



# **AIRWAVES MONITOR**

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

**November 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
  - + *At A Crossroads*, 2001
  
- \* 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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Media Rights Agenda thanks all the media monitoring project personnel for their contribution to the exercise.

Media Rights Agenda acknowledges the assistance of ARTICLE 19 in the training of the monitors and the procurement of monitoring equipment.

We are also grateful to The Ford Foundation for funding the monitoring exercise as well as the publication and distribution of this report.

# 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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**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:**

- a. to promote respect and recognition for press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria;

## **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, states and local governments and their agencies
2. Reports on political-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.
2. Reports on human rights violations
3. Reports on human rights promotion
4. Reports on human rights violations investigations

### **Reports on Public Accountability**

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

## **SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The electronic media, generally, fared better during the month under review. There was a remarkable reduction in the cases of unfair and unbalanced reports, while more indepth and analytical news items were presented, more than ever before since this project took off. The only exceptions were ASO FM and NTA, both in Abuja, which carried more biased reports which were in favour of the Federal Government. For instance, on NTA Abuja, between October 22 and 31, the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was mentioned six times in the station's news bulletins, while other registered parties was not promoted at all.

In the use of soundbite and actuality, the broadcast media are yet to live up to expectation. The only station that made generous use of soundbite and actuality was NTA, Abuja. Rather than back all their reports with these vital elements, the electronic media preferred to create more time for commercials and paid announcements. This could be adduced to be the escalating harshness of the country's economic climate. In the quest for funding, professionalism is being thrown to the dogs by the media. It is this same funding that has formed the press into the government's mouth organ. The fourth estate of the realm may have shunned its watchdog role because what was broadcast most of the time, throughout October were reports portraying government in a positive light. The media seemed not to notice what the government was not doing. Even the independent broadcasting stations were more guilty of this offence than the government-owned ones.

Worthy of mention, however, was the remarkable improvement recorded by the electronic media in Kaduna State. The NTA, KSMC and FRCN Kaduna seemed to be alert to the Airwaves Monitor's finding as each of them has tried to make certain necessary changes towards improving its news bulletins. For example, all the stations tried to reach out to more people by employing soundbites in a language other than the indigenous one, as was the case before which was pointed out in the Airwaves Monitor.

Generally, the broadcast media failed in their responsibility of upholding democracy as most of the reports during the month under review were on political issues, with the exception of Radio Rivers 2 FM, Port-Harcourt, Aso FM 93.5, Abuja NTA, Abuja and Channels Television, Lagos, which had more democracy news items than any other variable.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The broadcast media should play down political issues and focus more on the sustenance of democracy in our society. The high focus on political issues, especially those concerning government and its agencies, has relegated other important issues like separation of power, other registered parties, unregistered parties, etc. to the background. The judiciary was neglected and reduced to nothingness in this democratic dispensation.

Also, this resulted in the high incidence of reports on government activities which made it appear as if apart from the ruling PDP, government and its agencies, there were no relevant activities in other areas like the unregistered parties, the masses and other civil organisations.

Public accountability was not embraced, even by the media and that was why most of the reports presented in October showed the government in a positive light. Much attention went to what government was doing, while the many programmes and projects left undone were not given due prominence. For instance, in a society where the press was alive to its responsibility of informing and educating people, the recently passed Electoral Act would have been abandoned due to the agitation and political awareness which the press would have been able to arouse in the people.

The Nigerian electronic media should, therefore, sit up and end chop-chop journalism, in order to enhance professionalism and serve as people's ears and eyes.

Apart from raising public accountability questions, the media should also draw more attention to human rights issues and curb the injurious exuberances of the government and its agencies.

## **SECTION 2: GENERAL FINDINGS**

Period of Report: October 1 - 31

No of Radio Stations Monitored: 6 (Radio Nigeria 2, Lagos; FRCN, Kaduna; KSMC, Kaduna; Aso FM, Abuja; Radio Rivers 2 FM, Port-Harcourt; Raypower, Lagos).

Total News Reports on Radio: 6,280

Duration: 155hrs. 43mins. 16secs (9,343mins.16 secs)

Evaluated News Reports: 1,393

Time Alloted: 23 hrs. 39mins.43secs (1,419mins.43secs)

Percentage of Relevant News: 22.2%

No of Television Stations Monitored: 6 (NTA2 Channel 5, Lagos; NTA Kaduna; NTA Abuja; Channels TV, Lagos; Murhi International Television (MITV), Lagos; MiNAJ Broadcasting International (MBI), Obosi).

Total News Reports on TV: 3,804

Duration: 130 hrs.32mins.22secs (7,832mins.22secs)

Evaluated News Reports: 1,024

Time Alloted: 28 hrs. 30 min.40secs (1,710mins. 40 secs)

Percentage of Evaluated News: 26.9%

### **VARIABLES COVERED**

Under Democracy Issues, 968 items were evaluated in 20 hrs.34mins 23secs (1,234mins.23secs). The six radio stations monitored had 586 democracy news within 9hrs.47mins.07secs (587 mins.07secs), while the television stations carried 382 in 10 hrs. 47 mins. 16 secs (647mins.16secs).

Political Issues had a total 1,081 news items with a duration of 11hrs.31mins.41secs (691mins.41secs). On radio there were 630 items in 9hrs.44mins. (584mins), while TV allocated 11hrs.21mins.57secs to 451 items.

There were 218 news items under the Human Rights variable with a total duration of 5 hrs.48mins.51secs (348mins.51secs). Radio stations aired 112 items in 1hr.51mins.28secs (111 mins.28secs) and the six television stations carried 106 news relevant to this variable, with a time allocation of 3hrs.57mins.23secs(237mins.23secs).

The broadcast media aired a total of 93 Public Accountability news with a time allocation of 1hr.40mins.25secs (100mins.25secs). Radio stations recorded 65 news in 57 mins.08secs, while the TV stations had 28 items in 43 mins.17secs.

**MENTIONS:**

Highest Positive: FGEXE (Federal Government)

Least Positive: LGEXE (Local Government)

Highest Negative: SGEXE (State Government)

Least Negative: FGAS (National Assembly)

Most Promoted: Government at all levels.

**AREAS OF NEWS ORIGINATION**

Highest Preponderance (in descending order): Federal Capital Territory, Lagos State, Benue State.

**SCOPE OF REPORTS:**

Highest Preponderance (in descending order): Nigeria (North Central, South West, Middle Belt).

## COMPARATIVE DATA: RADIO

	STATION/TOTAL NEWS/TIME	DEMOCRACY Reports/Duration	POLITICAL ISSUES Reports/Duration	HUMAN RIGHTS Reports/Duration	PUBLIC ACC Reports/Duration	TOTALNEWS/TIME MONITORED
1.	Radio Nigeria 2FM, Lagos 1875 news:45hrs. 35mins (2,735mins)	136 1hr.50mins.57secs (110mins.57secs)	150 1hrs.50mins. 55secs (110mins.55secs)	30 41mins.57secs	14 10mins.36secs	330 4hrs.34mins.25secs (274mins.25secs)
2.	FRCN, Kaduna 428 news: 11hrs. 35mins 57secs (695mins.57secs)	38 1hr.53mins.54secs 36mins.10secs	107  (113mins.54secs)	22  26mins.31secs	11  12mins.52secs	178  3hrs.09mins.27secs (189mins.27secs)
3.	KSMC, Kaduna 452news: 14hrs. 35mins.43secs (860mins.43secs)	45  57mins.59secs	135 2hrs.54mins.23secs (174mins.23secs)	7  6mins.30secs	15  14mins.51secs	202  4hrs.13mins.43secs (253mins.43secs)
4.	Radio Rivers2 FM, Port Harcourt 1,369 news: 48hrs (2,880mins)	106 1hrs.41mins.17secs (101mins.17secs)	39  32.mins.38secs	27  19mins.31secs	2  2mins.25secs	174  2hrs.35mins.51secs (155 mins. 51secs)
5.	ASO FM 93.5 Abuja 455 news:11hrs. 08mins.36secs (668mins.36secs)	137 3hrs.17mins.27secs (197 mins.27secs)	40  55mins.57secs	5  3mins.06secs	2  5 mins.13secs	184  4hrs.21mins.43secs (261 mins.43secs)
6.	Ray Power 100.5 FM, Lagos 1,681 08mins.: 25hrs .03mins	124 1hr. 23mins.17secs (83 mins.17secs)	159 1hr.36mins.13secs (96mins.13secs)	21  13mins.53secs	21  11mins.11secs	325  4hrs.44mins.34secs (284mins.34secs)

## COMPARATIVE DATA: TELEVISION

	STATION/TOTAL NEWS/TIME	DEMOCRACY Reports/Duration	POLITICAL ISSUES Reports/Duration	HUMAN RIGHTS Reports/Duration	PUBLIC ACC Reports/Duration	TOTALNEWS/TIME EVALUATED
1.	NTA 2 CHANNEL 5 Lagos 1,133 news: 24hrs.42mins (2,527mins)	75 2hrs.15min.16secs (135mins.16secs)	110 3hrs.08min.56secs (188mins.56secs)	28 1hr.08min.45secs (68mins.45secs)	9 16mins.36secs	222 6hrs.49mins.33secs. (409mins. 33secs)
2.	NTA, ABUJA 409 news: 22hrs.50mins (1,370 mins)	109 3hrs.40min.58secs (220mins.58secs)	73 2hrs.18min.36secs (138mins.36secs)	22 58mins.23secs	6 8mins.46sec.	210 7hrs.06mins.43secs (426mins.43secs)
3.	NTA KADUNA 140 news:4hrs.26mins 22secs (266m.22secs)	15 18mins.53secs.	39 1hr.07mins.34secs (67mins.34secs)	5 10mins.32secs	2 3mins.09sec	61 1hr.40mins.08secs (100mins.08secs )
4.	MBI, Obosi 1,144 news: 24hrs. 52mins (1,672 mins)	93 1hr.42mins.09secs (102mins.09secs)	138 2hrs.28mins.28secs (148mins.28secs)	24 36mins.01secs	10 14mins.12secs	265 5hrs.50secs (300mins.50secs)
5.	MiTV, Lagos 368 news: 11hrs. 04mins (664 mins)	17 19mins.21secs	33 33mins.21secs	2 4mins.10secs	1 34secs	53 57mins.48secs
6.	CHANNELS TV TV, Lagos 932 news: 38hrs. 13mins (2,293mins)	110 3hrs.40mins.34secs (220mins.34secs)	69 2hrs.05mins.27secs (125mins.27secs)	33 1hr.08min.41secs (68mins.41secs)	1 56secs	213 6hrs.55mins.38secs (415mins.38secs)
Total	3,804 Reports 1,024 (Evaluated) 26.9%	130hrs.32mins.22secs 28hrs.30mins.40secs			TOTAL EVALUATED	7,832min.22secs 1,710min.40secs

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

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

There was a general improvement in the station's news broadcast as its reports were mostly fair, balanced and well sourced. For example, in the 7a.m Network News from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> - news was backed with follow-up reports to eliminate of bias. There was also a fair spread across the country in sourcing its news, as the station reflected events about each zone. In most cases, the areas of news origination were mentioned. For example, out of 18 news monitored between 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, only one had no area of origination indicated - the 4pm Network News of 10<sup>th</sup> on "House of Representatives postpones debate on Electoral Bill till next week".

The station, during the month, had a clearer and mostly hitch-free broadcast as there were fewer cases of breaks in transmission. But each time it came back on air after the few breaks in transmission, there were still no apologies. For instance, during the 4pm Network News of 8<sup>th</sup>, the station went off air for about 72 seconds and there were no explanations or apologies given.

In the area of soundbite, the station performed below average between 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Out of 47 news items evaluated, only two were relayed with soundbite. It appeared as if the station generally endeavoured to use soundbite during the 7am news, while the other morning bulletins were often, scanty, devoid of soundbite and full-of repetitions of the 7am Network News.

The over-reporting of government activities continued, at the expense of human rights and public accountability. For example, out of 47 news items monitored from 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 18 concerned the various governments which is about 40%, while only three and two items were found relevant under human rights and public accountability, respectively. Also, the even or fair spread of sourcing news across the nation excluded the rural and hinterland which deserved more focus.

The station performed above average and indeed, improved in the consistency of its bulletins, while the scheduled time was adhered to. However, the hiccups in the 4p.m Network News should be addressed to improve reception which was mostly poor throughout the month. At times, the station did not have any news item relevant to the project's topic variables. This was noticed during its 6pm. World News from 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Kaduna was fair in most of its reports as most of them were balanced and none given undue prominence over the other. The reports were also mostly from single sources, and sometimes, exhaustively treated as observed between 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, the relevant reports had 38 cases of single sources; 2 sources - 10; 3 sources - 1.

Repetition of news items persisted on the station as most items on the 10a.m. news were repeated during news bulletin at 12 noon. The station failed to buttress its news with soundbite, except during the News Nationwide at 5p.m. For instance, out of the total 50 reports monitored from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, there were only 10 cases where soundbite was employed.

The station, for once, looked beyond its territory as the Federal Capital Territory got the highest area of news origination, rather than Kaduna. There were also cases of soundbites which were applied in English language, unlike before when the soundbite was always in Hausa. Human rights and public accountability news were still under-reported, while political issues dominated the station.

### 3. **KSMC, KADUNA**

The Kaduna State Media Corporation recorded an improvement in its balanced and exhaustive treatment of news items. For instance, between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, follow-up reports were done, while soundbites were used to give a fair effect and allow listeners hear from all parties concerned. However, voice-over was used in some cases, while soundbite was mostly used during the 6p.m Newsreel.

The 12noon news bulletin was always repeated at 3p.m and, sometimes, during the Newsreel. Democracy news items were pushed to second position as political issues got the highest reports. There were marked improvements on the station as soundbites were aired in English, while listeners did not miss much because reports were always repeated, from beginning, to make up for breaks in transmission. October 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> was a particularly bad week for the station as, out of 69 reports monitored, only five had sound-bite, while the reports were mostly unbalanced, unlike the other weeks, when a larger percentage of the reports had soundbite and were balanced, with diversified news sources.

### 4. **ASO FM 93.5, ABUJA**

The station had the highest number of democracy news and seemed to be performing its responsibility of ensuring the sustenance of democracy in Nigeria. Reports on other democracy issues dominated its airwaves. However, the station has to be more alive to its responsibilities by producing balanced and diversified reports. The station generally did not seek the other sides to issues and neglected the opposition. Masses were not given much chance to react on issues affecting their lives, while the Oputa Panel sittings were ignored. Public accountability and human rights were thus, relegated to the background. The station should endeavour to present balanced and detailed reports.

There was a decline in the use of soundbite, especially between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> when, out of 31 news items monitored, only four were reported with soundbites.

Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Aso FM's bias was evident as the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) got all the five news items monitored under the sub-variables: Registered Political Parties, while other parties did not get any mention. However, in mentioning the area of news origination, the station fared better. Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, out of 31 news items, only three did not have their areas of origination mentioned. Most of the station's reports during that week were also devoted to the nation's 41<sup>st</sup> independence anniversary.

### 5. **RADIO RIVERS 2 FM, PORT-HARCOURT**

During the month, the station was noted to have improved tremendously in the area of broadcasting balanced and indepth reports. The station's news bulletins, 6.30am State News, Globe at Nine and the 12 noon, 6 and 8.p.m. State News, were all presented with fairness, by highlighting all sides to sensitive issues. Because of these efforts, the station's reports were mostly detailed and devoid of bias. For

example, the intervention of the state chapter of NLC, following the protracted crisis that rocked the Rivers state council of the Radio, Television and Theatre Workers Union of Nigeria, relayed on the 6<sup>th</sup> in the 6,8 and 9.30pm news bulletins, was fairly reported and given prominence.

Issues affecting the state were exhaustively treated and given due prominence, with no bias. An instance, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, during *Globe At Nine*, the report on *Rivers government released N10m to boost food production*. Another remarkable trend on the station was the allocation of more airtime to local news. Limited time of about 30 seconds per item were allocated to foreign news to create more room for local news. Proximity was vital factor in news gathering and reporting in this area during the month.

The station also fared better in recognising political opposition by its fairness and undiluted prominence given forces opposed to the government, during the period under review. An instance was the report on *Workers refute LG chairman's claim of borrowing N25m to pay salaries*, relayed on the 16<sup>th</sup>, during the 9.30pm. *Global News*.

However, the station should focus less on government news by devoting more time to masses-oriented and rural reporting. It should also diversify its news sources as often times, its reports were gotten from government sources. October 25-31 was, however, a bad week for the station as its reports were mainly biased in favour of government, during that period. It also suffered technical hitches from 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> which made its presenters to routinely repeat some news items. The station continued to neglect soundbite, while there were occasional mix-ups in its reports. For example, the 8p.m. *State News* of 8<sup>th</sup>, in the report, *Governor outlines role of oil and gas free zone to national economy*.

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

The stations reports during the period under review were generally fair, but mostly concentrated on government activities, despite the fact that the station is privately-owned. The reports on the government, the federal, state and local levels, far outweighed that of other sub-variables under this project. The reports were however broadbased and touched on several parts of the country.

Raypower continued to give preference to foreign news. Local news items were relegated to the background. For instance, on the 9<sup>th</sup>, during the 7 and 10a.m. news, none of the items were relevant to the project's topic variables. On 22<sup>nd</sup> the 12p.m. *Newsdesk* had just two items on local report while the remaining 13 were on foreign scenes. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, out of 19 news items, only two were relevant, while one was relevant, out of 18 news items on the 8<sup>th</sup> (both 10a.m news) as the news bulletins were dominated by foreign reports.

The important role of soundbite as a veritable tool of news authentication was absolutely disregarded by the station. For instance, between 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, out of a total 103 news broadcast by the station, only one, on the 5<sup>th</sup> bordering on health, had soundbite. From 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, all the 52 relevant news items lacked soundbite. Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 26 items were monitored and none was backed up with soundbite.

Raypower also suffered technical problems as it intermittently went off air or skipped its news bulletins. For example, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am. *World News* and 12p.m. *Newsdesk* were marred by poor signal and fluctuating reception, which happened again on the 24<sup>th</sup>. During the 7a.m news same day, there was a break in transmission at 4 minutes 5 seconds into the news broadcast. The *City Update* of 10<sup>th</sup> and

7a.m. Global News of the 13<sup>th</sup> were not broadcast. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the station was off air during the 6p.m. news, while on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 4p.m. news was also skipped. Professionalism was thrown to the winds, as there was no explanation on why the station was full of such inconsistencies.

## FINDINGS ON SPECIFIC TELEVISION STATIONS

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

Its news items were exhaustively treated and given adequate background information. For example, item 1 of 9a.m news on, councillors who removed a local government chairman in Kwara State, was a detailed, balanced report as all parties to the crisis were contacted and given due prominence. Another case was a news item on Academic Staff Union Universities on 22<sup>nd</sup>, during 9p.m. Network News, which was well projected and not lacking background information. The report on the Electoral Bill was also given a wide coverage on the station, with the views of senate, state governments and the masses, their opinions and criticisms, well projected. For example, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, *House of Representatives differ with Senate over Electoral Bill*, and on the 18<sup>th</sup>, *19 speakers resolved to go ahead with LG election despite Senate's extension of LG tenure*. All the reports were also backed with appropriate actuality and soundbite.

NTA 2, Channel 5 was bedevilled with technical faults as indicated in the interruptions and outright skipping of bulletins. From 22<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, the station was guilty of stopping its news abruptly, without any warning, especially during the network news. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, a commercial just came on air in the middle of news. 25<sup>th</sup> witnessed the use of wrong actualities and soundbites throughout the 7p.m news, while on 26<sup>th</sup> in the course of the 4p.m news, the broadcast suddenly froze without soundbite which subsequently led to its abortion. Either due to lack of professional expertise or technical fault, two news items were wrongly merged. On the 4<sup>th</sup> *PDP resolves on future congress and INEC seeks NYSC assistance in future elections*.

The station often, ceded its news bulletins for other programmes. For instance, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the 7a.m Headlines News was not relayed as President Obasanjo's independence message was aired instead. Same day, the 2p.m news was cancelled for a repeat of the Nigeria - France under -17 football match. On other days, however, the 2p.m. news and 4p.m news were skipped for the Oputa Panel on human rights abuses.

Often times, the 7p.m news was a repeat of the 4pm News Update, with just a few additions, while the station also repeated the 4p.m news of 15<sup>th</sup> on 16<sup>th</sup>. The news of 16<sup>th</sup> had soundbite and actuality, unlike that of 15<sup>th</sup> which lacked soundbite. The station started its news bulletins behind schedule on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when the 4p.m News Update started were eight minutes late. The news came 15 minutes late on the 10<sup>th</sup>, while the 7.p.m. bulletin was broadcast 5 minutes late on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. NTA KADUNA

There was a general improvement in the station's presentation of news bulletins, while the elements of bias were reduced. For instance, from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, the station did a report on projects executed by a local government. The report did not, however, look like a PR job as efforts were made to contact many sources, thus, ensuring diversity of sources and balance. Appropriate actualities and soundbites were also used to lend more credence to the reports, while still pictures were occasionally employed i.e the report of 26<sup>th</sup> on the appointment of a customary court president, where the governor's still picture was used as illustration.

There still existed traces of bias e.g. the PDP was given more prominence than other political parties and on the 27<sup>th</sup>, during News Highlights, only one aspirant was interviewed among several others on the PDP congress, rather than featuring others with him, to maintain fairness. The station was not also totally rid of technical hitch which made some of its news bulletins unmonitorable. For example, the broadcasts of 9<sup>th</sup> were disrupted as the pictures were not clear, while the audio was bad.

Attention was largely on government activities and sources, then PDP, while the masses, rural areas, other political parties and civil rights organisations were given little or no mention. However, the station was observed to be making effort to reach out to more people as its soundbites not only came in indigenous language, but also English.

### 3. **NTA, ABUJA**

Reports monitored on NTA Abuja for the month showed a huge slant towards the federal and state government activities which dominated reports on democracy and political issues, which amounted to 93 per cent of the entire airtime and 91 per cent of total monitored news items in the last week of October alone. This should not be regarded as spectacular. The station's commitment to the government was obvious.

During the period under review, the station's reports were generally unbalanced, especially when it involved the government or the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). The party got a lot of mention compared with other registered political parties. For instance, while the PDP was mentioned six times between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in NTA's news bulletins, other registered parties were not given any mention at all. The federal executive and legislature were always portrayed in a positive light. i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, while the other arms of government, like the judiciary and local governments, were neglected. The reports also indicated that when the FG was involved in any issue, little effort was made by NTA, Abuja to get the views of the other side. One-sided statements were always taken, while the reports were not comprehensive enough, since the sources were the same everytime and not diversified.

Most of the time, the station used very good and appropriate actualities and soundbites and any time there was a bad signal, apologies were given. The station's bulletins were also noted to be rife with commercials and public announcements, especially the 9p.m news.

Worthy of mention, however, is the fact that masses, for the first time, since this project started, got as much mention as National Assembly. This is departure from the total neglect suffered by them in the past and NTA Abuja should be commended for this effort. The station was not also in the habit of skipping its news bulletins, except the 12 noon News Panorama which was stopped to accommodate the live transmission of the Oputa Panel sitting, in Abuja.

### 4. **CHANNELS TELEVISION, LAGOS**

Channels TV performed creditably during the month under review in terms of balanced and exhaustive reports. Its new were well sourced and given appropriate actualities and soundbites, especially the 10pm news. The station carefully avoided unbalanced and biased reporting by making news up-to-date with necessary follow-ups. The station also lived up to its responsibility in the sustenance of democracy by devoting a large percentage of its airtime to democracy issues.

However, the 5p.m and sometimes 6p.m Newstrack were unmonitorable throughout the month as the station's signals were constantly jammed by Star FM radio station during those hours. The station also suffered some technical problems, like on the 18<sup>th</sup> when the news at 10p.m had bad pictures and inaudible soundbite in almost all the news items.

Channels generally performed above average, it maintained its news schedule while news sources were varied and exhaustively treated, thereby, making its reports detailed, fair and balanced. It was, however, disheartening to note that Channels largely neglected public accountability issues during the month as it carried only one public accountability news, 56 seconds, throughout the month under review.

## 5. **MINAJ BROADCASTING INTERNATIONAL (MBI), OBOSI**

The station's reports for the month were generally fair but soundbite and actuality were not adequately applied while the reports were mostly sketchy. For example, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, out of 44 news items monitored in the morning hours, only one was supported with appropriate actuality and soundbite. The usual pattern on the station was to use still pictures i.e on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, during the 7a.m news, the reports on *Obasanjo observes corruption still persists in high places* and *Na 'Aba advises Nigerians on nation-building*. This calls to question the originality of such reports. It was as if most news were not originally sources by MBI.

There was also no diversity of news sources. During the same period, out of the 44 items, only four had more than one source. It was observed that the News at Noon was, more often than not, backed with accurate actualities and soundbites. But on the 10<sup>th</sup>, even this suffered a setback while the news at Noon was affected on the 15<sup>th</sup>, due to technical hitches which rendered the reports inaudible. Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, out of 147 news items relayed by MBI, only 18 were relevant, from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, out of 111 reports, 16 were relevant to the project's topic variables, due to the station's preference for foreign news during those periods.

Most of its reports had their areas of origination mentioned. Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, only five news items failed to mention the areas the items were sourced from. Its production was, however, below average during the month. Since the Benue state killings, for example, the station used the same actuality for any report on the issue, irrespective of the source. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, during report on House of Assembly on Benue, same old actuality was used.

Whenever the station's newscasters made mistakes, there were no apologies, while no attempt would be made to correct the error. i.e. on the 29<sup>th</sup>, the report on PDP ward congress in Enugu State, where the opposition was not given due prominence. Also, during its coverage of the Electoral Bill, the opinions of the LG council chairmen were not promoted.

There was inconsistency on the station as its news schedule was not adhered to. For example, from 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, only the News at Noon was aired regularly, while, the station on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, carried all the news - 7a.m; 8a.m and News at Noon. MBI's news bulletins were always starting late and ending behind schedule. Often, instead of starting its news, the station would beam commercials, start the news late and thereby end behind schedule i.e on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the new was 15 minutes late, thus, ended by 8.45pm instead of 8.30p.m. There was also a marked irregularity in the time devoted to news bulletins. For instance, the MBI World News lasted for 38 minutes on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; 35 minutes on 24<sup>th</sup>; 40 minutes on 25<sup>th</sup> and 45 minutes on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## 6. MURHI INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION (MiTV), LAGOS

MiTV had the least total news for October (368, with the least time of 11 hrs.04 mins. (664mins)), among all the broadcast media. Out of these, 53 items were relevant to the project's topic variables and given a time allocation of 57 mins 48 secs. The deduction is that the station should get more serious about its news business. However, the few relevant news items were fair, but lacked spread, since reports were mainly generated from the station's locality (Lagos).

In terms of diversity, virtually all the news items had single sources, while soundbite and actuality were found missing in most of them. Except for news items sourced from Lagos and neighbouring states, all other reports were relayed without soundbite and actuality. For instance, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the only news item with soundbite and actuality was on, "Lagos government urges residents to stop use of explosive kerosine" and on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the two relevant items with soundbite and actuality were sourced from Lagos. All these suggested the medium did not have correspondents in most of the other geo-political zones, or that they were not effective.

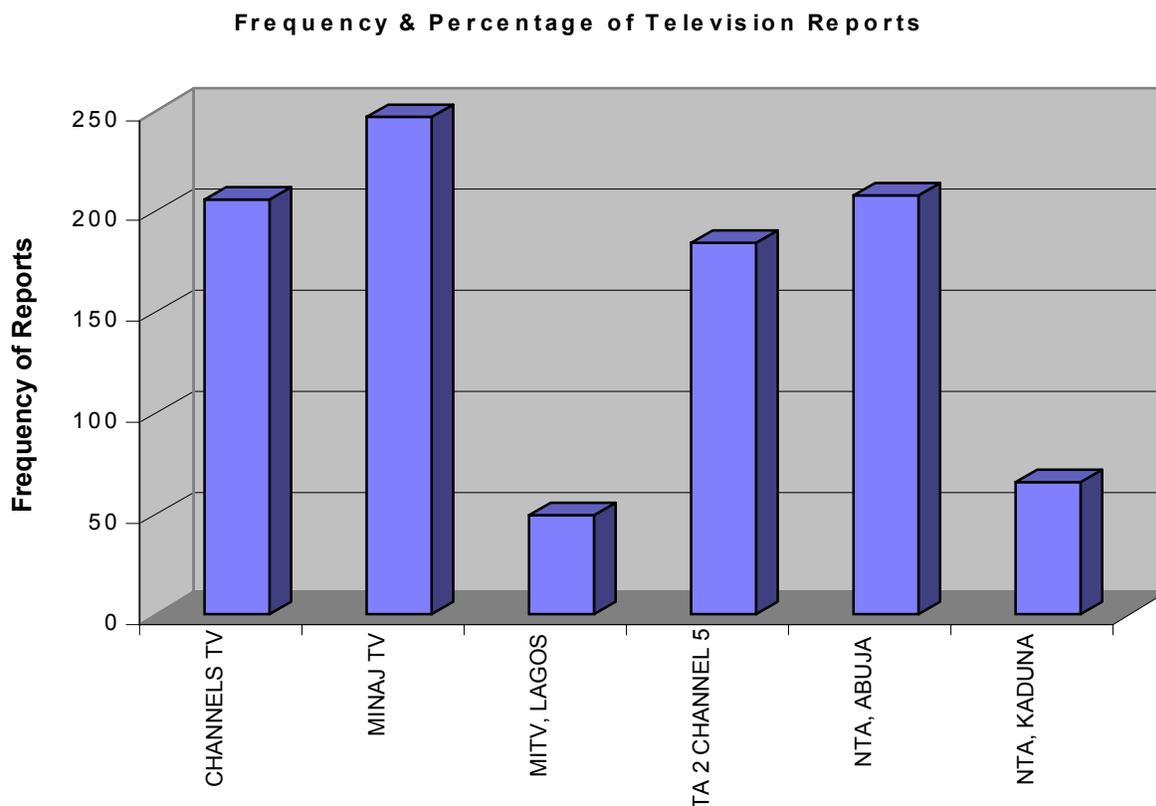
Most of the relevant news items were, however given deserved prominence, with areas of origination mentioned. For example from 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, out of nine relevant news items, only four did not have their areas of origination mentioned. The station's reception was better as there were no blurred pictures and jammed audio, while there were no breaks in transmission. Despite this, though, there were occasional mix-ups in actualities and soundbites. For instance, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the report on a women workshop in Abuja then, another one on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, the title used for the report on the southern information commissioners' rejection of the national media tour team, on the 4<sup>th</sup> was grammatically wrong: "Commissioners in southern chide minister on media tour" - the title certainly had no meaning. The station, during the month, was also fond of not keeping to its news schedule. For example, on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the news was started late, thereby, ending by 10p.m instead of 9.30pm.

**SECTION 4: STATISTICAL DATA (RADIO AND TELEVISION)**  
***Frequency & Percentage of Areas of Origin (Television)***

<i>Area of Origin</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Abia	3	0.31
Adamawa	6	0.63
Africa	1	0.10
Akwa ibom	6	0.63
Anambra	7	0.73
Bauchi	2	0.21
Benue	24	2.50
Borno	6	0.63
Bayelsa	3	0.31
Cross river	6	0.63
Delta	20	2.08
Ebonyi	6	0.63
Edo	20	2.08
Ekiti	8	0.83
Enugu	11	1.15
Fct abuja	420	43.75
Gombe	1	0.10
Imo	4	0.42
International	8	0.83
Kebbi	5	0.52
Kaduna	70	7.29
Kogi	3	0.31
Kano	9	0.94
Katsina	6	0.63
Kwara	12	1.25
Lagos	157	16.35
Nasarawa	1	0.10
Niger	8	0.83
Nil	68	7.08
Ondo	2	0.21
Ogun	12	1.25
Osun	4	0.42
Oyo	4	0.42
Plateau	5	0.52
Rivers	5	0.52
Sokoto	13	1.35
Taraba	3	0.31
West africa	3	0.31
Yobe	1	0.10
Zamfara	7	0.73
<b><i>Total:</i></b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100.00</b>

FREQUENCY & PERCENTAGE OF TELEVISION REPORTS

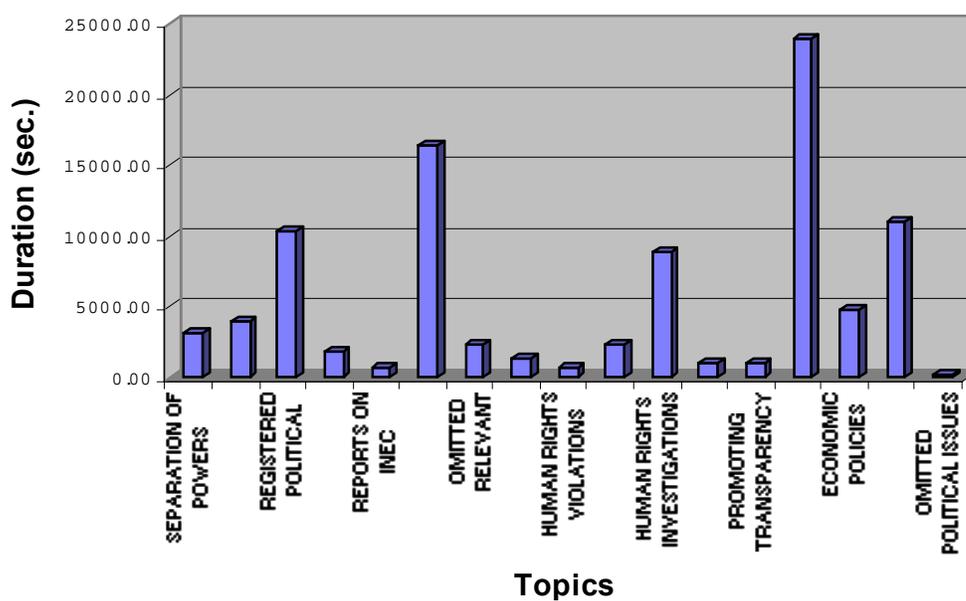
<i>TV Station</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
CHANNELS TV	206	21.46
MINAJ TV	247	25.73
MITV, LAGOS	49	5.10
NTA 2 CHANNEL 5	184	19.17
NTA, ABUJA	208	21.67
NTA, KADUNA	66	6.88
<i>Total:</i>	<b>960</b>	<b>100.00</b>



## Duration & Percentage of Topics (Television)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Duration (in Secs.)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	3158.00	3.34
REC. OF OPPOSITION	4007.00	4.24
REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES	10415.00	11.02
OTHER POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS	1839.00	1.95
REPORTS ON INEC	804.00	0.85
OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES	16452.00	17.41
OMITTED RELEVANT DEMOCRACY ISSUES	2351.00	2.49
GENDER RIGHTS	1361.00	1.44
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	769.00	0.81
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	2424.00	2.56
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	8826.00	9.34
CORRUPTION	1037.00	1.10
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	1076.00	1.14
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	23928.00	25.32
ECONOMIC POLICIES	4871.00	5.15
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	11021.00	11.66
OMITTED POLITICAL ISSUES	165.00	0.17
<b>Total:</b>	<b>94504.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**DURATION OF TOPICS (TELEVISION)**



## Frequency & Percentage of Scope of Coverage (Television)

<i>Scope</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Abia	7	0.73
Adamawa	5	0.52
Africa	8	0.83
Akwa ibom	5	0.52
Anambra	3	0.31
Benue	36	3.75
Borno	3	0.31
Cross river	2	0.21
Delta	15	1.56
Ebonyi	4	0.42
Edo	13	1.35
Ekiti	4	0.42
Enugu	6	0.63
Fct abuja	15	1.56
Gombe	1	0.10
Imo	5	0.52
International	7	0.73
Kebbi	3	0.31
Kaduna	44	4.58
Kogi	3	0.31
Kano	5	0.52
Katsina	3	0.31
Kwara	6	0.63
Lagos	56	5.83
North central	8	0.83
Niger delta	5	0.52
North east	3	0.31
Niger	6	0.63
Nigeria	602	62.71
North west	1	0.10
Ogun	5	0.52
Osun	1	0.10
Oyo	1	0.10
Plateau	4	0.42
Rivers	1	0.10
South east	7	0.73
Sokoto	12	1.25
South south	3	0.31
South west	12	1.25
Taraba	2	0.21
West africa	5	0.52
North	9	0.94
Zamfara	14	1.46
<b>Total:</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>100.00</b>

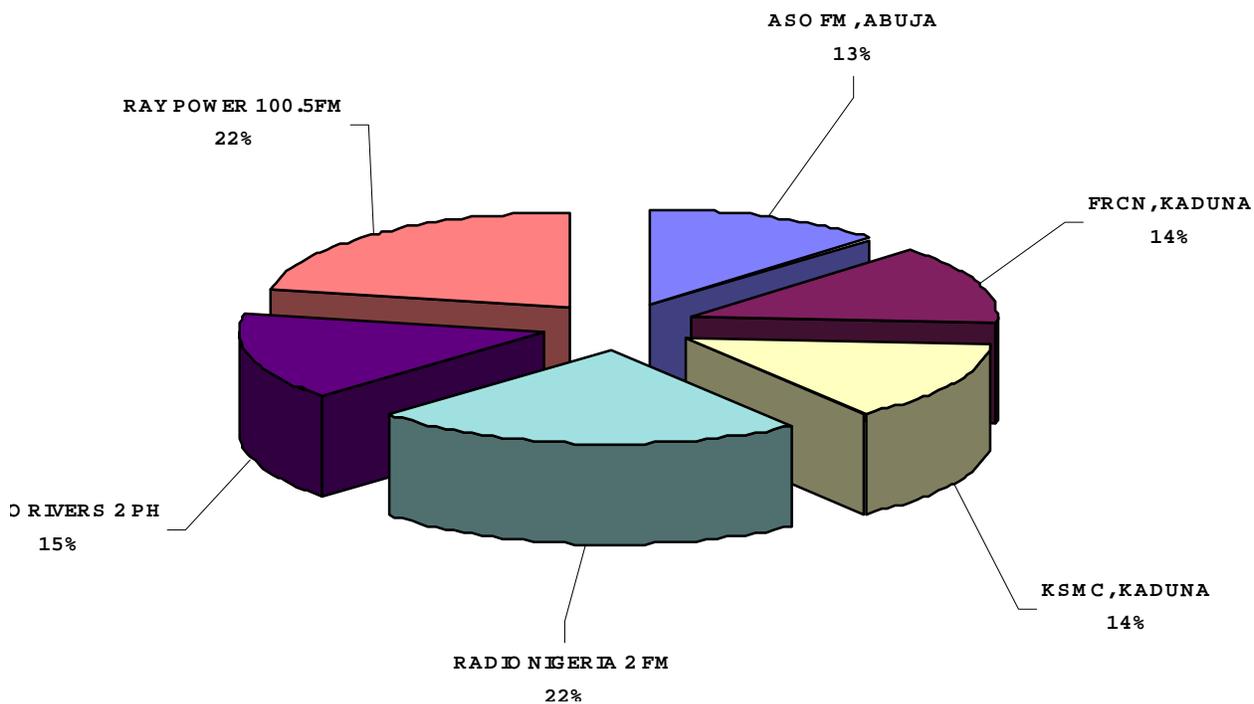
## Frequency & Percentage of Scope of Coverage (Radio)

<i>SCOPE OF COVERAGE</i>	<i>FREQUENCY</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE (%)</i>
Abia	7	0.48
Adamawa	11	0.75
Africa	4	0.27
Akwa ibom	15	1.03
Anambra	6	0.41
Bauchi	10	0.69
Benue	10	0.69
Borno	13	0.89
Cross river	8	0.55
Delta	7	0.48
Ebonyi	14	0.96
Edo	4	0.27
Ekiti	5	0.34
Enugu	8	0.55
Fct abuja	31	2.13
Gombe	4	0.27
Imo	5	0.34
International	7	0.48
Jigawa	9	0.62
Kebbi	18	1.24
Kaduna	96	6.59
Kogi	10	0.69
Kano	12	0.82
Katsina	5	0.34
Kwara	9	0.62
Lagos	133	9.13
Nasarawa	16	1.10
North central	16	1.10
Niger delta	4	0.27
North east	1	0.07
Niger	21	1.44
Nigeria	716	49.14
Ondo	8	0.55
Ogun	5	0.34
Osun	1	0.07
Oyo	4	0.27
Plateau	13	0.89
Rivers	104	7.14
South east	4	0.27
Sokoto	9	0.62
South south	7	0.48
Taraba	20	1.37
West africa	1	0.07
North	6	0.41
Yobe	8	0.55
Zamfara	32	2.20
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1457</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## Frequency & Percentage of Reports (Radio)

<i>Radio Station</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
ASO FM, ABUJA	185	12.70
FRCN, KADUNA	201	13.80
KSMC, KADUNA	197	13.52
RADIO NIGERIA 2 FM	336	23.06
RADIO RIVERS 2 PH	217	14.89
RAY POWER 100.5FM	321	22.03
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1457</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Percentage of Reports (Radio)

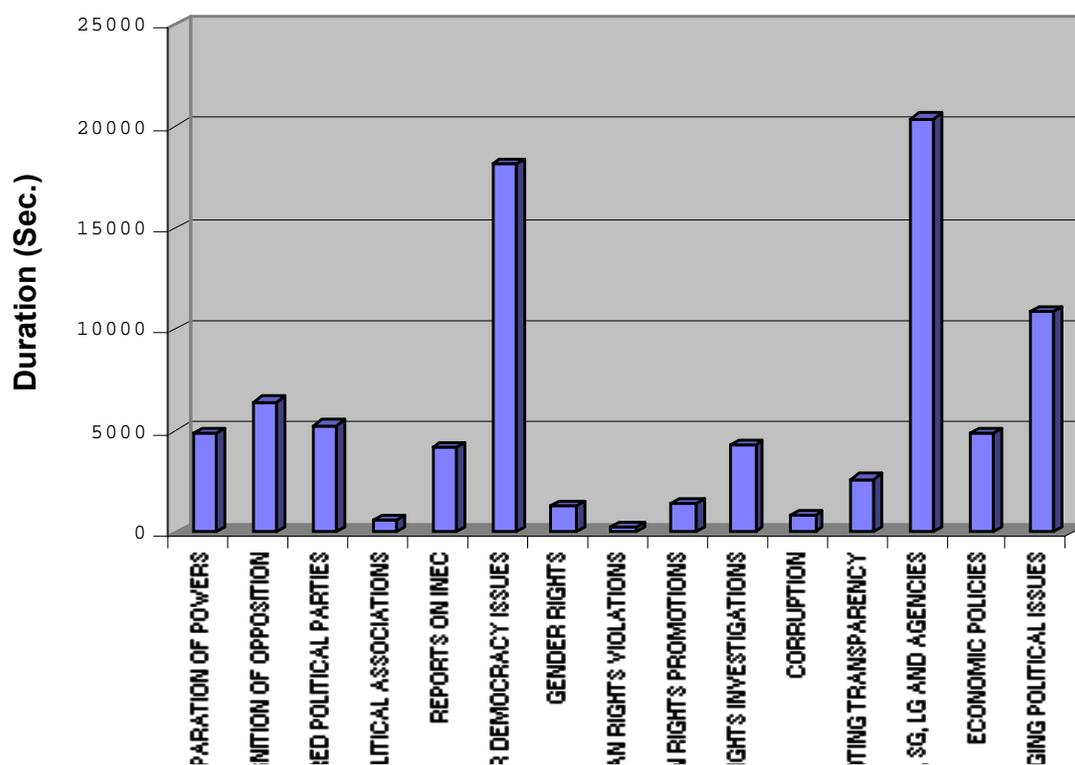


## Frequency of Areas of Origin (Radio)

<i>Area of Origin</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Abia	13	0.89
Adamawa	16	1.10
Akwa ibom	16	1.10
Anambra	4	0.27
Bauchi	16	1.10
Benue	15	1.03
Borno	15	1.03
Cross river	8	0.55
Delta	10	0.69
Ebonyi	14	0.96
Edo	14	0.96
Ekiti	5	0.34
Enugu	13	0.89
Fct abuja	469	32.19
Gombe	7	0.48
Imo	6	0.41
International	4	0.27
Jigawa	11	0.75
Kebbi	24	1.65
Kaduna	129	8.85
Kogi	14	0.96
Kano	15	1.03
Katsina	12	0.82
Kwara	13	0.89
Lagos	210	14.41
Nasarawa	15	1.03
Niger	30	2.06
Nil	60	4.12
Ondo	22	1.51
Ogun	9	0.62
Osun	4	0.27
Oyo	14	0.96
Plateau	20	1.37
Rivers	136	9.33
Sokoto	13	0.89
Taraba	18	1.24
Yobe	14	0.96
Zamfara	29	1.99
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1457</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## *Duration & Percentage of Topics (Radio)*

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Duration (Sec.)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	4895	5.66
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSITION	6434	7.43
REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES	5281	6.10
OTHER POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS	594	0.69
REPORTS ON INEC	4232	4.89
OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES	18114	20.93
GENDER RIGHTS	1316	1.52
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	302	0.35
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	1406	1.62
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	4338	5.01
CORRUPTION	874	1.01
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	2631	3.04
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	20414	23.58
ECONOMIC POLICIES	4839	5.59
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	10886	12.58
<b>Total:</b>	<b>86556.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>



## **SECTION 5: NOTES AND KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

The news reports which were monitored but not evaluated can be categorised into many departments. They included sports, business and finance, overland and maritime transport, aviation, law and adjudication, violence and crime, communication, agriculture, religious matters, the environment, the arts and entertainment, housing, education and the traditional institution.

<b>FGEXE</b>	-	Federal Government
<b>SGEXE</b>	-	State Government
<b>LG</b>	-	Local Government
<b>INEC</b>	-	Independent National Electoral Commission
<b>NGR</b>	-	Nigeria
<b>PORG</b>	-	Political Organisations
<b>IND</b>	-	Individuals
<b>NORTH</b>	-	Northern States
<b>FGJUD</b>	-	Federal Judiciary
<b>FGAS</b>	-	National Assembly
<b>FCT</b>	-	Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
<b>AD</b>	-	Alliance for Democracy
<b>APP</b>	-	All Peoples Party
<b>PDP</b>	-	Peoples Democratic Party

## 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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