

INTERIM REPORT

**MONITORING OF NEWSPAPERS/ ONLINE NEWS REPORTAGE
OF THE 2019 ELECTORAL PROCESS (MAY 2018)**

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1.0 Introduction

This report covers the outcomes of a media contents monitoring carried out in the first two weeks of May, 2018 (that is, May 1 to May 15, 2018) covering nine daily newspapers.. These include *The Punch*, *The Guardian*, *Daily Sun*, *Vanguard*, *ThisDay*, *Nigerian Tribune*, *The Nation*, *Leadership*, and *Daily Trust*.. This is a pilot report which is expected to set the standard for subsequent reports on the media content monitoring project being implemented by the International Press Centre (IPC) under component 4b of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Project (EUSDGN). The monitoring shall span two years and also includes the monitoring of three online mediums. This media content monitoring report does not only highlight the issues trending within the period but also assesses how media are setting the tone and agenda for the forthcoming general elections.

2.0 Scope of Research

The monitoring exercise covers nine daily newspapers and three on-line news platforms. (that is, the online mediums are **The Cable Premium Times** and **Blue Print**).

3.0 Methodology

In conducting this research, both Quantitative and Qualitative monitoring approaches are adopted. The quantitative approach is underscored by the data collection method, using a well-designed media monitoring template which enables the use of coding spreadsheet. The coding enables the capturing of the frequency at which the media reports of each of the given indices in this survey occur. These data are processed to arrive at specific results which appear in graphs and tables in the body of this report.

Meanwhile, the Qualitative monitoring approach adopted in this media monitoring is by means of media content analysis of individual newspapers' reports, photographs, letters, and interviews published within the period under review. Its adoption in this research is to engender open debate and discussions on the thematic focus of the democratic and electoral issues published by the Nigerian media, particularly the print and on-line media.

0.1. Units of Analysis

The units of analysis for this research include: Prominence of Issues and Reports, Sources of News Reports, Diversity of Sources, and How Balanced News Reports are; who and what gets "Mentions" in the Media, Types of Reports, and Thematic Focus.

0.2. Specific Issues under Thematic Focus

The specific issues being monitored under Thematic Focus/Issues include: issues of Gender (women), issues of Youth in Politics, Persons Living with Disabilities, Voting, Political Conflict, Election Disputes, Campaign, Party

Activities, Voter and Civic Education, Continuous voters' registration, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Campaign Promises, Campaign Finance, Campaign Promises/Aspirants and Others .

4.0 Research Questions:

Prominent among the issues the report sought to focus on were how the mediums monitored reported on women, the Youth, Persons Living with Disabilities, Voting, Political Conflict, Election Disputes, and Campaigns,

It also documented and analysed reportage of Party Activities, Voter and Civic Education, Continuous voters' registration, Independent National Electoral Commission, and Campaign Promises.

The monitoring exercise monitored and analysed media contents devoted to these issues, looking at the space, prominence the mediums gave to them, the number of times they were reported and the balance in the reports of these issues.

The exercise also examined which thematic interests are accorded the most prominence in the media? Who and what gets the most 'mentions' in the media? Which political party got the highest 'mentions'? Who and what are the most frequent sources of media reports? How diverse are the media sources? Are the media getting the perspectives of disadvantaged groups? How Balanced are Media Reports? This report addresses these, among other questions.

5.0 Findings

5.1 Total Relevant Reports

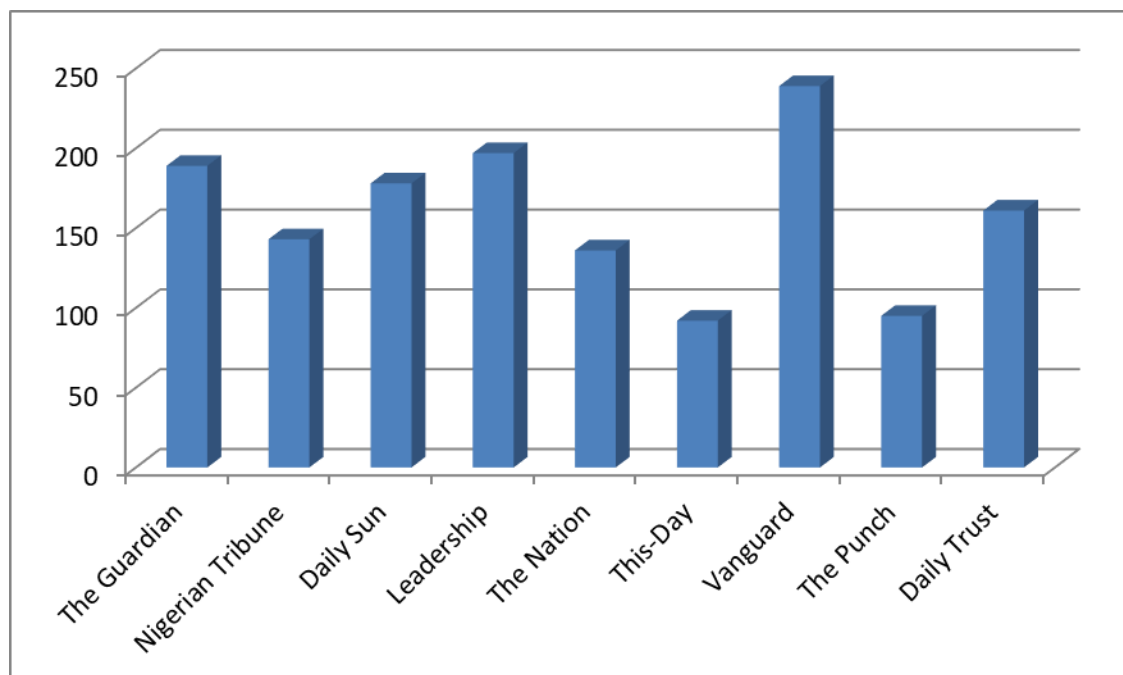
Findings show that a total of 1,431 reports were found relevant to the media content monitoring exercise within the first two weeks of May, 2018. Of the nine newspapers under review, **Vanguard** published the highest reports, ... (at 16.7%) followed by **Leadership** which published 197 relevant reports (13.77%) and **The Guardian** with 189 relevant reports (13.21%). **Daily Sun** came closer with 178 reports that were relevant to the monitoring (at 12.44%); **Daily Trust** published ... (11.25%); **Nigerian Tribune** had 143 relevant reports (9.99%); **The Nation** published 136 reports found relevant (9.5%); **The Punch** published 95 reports reports found relevant (6.71%) and **ThisDay** 92 relevant reports (6.43%). Blue Print was left out for the period under review due to some logistic challenges.

Table Showing Total Relevant Stories

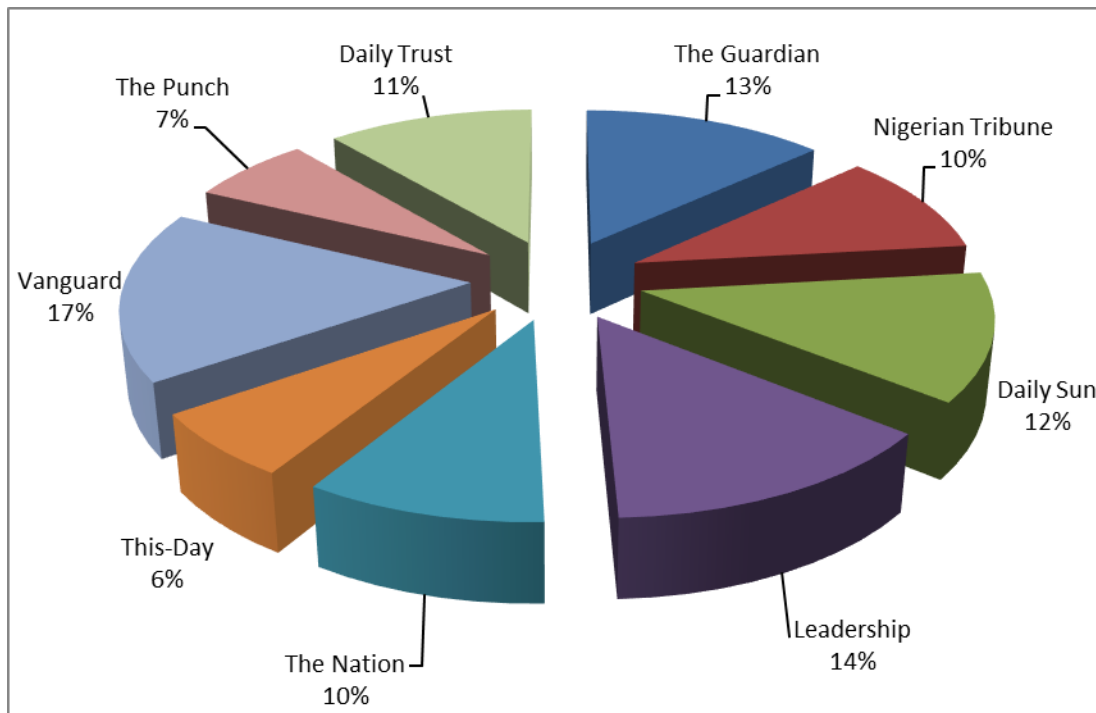
Medium	Frequency/Total Items	%
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The Guardian	189	13.21%
Nigerian Tribune	143	9.99%
Daily Sun	178	12.44%
Leadership	197	13.77%
The Nation	136	9.50%
This-Day	92	6.43%
Vanguard	239	16.7%
The Punch	95	6.71%
Daily Trust	161	11.00%
Total	1,431	100%

The graph below shows the number of relevant items published by the monitored newspaper during the period



The chart below shows the percentage of relevant items published by the monitored newspaper during the period



5.2 Types of Stories

Findings show that relevant editorial reports published as news dominated the reports monitored and analysed with as many as 1,105 reports appearing in **News formats**, indicating that 76.58% of the whole reports were products of events, and, or press statement/releases. It also indicates that the majority of the identified relevant editorial reports presented as news reports are getting good prominence as news items generally are reports of events with elements of immediacy, currency, relevance, prominence, proximity etc which are most likely to grab readers' attention than the other editorial formats. Another 125 reports, 8.66% were published as products of investigation in **Feature** stories and 18 relevant reports or 1.25% as **Editorials**. and Relevant editorial reports published as **Interview** were 76 (at 5.27%) published relevant materials in the form of feedback from the citizenry were eight as **Vox pop** (at 0.55%) and four as **Letters** (at 0.28%).

Others include 73 relevant reports published as **Opinion** articles (5.05%), 22 **Photographs** found relevant (1.53%) and 12 **Cartoons** (at 0.83%) also found relevant.

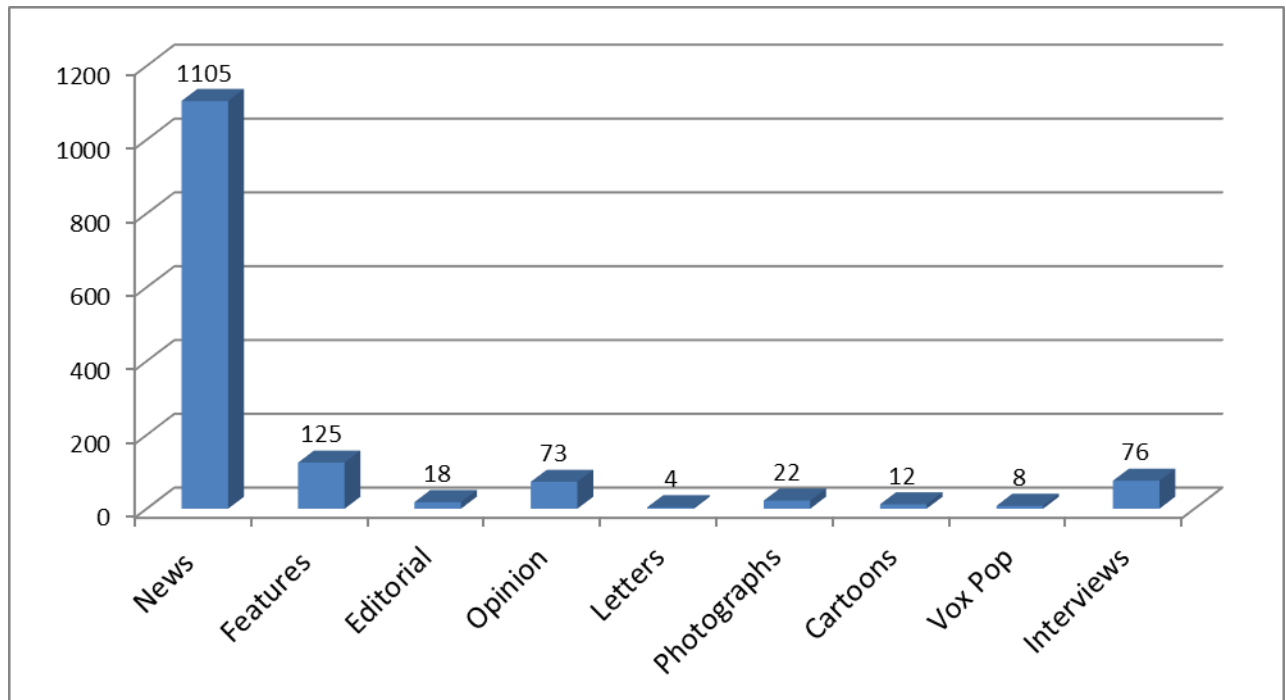
Table (2) below shows Types/Formats of Relevant Stories published during the period.

The table below shows the number of times identified relevant items were published in the different editorial formats

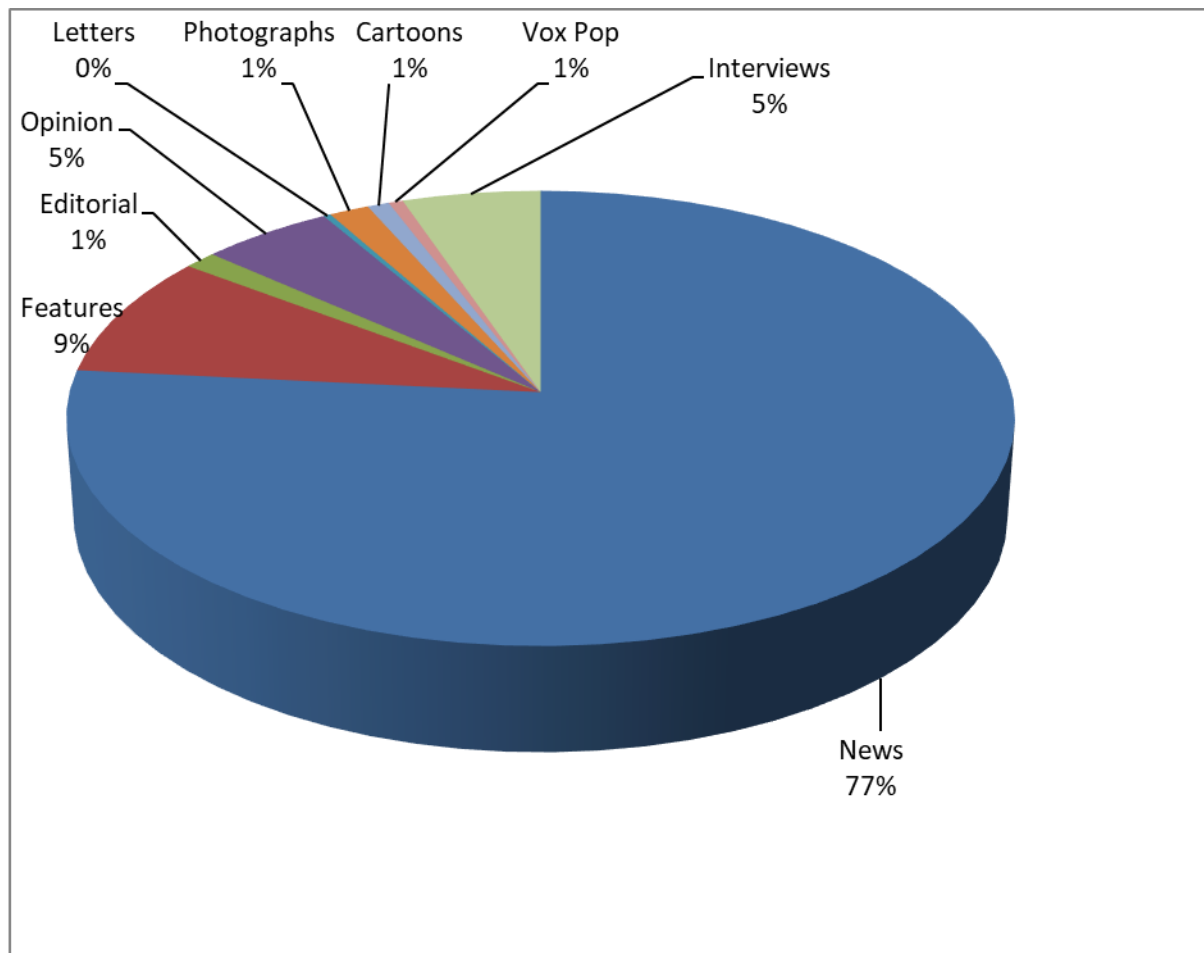
Media	News	Features	Editorial	Opinion	Letters	Photograph	Cartoons	Vox Pop	Interviews	Total
The Guardian	96	1	5	6	1	0			3	112
The Punch	77	0	2	6	1	2	1	2	4	95
Daily Trust	126	4	1	15		4	3	4	4	161
Vanguard	210		2	11		4	1	2	9	239
Nigerian Tribune	108	99		8	1	1			16	233
Daily Sun	140	1		10		4	1		22	178
Leadership	169	1		9		3	3		12	197
The Nation	111	11	7			3	3		1	136
This-Day	68	8	1	8	1	1			5	92

Total	1105	125	18	73	4	22	12	8	76	1,443
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The graph below shows the number of times identified relevant items were published in the different editorial formats



The chart below shows the percentages identified relevant items were published in the different editorial formats



6. Thematic Focus

6.1 Coverage of Thematic Areas of Interest

6.1. Party Activities

As political and electoral activities towards 2019 general elections enter top gear, findings show that the major area of focus in the mainstream print media were

dominated by Party Activities with 478 identified relevant reports (32.32%) arising from party congresses, conventions and party primaries. **The Guardian** and **Daily Sun** published highest numbers with 87 and 78 relevant reports respectively.

6.2 Aspirants' Campaigns and Promises

Arising from **Party Activities**, the next thematic focus that dominated media space during the period was the access given to **political parties' Aspirants** which had (at 16.02%). Majority of these are published by the **Vanguard** with 87 reports.

6.3. Political Conflict

Again, reports of **political conflicts**, intrigues and series of violent attack were 209 accounting for 14.13% of identified relevant editorial reports. Most of these were fallout of gubernatorial primaries conducted in Ekiti State and other congresses across the States of the Federation by the All Progressives Congress (APC). This is a pointer to the fact that more political conflicts will likely be witnessed as all other parties prepare for their congresses, primaries and the general elections.

6.4. INEC

Reports on the **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**, Nigeria's elections ombudsman were 71 or 4.8%, which seem to be low in number.

Meanwhile, major issues trending around INEC include reports on **Continuous Voters' Registration**, 8 (0.541%) and **Permanent Voters' Cards**, 13 (0.88%).

6.5. Reportage on Youths Participation in Politics

Issues of Youth Participation with 50 editorial reports (3.38%) are getting improved reportage in the media than other disadvantaged groups such as

Women, 26 relevant reports (176%) and **Persons Living With Disabilities**, (PLWDs), six reports (at 0.41%).

6.6. Voter and Civic Education

Relevant editorial items identified during the period were very few on **Voter and Civic Education**. There were 21 reports (1.42%). Even where voter education is established in the media, this is often done through the lens of the politicians, advocacy groups as well as **non-governmental organisations (NGOs)**.

6.7. Reportage on Women

Findings show that media are still far away from mainstreaming the issues of gender. Overall, the total number of issues around women in politics was published in 26 items (at 1.76%) and most of these are reported within the context of lending their (women's) support, or campaigning for male politicians (**The Nation**: "2019: North-West APC Women rally support for Buhari" (May 7, 2018, Pg. 37) is an example.

6.8. People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs)

Low access to the media by the PLWDs is displayed during the period in focus with only six relevant editorial reports (at 0.41%). Only **The Guardian** (1 report), **The Punch** (2 reports), **Nigerian Tribune** (2 reports) and **Leadership** (1 report) feature stories about this disadvantaged group.

6.9. Campaigns

Only four reports , 0.27% of media reports were found to constitute stories on **Campaigns**.

6.10. Electoral Dispute

Only one, 0.068% report was found relevant dealing on Electoral Disputes.

Others

There were eight reports on continuous Voters' Registration, another 13 on permanent voters' cards issues and 342 identified relevant items on democracy and election which did not fall under any of the thematic focus issues relevant to the monitoring exercise.

Table (3) below shows statistics on the thematic focus of media reporting

Media	The Guardian	The Punch	Daily Trust	Vanguard	Nigerian Tribune	Daily Sun	Leadership	The Nation	This Day	Total
Women	6	1	5	1	3	1	3	6		26
Youth	10	2	7	6	10	3	8	2	2	50
PLWD	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	6
Political Conflict	21	15	9	59	21	16	14	35	19	209
Election Dispute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Campaigns	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Party Activities	87	23	65	39	42	78	72	43	29	478
Voter and Civic Education	2	5	0	1	3	2	0	6	2	21
Continuous Voters' Registration	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	8
Permanent Voters' Cards	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	7	13
INEC	7	15	7		7	7	11	10	7	71
Campaign Finance	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	8	0	13
Campaign Promises/Aspirants	57	6	14	87	50	0	17	0	6	237
Others		28	53	39	28	73	67	24	30	342
Total	195	104	161	236	166	182	194	136	105	1,479

7.0. Prominence:

7.1. Prominence Accorded Relevant Reports in the Media

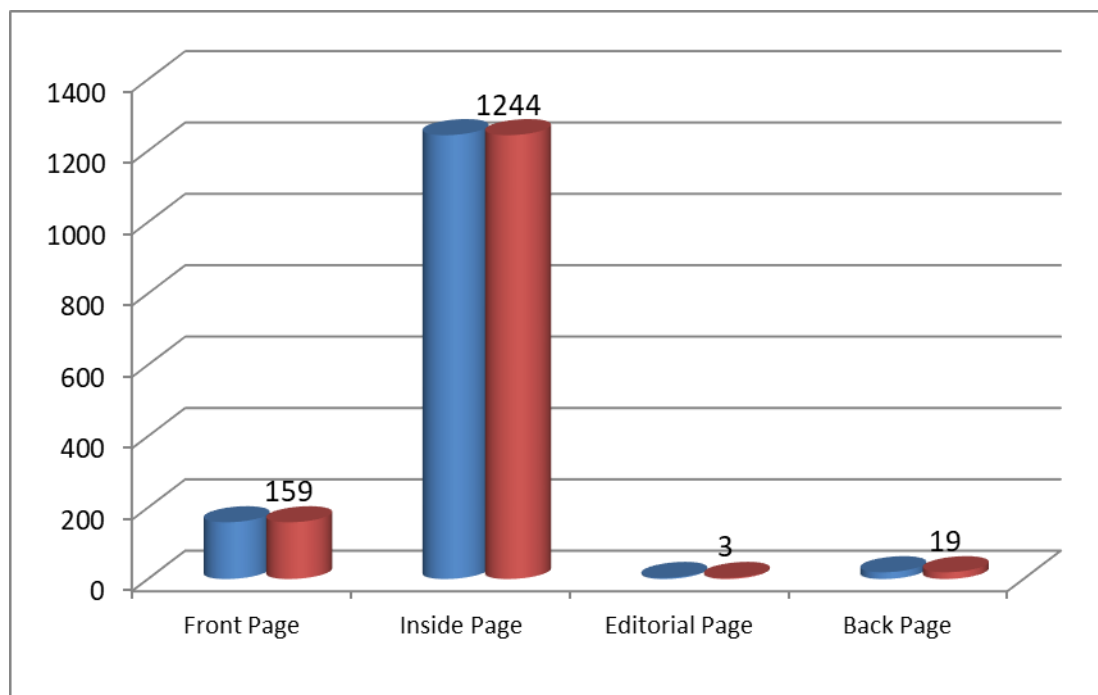
Of the total of 1,431 relevant reports identified and monitored within the period, 1,244 reports, 87%. were published on the **Inside Pages**. A total of 159 reports, 11.11% got the most prominence by being published on the **Front Pages** while 19 reports were published on the **Back Pages** (accounting for 1.33%) and only three reports were published as on the **Editorial Pages** (at 0.21%).

Table (4) below shows Prominence of Stories

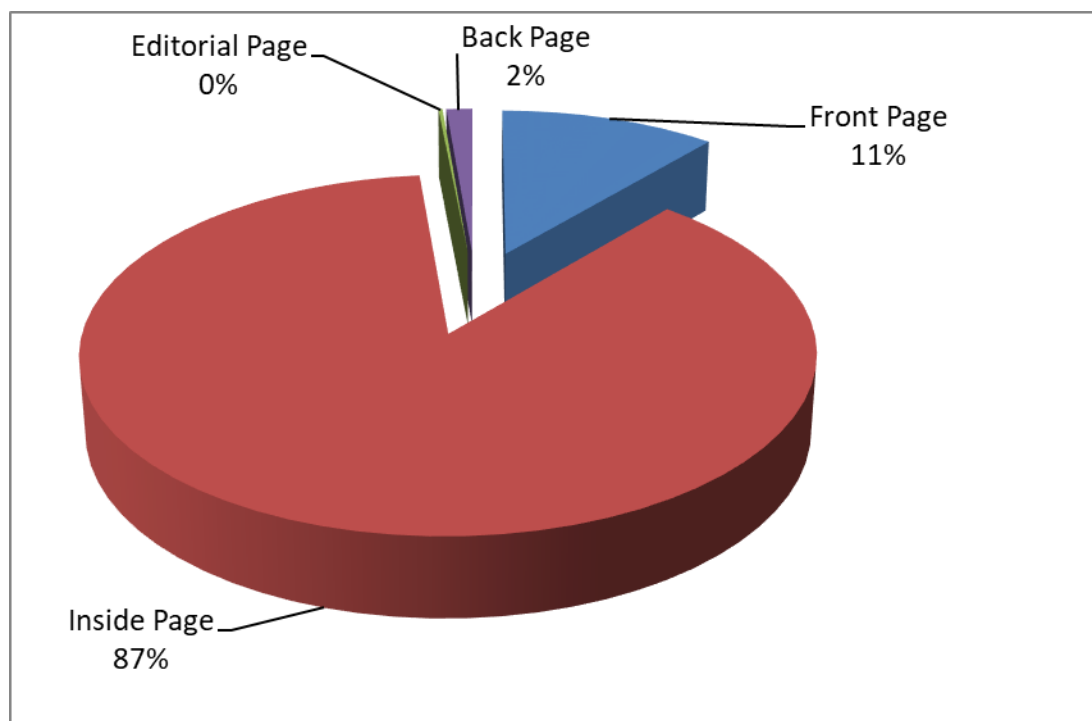
Media	Front Page	Inside Page	Editorial Page	Back Page	Total
The Guardian	18	165	0	0	189
The Punch	5	88	2	1	96
Daily Trust	12	145	1	3	161
Vanguard	20	217		2	239
Nigerian Tribune	30	113	0	0	143

Daily Sun	25	148	0	5	178
Leadership	13	177	0	7	197
The Nation	25	111	0	0	136
This-Day	11	80	0	1	92
Total	159	1244	3	19	1,431

The graph below shows the position of publication identified relevant items were published during the period



The chart below shows the percentages of the positions of identified relevant items were published



7.2. Prominence Accorded the Under-reported Groups

(On the Front Page)

Findings show that reportage of disadvantaged groups (the youth, women and Persons Living With Disabilities) were not given enough frontage prominence by the newspapers monitored. A total of four relevant reports on **Youths** (at 3.38%) were published on the Front page. Of all **Women** stories only one (at 1.76%) was featured on the Front Page. Of the identified relevant stories about **PLWDs** only three, or 0.41% of the reports appeared on the Front Page.

(On the Editorial Page)

No issue about **Youth**, **PLWDs** and **Women** were featured in any of the newspapers monitored: nothing on them was published on the **Editorial Page**.

(On the Back Page)

No relevant stories in any editorial formats was published to address issues related to **Youth**, **PLWDs** and **Women** on the Back Page.

8.0. Mentions:

8.1. Who Got ‘Mentions’ in the Media?

Findings indicate that **Male persons (Men)** still dominate the media space and got the most ‘mentions’ with 629 reports that mentioned men (at 24.39%), followed by the media ‘mentions’ of members of **State Executives** in 334 reports taking 12.95% and **Federal Executives** mentioned in 305 reports or 11.5% respectively,

indicating possible influence of the executive arm of government (who are also male figures really) on the media and the electoral process. This assertion is evident in the pattern of reporting which accords 157 reports or 6.085% of 'mentions' to INEC, coming in-between, Executives and Members of the National Assembly.the **Senate** which got 175 mentions (at 6.79%). while the **House of Representatives** which got 56 mentions (at 2.17%) and **State Houses of Assembly** mentioned in 54 reports (2.091%).

Similarly, the importance and contribution of the CSOs and the **Nigeria Police** in the electoral process is also evident in the media 'mentions' accorded them with 106 reports or 4.11% for CSOs and 127 reports or 4.924% respectively. The disadvantaged groups comprising the **Youths**, 124 reports or 4.8%) and **Women**, 115 reports or 4.46% enjoy some appeaciable numbers of media mentions, except members of the **PLWDs** who were scarcely mentioned with just 19 reports that account for 0.74%. **Mentions' enjoyed by the Judiciary Is 43 reports or 1.67% and the Military in another 43 reports or 1.67.** Others within the range include the **Professional Bodies** which were mentioned in 28 reports or 1.08%, the **Trade Unions** in 26 reports or 1.005%, the **Media** in 27 reports or 1.042%, **Ethnic Interest Groups** in 45 reports or 1.734% and **Faith-Based Groups** in 47 reports or 1.823%.

Mentions of **Ordinary Citizens** stood at only seven reports or 0.27%, **PLWDs** in 19 reports or 0.74%), **Artisans** in only two reports or 0.078%), **Academics** in 15 reports or 0.58%, and **Traditional Rulers** in 20 reports or 0.78%.

Others with the least 'mentions' are **Inter-Governmental Organizations** in 25 reports or 0.97%, **International NGOs** in 20 reports or 0.775%), **Donor Agencies** in just one report or 0.039%), **Public Institution** in nine reports or 0.35%, and **Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps** in 20 reports or 0.775).

Table (5) below shows who got ‘mentions’ an how many in the media

	The Guardi an	The Punch	Daily Trust	Vangu ard	Nigeri an Tribun e	Daily Sun	Leader Ship	The Nation	This Day	Total
Men	102	34	87	30	22	127	120	89	18	629
Women	21	9	19	12	5	21	16	3	9	115
Youth	22	8	19	4	11	24	26	3	7	124
PLWD	4	5	3	2	1	3	0	0	1	19
CSOs	23	6	12	10	9	8	21	2	15	106
Inter- Govern mental Organiz ations	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	25
Internat ional NGOs	4	1	4	1		2	7	0	1	20
Donor Agencie s	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Public Instituti ons	1	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	2	9
Nigeria Police	3	6	11	26	7	31	22	5	16	127

Military (Army, Air Force, Navy)	18	1		1	1	12	8	0	2	43
Nigeria n Security and Civil Defense Corps	2	0	0	4	3	3	5	1	2	20
Federal Executi ve	63	2	56	23	17	76	45	4	19	305
State Executi ve	51	6	45	47	18	80	49	1	37	334
Senate	35	2	32	21	3	44	22	2	14	175
House of Reps	11	3	11	3	3	11	12	0	2	56
State House of Assembl y	11	1	11	8	0	12	11	0	0	54
Judiciar y	7	1	2	2	2	14	12	0	3	43

Faith-based Bodies	7	6		6	7	10	5	5	1	47
Ethnic Interest Bodies	5	2	5	14	3	10	2	0	4	45
Media	2	1		1	11	6	1	2	3	27
Ordinary Citizens	1	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	7
Professional Bodies	7	2	3	5	2	5	1	0	3	28
Trade Unions	7	3	6	4	1	1	4	0	0	26
Artisans	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Academics	0	4	5		1	2	3	0	0	15
Traditional Rulers	6	3	0	1	1	5	4	0	0	20
INEC	17	17	17	25	7	35	23	0	16	157
Total	434	126	355	257	142	547	422	118	178	2,579

8.1. Mentions (2):

8.2. Which Political Party Got the Highest ‘Mentions’?

As shown by the findings of this monitoring, only thirty-three political parties get a total of 1,437 media ‘mentions’.

Of these, the All Progressives Congress, (APC, the ruling party) got the highest number of mentions (59.2%), followed by the main opposition PDP (at 28.94%). Others include SDP (4.67%), ADC (1.25%), APGA (1.04%), and LP (0.56%).

Other political parties in the media are AP (0.14%), GDPN (0.21%), DPP (0.14%), NPM (0.07%), PPA (0.07%), NCP (0.14%), UPP (0.14%), ANRP (0.07%), ACCORD (0.21%), KOWA (0.075%), AA (0.21%), ANN (0.07%), DA (0.07%), APDA (0.14%), SNP (0.07%), BNPP (0.14%), AD (0.49%), PRP (0.14%), ADP (0.35%), DPC (0.49%), MAJA (0.07%), NAC (0.07%), UDP (0.07%), PPN (0.07%), YDP (0.07%), MPPP (0.07%), and GNP (0.07%).

Sources

9.0. Who are the Sources of Media Reports? Are the Marginalized Persons Speaking?

A total of 1,269 sources were recorded within the monitoring period. Of these, findings show that women made only 5.122% of people whose voices were heard in the news as their voices and perspectives were published in just 65 of the relevant editorial items monitored. In contrast men's perspectives were published in 1,167 editorial items or 91.96%, thereby dominating sources of news reports. Even the perspectives of youths, being used as sources were minor with **Male and Female Youth** constituting only 1.103% and 0.08% or 14 and one instances respectively respectively.

Also, reports on the disadvantaged group (**PLWDs**) remains very low While **Male, Youth with Disability** made only 0.08% of sources of news, **Female, Youth with Disability** never featured as sources.

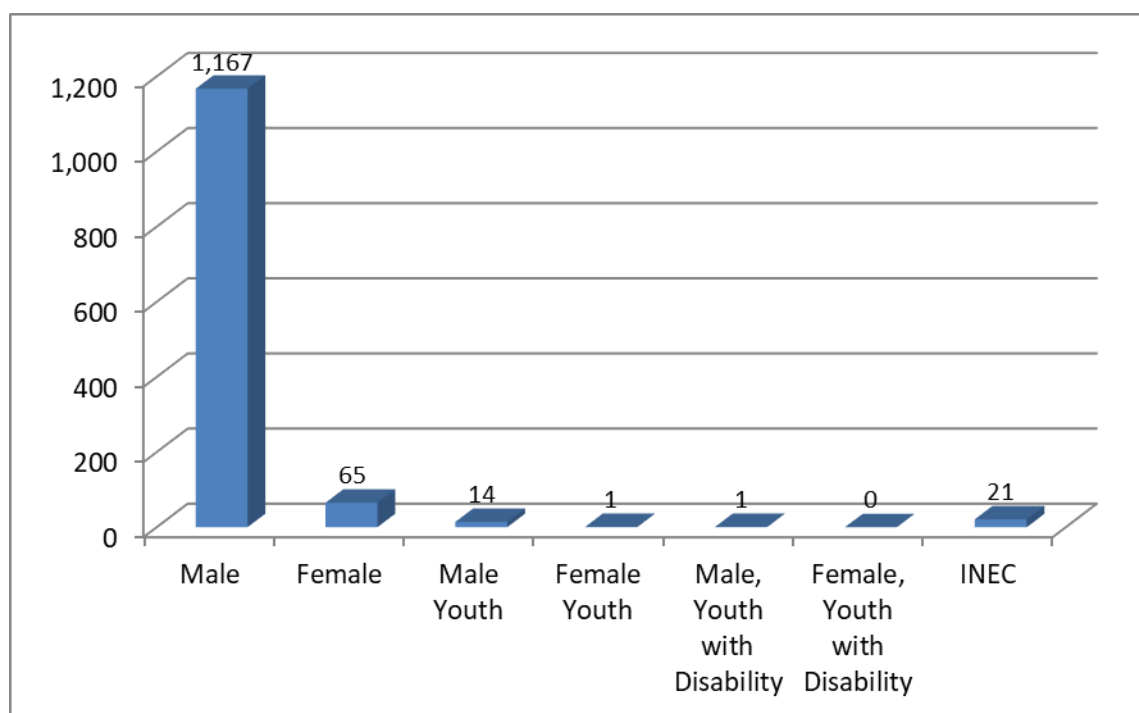
Meanwhile, findings also show that **INEC** has 1.66% of people speaking to the media.

Table (6) showing Diversity of Sources of Stories

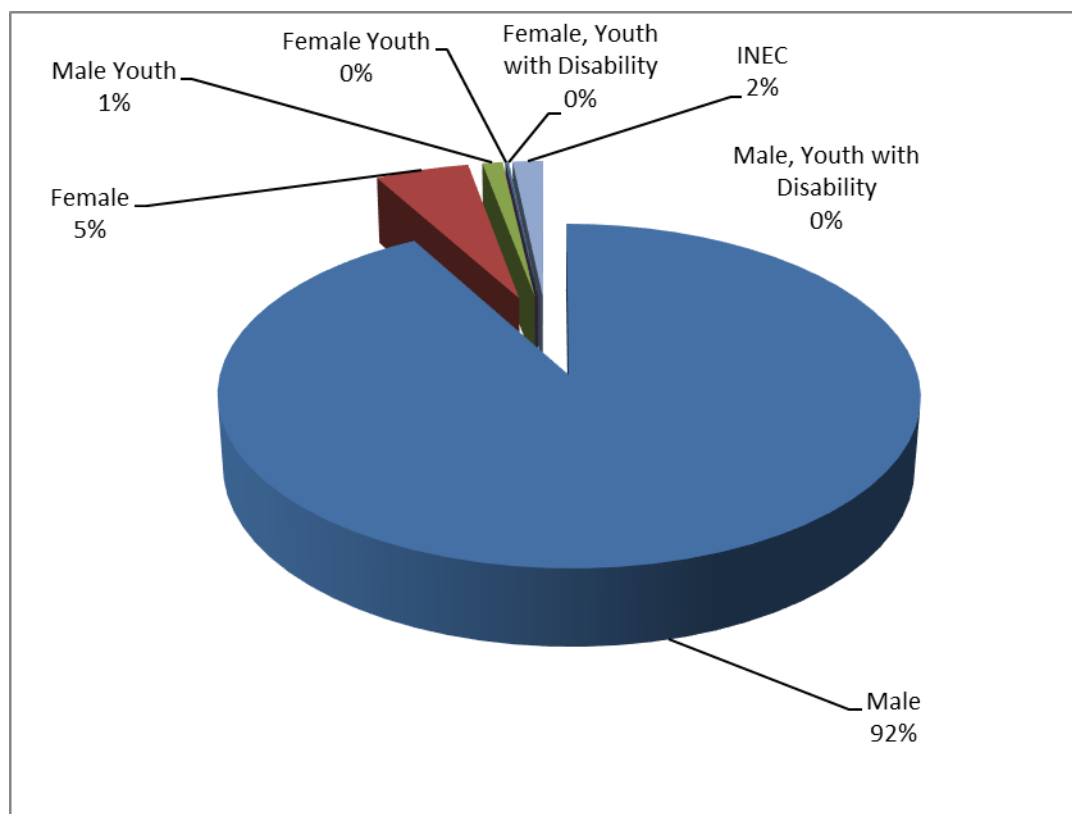
Medium	Male	Female	Male Youth	Female Youth	Male, Youth with Disability	Female, Youth with Disability	INEC	Total
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The Guardian	114	3	1	0	0	0		118
The Punch	79	6	1	0	0	0	1	87
Daily Trust	123	4	1	0	0	0	4	132
Vanguard	205	15	3	0	1	0	4	228
Nigerian Tribune	131	6	0	0	0	0	0	137
Daily Sun	150	9	4	1	0	0	2	166
Leadership	164	11	1	0	0	0	0	176
The Nation	117	8	2	0	0	0	9	136
This-Day	84	3	1	0	0	0	1	89
Total	1,167	65	14	1	1	0	21	1,269

The graph below shows the amount of reportage given selected thematic focus issues during the month



The chart below shows the percentage of reportage given selected thematic focus issues during the month



10.0. Gender (Women) Reporting

Findings reveal that much of the reports on gender are event-driven as they are mostly published as **News** items in 9 reports (0.629%). Only 1 report was published as **Interview** (0.07%). Incidentally, Women issues are not featured as products of Investigation in the **Editorial**, or in **Feature** reports.

It is instructive to also note that women were mostly reported within the context of campaigning for male politicians. Instances of these are found in such reports as:

- **The Nation's** report, captioned: "2019: North-West APC Women rally support for Buhari" (May 7, 2018, Pg. 37), and in;
- **Vanguard's** report, captioned "...Turaki Vanguard's Women, youth mobilization arm inaugurate Lagos exco (May 2, pg. 11)
- **Vanguard: 2019: WAYS Seeks Women, Youth Support for Atiku** (May 11, pg. 37)

10.2. Youths in Politics

Findings also reveal not much is being done by the media to consciously mainstream issues of Youth participation in politics in its reportage. First, few reports were published on youth participation within this period.

Just as observed in the case of gender reporting, much of the coverage of youths' involvement in the electoral process was passive; that is, more persons outside the youthful age bracket, including politicians, traditional rulers, political parties and CSOs were speaking for them (the youths). Instances of these were found in such stories highlighted below:

- *Youths urged to prepare for leadership roles* (**The Punch**, May 4, pg. 6)
- *...Turaki Vanguard's Women, youth mobilization arm inaugurate Lagos exco* (**Vanguard**, May 2, pg. 11)
- **Vanguard: 2019: WAYS Seeks Women, Youth Support for Atiku** (May 11, pg. 37)
- *...2019: NYSC Warns Youths Against Thuggery* (**Leadership**, May 11, pg. 9)
- *...2019: Steer Clear From Violence, NGO Warns Youths* (**Leadership**, May 13, pg. 6)

Meanwhile, as shown in the table below, and as equally indicated in the media reportage of women issues, reports on Youths featured as **News** items in 9 reports

(0.629%). Only 1 report was published as **Interview** (0.07%). Again, as seen earlier under gender reporting, no report featured as products of Investigation in the Editorial, or in Feature reports

Table (7) showing media reports on youth participation in politics

Media	News	Features	Interview	Editorial	Total
The Guardian	0	0	0	0	0
The Punch	0	0	0	0	0
Daily Trust	0	0	0	0	0
Vanguard	1	0	0	0	1
Nigerian Tribune	5	0	0	0	5
Daily Sun	0	0	0	0	0
Leadership	0	0	0	0	0
The Nation	2	0	0	0	2
This-Day	1	0	1	0	2
Total	9		1	0	10

10.3. PLWDs and Media Reportage

Findings reveal that 4 reports at (0.41%) of all monitored reports on PLWDs were published as News reports. Only one report (0.07%) was published as **photo news**.

Table (8) showing media reports on PLWDs

Media	News	Features	Interview	Cartoons	Editorial	Photo	Total
The Guardian	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Punch	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Daily Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vanguard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigerian Tribune	2	0	0	0	0		2

Daily Sun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leadership	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Nation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
This-Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	0	0	0	0	1	6

Total	167	24	1,126	1,327
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11.0. ‘Balanced’ or ‘Not Balanced’ Reports: Case Study

(How did the Media Report Fayose’s Allegations against APC in Ekiti?)

Meanwhile, for the purpose of this research, the reports of allegations and counter-allegations between members of PDP and APC in the buildup to the Ekiti State gubernatorial poll were selected as reference points to establish instances of ‘balanced’ and ‘unbalanced’ stories in the newspapers under review.

In the build-up to the governorship primary election of the APC in Ekiti State, governor Fayose alleged that members of the APC were flooding the state with huge sums of money. Again, following the disruption of APC gubernatorial primary election in Ekiti State, the incumbent governor also alleged that members of the opposition party (APC) in the state had perfected plans to do same to the

PDP primary election which was to be conducted in week after the incident. Interestingly, all the newspapers under review published the allegation stories.

12.1. Balanced Report

It is instructive to note that a number of the newspapers (being monitored) balanced the report with the side of the APC State Chairman.

For instance, The Punch' report was titled: *APC Violent, planning to disrupt PDP's primary- Fayose* (May 7, pg. 20) and was balanced with a clause thus: "...the state chapter of the APC, Jide Ojo described the allegation...as laughable'.

In the Nigerian Tribune of May 3, (pg. 37), the report of allegation of attempts to influence the elections with money was captioned: *APC aspirants flooding Ekiti with money to compromise voters... Fayose*. The report was balanced thus: *...He is jittery, frustrated, APC*

12.2. Right of Reply

Meanwhile, in the Vanguard, the right of reply was observed two days after the first report. The first report was titled as: *EKITI GOV POLL: APC planning to disrupt PDP primary-FAYOSE*, (May 7, pg. 11). What seems to be a response came on May 9 from an aspirant in a report titled: *Forget the crisis, APC will win July 14 governorship election-Ayo Arise*. The report made a reference to a source thus: "...it was not true that hoodlums hijacked the process, as he said that the primary was brought to a halt by aspirants' agents and party members when irregularities and electoral malfeances were noticed...pg. 37).

In Leadership, the story is captioned: *"PDP Raises The Alarm, Over Alleged Plans By APC To Disrupt Ekiti Primaries"* (May 8, pg. 12). What seems to be closer to a reply was published on May 9, pg. 16, and captioned: *Ekiti: Why we*

Disrupted APC primary Election_Adeusi, who is an APC Youth leader in the state. The paper wrote, “according to Adeusi, he took the action to save the future of Ekiti people and also the face of the party from the implosion...”

In *The Nation*, the allegation of plan to disrupt was titled: *Fayose accuses APC of plotting to disrupt PDP primary* (May 7, pg. 45). The response was contained in the same story in a statement thus: ...The APC Chairman, Chief Olajide Awe, described Fayose’s allegation as laughable, warning the governor against meddling in the party’s internal affairs’.

In the *Daily Sun*, the story is captioned: *Fayose raises alarm over influx of cash into state*” (pg. 30) on May 3rd and a right of reply was observed on May 4, (pg. 32) in a report, titled: *Blow your whistle to EFCC, Police... APC aspirant tells Fayose...*

12.3. Unbalanced Reports

Meanwhile, a couple of newspapers published unbalanced stories of allegation made by governor Fayose. In *Daily Trust*, the same report, titled ...*Fayose alleges N5bn sneaked to Ekiti for APC primary* (May 3, pg. 14). No response from the other side was included.

Also, in *Nigerian Tribune*’s report, captioned, *APC plans to disrupt PDP primaries, says Fayose* (May 7, pg. 8), no response was published.

Incidentally, these two allegation reports were not published in *ThisDay*. Instead, another unbalanced report of allegation was monitored in *ThisDay* of May 4, Pg. 52, captioned *PDP Accuses INEC of Accrediting 4,000 APC Observers for*

Ekiti, Osun Elections... where no right of reply was observed either within the same story or in subsequent editions.

7.0 Conclusion/Recommendations

Different stakeholders have different roles to play in making the electoral processes transparent, all-inclusive and successful. The following recommendations are made for the identified stakeholders.

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) needs to step up its sensitization programme on voters education on the various stages of the election process. It should design in such a way that citizens are enlightened on their roles in the various aspect of the election process, from registration to casting of votes etc.

Law Enforcement and Security Agencies

With the level of political conflicts recorded within two weeks, it means that there may likely be a deluge of political conflict especially among the major political parties fielding candidates including APC, PDP, APGA etc. Law enforcement and security agencies must be therefore be very prepare to combat it and avoid unnecessary waste of lives and property, and ensure that voters are able to vote and that their votes count.

Media

The media needs to take out pages, as part of their corporate social responsibilities to educate Nigerians on the whole process of voting, from the registration stage, through collection of voters' cards up to the casting of ballot. They should

strategically design the sensitisation programme in such a way that each stage is published at the appropriate time to make the best impact.

Disadvantaged groups like women, youth and persons living with disabilities did not receive enough media attention during the period. The media need to seek them out, get their voices and perspective on issues and ensure that they are not neglected and sidelined and disenfranchised in the electoral processes.

Political Parties

The political parties also have a responsibility to carryout sensitization programmes on the electoral process to increasing their chances of winning, and to help in deepening and expanding Nigeria's democratic experience.

Civil Society

Civil society including non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, community development associations etc should also galvanise citizens to show interest in and to participate in the elections by persuading them to register, vote and ensure that their votes count.

Civil society groups also need to learn and master how to access the media with their issues so that the media can help escalate such and for the necessary agency to take appropriate action(s).