Times	525	5.05%
The Cable	425	4.09%
The Guardian	711	6.84%
The Nation	1318	12.70%
The Punch	755	7.30%
ThisDay	648	6.24%
Vanguard	1262	12.15%
Total	10,389	100%

*The graph below shows the total number of relevant stories published by the newspapers monitored for the three months (June, July, and August 2018)*

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

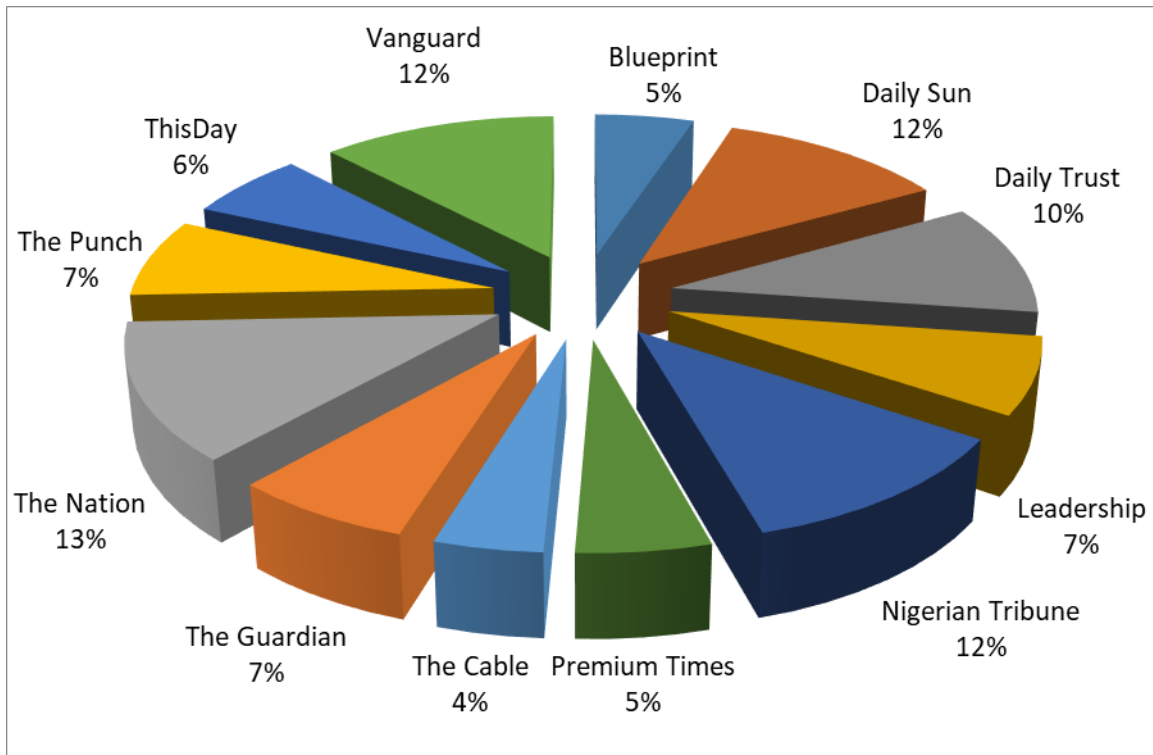
*(An analysis of trends in reportage of the 2019 electoral process by 12 print/online newspapers for June, July and August, 2018)*



*The chart below shows the percentages of relevant stories published by the newspapers monitored for the three months (June, July, and August 2018)*

### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



#### 4.0.2 Prominence of Report

Of the 10,389 relevant reports identified and analysed within the period, a total of 7,591 reports (73.07%), were published on the **Inside Pages**. Another 1,142 reports, (11%) were published on the **Front Pages** while 94 reports were published on the **Back Pages** (accounting for 0.9%) and 80 reports (0.77%), were published as **Editorials**.

Prominence in **Online newspapers** was established from whether the reports were published as “Top Story or Inside Story”. While 507 reports were published as **Top Stories** (at 4.9%), 971 reports were published as **Inside Stories**, representing 9.35%.

#### 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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

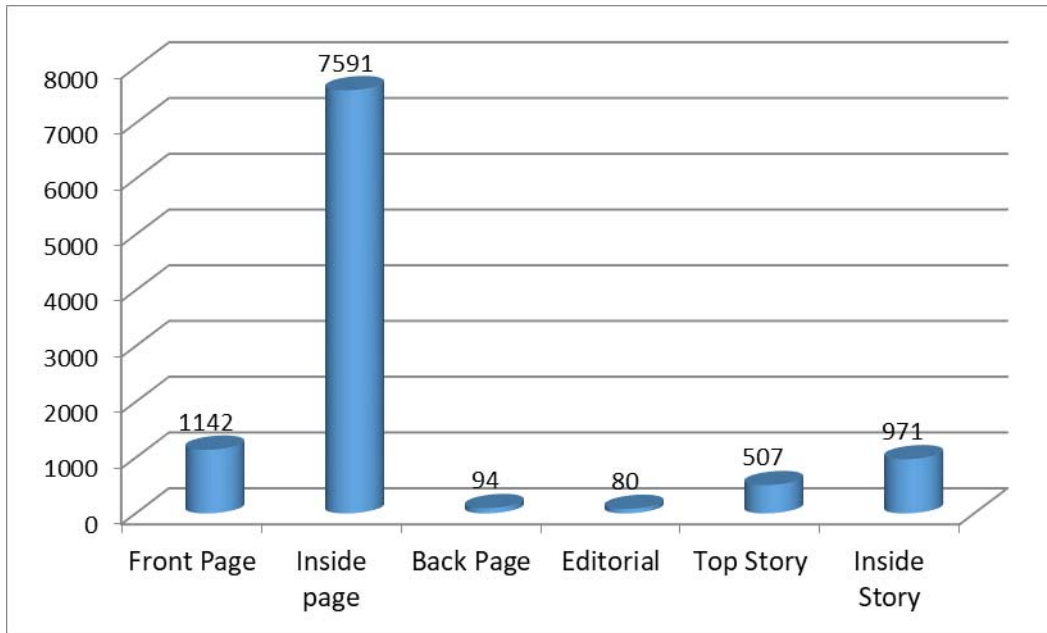
*The table below shows the degree of prominence given to identified relevant reports*

	<b>Front Page</b>	<b>Inside page</b>	<b>Back Page</b>	<b>Editorial</b>	<b>Top Story</b>	<b>Inside Story</b>	<b>Total</b>
Blueprint	0	0	0	0	117	411	532
Daily Sun	94	1108	15	9	0	0	1,226
Daily Trust	169	875	24	3	0		1,071
Leadership	53	676	4	3	0	0	736
Nigerian Tribune	191	973	6	10	0	0	1,180
Premium Times	0	0	0	0	216	309	525
The Cable	0	0	0	0	174	251	425
The Guardian	80	617	0	14	0	0	711
The Nation	154	1132	23	9	0	0	1,318
The Punch	170	556	11	18	0	0	755
ThisDay	102	524	11	11	0	0	648
Vanguard	129	1130	0	3	0	0	1,262
Total	1142	7591	94	80	507	971	10,389

### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

*The graph below shows the page Prominence given to identified relevant reports*

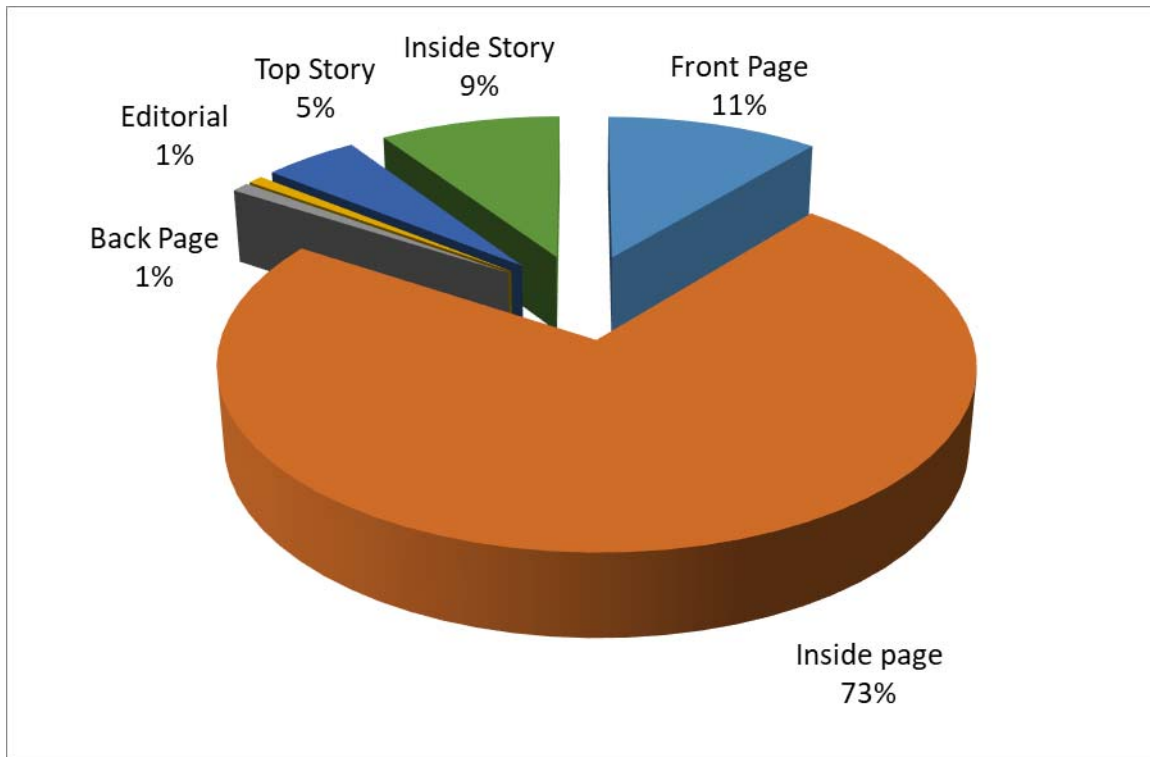


*The chart below shows the percentage of page Prominence given to identified relevant*

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

## reports



### 4.0.3 Diversity of Sources (of news reports)

A total of 9,852 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 these, findings show that **women** made only 3.14% of people whose voices were heard in the news as their voices and perspectives were captured in 309 of the relevant editorial items monitored. In contrast **men's** perspectives were captured in 8,448 editorial items or 85.75%, thereby dominating as sources of news reports.

The perspectives of youths as sources were few with **Male and Female Youths** constituting 1.84% and 0.07% or 181 and 7 instances respectively.

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

Also, reports on the disadvantaged group, **PLWDs**, were also few. While **Male Youth with Disability** made only 0.04% of sources of news in 4 reports, **Female Youth with Disability** were featured as sources in only one report (at 0.01%).

INEC officials were sources in 307 reports (at 3.11%) of all the stakeholders whom the media consulted for information.

In 595 reports (6.03%) the categories of the sources could not be determined.

*The table below shows the use of the various stakeholders as sources of reports and the number of each used*

	Male	Female	Male Youth	Female Youth	Male Youth with Disability	Female Youth with Disability	INEC	Undisclosed	Total
<b>BluePrint</b>	451	13	23	0	0	0	21	6	<b>514</b>
<b>Daily Sun</b>	1001	27	17	0	0	0	15	79	<b>1139</b>
<b>Daily Trust</b>	772	29	25	2	0	0	33	121	<b>982</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	647	29	34	1	2	1	27	9	<b>750</b>
<b>Nigeria Tribune</b>	989	32	13	0	0	0	30	48	<b>1112</b>
<b>Premium Times</b>	448	12	2	0	0	0	34	9	<b>505</b>

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

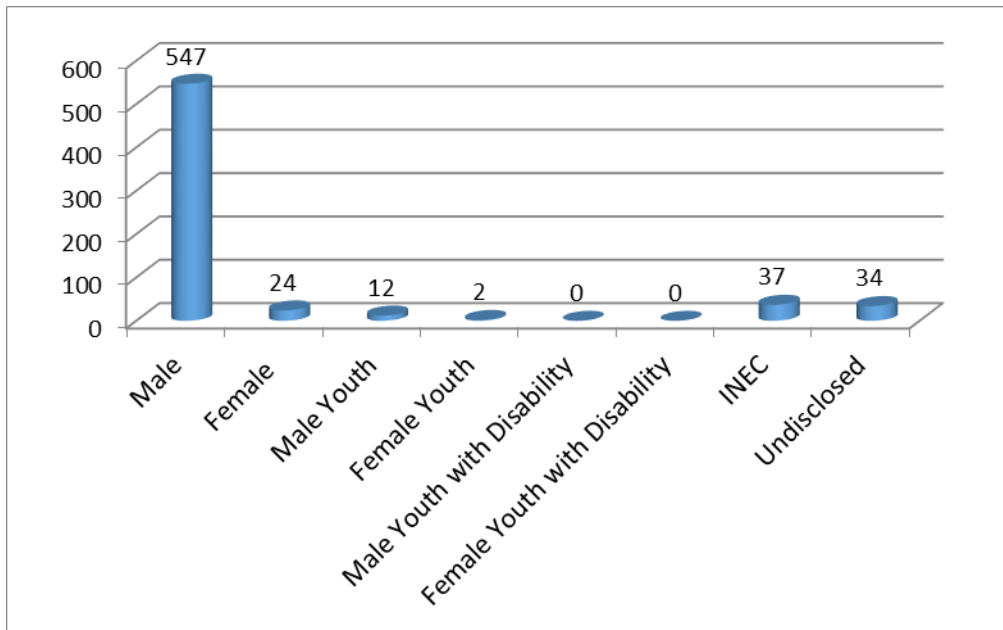


m Times									
The Cable	378	5	1	0	0	0	17	16	417
The Guardia n	587	34	11	1	1	0	24	32	690
The Nation	1097	44	13	1	1	0	27	104	1287
The Punch	548	24	12	2	0	0	37	34	657
ThisDay	510	19	5	0	0	0	13	60	607
Vangua rd	1020	41	25	0	0	0	29	77	1192
Total	8448	309	181	7	4	1	307	595	9,852

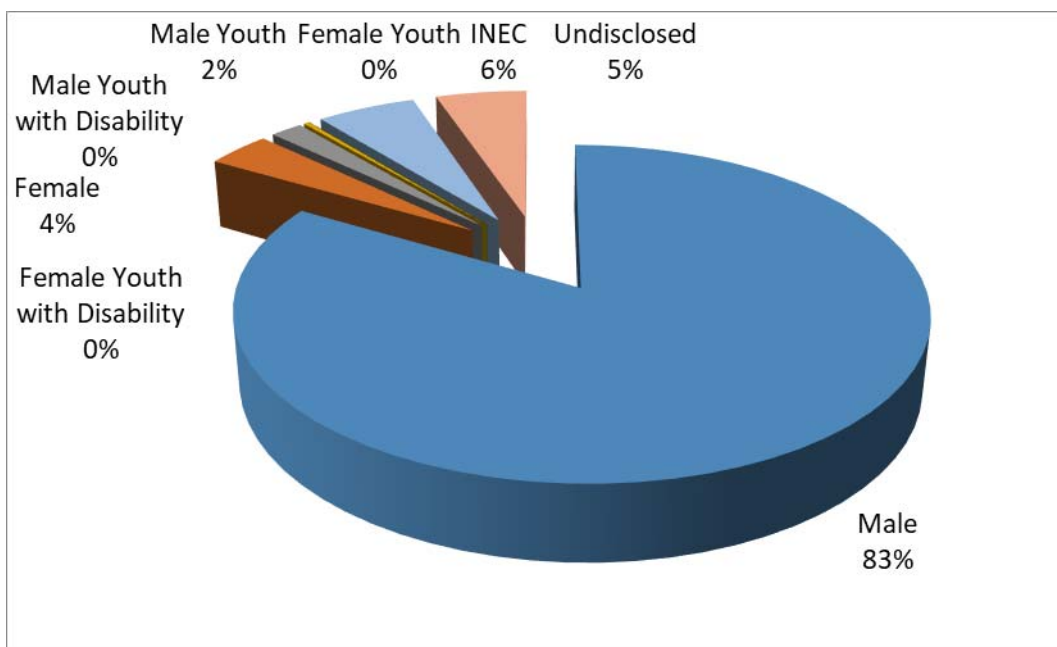
*The graph below shows the number of time selected critical stakeholders were used as sources in the identified relevant stories for the three months (June, July, and August 2018)*

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



*The chart below shows the percentage of the number of time selected critical stakeholders were used as sources in the identified relevant stories for the three months (June, July, and August 2018)*



### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

#### 4.0.4 Mentions (of who?)

These include the frequency at which **male, female, youths** and **PLWDs** were mentioned in the media reports within the period.

Findings indicate that **Males** dominated the media space and got the most 'mentions' 1,532 times, representing (20.05%).

While women, generally got 249 mentions (at 3.3%), Youths got 375 mentions (at 4.9%) and **PLWDs** were mentioned 17 times or (at 0.22%),

#### 4.0.5. Mentions (of Institutions?)

While **State Executives** got 1,141 mentions, at 14.93%, **Federal Executives**, had 989 mentions or 12.94%. While **Senate** was mentioned 594 times or 7.77%, **House of Representatives** was mentioned got 215 mentions (at 2.81%);

Meanwhile, **INEC** got 589 mentions (at 7.7%); **Nigeria Police**, 303 mentions at (4%); **Judiciary**, 169 mentions (at 2.21%).

While **Traditional Rulers** were mentioned in 114 times or 1.5%; **Faith-Based Groups** got 101 mentions or 1.32%; **Ethnic Interest Groups**, 94 mentions (1.23%). **Media** represented (1.08%), having being mentioned in 83 times; **Public Institutions** and **Professional Bodies** were mentioned in 66 and 65 times at 0.86% and 0.85% respectively. **Trade Unions** got 58 mentions or 0.75% and **Ordinary Citizens** got 45 mentions or 0.6%.

Others include the **Military** which was mentioned in 39 times (at 0.51%); **Inter-Governmental Organizations**, 34 mentions or (0.44%); **Academics**, 25 mentions (0.32%); **Donor Agencies**, 20 mentions or (0.26%), **Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps**, 19 mentions or (0.24%).

*The table below shows the number of times different stakeholders were mentioned in the relevant reports*

	BluePrint	Daily Sun	Daily Trust	Leadership	Nigerian Tribune	Premium Times	The Cable	The Guardian	The Nation	The Punch	This Day	Vanguard	Total
<b>Men</b>	41	253	104	278	135	39	29	173	65	104	129	182	<b>1,532</b>
<b>Women</b>	6	40	33	37	44	0	1	4	33	3	21	27	<b>249</b>
<b>Youth</b>	8	50	30	41	47	0	0	60	52	24	16	47	<b>375</b>
<b>PLWDs</b>	0	4	2	2	1	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	<b>17</b>
<b>CSOs</b>	20	71	95	55	53	11	2	44	61	42	41	66	<b>561</b>
<b>Intergovernmental Organisations</b>	1	10	1	4	1	1	0	3	2	4	4	3	<b>34</b>
<b>International NGOs</b>	2	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	6	2	1	1	<b>20</b>
<b>Donor Agencies</b>	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	6	2	2	1	0	<b>20</b>
<b>Public Institutions</b>	1	21	8	6	10	0	2	4	5	4	1	4	<b>66</b>

### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

<b>Nigerian Police</b>	6	43	26	33	38	6	5	35	36	31	11	33	<b>303</b>
<b>Military (Army, Air Force, Navy)</b>	0	9	4	4	4	0	0	3	2	7	2	4	<b>39</b>
<b>Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps</b>	1	3	2	1	5	1	0	1	1	3	0	1	<b>19</b>
<b>Federal Executive</b>	14	157	102	125	98	21	17	92	108	83	39	133	<b>989</b>
<b>State Executive</b>	11	159	95	129	116	25	20	89	158	88	85	166	<b>1141</b>
<b>Senate</b>	14	82	105	60	70	14	18	37	46	52	27	69	<b>594</b>
<b>House of Representatives</b>	4	29	26	29	31	3	4	11	27	19	12	20	<b>215</b>
<b>State House of</b>	1	10	12	9	15	4	4	7	11	7	11	14	<b>105</b>

### 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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

<b>Assembly</b>													
<b>Judiciary</b>	8	21	18	15	25	3	3	13	18	9	15	21	<b>169</b>
<b>Faith Based Bodies</b>	2	16	8	8	15	2	3	7	18	8	4	10	<b>101</b>
<b>Ethnic Interest groups</b>	1	17	12	12	8	3	1	8	7	8	4	13	<b>94</b>
<b>Media</b>	3	5	9	4	23	7	2	9	10	5	0	6	<b>83</b>
<b>Ordinary Citizens</b>	2	0	1	11	3	5	2	4	9	3	1	4	<b>45</b>
<b>Professional Bodies</b>	2	9	11	6	6	0	1	6	8	6	1	9	<b>65</b>
<b>Trade Unions</b>	2	16	6	6	6	0	0	10	1	2	4	5	<b>58</b>
<b>Artisans</b>	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	1	2	<b>17</b>
<b>Academics</b>	0	3	2	2	4	0	0	1	1	6	4	2	<b>25</b>
<b>Traditional Rulers</b>	1	28	10	13	16	1	1	19	1	8	4	12	<b>114</b>
<b>INEC</b>	27	67	50	76	71	34	16	28	79	57	28	56	<b>589</b>
<b>Media</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

Regulator													
Total	179	1128	779	969	845	182	132	677	784	587	467	911	7,640

#### 4.0.5 'Mentions' of Political Parties

There are 91 registered political parties, as indicated on the INEC website. However, findings within the period of the monitoring exercise show that 59 political parties got 5,800 media mentions.

Of these, the ruling All Progressives Congress (**APC**) got the highest number of mentions at 3,251 times (56.1%), followed by the opposition party, the People's Democratic Party (**PDP**) which got 1,770 mentions (at 30.51%).

The rest political parties shared only 13.39% of total mentions. These were **AA** (0.06%), **AAC** (0.13%), **AAP** (0.03%), **ABP** (0.01%), **ACD** (0.22%), **ACCORD** (0.37%), **ACPN** (0.06%), **AD** (0.48%), **ADC** (2%), **AGA** (0.05%), **ANN** (0.63%), **ANRP** (0.24%), **APDA** (0.17%), **APGA** (1.93%), **APP** (0.03%), **DA** (9%), **DPC** (0.03%), **DPP** (0.15%), **FJP** (0.03%), **GPN** (0.12%), **HDP** (0.03%), **ID** (0.03%), **JMPP** (0.18%), **KOWA** (0.22%), **LP** (1.31%), **MAJA** (0.01%), **MPPP** (0.15%), **NAC** (0.01%), **NCP** (0.13%), **NDCP** (0.05%), **NDLP** (0.01%), **NIP** (0.06%), **NNPP** (0.01%), **NPC** (0.05%), **NPM** (0.01%), **NMR** (0.05%), **PDC** (0.01%), **PDM** (0.01%), **PPA** (0.01%), **PPC** (0.06%), **PPN** (0.012%), **PRP** (0.13%), **RNP** (0.06%), **RPN** (0.03%), **SDP** (2.23%), **SNP** (0.03%), **UDP** (0.03%), **UPN** (0.05%), **UPP** (0.27%), **YDP** (0.06%), **YPP** (0.32%), **MPN** (0.36%), **NUP** (0.01%), **YP** (0.01%),

#### 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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

#### 4.0.6 Format

Of the 10,389 total reports identified as relevant to the political and electoral issues and monitored, 8,071 reports were published as **News** (at 77.69%). Another 511 reports were published as **Features** at (4.9%); there were 64 **Editorials** at (0.62%); while 588 reports were **Opinion articles** at (5.66%). Another 111 reports were **Letters to the Editor** (1.1%); and 282 were **photographs** (2.7%).

Others include 134 reports published as **Cartoons** (1.3%); 50 as **Vox Pops** (0.48%) while 572 **Interviews** were published at (5.51%).

For the online medium, video was used to complement their reports. Four videos at (0.04%) were found relevant and monitored within the period.

*The table below shows the number of times identified relevant items were published in the different Report Formats*

	News	Features	Editorial	Opinion Articles	Letter to Editor	Photographs	Cartoon	Vox Pop	Interview	Video	Total
<b>BluePrint</b>	480	20	0	11	0	0	0	2	19	0	<b>532</b>
<b>Daily Sun</b>	851	45	8	106	7	27	14	3	165	0	<b>1,226</b>
<b>Daily Trust</b>	826	39	4	78	35	22	29	2	36	0	<b>1,071</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	580	49	5	25	0	29	5	0	43	0	<b>736</b>
<b>Nigeria n</b>	912	47	3	53	23	35	8	3	96	0	<b>1,180</b>

#### 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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

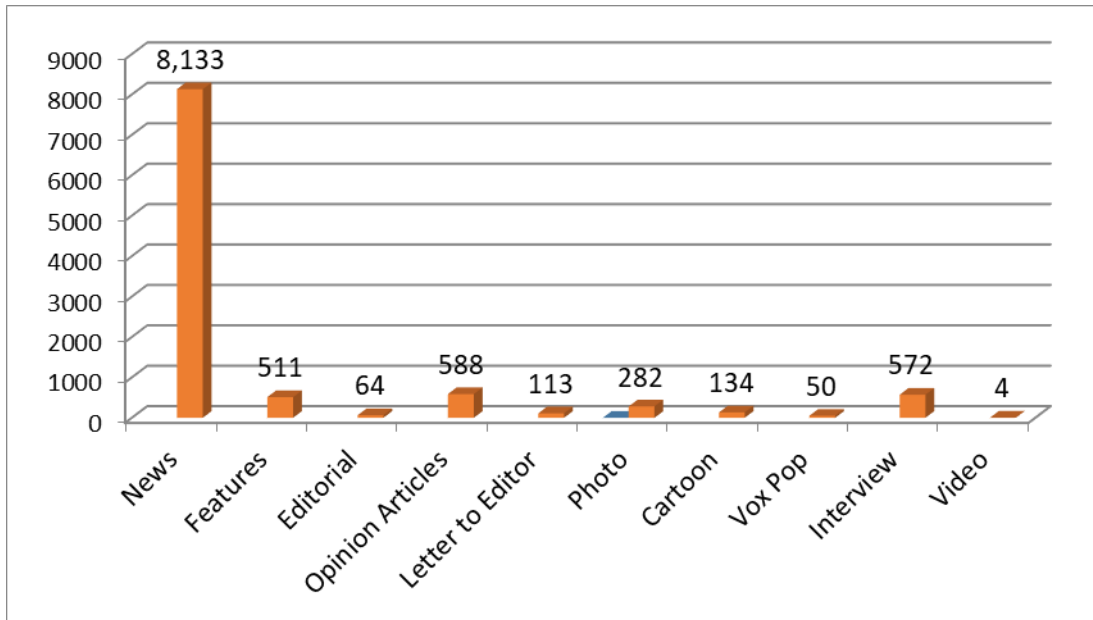


<b>Tribune</b>											
<b>Premium Times</b>	493	19	0	5	0	2	0	0	6	0	<b>525</b>
<b>The Cable</b>	385	12	0	2	0	14	0	3	5	4	<b>425</b>
<b>The Guardian</b>	547	30	15	42	3	21	27	0	26	0	<b>711</b>
<b>The Nation</b>	1017	84	8	90	19	37	27	0	36	0	<b>1,318</b>
<b>The Punch</b>	600	15	8	48	11	20	5	6	42	0	<b>755</b>
<b>ThisDay</b>	427	72	9	47	15	29	2	14	33	0	<b>648</b>
<b>Vanguard</b>	953	79	4	81	0	46	17	17	65	0	<b>1,262</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,071</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,389</b>

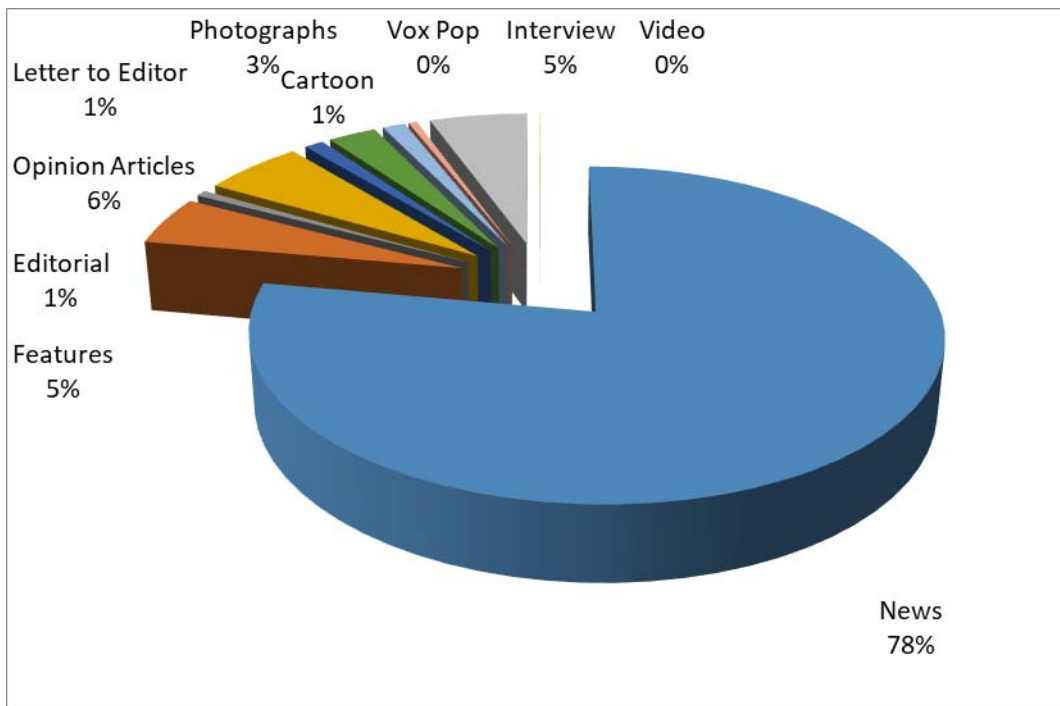
*The chart below shows the number of times identified relevant stories were published in the different editorial formats by the newspapers monitored for the three months (June, July, and August 2018)*

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



*The graph below shows the percentages the identified relevant stories were published in the different editorial formats by the newspapers monitored for the three months (June, July, and August 2018)*



#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

#### 4.0.7 Thematic Focus

A total of 10,175 reports were published on Specific Issues under Thematic Focus. These issues include:

**Issues of Gender (women):** Women issues were published in 121 reports, constituting 1.2% of the total reports.

#### **(Other Findings on Women Issues)**

##### **Right to Participate**

Issues published around women include their **right to participate** in the electoral process.

A report in the **ThisDay**, captioned: *Obasanjo: Women's Roles Beyond "Other Room"* (July 20, Pg. 53), urged women to increase their participation in politics.

A Vox Pop in **Daily Trust**, captioned: *Are Nigerians ready for a female vice president?* also spoke to the right and mental capacity of women to hold higher political office.

The need to review Nigerian Constitution to accommodate a legal framework for 35% affirmative action was the focus of a report in **ThisDay**, titled: *Ekweremadu Frowns at Relegation of Women in Governance* (June 13, Pg. 51).

Also, an interview in **ThisDay**, titled: *How I intend to use Social Entrepreneurship to Bring Prosperity to Nigeria* (June 2, Pg. 18) also focused on support to women's political participation.

#### **Some Reports Focused on Women's Personal Life**

There were some media reports that focused on the personalities of women politicians, rather than their political and electoral values.

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

One of these was found in **Leadership**. The paper referred to a woman contestant as a 'wife' in a report captioned "*Women should be Encouraged to Join Politics*", as:

Sarumi Aliyu, also known as BASA is a wife, a mother, a business woman, a humanitarian and hard working woman, who also has passion for politics (Pg. 23).

**The Punch** reported its version in a piece titled: *Mother of five declares for presidential bid, says nepotism hindering* (July, 21).

Meanwhile, a typical example was observed in the case of Bianca Ojukwu, a female contestant who Leadership and Daily Sun reports referred to as a 'widow' and a 'wife'.

In the **Leadership's** report of August 15th, titled *Bianca Ojukwu, Ubah, Ukachukwu's Clash Tears APGA Apart*, the paper describes her as:

...widow of the party's late Supreme leader, ex-Biafran leader, Ezeigbogburugburu, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, Ambassadors Bianca Ojukwu (Pg.23)

**Daily Sun** in a Cover story, referred to her as a 'widow', and titled: *Ojukwu's widow declares senatorial ambition* (August 29th, 2018). The story ran thus:

Former Nigerian Ambassador to Spain and widow of late Igbo leader, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, Ambassador Bianca Ojukwu, yesterday formally declared her interest to contest for the Anambra South Senatorial seat.

- **Key Women's Voices Missing in Key Issues**

While women's voices generally (that is, **women, female youths, and female-youths-with-disability**) were heard in the media during the period under review at 3.22% (put together), the coverage of the contribution of top female politicians in major party and political issues was quite minimal. In most cases, they were mentioned rather than being heard.

In the month of June 2018, aside from gubernatorial campaigns in Ekiti State, preparation and politicking towards APC National Convention was a big issue. Findings showed that voices of top women politicians were scarcely heard in critical decision making process in some of these issues.

For instance, in a report published by **The Nation** (June 18), titled: *APC governors to prevent convention crisis*, no female politician with key positions was interviewed apart from APC's National Woman Leader, Hajia Ramatu Aliyu who was only mentioned as possibly losing re-elected.

Another report on the Front page of **The Nation** (of June 3), was titled: *APC governors' battle for control of party*. The report had six sources. Of these, none was identified as a female's source. Rather, a male source was identified while the rest five were undisclosed. The only female politician mentioned in the story was Gbemisola Saraki, not used as a source.

Key women's voices were also missing in the update prior to the conduct of the Convention that was published in **The Guardian** (June 17), titled: *APC Convention: Presidency, govs in last minute troubleshooting*, and **Vanguard** (June 21), titled: *APC Convention: Presidency, govs in trade-off*.

In the **Premium Times**, an analysis which chronicled the outcome of the convention was published, titled: *Analysis: Winners and losers at APC convention*, (June 27), there was intensive analysis on the intrigues involving male politicians,

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

but the voice of the APC National Women Leader, Salamatu Umar was not captured. She was only mentioned.

Alleged marginalization by members of nPDP and 'rAPC' was another a big issue in the news. Most reports published on these issues had no women voices. For instance, there was a report on **ThisDay's** front page, titled: *Presidency, APC to hold further talks with nPDP Members on Monday* (June 1).

On the same issue, **The Punch** also published on its June 19th edition, a report, titled: *Buhari rules out meeting with nPDP members*. In the report, only male members were mentioned when the newspaper added that "...the aggrieved APC members could not be reached for comments on Monday night".

Even on the issue of electoral process, key women's voices were not heard.

An instance was observed in a report by **The Punch**, titled: *What should INEC do to simplify voter registration?* The paper interviewed five male speakers among whom were academics, legal experts and development analysts. None of these was a woman.

### Issues of Youth:

Issues affecting the youths were published in 319 reports at (3.13%).

**Issues of Persons Living with Disabilities:** There were 22 relevant editorial reports published on PLWDs, representing 0.21%.

A report was observed as speaking to the right of the PLWDs in the political process. This was published in the **Daily Sun's** report, captioned: *persons with disabilities seek equal voting right* (June 14, Pg. 43).

### **Voting:**

108 reports (at 1.06%) focused on gubernatorial voting that took place in Ekiti State in July as well as some bye elections in Katsina, Kogi, Bauchi and Rivers States.

**Political Conflict (Violence):** Political conflicts were published in 615 reports, accounting for 6.04% of identified relevant editorial reports. Most of these were fallout of activities around gubernatorial election in Ekiti State in July 2018, National Convention conducted by the APC in July 2018, as well as bye elections in Kogi, Katsina, Bauchi, and Rivers States.

**Election Disputes:** There were 72 editorial reports (at 0.7%) published on **Electoral Disputes**. Some of these were fallouts of issues arising from election tribunals in Ekiti State after the gubernatorial election.

**Campaigns:** A total of 4,682 reports were published on campaigns by **political parties' Candidates and Aspirants** in the build-up to 2019 elections. This represents 46.01%.

**INEC:** 620 reports on the **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**, Nigeria's elections ombudsman, representing 6.1%.

Issues around INEC reported during the period include 36 reports on **Continuous Voters' Registration** at (0.4%). **Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs)** had 246 reports (at 2.41%).

There were 14 reports on **Campaign Finance** (0.13%) and 59 reports on **Voter and Civic Education** (0.57%).

**Other issues around INEC include:**

**Complaints:** There were series of complaints around the issue of **under-age voting**. Some of these **complaints** were found in reports published in **BluePrint**, captioned: *To release report on Kano underage voting* (July 2). **Premium Times** published: *Kano Underage voting: INEC to release full investigation report*, Yakubu (July 1). In **ThisDay**, a report titled: *Addressing the underage Voter Palaver* (July 15, Pg. 72), underscored INEC's admittance of pressure on NYSC members to register under age voters in Kano.

**The Cable** also published a story on the issue, captioned: *HELDA asks INEC to release report on underage voting in Kano*

There were also **complaints** around voters' inability to register due to inadequate logistics put in place by INEC. Some of these were published in the **Daily Sun**, titled: *Dangers of eying and necking voters cards* (June 16, P.33); **Vanguard**, titled: *PDP Cautions INEC Over Ekiti, Osun Polls* (June 7, Pg. 40). The report in **The Guardian** (June 18, Pg. 15) titled: *Southern, Middle Belt leaders call for Yakubu's suspension* complained over alleged betrayal of public trust regarding Kano State under age voters incidence.

**INEC's Independence and Credible Election:** Some reports on INEC's **independence and credible elections** were found in the **BluePrint**, titled: *INEC's assurances on incumbency factor* (July 5, 2018). Another report in **Daily Sun**, titled: *INEC's threat to 2019 election* (July 22) urged INEC to fix integrity crisis looming in its activities.

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*



**Nigerian Tribune** published: *Ensure election is free, Ekiti Obas tell INEC* (July 12).

**Vanguard** published *Our Plans for Hitch Free 2019 Polls* (July 2).

In **Daily Sun**, there was a report titled: *Ekiti guber: Council of Obas demands credible election* (June 6, P.3), *Jega's advice on 2019 elections* (June 6, P.13).

**Premium Times** also published a report on INEC's readiness, titled: *2018: Ekiti election can't be rigged—INEC*.

**INEC's Budget and Campaign Finance:** Some reports focused on **INEC's budget** as found in the **Daily Trust**, titled: *2019: Buhari proposes #242bn for INEC Security* (July 18). **Leadership** published: *N242bn budget plotting to frustrate 2019 election, PDP alleges* (July 17). **Premium Times** also published: *Buhari transmits 2019 election budget to senate* (July 17). Another report in **The Cable** also titled: *'N189bn for INEC, N52bn for security agencies', Buhari sends budget of 2019 polls to senate* (July 17). **The Nation** published: *NASS recess: INEC worried over poor funding ahead of 2019* (July 29).

**Vote buying:** There were also some reports on the issues of **Vote buying** and the need for INEC to prosecute offenders. One of these were reported in **Daily Sun**, titled: *INEC raises the alarm on vote buying* (July 19). Another one Says: *Prosecute perpetrators of vote buying, SERAP tells INEC* (**Daily Sun**, July 18).

**Daily Trust** published: *Lawyers condemn vote buying in Ekiti* (July 17). **Leadership** also published: *2019: EU, INEC move to tackle vote buying* (July 24);

**Others:** There were 3,261 published items and monitored under the category of "Others" (32.04%). These refer to other relevant issues on democracy and election which did not fall under any of the thematic focus issues relevant to the monitoring exercise.

### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

*The numbers of the thematic Focus published by the monitored newspapers*

	Blue Print	Daily Sun	Daily Trust	Leadership	Nigerian Tribune	Premium Times	The Cable	The Guardian	The Nation	The Punch	This Day	Vanguard	Total
<b>Gender (Women)</b>	6	11	11	18	13	5	0	11	7	8	12	19	<b>121</b>
<b>Youth</b>	25	33	35	54	22	5	7	21	41	18	15	43	<b>319</b>
<b>PLWDS</b>	0	3	4	1	0	8	0	2	0	2	0	2	<b>22</b>
<b>Political Conflict</b>	21	114	49	21	43	43	23	39	100	39	28	95	<b>615</b>
<b>Election Disputes</b>	4	11	2	4	12	8	6	1	7	6	3	8	<b>72</b>
<b>Campaigns</b>	258	547	562	350	610	196	161	233	609	278	271	607	<b>4682</b>
<b>Voter and Civic Education</b>	3	4	10	2	12	2	1	5	4	4	1	11	<b>59</b>
<b>Continuous Voters Registration</b>	2	1	3	0	9	2	5	2	6	0	1	5	<b>36</b>

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

<b>Permanent Voters Card</b>	12	23	26	29	34	7	7	18	31	16	13	30	<b>246</b>
<b>INEC</b>	21	66	63	61	66	43	40	40	46	65	49	60	<b>620</b>
<b>Campaign Finance</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	4	<b>14</b>
<b>Voting</b>	2	4	10	0	11	19	9	0	7	20	12	14	<b>108</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>3,261</b>

#### 4.0.8 Language Use

Evidence of conflict insensitivity was noted in **The Punch**, **Daily Sun**, **Daily Trust** and **The Guardian** and **Premium Times** in a published report during Ekiti State gubernatorial election campaign. For instance, a report was published in **The Punch** on June 28, titled: *Voting APC is inviting killer herdsmen to Ekiti – Fayose*. The report referenced Gov. Fayose as saying:

...voting for the APC during the election was an invitation to chaos, killing, raping of people's wives and daughters by the killer herdsmen whom the APC harboured.

In **Daily Sun's** report, titled, *"Ekiti Guber: PDP locks down Ekiti in mega rally for Eleka"*, the newspaper quoted PDP national chairman as saying:

...and we can see the clear demonstration of love for Fayose and in coming governor, Olusola, you won't vote for herdsmen's attacks and killings. (July 6)

#### 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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

**Daily Trust** also quoted PDP national chairman as saying:

...You know those behind the killings in the country, if you vote for APC, you are voting for killers and herdsmen to take your lands.

**The Guardian** captioned its version as: *Voting for APC is invitation to herdsmen's killings, Fayose tells workers (June 28):*

...voting for the party in Ekiti would invite chaos, killing, raping of people's wives and daughters by the killer herdsmen, which the APC harbours. He stressed that the number of widows and orphans in these states are increasing every day...

**ThisDay** reported same story as : *APC Will Give killer Herdsmen Freedom in Ekiti, Fayose Alleges (June 28)*

**Premium Times's** report of August 26th titled, " 2019: Why I should be PDP's presidential candidate – Makarfi", published a politician's statement, saying:

...there is an attempt to foist a sick president on Nigeria with the much publicised 800metres walk by President Muhammadu Buhari during Sallah celebration.

#### **4.0.9 Conflict-Sensitive Reporting**

There were pieces of evidence to show that media were playing their role in being conflict sensitive by reporting early warning signal against possible outbreak of violent conflict during elections.

For instance, an analysis report in ThisDay, titled: *Looming Anomie in Ekiti State* (June 10, pg. 77) warned that "Ekiti is gradually sliding into anarchy and no efforts

#### **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 for June, July and August, 2018)*

must be spared to prevent the recurrence of that era of bloodshed and wanton killings”.

This was also observed in a report in **The Punch**, titled: *What should be done to avert violence* (July 13).

In **Daily Trust**, (June 15), there was a report, titled: *2019: Foundation, INEC partner on violence free poll*.

**The Guardian** also published a report on its **Front Page**, *Sanusi warns politicians on tension over 2019 elections* (June 18).

**Leadership**'s August 18th edition, titled “*2019 INEC Budget: Election Monitor Warns Of Crisis If NASS Fails Reconvene*” made a reference to the need for National Assembly to reconvene, as failure to do so “... is capable of plunging Nigeria into an avoidable and unnecessary constitutional crisis which must be completely avoided” (Pg.7)

## 5.0 OBSERVATIONS

- **General**

- i. It was observed that female politicians especially aspirants and candidates received less attention compared to their male counterparts who were the ones mostly used as sources. This did not show enough gender-supportive reporting of the elections;
- ii. It was observed that the two political parties, the APC and PDP dominated media reporting during the period under review despite the fact that there were ninety-one (91) political parties registered by INEC. The report reveals that the APC and PDP got media publicity in over three-quarters (about 85%) of the times political parties were mentioned while the rest 89 political parties got publicised and were mentioned in just 14.4% of the time.
- iii. It was observed that the media outlets monitored substantially gave spaces to the reporting of electoral issues as news. The indicator shows that 8,071 reports (77.69%) of the total 10,389 identified relevant reports were published as News items.
- iv. It was observed that the male folk remain the most consulted as sources for media reports. The indicators shows that Women, youths and PLWDs combined did not get half the media focus that the men got. In other words, media reports were more about men and their perspectives on issues.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

The media remains critical in deepening the democratic process. It is imperative that journalist, media managers/ gate keepers and other media stakeholder bear in mind that they have the responsibility to uphold ethics and professionalism at all times, and that other stakeholders depend on the information from the media. The media therefore is central to the success of the 2019 electoral process.

### **Recommendations:**

- **The Media**

Affirmative action on inclusive reporting: The media should make conscious efforts in reporting disadvantaged groups including youths, women and PLWDs, as critical stakeholders in Nigeria's democracy. Efforts should be made to give prominence to under-reported groups as them as stakeholders in the electoral process particularly in front page reports and editorials. Their voices as well as their votes should be made to count.

*It is recommended that the media implement an affirmative action on reporting these categories of people so that their issues can be highlighted and brought to the fore of public discourse.*

Positioning for equitable access: The media should create deliberate space for new and emerging political parties to air the views in the electoral discourse.

*It is recommended that the media should strive to apply professional and ethical standards which prescribe equitable media access for all political parties.*

- **Political Parties**

It is recommended that political parties are encouraged to create space for the active participation of youths, women and PLWDs as they are also stakeholders in

the Nigerian project. They should at least agree on and implement an acceptable percentage of affirmative action in favour of these disadvantaged groups.

The political parties, particularly those getting few or no media attention also need to brush up their media engagement strategy so that the media can also adequately report them.

- **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**

The media should embark on more solution-driven reporting of the activities of the election management body so there could be adequate responses to reports and issues bothering on complaints.

- **Other stakeholders.**

Under represented groups.

Women and PLWDs are also encouraged to put in place, strategies that will put them in the limelight: they should organize programmes and activities that the media can report, they should also carryout media advocacies to present their issues and challenges so that they come into the public sphere and the right authorities get to read them and that way are forced to address them.

Security Agencies

Law enforcement and security agencies and should also be seen to impartial and ready to protect lives and property as well as ensure the credibility of the elections.

Civil Society Actors

Civil society groups as game changers and as agents of change are taken serious by government and the media, they therefore need to speak out particularly where they see lapses. They are also expected to speak for the voiceless and the marginalized segments of the society to ensure that they are not disenfranchised in the electoral process.

**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 for June, July and August, 2018)*