

AIRWAVES MONITOR

A REPORT ON THE BROADCAST MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT

June 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)

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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 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 an 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 (for 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 crisis, 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 most potent awareness and emotion, radio is especially important in a country such as Nigeria

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

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

Democracy Issues

1. Reports on separation of powers (among the three arms of government)
2. Reports on the legitimate role of the opposition and opposition activities
3. Reports on the registered political parties—PDP, AD, APP.
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 investigations

Reports on Public Accountability

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

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall performance of the broadcast media in May indicates that there is considerable room for improvement. For instance, the paucity of sound-bites was glaring and it is not really clear what the causes might be.

Another lapse noticed in the course of monitoring the radio and TV stations was that several times, scheduled news programmes were skipped for no obvious reason. Additionally, some stations routinely went off air during news broadcast without offering any reason when they finally come back on air. And once in a while, there were mix-up in the activities shown with the actuality on screen at variance with the news topic.

It was also observed that reportage was heavily tilted in favour of urban dwellers, which means that people in the countryside were short-changed.

However, it is commendable that state-owned radio and TV stations now extend editorial coverage to civil groups and other organisations, which were in dispute with government. An example was Radio Nigeria 2 FM's coverage of the recent doctor's strike. In the past, such protest would either be ignored or whitewashed.

During the month of May, four radio and five television stations were monitored. Of these, five are state-owned, namely Radio Nigeria 2FM Lagos; FRCN Kaduna; KSMC Kaduna; NTA 2 Channel 5 Lagos; and NTA Kaduna. The privately –owned stations are Raypower 100.5FM Lagos; Channels TV Lagos; Murhi TV Lagos; and Minaj TV Obosi. All were monitored from Lagos and Kaduna.

The 710 items monitored on radio had a duration of 11 hours, 6minutes while the 796 reports on television had a duration of 34 hours, 4 minutes. In terms of topic preponderance, there were 593 items broadcast on democracy compared with 581 for political issues; 116 for human rights and 104 for public accountability. With this in mind, one may conclude that the broadcast media is getting to grips with its task of ensuring adequate coverage of democracy, political issues and political interest groups. However, the fairness or objectivity of the reportage is another matter entirely. Also, the stations generally dwelt more on democracy and political matters, leaving little or no room for human rights and public accountability reports.

Some of the stations battled outages in public power supply or faulty transmitting equipment or both. For example, Raypower 100.5FM intermittently went off air and skipped news bulletins such as the City Update on May 21 and the World News on May 24. NTA's Kaduna station shut down completely between May 28 and 31. It is believed that this was due to a faulty transmitter. FRCN Kaduna also went off air fairly often.

Government, its agencies and functionaries constituted the main news subject for the media. Most news organs now make a conscious effort to be dispassionate and objective in news gathering and dissemination. However, the end-product of the process still has flaws and lapses. The scope of reports was generally limited to Nigeria. (Please see statistical data section).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The media should be encouraged to reduce its heavy dependence on news from governmental or official sources. Even when they are used, it is beneficial to flesh them out with countervailing viewpoints from non-government sources. Regarding news derived from releases and press statements, backgrounding is essential. Publishing such statements virtually raw amounts to running advertorials in favour of the originating organisations or individuals.

We would also advise media managers to broaden the base of newsgathering in such a manner that the proportion of news derived from places other than Lagos and Abuja is increased. On the issue of news sources, a lot more needs to be done. For example, far too many reports go out with either a single news source or none at all. In the latter case, this amounts to speculative journalism.

Producers should make an effort to give more sound-bites to newsmakers, including those from private and non-governmental circles. Additionally, while obtaining and showing appropriate actualities may require some effort and expense, in journalistic terms, it's well worth it.

SECTION 2: GENERAL FINDINGS

Period of Report: May 1—31, 2001

No of Radio Stations Monitored:

Four (4): (Raypower 100.5FM Lagos; Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Kaduna Station; Radio Nigeria 2 FM, Lagos; Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC).

Total News Items on Radio—2,282

Duration of Bulletins—49 hours(2,942mins)

No of Bulletins monitored: 710

Duration: 11hours, 6mins(698mins,23secs)

No of TV stations monitored: 5: (Channels; NTA2 Channel 5 Lagos; Murhi International Television-MITV-Lagos; Minaj TV (MBI) Obosi; and NTA Kaduna.

Total News Items on TV: 2,923

Duration of Bulletins: 112 hours (6743mins)

No of Bulletins monitored: 796

Duration: 34 hours, 4mins

Variables\Topics Monitored: There were 593 news reports on Democracy with total time allocation of 999minutes, 28 secs(16hours, 7mins). Under this heading-the sub-topics monitored were separation of powers, opposition groups, registered parties, INEC, and other political associations.

581 news items were monitored in Political Issues with time allocation of 706 minutes, 54secs(11hours, 8mins). The sub-topics were federal, state and local governments and their agencies; economic issues with political implications and emerging political issues.

On Human Rights, 116 news reports were monitored with time allocation of 168 mins, 73secs(2hours, 8mins). The sub-topics monitored were rights violations, gender issues, human rights promotion and human rights investigations.

Under Public Accountability, 104 news reports were monitored with a time allocation of 118mins, 8secs (2hours). The sub-topics were corruption in government and promoting transparency in government.

Total No of subjects: 926

Mentions: Highest positive—Government at all levels

Highest negative—Political Organisations

Most promoted—Government at all levels

Area of Origination: Highest Preponderance—Lagos

Others—Abuja, Akwa Ibom, Abia, Edo and Delta (in descending order)

Scope of Reports: Highest Preponderance—Nigeria

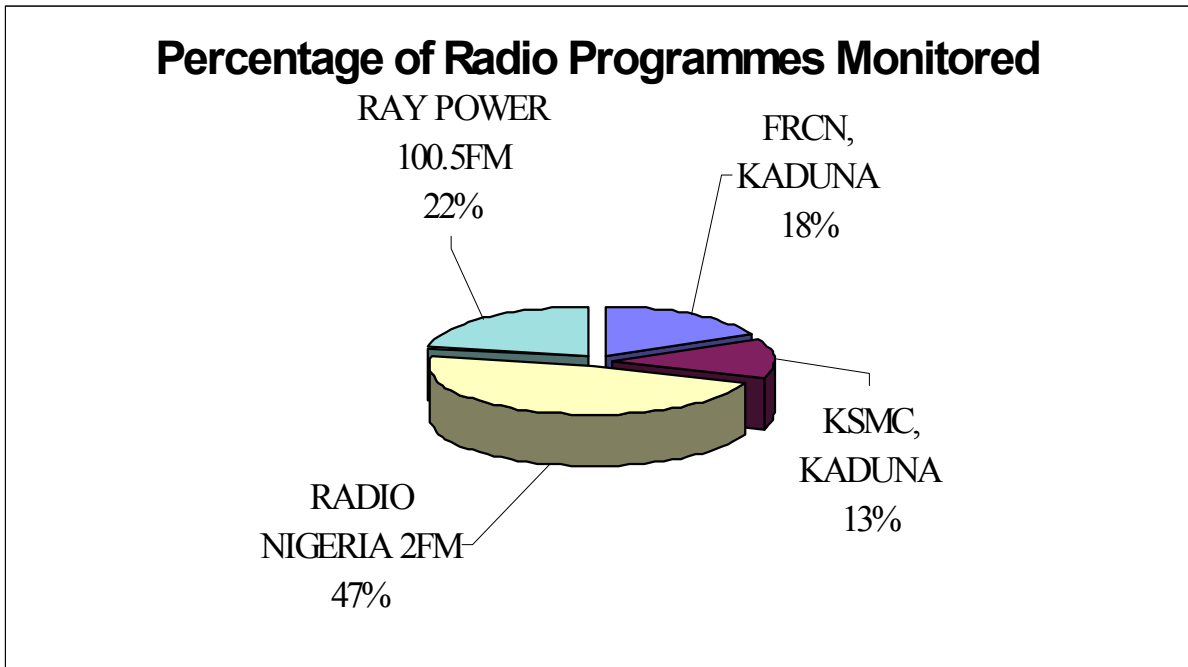
Others—South-west, North-central, South-south, South-east and West Africa (in descending order).

All the stations generally dwelt more on democracy and political matters, leaving little or in some cases, no room for human rights and public accountability reports. For instance, the highest figure for democracy was on Radio Nigeria 2 Lagos(175 reports with duration of 3hours, 22mins) while the least was on MITV(28 items with a duration of 38 mins, 9secs.) Political issues recorded 141 reports with duration of 2 hours, 33mins on Radio Nigeria2 Lagos and the least of 35 reports in 50 mins on Channels TV, Lagos. Minaj TV Obosi devoted the most time to human rights with 26 reports in a time of 44 mins 08 secs. MITV recorded only 5such reports in a time of 7mins, 33secs.

There were 49 reports on public accountability matters on Radio Nigeria2, Lagos with a duration of 45 mins, 04secs while no such reports were recorded on MITV. In the same category, MBI had 5 reports with duration of 7mins, 7secs.

Most of the stations did not use sound-bites in the period being reviewed. Exceptions were RN2 and channels TV. Also, all the stations indulged in repeating news bulletins. All gave prominence to government activities, including even the private TV and radio stations and their reports for the month originated mainly from government or official sources. Developmental journalism with a bias for the rural regions seems to be unattractive to the stations as none of them featured rural activities prominently. The two stations monitored in Kaduna had the common problem of dependency on NEPA. As such, anytime public power supply failed, they invariably went off air. Consequently, their broadcast was littered with apologies for the breaks in transmission.

PIE-CHART ——— PERCENTAGE PER STATION OF ALL RADIO PROGRAMMES MONITORED



SECTION 3: FINDINGS ON SPECIFIC RADIO STATIONS

1. **Radio Nigeria 2, Lagos**

In the first week of May, the station's reception was poor. Most of the time, especially in the morning, RN2 could not be monitored. On May 2, while reporting the Ebonyi governor's address to the workers during the May Day rally, the station headlined the bulletin "Egwu increases workers pay". But in the 7am bulletin itself, it was disclosed that the governor only promised to increase workers pay; he had not actually done so. This amounts to mis-information.

Most of the bulletins lacked sound-bite and this puts a question mark on the authenticity of the reports. Out of the 46 reports monitored in May, 32 had no sound-bite. Also, throughout the month, the same bulletins, especially on government activities, were repeatedly broadcast. For example, the 7am news report on May 21 was a repeat of the 8pm news the previous day. The same day, another news item at 12 noon on the review of the 1999 constitution was also a repeat broadcast.

RN2 deserves commendation for recognizing opposition and allotting a fair proportion of air time for such groups. For instance, a May 21 news report contained Delta governor, James Ibori's call for a national debate. On May 22, the 7am Radio Nigeria network news prominently featured the court case of 36 states and the central government over resource control. Also, RN2 gave adequate coverage to the strike of the doctors of the Nigerian Medical Association.

2. **Raypower 100.5FM**

The station devoted considerable air time to foreign news. In proportional terms, domestic news content was low in the news bulletins of May 14—19. Although the 10am World News is a report on the world, News at Noon which is expected to focus more on domestic matters, also gave priority to foreign news. For instance, on May 17, the News at Noon programme contained 16 items and of these, only two were on domestic events, the rest were on non-Nigerian events.

The reports also lacked sound-bite in most cases. Out of the 34 news items monitored between May 14 and 19, only two had sound-bite, including the 2pm City Update of May 18 which featured the executive director of Media Rights Agenda. But the 10am World News of May 14 reported that the pressure group known as the Eastern Council had demanded that a national conference should precede the adoption of the revised 1999 constitution. Raypower failed to give the council any sound-bite.

The station sometimes failed to flesh out its reports to make them fair and objective. News at Noon on May 15 reported that Lagos governor Tinubu had threatened to sue the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for contaminating ground water in the state. But the station failed to reach the NNPC officials for their reaction to the governor's accusation.

On balance, the station tries to present detailed and balanced reports. But even these tend to be repeated a few times. An example was the 10am World News on May 25 in which the Federal Government reportedly offered to rebuild the Lagos Bar Beach. This item was repeated at 12 noon (News Desk) and 2pm (City Update).

An additional problem was that Raypower intermittently went off air and skipped news bulletins. On May 21, its update was skipped at 2pm while on the 24th, World News was skipped at 10am.

On May 23, out of the 8 items on the 2pm City Update, none was relevant to this project's four main topics\variables (democracy, political matters, human rights and public accountability). On May 25, out of the 10am World News' 17 items, none was relevant to the project either. Concerning the last two variables, in May, the station recorded 9 human rights-related items with a duration of 8 mins, 7secs, while there were also 9 public accountability reports of 5mins, 56 secs duration. Out of the station's total reportage of 1068 reports, 231 were monitored and these had a duration of 2hours, 8mins (166mins, 9secs.)

3. **FRCN, Kaduna**

Out of the total 339 news items on this station, with total time of 12 hours, 7mins, democracy was the preponderant monitored topic while human rights and public accountability had relatively thin coverage. Erratic public power supply and perhaps faulty transmitting equipment also marred the station's service.

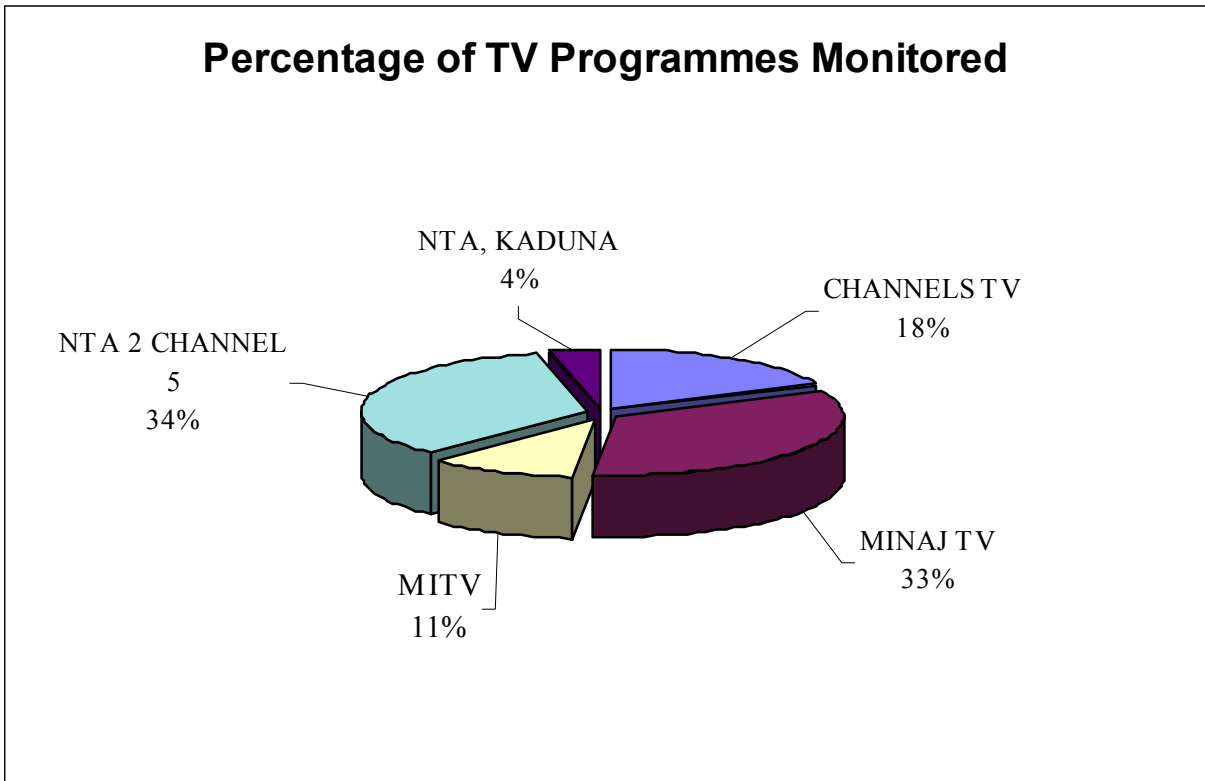
4. **KSMC, Kaduna**

The news items on this station were detailed and mostly accurate but lacked sound-bite. Voice-overs were mostly employed. The sources of the reports were not diversified except on May 15 (News at 12 Noon) when a member of the state assembly from Kaura constituency spoke on the dividends of democracy and the reporter interviewed another person on the same issue.

From May 14 to 20, the station displayed some bias towards the Alliance for Democracy by under-reporting their activities while giving prominence to its two registered rivals.

The station's reports were mostly sourced from Kaduna and Abuja. KSMC hardly used sound-bite except on its 6pm bulletins. In the same week referred to above, the station projected personalities much more than issues and reported much more urban news than happenings in the rural areas. The station also repeated its bulletins consistently during May. For example, on May 15, the 12 noon bulletin was repeated at 3pm and also during the 6pm newsreel.

PIE-CHART—PERCENTAGE PER STATION OF ALL TELEVISION PROGRAMMES MONITORED



SECTION 4: FINDINGS ON TV STATIONS

1. NTA 2 Channel 5, Lagos

The station's reports were mostly balanced and detailed. For instance, out of the 20 news items monitored between May 28 and 31, 13 had sound-bite. However, on some occasions, the bulletins lacked sound-bite or were one-sided. For example, on May 28, News Update at 4pm, House of Representatives Speaker, Alhaji Na' Aba's call for caution on the relationship between the National Assembly and the State Legislatures would have been more effective if accompanied by a sound-bite. Also, on May 30, in the reportage on Senate President Chief Anyim's visit to some media establishments in Lagos, only Anyim got a sound-bite while the proprietors' views were not aired in the actuality shown to viewers.

The station should watch out for the repetition of news carried over from the previous day. For example, on May 2, (7pm), there was a repetition of the presentation of the amended 1999 constitution which was from the news bulletin of the previous day.

Mix-up in the actualities shown happened occasionally. On May 1 for instance, during the presentation of a report on private property inheritance, an irrelevant actuality of the Oputa investigation panel was aired. The newscaster had to read the news all over again. This was commendable as some other station could simply ignore the error and plodded on.

Also, the station suffered from poor reception in some areas of Lagos State. Human rights and public accountability issues are under-reported on the station. Out of 1134 news items with a duration of 31 hours, human rights coverage was 22 items with a duration of 46 mins, 8 secs. While there were 11 public accountability reports with a duration of 25mins, 8secs. Under political issues, composed mainly of government news, 172 reports were recorded with a duration of 137 mins, 8secs (2hours, 3secs).

2. Channels Television, Lagos

Its reports were basically fair, balanced and detailed. However, after the Prime News at 5pm, the following news bulletins at 6pm, 7pm, and 8pm and 10pm were most of the time, repeats of the 5pm news without any updating although sometimes with the addition of one or two fresh items. Of the 72 reports monitored between May 14 and 19, 44 were repeats. Democracy reports received the largest chunk of airtime with 76 reports in 220 mins. 3secs (3hours, 7mins), out of the total 805 reports broadcast in May with a duration of 34 hours. There were 35 reports on political matters (50 mins duration); 2 on human rights (25 mins. 9secs duration); and 6 public accountability reports in a cumulative time of 15 mins. 2secs.

3. Minaj Television, Obosi

The pattern of news schedule on this station was inconsistent throughout the month. Much of the time, the news bulletins in the morning and afternoon were skipped. On May 6, the station resumed airing the 7am and 9am bulletins only to suspend them shortly afterwards. Wrong actualities were sometimes aired. Out of 44 items monitored between May 6 and 12, 34 lacked sound-bite while only 23 had relevant or appropriate actualities. Mostly, still pictures were employed to illustrate reports and sometimes graphs. For instance, while presenting a report on the reaction of some suspended PDP members on

May 10, the actuality aired was that of President Obasanjo and his wife at a rally. This particular actuality was also used as footage in other reports to which it was not really relevant.

MBI mostly presented news with undiversified sources. On May 7, in the report of the visit of a bank boss to Lagos state governor Tinubu, the latter spoke in the actuality shown while the visitor was only shown speaking without any sound-bite. A good proportion of reports were sourced from Abuja.

Very often, the station plays music videos instead of reading the news. Out of the 567 reports (25 hours duration) monitored, there were 103 democracy-related items (261 mins, 9secs); and 5 public accountability items (7mins, 7secs).

4. **Murhi Television, Lagos**

Generally, the station did not use actuality and sound-bite in its reports. Mostly, graphs and stills were employed, sometimes inappropriately. Since the graphs being shown at times were not relevant to the reports, this could confuse viewers. Voice-overs were used in place of sound-bites. Reports often failed to reflect more than one side of an issue. Most items were generated in Lagos, based on press briefings or statements. Of the stations monitored in Lagos, MITV had the least number of monitored news reports with 404 items with a duration of 2 hours. The democracy variable recorded 28 items (38 mins 9secs). There was no record of any public accountability item broadcast by the station in May.

5. **NTA, Kaduna**

The station's reports were generally balanced and objective with appropriate use of sound-bites and actualities. Voice-overs were seldom used. Focus was concentrated on the federal and state governments. The station did not transmit at all between May 28 and 31, probably due to equipment breakdown. Reports which fell under the democracy variable constituted the bulk of the monitored items while human rights items constituted the least.

SECTION 5: STATISTICAL DATA (RADIO&TV)

Television: No/%. of Monitored Programmes

<i>TV Station</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
CHANNELS TV	182	17.98
MINAJ TV	341	33.70
MITV	108	10.67
NTA 2 CHANNEL 5	345	34.09
NTA, KADUNA	36	3.56
<i>Total:</i>	1012	100.00

Television: Frequency/Percentage of Areas (%)

<i>Area</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
ABIA	4	0.40
ADAMAWA	1	0.10
AFRICA	1	0.10
AKWA IBOM	3	0.30
ANAMBRA	14	1.38
BAUCHI	5	0.49
BENUE	5	0.49
BORNO	2	0.20
BAYELSA	7	0.69
CROSS RIVER	1	0.10
DELTA	8	0.79
EBONYI	6	0.59
EDO	23	2.27
EKITI	3	0.30
ENUGU	40	3.95
FCT ABUJA	299	29.55
GOMBE	5	0.49
IMO	2	0.20
INTERNATIONAL	27	2.67
JIGAWA	2	0.20
KEBBI	1	0.10
KADUNA	39	3.85
KOGI	7	0.69
KANO	4	0.40
KATSINA	1	0.10
KWARA	5	0.49
LAGOS	278	27.47
NASARAWA	2	0.20
NIGER	6	0.59

<i>Area</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
NIL	143	14.13
ONDO	10	0.99
OGUN	3	0.30
OSUN	2	0.20
OYO	14	1.38
PLATEAU	9	0.89
RIVERS	12	1.19
SOKOTO	11	1.09
TARABA	1	0.10
WEST AFRICA	1	0.10
YOBE	1	0.10
ZAMFARA	4	0.40
<i>Total:</i>	1012	100.00

Television: Frequency of Topics Duration in Secs. (%)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Duration (in Secs.)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	6411.00	5.33
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSTION	6492.00	5.39
REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES	16782.00	13.95
OTHER POLITICAL ASSOCIATION	2037.00	1.69
REPORTS ON INEC	700.00	0.58
OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES	27475.00	22.83
GENDER RIGHTS	2916.00	2.42
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	2487.00	2.07
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	5786.00	4.81
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	2635.00	2.19
CORRUPTION	2853.00	2.37
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	1585.00	1.32
OTHER PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES	122.00	0.10
POLITICAL ISSUES	99.00	0.08
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	29679.00	24.66
ECONOMIC POLICIES	8404.00	6.98
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	3880.00	3.22
<i>Total:</i>	120343.00	100.00

Television: Frequency of Topics (%)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	73	7.21
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSITION	50	4.94
REGISTRATION POLITICAL PARTIES	105	10.38
OTHER POLITICAL ASSOCIATION	18	1.78
REPORTS ON INEC	5	0.49
OTHER DM ISSUES	184	18.18
GENDER RIGHTS	24	2.37
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	20	1.98
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	25	2.47
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	7	2.67
CORRUPTION	21	2.08
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	2	2.17
OTHER PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES	1	0.10
POLITICAL ISSUES	2	0.20
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	311	30.73
ECONOMIC POLICIES	91	8.99
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	33	3.26
<i>Total:</i>	1012	100.00

Television: Frequency of Stories By Area and Scope (%)

Area	Scope	Frequency	Percent
ABIA	NIGERIA	1	0.10
ABIA	ABIA	3	0.30
ADAMAWA	ADAMAWA	1	0.10
AFRICA	NIGERIA	1	0.10
AKWA IBOM	AKWA IBOM	3	0.30
ANAMBRA	ANAMBRA	10	0.99
ANAMBRA	NIGERIA	4	0.40
BAUCHI	BAUCHI	1	0.10
BAUCHI	NORTH EAST	3	0.30
BAUCHI	NIGERIA	1	0.10
BENUE	NIGERIA	1	0.10
BENUE	BENUE	4	0.40
BORNU	BORNU	1	0.10
BORNU	NIGERIA	1	0.10
BAYELSA	BAYELSA	7	0.69
CROSS RIVER	CROSS RIVER	1	0.10
DELTA	DELTA	6	0.59
DELTA	NIGERIA	2	0.20
EBONYI	EBONYI	3	0.30
EBONYI	NIGERIA	3	0.30
EDO	EDO	15	1.48
EDO	NIGERIA	7	0.69
EDO	SOUTH SOUTH	1	0.10
EKITI	SOUTH WEST	1	0.10
EKITI	NIGERIA	1	0.10
EKITI	EKITI	1	0.10
ENUGU	ENUGU	8	0.79
ENUGU	NIGER DELTA	1	0.10
ENUGU	NIGERIA	19	1.88

Area	Scope	Frequency	Percent
ENUGU	SOUTH EAST	10	0.99
ENUGU	DELTA	2	0.20
FCT ABUJA	NIGER DELTA	2	0.20
FCT ABUJA	NORTH	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	WEST AFRICA	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	TARABA	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	SOKOTO	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	NORTH WEST	2	0.20
FCT ABUJA	NIGERIA	273	26.98
FCT ABUJA	NORTH EAST	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	NASARAWA	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	LAGOS	1	0.10
FCT ABUJA	INTERNATIONAL	2	0.20
FCT ABUJA	FCT ABUJA	4	0.40
FCT ABUJA	ANAMBRA	4	0.40
FCT ABUJA	AFRICA	4	0.40
FCT ABUJA	NIGER	1	0.10
GOMBE	NIGERIA	5	0.49
IMO	IMO	1	0.10
IMO	SOUTH EAST	1	0.10
INTERNATIONAL	NIGERIA	19	1.88
INTERNATIONAL	AFRICA	5	0.49
INTERNATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL	3	0.30
JIGAWA	JIGAWA	2	0.20
KEBBI	NORTH CENTRAL	1	0.10
KADUNA	KADUNA	17	1.68
KADUNA	NIGERIA	18	1.78
KADUNA	NORTH WEST	1	0.10
KADUNA	NORTH	3	0.30
KOGI	KOGI	6	0.59
KOGI	NIGERIA	1	0.10
KANO	KANO	2	0.20

Area	Scope	Frequency	Percent
KANO	NIGERIA	2	0.20
KATSINA	NIGERIA	1	0.10
KWARA	KWARA	5	0.49
LAGOS	SOUTH EAST	4	0.40
LAGOS	NIGERIA	166	16.40
LAGOS	LAGOS	106	10.47
LAGOS	ABIA	1	0.10
LAGOS	IMO	1	0.10
NASARAWA	NASARAWA	2	0.20
NIGER	NIGER	2	0.20
NIGER	NIGERIA	4	0.40
NIGERIA	INTERNATIONAL	1	0.10
NIGERIA	NIGERIA	16	1.58
NIL	NIGER DELTA	1	0.10
NIL	SOUTH EAST	4	0.40
NIL	RIVERS	1	0.10
NIL	WEST AFRICA	1	0.10
NIL	LAGOS	5	0.49
NIL	KADUNA	1	0.10
NIL	NIL	3	0.30
NIL	NIGERIA	110	10.87
ONDO	NIGERIA	7	0.69
ONDO	ONDO	3	0.30
OGUN	NIGERIA	1	0.10
OGUN	OGUN	2	0.20
OSUN	OSUN	2	0.20
OYO	NIGERIA	13	1.28
OYO	OYO	1	0.10
PLATEAU	LAGOS	1	0.10
PLATEAU	NIGERIA	4	0.40
PLATEAU	PLATEAU	4	0.40
RIVERS	NIGERIA	1	0.10

Area	Scope	Frequency	Percent
RIVERS	RIVERS	10	0.99
RIVERS	SOUTH SOUTH	1	0.10
SOKOTO	NIGERIA	6	0.59
SOKOTO	SOUTH EAST	2	0.20
SOKOTO	SOKOTO	3	0.30
TARABA	TARABA	1	0.10
WEST AFRICA	INTERNATIONAL	1	0.10
YOBE	NIGERIA	1	0.10
ZAMFARA	ZAMFARA	2	0.20
ZAMFARA	NIGERIA	2	0.20
Total		1012	100.00

Television: Frequency of Scope of Coverage (%)

<i>Scope</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
ABIA	4	0.40
ADAMAWA	1	0.10
AFRICA	9	0.89
AKWA IBOM	3	0.30
ANAMBRA	14	1.38
BAUCHI	1	0.10
BENUE	4	0.40
BORNU	1	0.10
BAYELSA	7	0.69
CROSS RIVER	1	0.10
DELTA	8	0.79
EBONYI	3	0.30
EDO	15	1.48
EKITI	1	0.10
ENUGU	8	0.79
FCT ABUJA	4	0.40
IMO	2	0.20
INTERNATIONAL	7	0.69
JIGAWA	2	0.20
KADUNA	18	1.78
KOGI	6	0.59
KANO	2	0.20
KWARA	5	0.49
LAGOS	113	11.17
NASARAWA	3	0.30
NORTHCENTRAL	1	0.10
NIGERDELTA	4	0.40
NORTHEAST	4	0.40

<i>Scope</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
NIGER	3	0.30
NIGERIA	691	68.28
NIL	3	0.30
NORTH WEST	3	0.30
ONDO	3	0.30
OGUN	2	0.20
OSUN	2	0.20
OYO	1	0.10
PLATEAU	4	0.40
RIVERS	11	1.09
SOUTH EAST	21	2.08
SOKOTO	4	0.40
SOUTH SOUTH	2	0.20
SOUTH WEST	1	0.10
TARABA	2	0.20
WEST AFRICA	2	0.20
NORTH	4	0.40
ZAMFARA	2	0.20
<i>Total:</i>	1012	100.00

Radio: Duration of Topics/Programmes (%)

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Duration of Progs. (In Seconds)</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
SEPARATION OF POWERS	3106	4.58
RECOGNITION OF OPPOSTION	2437	3.59
REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES	1889	2.78
OTHER POLITICAL ASSOCIATION	288	0.42
REPORTS ON INEC	682	1.00
OTHER DEMOCRACY ISSUES	18628	27.44
GENDER RIGHTS	379	0.56
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	995	1.47
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTIONS	1350	1.99
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS	1299	1.91
CORRUPTION	1860	2.74
PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY	2256	3.32
FG, SG, LG AND AGENCIES	15862	23.36
ECONOMIC POLICIES	9096	13.40
EMERGING POLITICAL ISSUES	7762	11.43
<i>Total:</i>	67889.00	100.00

Radio: Frequency of Scope of Coverage (%)

<i>Scope</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
ABIA	11	0.99
ADAMAWA	10	0.90
AFRICA	8	0.72
AKWA IBOM	6	0.54
ANAMBRA	5	0.45
BAUCHI	5	0.45
BENUE	8	0.72
BORNU	8	0.72
BAYELSA	3	0.27
CROSS RIVER	6	0.54
DELTA	3	0.27
EBONYI	9	0.81
EDO	11	0.99
EKITI	4	0.36
ENUGU	6	0.54
FCT ABUJA	4	0.36
GOMBE	9	0.81
INTERNATIONAL	12	1.08
JIGAWA	6	0.54
KEBBI	5	0.45
KADUNA	79	7.09
KOGI	7	0.63
KANO	5	0.45
KATSINA	4	0.36
KWARA	18	1.61
LAGOS	91	8.16
NASARAWA	3	0.27
NIGER DELTA	9	0.81
NORTH EAST	1	0.09
NIGER	8	0.72

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.
14. **Scope:** The geographical region to which the report applies.



Media 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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