



# **AIRWAVES MONITOR**

**A REPORT ON THE  
BROADCAST MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT**

**July 2001**



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## **Other Publications by Media Rights Agenda (MRA)**

- \* *Media Rights Monitor* (Monthly Journal) published since 1995
- \* Annual Reports on the State of the Nigerian Media
  - + *Sentenced to Silence*, 1998
  - + *Back from the Brink*, 1999
  - + *A Harvest of Blooms*, 2000
- \* Other reports and publications
  - + *Unshackling the Nigerian Media: An Agenda for Reform*, July 1997 (In collaboration with ARTICLE 19)
- \* *Media Scorecard* (Report of the Print Media Coverage of the Political Transition Programme - six issues, from January - June 1999)
- \* *Airwaves Scorecard* (Report of the Broadcast Media Coverage of the Political Transition Programme - six issues, from January - June 1999)
- \* *Unlocking Nigeria's Closet of Secrecy*, August 2000 (A Report on the Campaign for a Freedom of Information Act in Nigeria)
- \* *Broadcasting In Nigeria: Unlocking the Airwaves*, February 2001 (A Report on the Framework for Broadcasting and Telecommunications in Nigeria - In collaboration with ARTICLE 19)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## Foreword

With about 60 percent of Nigeria's estimated population of 120 million illiterate and, therefore, incapable of reading newspapers and magazines, radio and television remain the most important means of mass communication in the country. Besides the illiteracy level, radio and television have an unrivaled potential for reaching the rural population and enlightening them on human rights and political issues. Radio and television are also the most important tools for molding the political opinion of this section of the population in addition to a high proportion of the literate segment.

But with an ownership structure dominated by Federal and state governments and the existence of a powerful regulatory body under the control of the government, there are fears that a large segment of the population may effectively be denied access to the media both as a means of receiving information and as a vehicle for expressing their views and opinions. There have also been allegations that the broadcast media, both state-owned and privately owned, are simply being used to project the political interests and views of those who have control over them, while discrediting those with opposing views, and therefore, undermining genuine democratization.

Without doubt, the issue of whether the deregulation of broadcasting in Nigeria has engendered pluralism in programming and information sources as well as truly independent broadcasting remains a highly contentious one. Prior to the deregulation of the broadcast sector of the Nigerian media, there were frequent reports of the various governments exerting control over the media to ensure that only news and information favourable to them were aired. With the emergence of private ownership of broadcast stations, a question arises as to how effective the independent media have been in providing alternative sources of news and information and how much these have balanced those emanating from the government-controlled news media.

While independent broadcasters are severely restricted in their areas of coverage to their state of location or, at best, to neighbouring states, the Federal Government-owned Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) have the capacity to broadcast nationwide and regularly run network news and other programmes such that they remain the main source of news and information.

This project is intended to provide some empirical data on how the media covers public issues, especially democracy, politics and human rights and in the process highlight the fairness or otherwise of their programmes to all interest groups as well as monitor how they seek to enhance the political process.

The objective of the project is not to condemn the media's coverage of these issues or to create a competition among the various media establishments. Its primary purpose is to provide a barometer for media establishments to measure their performance in the reporting of public issues and government activities and undertake voluntary adjustments to bring themselves into conformity with international standards in the coverage of political issues.

**Edetaen Ojo**

*Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda*

June 2001

## PREFACE

In any democratic society, the media plays the foremost role in the shaping of public opinion. This is why in undemocratic societies, the media is one of the first targets of repression by the government. If a democratic government is sophisticated, it may opt for media control and manipulation as a way of controlling the flow of information and teleguiding public opinion. Where the government is crude, the media especially the public state-owned media, is simply used as a mouthpiece.

But even in democratic countries, different sections of the society and economy openly try to influence the media. Publishers, editors, correspondents and reporters are cultivated by different interest groups and significant amounts of money are openly spent on advertising and public relations. It has also been known to happen that informal incentives (such as brown envelope journalism) influence some journalist. Furthermore, journalists have their individual biases and this sometimes gets in the way of objectively, balanced and factual reporting. In some cases, it may just be lack of adequate training, lure of sensationalism or laziness that gets in the way of good reporting. Whatever the reason for inaccurate, fictional or unbalanced coverage, the results are the same. Distortion of information can have, and has had, catastrophic implications for society.

But the media must strive to overcome all obstacles to fair, accurate and balanced reporting. The strategic position of the media in modern society as regards influencing and shaping public opinion means that the media has an obligation to ensure equitable access for all sections of society. All reports must be truthful, factual and reflect the views of all parties to any issue. Pictures, headlines and reports must not be misleading and no one should receive undue projection over others. Unfortunately the media does not always live up to these ideals and the consequences to the society are often much higher than we imagine.

The most damage to public psyche could be achieved through a manipulation of the broadcast media. This is largely because of its reach, which far surpasses the print.

In his introduction to *Television and Elections*, former US President, Jimmy Carter, noted that television has become a principal source of news and information around the world. According to Mr. Carter, “*its rapid spread and unheard-of penetration is nothing short of phenomenal. In affecting the lives of people everywhere, and, more particularly, in communicating messages in times of changes and crises, it can help to shape the most decisive events that move both citizens and their leaders\**.”

Truly, the importance of the broadcast media, Television and Radio, as vehicles for political education and mobilisation is paramount. While television, with its visual effect, can create the

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\* *Television and Election*, 1992, by Ellen Mickiewicz and Charles Firestone, The Aspen Institute and the Carter Centre, Maryland, US

most potent awareness and emotion, radio is especially important in a country such as Nigeria where illiteracy is high, where newspapers do not circulate outside the major towns and where television is not widely available because of poor electricity supply and the high cost of television sets.

Even in the poorest of countries, most rural families will have access to portable radios and have sufficient funds to buy batteries for their radio sets.

By this same fact, it goes without saying that any authority, be it the government or interest group, that can manipulate the mass media, can ultimately manipulate the political process.

The liberalisation of the broadcast sector of the Nigerian media by the National Broadcasting Commission Decree No. 38 of 1992, has led to the emergence of numerous private broadcast media. This has engendered a more robust broadcast media environment in Nigeria, at least to the extent that there are now many alternative stations available to Nigerians to listen to or watch.

However, there are still some pertinent questions to be addressed if the society is to realize the fullest benefit possible from the broadcast media. The primary aim of this media monitoring exercise is to assist the media in achieving this objective.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The primary aim of the media monitoring exercise is to assess the role of the media in upholding and promoting democratic culture and practice as well as ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance.

Some of the questions to be addressed are: How well does the media provide a robust atmosphere for the promotion of political debate, democratic governance and public accountability? How well does the media ensure the fair, accurate and objective coverage of political issues and political interest groups? How well does the media ensure fair, accurate and objective coverage of human rights issues and safeguard the rights of disadvantaged and minority groups?

The project seeks to determine the extent of coverage given to these issues by both the state-owned public media and the private media. It also seeks to identify the significant issues covered and those, which were ignored.

**The Topics\Variables covered in the monitoring were:**

### **Political Issues**

1. Reports on federal, state and local governments and their agencies
2. Reports on economic policies and the public's responses to them
3. Reports on emerging political issues

### **Democracy Issues**

1. Reports on separation of power (between the three arms of government)
2. Reports on the legitimate role of the opposition and opposition activities
3. Reports on the "registered" political parties— AD, APP, PDP.
4. Reports on other political associations and organisations
5. Reports on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
6. Reports on other general democracy issues

### **Human Rights Issues**

1. Reports on gender issues and gender equality
2. Reports on human rights violations
3. Reports on human rights promotion
4. Reports on human rights investigations

### **Reports on Public Accountability**

1. Reports on corruption in government
2. Reports promoting transparency in public life.

## **SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During the month under review, the broadcast sector of the Nigerian Media accurately reflected the economic and social pressures of media operations in Nigeria. These pressures arose from the huge start-up and running costs, the intense competition to attract commercials, lacks of social services, such as public power supply and the dearth of professionals. They all had telling effect on the quality of broadcasting during the month.

For example, throughout the month, several stations abruptly went-off air due to power failure.

Secondly, even more than the print media, the pressures forced several of the stations monitored to sacrifice professional ethics for financial considerations. Many station managers virtually erased the dividing line between news features and commercials. Very often, most of the stations broadcast news items that were clearly suspicious in terms of the truth and listeners were with the option of deciding for themselves what to believe.

In the first week of June, the stations were generally guilty of not using sound-bite in their morning news, a practice which reduced the credibility of the news reports. For example, from June 1 to 9, out of 55 pre-noon news reports carried by Radio Nigeria 2, Lagos, only 8 had sound-bites. In the same period on NTA2 Channel 5, out of 8 items monitored, only 2 had sound -bites.

Also on June 6, NTA2 Lagos on the 7am news, reported that the Abia legislature said the National Assembly had no right over tenure of local government chairmen. Although appropriate actuality was given but the report lacked sound-bite.

On MBI, it appeared customary for their 7am, 8am, and 9am reports to omit sound-bite.

During the month, Political Issues dominated the airwaves followed closely by Democracy Issues. Human Rights reports featured the least although there was a slight increase from the total 116 items of May to 135 this month.

In June, the broadcast media generally promoted government at all levels to the detriment of other organisations including the political parties, both registered or otherwise. Although Democracy Issues received much airtime, the sub-variable Recognition of Opposition had relatively few reports.

The effective use of sound bites is yet to improve generally especially in the morning bulletins. This trend continued in the third week. For instance, the three stations monitored in Kaduna, (FRCN, KSMC, NTA) did not employ sound-bite and government received the most mentions while only 29 human rights reports were carried with 2,170 seconds (36 mins 10 secs) duration, out of a total 540 news items and duration of 661 mins. 22 secs. (11hrs. 1 mins. 22 secs) on the three stations.

The masses received some coverage in the last week of June as they got considerable attention. It must be said that RN2 Lagos employed sound-bites for its 7am news programme during the month. For example, on June 29 when Major Al-Mustapha (rtd) was accusing former military leader General Abubakar of meddling in the 1997 coup investigation, the station used sound-bite to add life to the report and give it more credibility.

A notable trend in June was that although the broadcast media carried more reports on democracy generally, (690 compared with 593 in May), less airtime was actually devoted to the reports with 899.8sec (14hrs. 59 min. 8 secs.) in June compared with 999mins 28sec(16hours, 39mins 8secs) for the 593 democracy reports in May.

There was reduction in the number of detailed reports on the airwaves with many sketchy items crying out for follow-up.

## **SECTION 2: GENERAL FINDINGS**

Period of Report: June 1—30

No of Radio stations monitored: 5 (Radio Nigeria 2, Lagos; FRCN Kaduna; KSMC Kaduna; Aso FM Abuja; Raypower 100.5 FM, Lagos.)

Total News Reports on Radio: 4,314

Duration of Reports: 105 hours 47 minutes (6,347 minutes)

News reports falling under the project topic variables: 1,290

Duration of monitored news reports: 20 hrs, 38 mins. 29 secs (1,238 minutes.29 secs)

Percentage of Monitored News Reports: 29.9%

No of Television stations monitored: 6 (NTA2 Channel 5, Lagos; NTA Kaduna; NTA Abuja; Channels Television, Lagos; Murhi Television, Lagos; and Minaj Television, Obosi).

Total news reports on television: 2,706

Duration of reports: 105 hours, 41 minutes (6,341 minutes)

News reports falling under the project topic variables: 654

Duration of monitored news reports: 19 hours, 23 minutes 7 secs. (1,163.7 minutes)

Percentage of Monitored News Reports: 24.21%

### **Variables Covered**

In the following run-down, the data for two stations could not be included. These are Aso FM radio station and the NTA television station, both in Abuja.

Under Democracy Issues, 690 news items were monitored with 14 hours.59mins 8 secs (899 min ,8sec) duration. Radio stations had 420 news reports with a duration of 7hrs.7min. (427 minutes) while TV stations broadcast 270 reports of 8hours duration.

Political Issues had 962 news items of 18hrs.59 mins. secs (1,139 mins35sec). On radio, there were 677 items for this variable with duration of 10hrs.7mins.13secs. (607 min 13 sec). For the same variable, television stations broadcast 285 reports with duration of 8hrs.52mins.22secs.(532 min 22sec).

There were 135 news items under the Human Rights variable with a total duration of 3hours. Radio stations recorded 80 news reports in 1hr. 13mins.(73minutes) while TV stations aired 55 reports in 1hr. 44 mins/ 43secs. (104 minutes 43 secs.)

A total of 157 news items were carried by the broadcast media on the Public Accountability variable in a total time of 3hours, 16mins.8sec(196 minutes, 8sec). Of this total, radio stations accounted for 113 reports in 2 hours, 1min 53 secs (121mins, 53sec) while television aired 44 items in 1hour, 15 minutes (75mins).

## **MENTIONS**

Highest Positive: Government at all levels.

Least Positive: Registered Parties (AD, APP, PDP)

Highest Negative: Political Organisations

Least Negative: The Masses

Most Promoted: Government at all levels

## **Area of News Origination**

Highest Preponderance (in descending order): Federal Capital Territory, Lagos state, Edo state

## **Scope of Reports**

Highest Preponderance (in descending order): Nigeria (1. North Central, 2. South West, 3.South South, 4. South East); International



## **SECTION 3: FINDINGS ON SPECIFIC RADIO STATIONS**

### **1. RADIO NIGERIA 2, LAGOS**

For the month under review, the station mostly used voice-overs and its reports lacked sound-bite, except sometimes on 7am, 4pm, and 10pm network news. Many of its reports during the month were not balanced as they were one-sided and often needed follow-up. For example, in the 8am news of June 28 in a report of Justice Minister, Chief Bola Ige's alleged involvement in the N2.3 billion NEPA scandals, only the National Assembly's accusation was highlighted while the minister's defence was omitted. Also, between June 11 and 16, out of 58 reports, 42 needed follow-up or clarifications.

RN2, Lagos suffered from poor reception especially during link-up with network broadcasts at 7am and 4pm. Sometimes, the station went off air without apologizing for the breaks in transmission. For example, this was what happened on June 11 during the 10pm network news.

Also, some of the station's news sounded like they were lifted from the newspapers. There were examples of these from June 1 to 6 during the 8am and 9am news. The station gave considerable coverage to government at all levels as well as the masses and their preoccupations. However, the heaviest focus was on political issues with democracy trailing behind, while human rights sometimes did not receive any coverage. The station ranked first in the number of public accountability reports it carried (31) with a duration of 1,633 seconds (27 mins, 13secs). On the whole, RN2 needs to make more effort to balance its reports.

### **2. FRCN, KADUNA**

Its reports were mostly on government activities and the political party in power. There was relatively little coverage of ordinary individuals, alternative political groups and other political organisations. It is, however, pertinent to point out that the station ranked high in the number of public accountability reports featured (30) with a duration of 1749 seconds (29mins, 9secs).

It aired 53 reports on democracy in a time of 76 mins, 8sec(1hour,16mins) while political issues reports came to 182 in a time of 197 min.,23sec(3hours, 17mins). A notable use of sound-bite was on the "Mandate", a news programme aired on June 26.

### **3. KSMC, Kaduna**

During the month, the station's reports were generally fair although a few cases of one-sided reports were recorded on June 25 (12noon), 26<sup>th</sup> (6pm), and the 30<sup>th</sup> (also 6pm news).

The station did not seem to feel any need to diversify information or news sources, as many of its reports were derived from a single news source, hence were not exhaustively treated. For instance, out of 50 news items monitored from June 25 to 30, only 11 items had more than one news source.

The station also neglected sound-bite as only one news item on June 27. For example, had sound-bite out of a total of 20 monitored that day. Also, some of the station's news items were more advertorials in nature and examples were the 6pm news on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 3pm news on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Political Issues received plenty of airtime with 132 reports aired in 155 minutes, 7sec (2hours, 35mins). There were 27 reports related to public accountability with a duration of 43mins.43secs. On the whole, the station broadcast 786 news items in June in a time of 971 minutes (16 hours, 11mins). Of these, 66 items were monitored with a duration of 80 minutes, 37 sec (1hour, 20mins ).

#### **4. RAYPOWER 100.5FM, LAGOS**

Reports on this station in the first week of June generally lacked sound-bite, both in the forenoon and post-noon news programmes. Most of the week's relevant reports were generated from Lagos state. The state, therefore, came tops in terms of projection, followed by the federal government and organized labour.

The reports themselves tended to be detailed with area of news origination indicated. But on several instances, the station failed to state when news was derived from press releases, seminars and conferences. There were some follow-ups on earlier reports, which is commendable.

Raypower continued with its seemingly preference for voice-overs rather than using sound-bite. From June 18 to 23<sup>rd</sup> the 4pm news was for some reason devoted to state governments. However, the station still devoted some airtime to the masses. For example, in the third week of June, the masses received reasonable projection on the station.

The station's predilection for foreign news continued. For example, on June 4 in the 10am World News, out of 17 news items aired, only three were on Nigeria. This was also the case during the 6pm bulletin. Of all the major news programmes, it seems none is entirely devoted to home news.

On several instances, the station lumped advertisers' announcements with news which left listeners confused as to which were paid advertisements on the station. An example was the Newsflakes of June 26 in which the announcement of a missing Nissan Bluebird saloon car was incorporated in the news. The following day, obituaries were read as part of the news. However, Raypower does fairly well in terms of objectivity.

## **SECTION 4: FINDINGS ON SPECIFIC TELEVISION STATIONS**

### **1. NTA 2 CHANNEL 5, LAGOS**

The station generously used press statements and releases as news sources this month. However, it featured appropriate actualities with sound-bites on many of its news programmes except in some cases where voice-overs were used instead. As an example on the 4pm news on June 19<sup>th</sup> in the report where women were urged to embrace politics, despite the appropriate actuality used, there was no sound-bite to make the story more authentic.

The area of news origination was left out in some cases like the June 28<sup>th</sup> 9pm network news on “PDP meets to move party forward”.

One commendable thing about this station is that it did not skip any news programme in the month. Neither did it begin any bulletin late. This is unlike some other stations which regularly skipped news programmes or begin others late. The only instance of late reading of news occurred on June 26 when the 4pm news began four minutes late. Conversely, the station tended to exceed the scheduled time for news by up to five minutes in some cases. An example was the 4pm news on the 4<sup>th</sup> and also the 9pm network news, which lasted for more than an hour.

It is noteworthy that during the renaming of Oregon road after Alhaja Kudirat Abiola, the station gave the event significant coverage. It was reported on both June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and each time from a different angle and with fresh details.

Sometimes, it suffered technical problems and bad reception. Also the newscaster occasionally jumped news by reading a new item without concluding the previous one. This occurred in the 4pm news on June 19. Also on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the 9pm network news was begun without the signature tune or the news highlights..

On June 13, on the 7am Headline News, one report was abruptly terminated even though a sound-bite was to have been aired. The station often inserted obituary announcements in the news.

### **2. NTA Kaduna**

The monitored reports on this station were detailed with use of appropriate actualities which had clear pictures. Most of the reports were, however, sourced from the state while the geographical scope was limited to Nigeria. There was a commendable focus on issues rather than personalities. The station recorded 11 democracy items in 24 minutes. Public accountability variable had the least with two reports in two (2) minutes. There were 4 human rights related items with 10 minutes 9 seconds duration. Of the total news broadcast—99 in 318 minutes 18 seconds (5 hrs. 18 mins)—27 items were monitored with a duration of 53 minutes 17 seconds.

### **3. CHANNELS TELEVISION, LAGOS.**

This station maintained its broadcast of fair and detailed news. A good example was the reportorial skill shown in the June 18 8pm news on a new political association called National Frontiers. All the concerned persons were given adequate coverage and allowed to air their views. The station, however, failed to

indicate the area of origination of some items, and the story on the impeachment of the speaker of the Kano State House of Assembly had no attributable source.

Also, poor picture quality marred its broadcast on June 25, 26 and 30. Between 5pm and 7pm on most days, its reception was jammed by a radio station. Due to this, reception at that period was bad. Between June 20 and 22, about 90 minutes of monitoring time were lost due to poor reception.

Perhaps the best news programme on the station was the 10pm news, which was always detailed with actualities and sound-bites.

133 news items were recorded for the Political Issues variable in a time of 218 minutes (3hours, 38mins). There were 25 Public Accountability reports in a time of 45 minutes while there were 15 human rights-related items with a duration of 22 minutes 6seconds.

#### **4. MINAJ TELEVISION, OBOSI**

Minaj was not on air in the second half of the month. From June 11 to 16, many of the reports carried were sketchy but in the first week of the month, during its afternoon and evening news, the reports had more details with appropriate actualities and sound-bites. An example was the report on June 8<sup>th</sup> on the 8pm World News concerning the House of Representatives committee on foreign affairs.

On the whole, many of its reports needed fleshing out and this included some topical reports. For instance, MBI World News (8pm) on June 2 carried a sketchy report on the passing of the Bill on female genital mutilation. The landmark legislation deserved better coverage than it received.

MBI was also in the habit of reading its news bulletins later than the scheduled time without giving any reason. Its broadcasting was largely epileptic. Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>, the 8pm World News was aired only once while it was skipped in the other broadcasts for the period.

Of the total 250 news items (535 minutes or 8hours, 55mins), 93 items of 172 minutes (2hours 52mins) duration were monitored. Democracy reports came to 50 in a time of 61 minutes 3seconds while public accountability recorded two (2) reports in a time of 2minutes .05seconds.

#### **5. MURHI TELEVISION, LAGOS**

This station focused on Lagos State government activities in a noticeable manner and whenever it aired news from outside the state, still pictures or graphs were used as illustration. Examples were the 9.30pm news on June 25, the reports titled “FG commences upgrading of 163 hydrological stations” and “Niger-Delta indigenes assured of participation in development projects.”

The station often started reading its news late while sometimes, only 20 or 25 minutes was actually spent on a scheduled 30 minutes programme. The quality of its actualities was low.

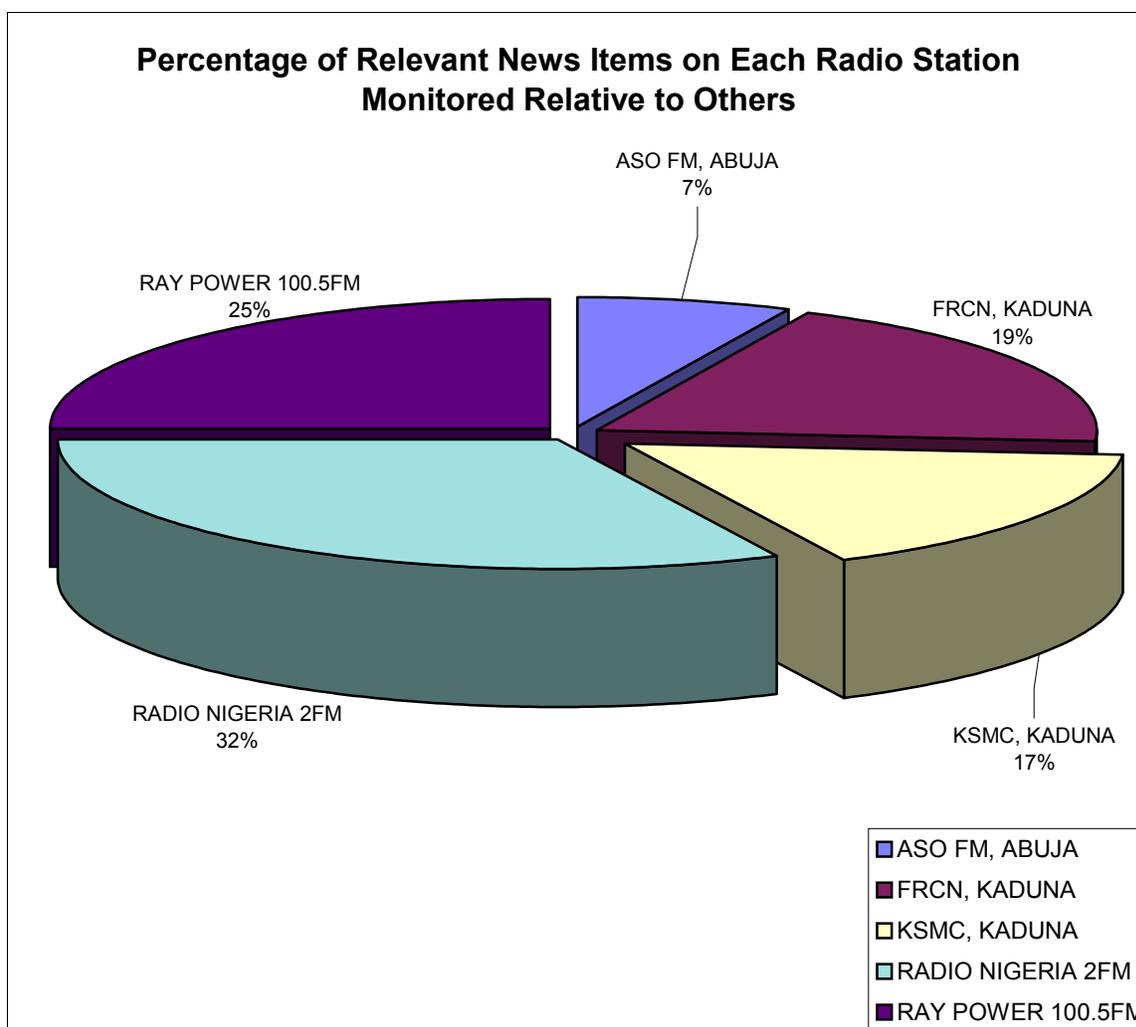
However, between June 25 and 30, its reports were basically fair with appropriate actualities but lacking sound-bites while the sources were not diverse. Of the 348 total reports (632 minutes, 5secs or 10hours

32mins), 79 items of 98 minutes (1hour, 38mins) were monitored. Thirty-four (34) reports of 37 minutes 48 secs were recorded for the Political Issues variable. There were 30 democracy-related items in a time of 38 minutes 7secs and 6 public accountability reports in a time of 13 minutes 46 secs while human rights-related items also came to 6 in a time of 7minutes 6 secs.

**SECTION 5- STATISTICAL DATA**

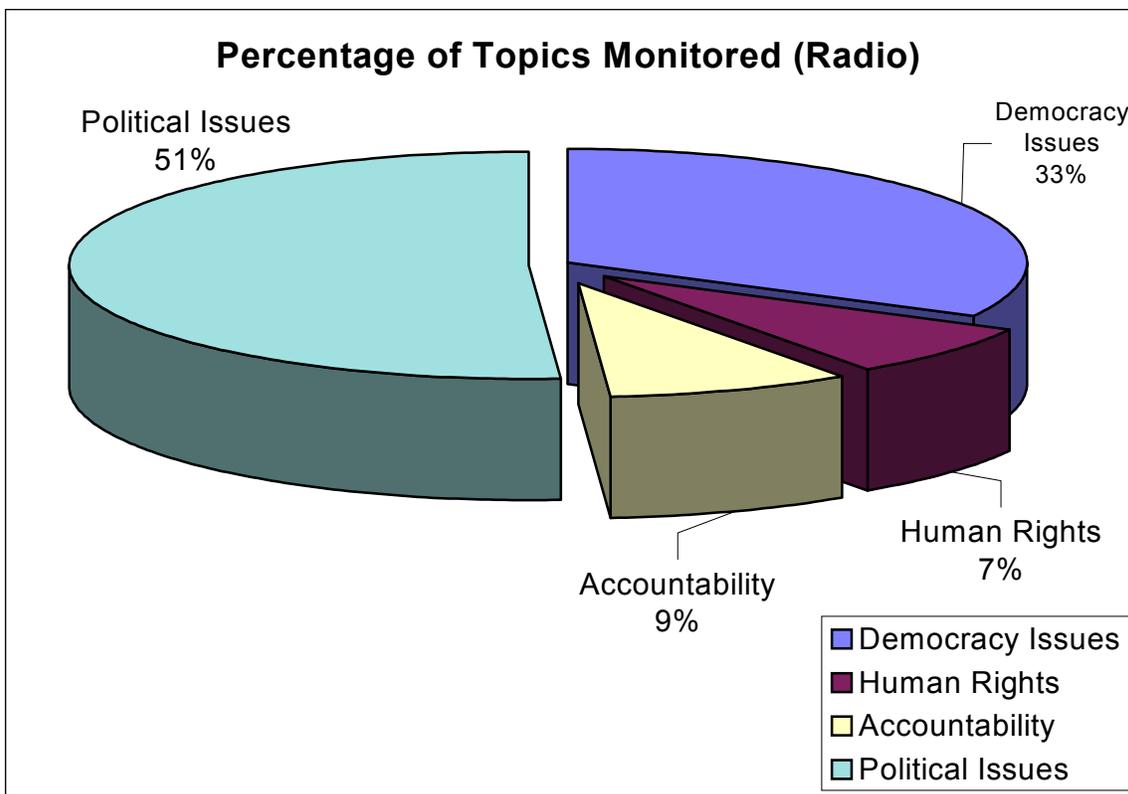
***Frequency/% of Programmes Monitored by Radio Stations***

<b><i>Radio Station</i></b>	<b><i>Frequency</i></b>	<b><i>Percentage (%)</i></b>
ASO FM, ABUJA	99	7.01
FRCN, KADUNA	272	19.26
KSMC, KADUNA	235	16.64
RADIO NIGERIA 2FM	453	32.08
RAY POWER 100.5FM	353	25.00
<b><i>Total:</i></b>	<b><u>1,412</u></b>	<b><u>100.00</u></b>



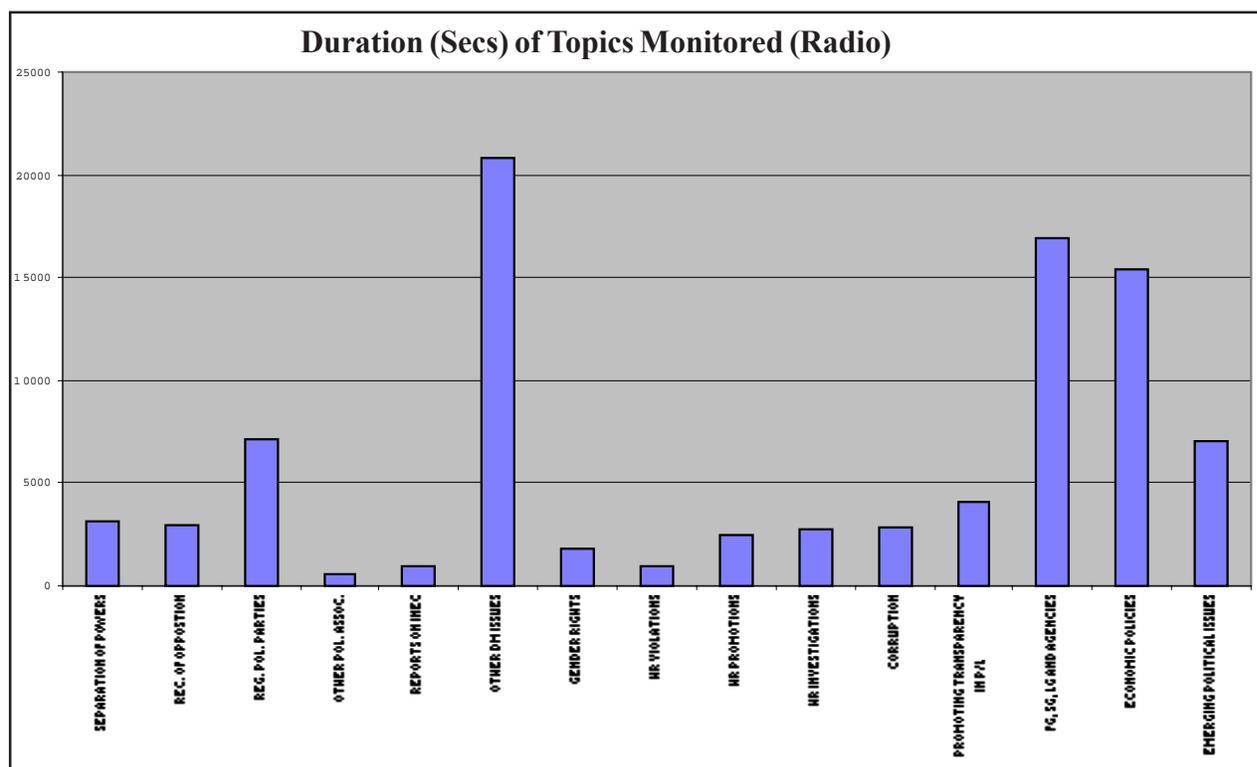
## *Frequency/% of Topics Monitored (Radio)*

<i>Topic Name</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	64	4.53
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSITION	56	3.97
REGD. POLITICAL PARTIES	63	4.46
OTHER POL POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS	12	0.85
REPORTS ON INEC	23	1.63
OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES	244	17.28
GENDER RIGHTS	10	0.71
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	19	1.35
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	36	2.55
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	40	2.83
CORRUPTION	56	3.97
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	67	4.75
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	357	25.28
ECONOMIC POLICIES	254	17.99
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	111	7.86
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>100.00</b>

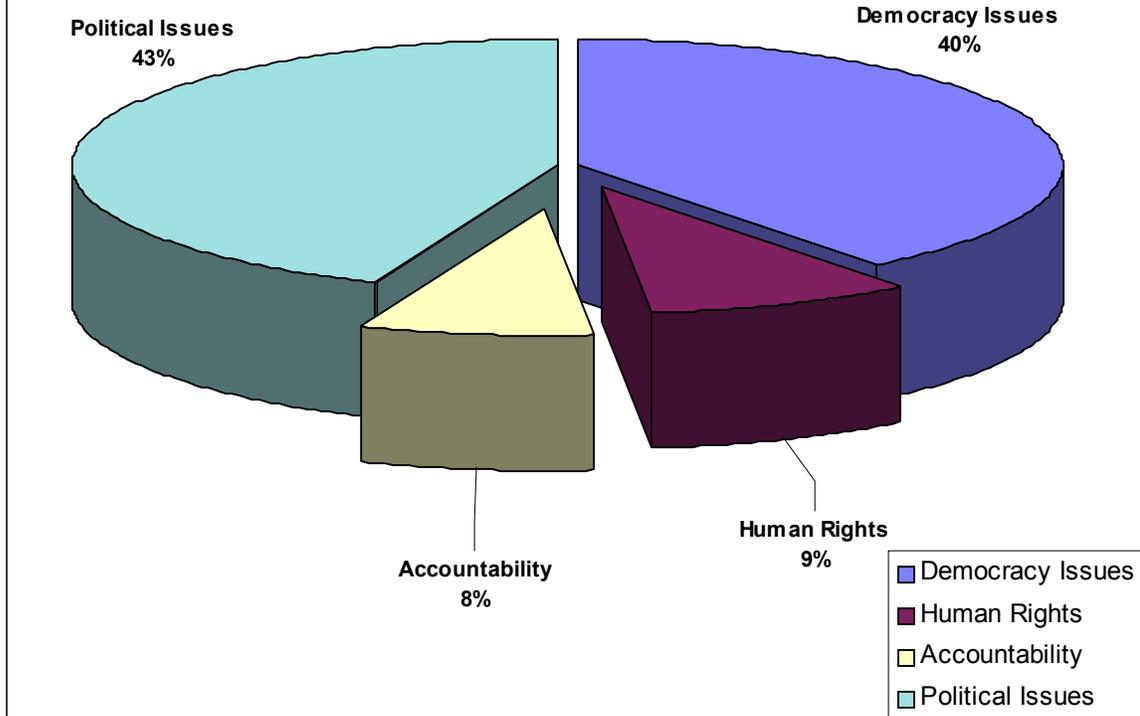


## *Duration/% of Topics Monitored (Radio)*

<i>Topics/Variables</i>	<i>Duration (In Sec)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	3,094	3.45
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSITION	2,941	3.27
REGD. POLITICAL PARTIES	7,087	7.89
OTHER POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS	554	0.62
REPORTS ON INEC	976	1.09
OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES	20,822	23.18
GENDER RIGHTS	1,833	2.04
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	924	1.03
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	2,440	2.72
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	2,769	3.08
CORRUPTION	2,860	3.18
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	4,105	4.57
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	16,962	18.89
ECONOMIC POLICIES	15,410	17.16
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	7,034	7.83
<b>Total:</b>	<b>89,811</b>	<b>100</b>

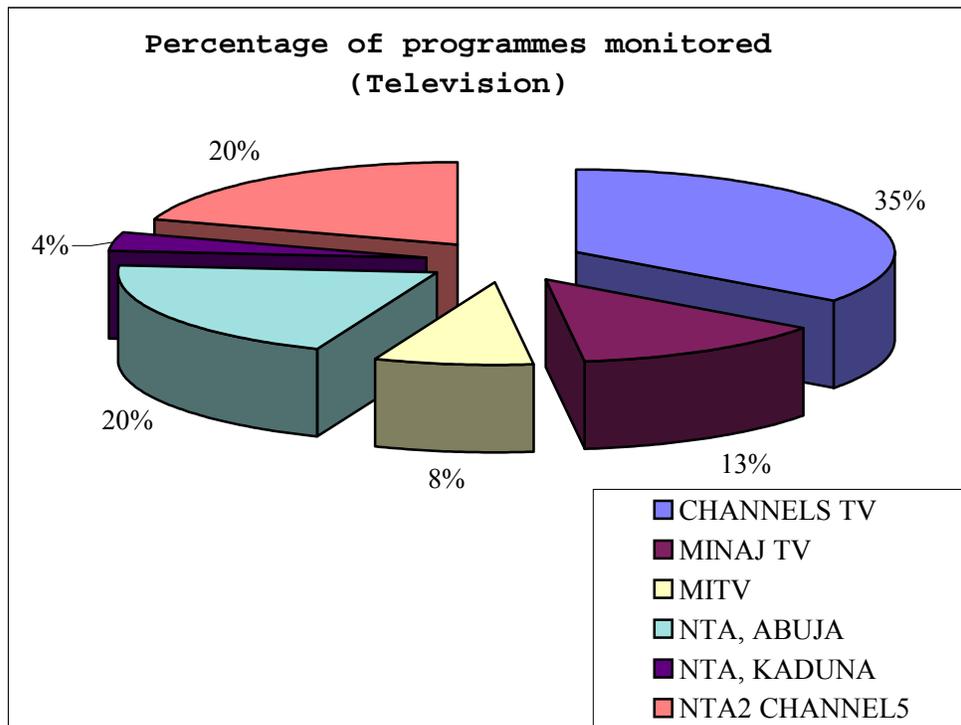


## Percentage of Time Allocated to Topics (Radio)



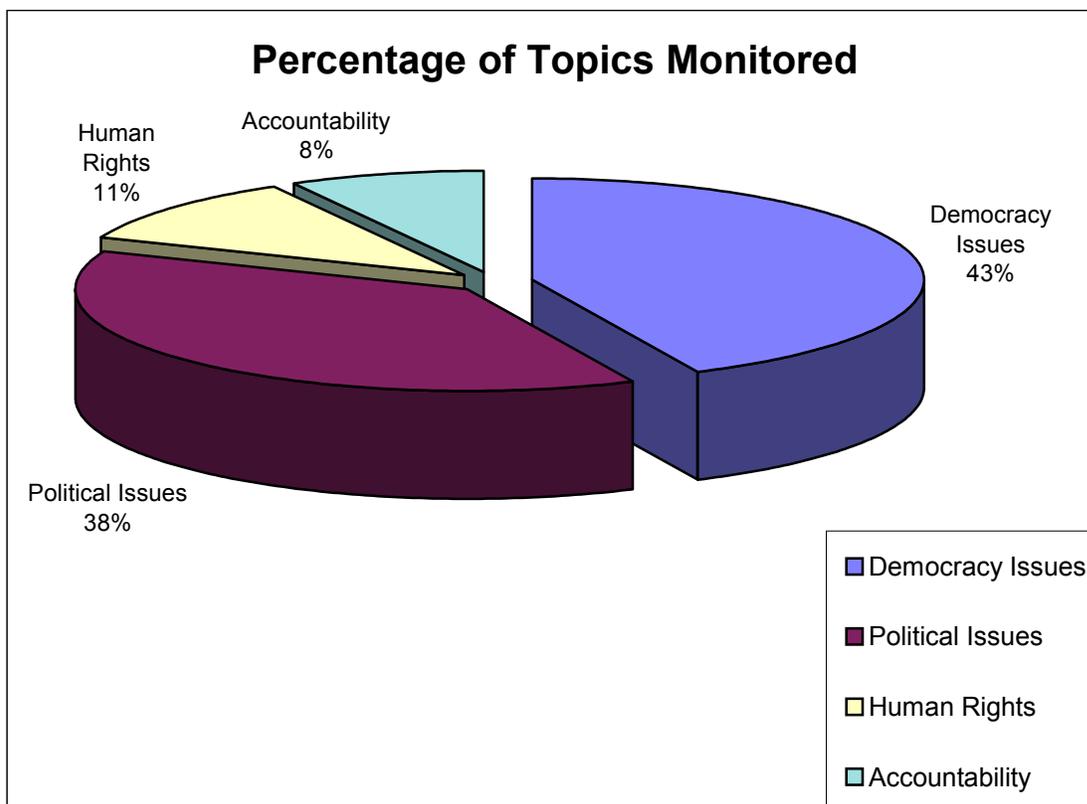
## *Frequency/% of TV Programmes*

<i>TV Station</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
CHANNELS TV	246	34.99
MINAJ TV	91	12.94
MITV	57	8.11
NTA, ABUJA	143	20.34
NTA, KADUNA	25	3.56
NTA2 CHANNEL5	141	20.06
<b>Total:</b>	703	100.00



## *Frequency/% of Topics (Television)*

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	44	6.26
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSTION	44	6.26
REGD. POL. PARTIES	47	6.69
OTHER POL. ASSOC.	14	1.99
REPORTS ON INEC	11	1.56
OTHER DM ISSUES	143	20.34
GENDER RIGHTS	17	2.42
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	6	0.85
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	18	2.56
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	35	4.98
CORRUPTION	24	3.41
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	32	4.55
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	183	26.03
ECONOMIC POLICIES	66	9.39
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	19	2.70
<b>Total:</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>100.00</b>



## FREQUENCY OF TOPICS WITH SOUND BITE (TELEVISION)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>No. Of Sound Bites</i>	<i>Freq Of Topics</i>
Separation of Powers	12	44
Recognition of Opposition	23	44
Registered of Political Parties	23	47
Other Political Association	8	14
Reports on INEC	7	11
Other Democracy Issues	58	143
Gender Rights	9	17
Human Rights Violations	3	6
Human Rights Promotions	6	18
Human Rights Investigations	22	35
Corruption	15	24
Promoting Transparency	16	32
Government and Agencies	95	183
Economic Policies	36	66
Emerging Political Issues	8	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>703</b>

## DURATION/% OF TOPICS MONITORED (TV)

<i>Topic Name</i>	<i>Duration (In Sec.)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Separation of Powers	4,233	4.98
Recognition of Opposition	4,502	5.30
Registered. Political Parties	4,928	5.80
Other Political Association	1,636	1.93
Reports on INEC	1,542.	1.81
Other Democracy Issues	22,223	26.15
Gender Rights	1,961	2.31
Human Rights Violations	904	1.06
Human Rights Promotions	2,057	2.42
Human Rights Investigations	4,892	5.76
Corruption	3,011	3.54
Promoting Transparency	3,492	4.11
Government and Agencies	21,056	24.78
Economic Policies	6,939	8.17
Emerging Political Issues	1,593	1.87
<b>Total:</b>	<b>84,969</b>	<b>100</b>

## SECTION 6 - GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. **Monitoring:** Assessing the programmes or publications of a news medium in terms of journalistic standards and production characteristics.
2. **Square Inches:** This refers to the length and breadth of the news item being monitored.
3. **Topic:** This concerns the variables being monitored in a particular publication or station.
4. **Subject:** This concerns the precise issue being monitored under a particular topic. For example, the annual convention of a political party is a subject under democracy (DM).
5. **Source:** This applies to the person, group or authority from whom or which the information was elicited for the news report being monitored.
6. **Mention:** This concerns the person, group or institution being promoted in the report being monitored. Note that the promotion could be positive or negative.
7. **Area:** The term refers to the city, state or region where the report was sourced. For example, Abuja Federal Capital Territory
8. **Station:** This means the electronic broadcast medium being monitored. For instance, Channels Television.
9. **Bulletin:** An item of news in a programme.
10. **Duration:** This refers to the length of time that a news item being monitored was aired. For instance, 20 seconds.
11. **Actuality:** The screening of the event being reported in a broadcast.
12. **Still:** A library picture used to illustrate a news report
13. **Sound-bite:** This refers to the actual voice of the person being reported in the news broadcast. It means hearing the news subject speak on radio or television.



**M**edia Rights Agenda (MRA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in August 1993 for the purpose of promoting and protecting press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria. MRA is registered in Nigeria, and has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia.

The Aims and Objectives of Media Rights Agenda are:

- to promote respect and recognition for press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria;
- to provide protection and support for journalists and writers engaged in the lawful pursuit of their professional duties;
- to promote the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity, training and conduct in the journalism profession; and
- to bring about a conducive social and legal atmosphere for the practice of journalism, and ensure the protection of the journalist's right not to be compelled to work against his or her conviction or disclose confidential sources of information.

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