



# **PRINT MONITOR**

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

**September 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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## FOREWORD

Section 22 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution provides that “The Press, radio, television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this Chapter (Chapter Two) and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the Government to the people.”

Naturally, the question arises as to who watches the watchdog to ensure that it performs this duty of holding the government accountable to the people. It is a delicate question for which there is no one correct answer. Governments and societies all over the world have for decades grappled with this problem without being able to reach a consensus solution.

However, the right of citizens to be informed about the political process and to be able to hold and express opinions generally about their governments is one that is now recognized under international human rights law as an essential component of the right to freedom of expression. This right is guaranteed by a number of regional and international human rights instruments.

What this means in real terms is that there is an obligation on governments to create an environment where the media can access and disseminate information for the benefit of the wider society. For the media, it means that beyond narrow commercial interests, there is also a responsibility to act in the larger interest of the society. This responsibility has been internationally recognized as far back as 1960 when the United Nations Economic and Social Council, at its 29<sup>th</sup> Session, in its Resolution 756 (XXIX) of 21 April 1960 adopted a draft declaration on freedom of information wherein it proposed that the “Media of information should be employed in the service of the people...”

One of the main problems which has inhibited the growth of the print media in Nigeria over the years has been the low literacy level which has severely limited the size of its audience, comparative to the audience in the broadcast sector.

Although precise data are not available, it is estimated that there are over 300 newspaper and magazine titles being published in Nigeria. Estimates put the combined circulation figures of newspapers at less than 500,000 daily. The number is pitiable in a country with over 120 million people. Added to this is the fact that these newspapers and magazines are located mainly in the southern part of the country, especially in the Lagos area, and hardly circulate outside the major towns in the country.

Despite these problems, the print medium remains an important vehicle for mass political education and mobilisation. This is particularly so because of the print media which has less stringent control than broadcast, and the greater private ownership of the print media which also serves to ensure its independence from government control. Besides, despite the reversals in fortune which the print media has suffered with the opening up of more radio and television stations, it still has the advantage of serving as a conveyor of more detailed information that can be stored relatively more easily and more cheaply than information from the broadcast media.

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 (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.

Very often, people tend to equate the media with the printed form. But the fact is that the printed form is just one of the several forms of media. In present times, the media also include the broadcast medium, the Internet and traditional forms of information dissemination and entertainment.

The reason most people equate the Print Medium with Media is because besides the traditional form of media, the printed form of the media was the first to be applied to a mass dissemination of information. While the history of the print media in Nigeria dates back to 1859 with the publication of a Yoruba vernacular newspaper, *Iwe Irohin*, the broadcast media started in 1945 with the establishment of the Western Nigeria Television by the then regional government of Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Despite having suffered a loss in its appeal due to the arrival in the scene of broadcast media such as radio and television, which in addition to being spontaneous have the advantage of audio and images, the printed medium remains clearly indispensable. It still has the advantage of serving as

a conveyor of far more information that can be assessed most conveniently and that can be stored relatively more easily and at less cost, than the broadcast information.

Although Nigeria has a low literacy level, making the readership of the print medium much less than the numbers of people who may tune-in to the broadcast medium, yet the Nigerian print medium remains a most potent means of mass political education and mobilisation.

This is more so because of the huge percentage of private participation in the industry which gives the government-owned print media organisations sufficient opposition in times when official quarters might wish for a hush-up of matters otherwise of public interest. But the question remains, just how efficiently is the media living up to its rating?

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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

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

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

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

#### **Political Issues**

1. Reports on federal, 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**

A general over-view of the print media's performance in August would have to take cognisance of three important questions: How well does the media ensure the fair, accurate and objective coverage of political issues and political interest groups?

How well does the media provide a robust ambience for the promotion of political debate, democratic governance and public accountability? How well does the media ensure fair, accurate and objective coverage of human rights issues as well as safeguard the rights of minority groups and other disadvantaged segments of the society?

Apart from these questions, the constitutionally - sanctioned role of the Fourth Estate as enunciated in Section 22 of the 1999 constitution is that it must uphold political, economic, social, educational, environmental and cultural guidelines stipulated in the constitution. Above all, it is required to hold government answerable to the people of this country.

It goes without saying that these are indeed weighty responsibilities for the media to shoulder and in the light of the challenging milieu in which it operates in this part of the world, it would be a pleasant surprise if it scores a pass mark.

However to be able to give definite answers to the queries, it is necessary to delineate in outline the findings of the monitoring project this month.

In comparison with last month, the total number of monitored news reports has increased from 15,217 to 16,610. Similarly, the reports falling under the project's topic/variables climbed from 1851 last month to 2264. However, there is only marginal difference between the respective percentage figures on the relationship between the two categories.

The implication of this is that while there was appreciable increase in the tempo of newsgathering and publishing, the ratio of reports relevant to this monitoring project has remained stable.

As was highlighted in a previous report on the print media, the four main categories of project variables were deliberately chosen to encompass important issues of public interest. About the only major issues excluded from consideration were the business - related or economic ones. Bearing this in mind, the consistently low percentage ratio of evaluated items to total reports in the past two months (12.2% and 12.0%) makes it clear that there is considerable room for improvement in the media's day-to-day coverage of these important matters.

But having said that, it should also be stated that some publications performed above average in this regard. For example, the percentage ratio of evaluated items to total reports for The News magazine was an encouraging 21%. The Source magazine did even better with 25%. The best performer in the newspaper category was ThisDay with a figure of 17%.

The above findings constitute a question mark on the general performance of the print medium. But once this qualification is discounted, the Press did well in August. For example, 1120 items were recorded for the Democracy variable alone. By the time one adds the figure for Political Issues variable (737), this is a total of 1857 politically-related news items. The figures for Human Rights and Public Accountability variables were far less impressive. In fact, they were worrisome.

The 15 publications evaluated in the project published a total of 190 human rights -related items in August. For public accountability, there were 205. When it is realised that these figures would have been much less if it weren't for the public sittings of the Human Rights Violation and Investigation Commission (HRVIC), then the enormity of the problem is clear. It is obvious that the editors do not regard human rights and public accountability matters to be important enough to require much newspaper space.

Actually, the editors' lapse is a faithful mirror of the larger society which has consistently ignored the minorities, the rural poor, women and children and other disadvantaged groups. However, there is no way that the journalists can use this as an excuse for their conduct. The media has a legitimate agenda-setting function and as such, it must have higher standards than the society it operates in.

One good thing about the media coverage this month was that the geographical scope of virtually all news reports was Nigeria alone. The majority of reports originated from the Federal Capital Territory and Lagos State, in that order. The two most heavily projected entities were the state governments and the federal government in that order.

To provide an answer to the first question posed above, the record of the media this month was spotty. Without a doubt, the print medium had provided a useful platform on which the educated citizenry engaged in robust, even heated debate on governance issues and related matters. But the news coverage of the publications themselves was often shallow, one-sided and riddled with errors of fact or errors of judgement. The few cases of excellence sometimes let down their readers by applying double standards or practising self-censorship. Apart from this, the desperate scramble for advertisement patronage has continued to make nonsense of journalistic ethics.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Editors and publishers may need to do a radical rethink on how to generate funds to sustain operations. It is unhealthy to allow the existing situation to continue. Far too often, legitimate journalistic pre-occupations are set aside because they may jeopardise advertisement revenue. Needless to say, this is a shortsighted and self-defeating attitude since readers are not fooled.

## **SECTION 2: GENERAL FINDINGS**

Period of Report : August 1 - 31, 2001

No. of Publications monitored: 15

No. of Newspapers monitored :10 (*Daily Times* and *New Nigerian* -both state-owned; *The Comet*, *Post Express*, *Daily Champion*, *Daily Trust*, *National Interest*, *The Punch*, *ThisDay* and *The Guardian*)

No. of News magazines monitored: 5 (*TELL*, *The News*, *The Week*, *The Source* and *Newswatch*)

Total No. of Newspaper reports: 18,251

News reports falling under the project topic/variables : 2,201

Space covered by evaluated reports: 55,928 square inches

Percentage of evaluated reports: 12.0%

No. of Total Newsmagazine reports: 359

News reports falling under the project topic/variables:63

Space covered by evaluated reports: 9,258 square inches

Percentage of evaluated reports: 17.0%

Total No. of News reports: 18,610

News reports falling under the project topic/variables : 2,264

Space covered by evaluated reports: 65,186 square inches

Percentage of Evaluated reports: 12.0%

### **TOPIC/VARIABLES MONITORED**

In terms of preponderance, Democracy issues once more had more evaluated news reports than any other, with 1,120 items having a dimension of 30,512 square inches. The respective figures for the two categories are as follows:

Newspapers : 1,091 reports (26,052 square inches)and

Newsmagazines : 29 reports (4,460 square inches)

The cumulative total for Political Issues variable is 737 reports with a dimension of 19,987 square inches. The respective figures for newspapers and magazines are

Newspapers : 727 reports (19,238 square inches) and

Newsmagazine : 10 reports (749 square inches)

There were a total of 190 reports of 7,861 square inches for the Human Rights variable out of which newspapers accounted for 180 reports (6,116 square inches). The appropriate figures for newsmagazines are 10 reports with dimension of 1,745 square inches.

The fourth topic/variable - Public Accountability - recorded a total of 205 news reports of 6,826 square inches. The newspaper sub-category accounted for 191 reports (4,522 square inches) while newsmagazines recorded 14 reports of 2,304 square inches.

### **Area Of News Origination**

In the month, most reports originated from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (FCT). It recorded a factor of 466 compared with 213 for Lagos State, first the runner-up. Other significant news sources (in descending order) are Ondo State, Oyo State and Kaduna State.

### **Geographical Scope**

As usual, the geographical scope of most evaluated news reports this month was Nigeria (NGR). It recorded a factor of 807. A smaller factor of 53 was recorded for Lagos State.

### **Mentions (Media Projection)**

The most promoted institutions/individuals in August were the 36 state governments and their functionaries with a factor of 628. Close behind were the federal government, its agencies and functionaries which recorded a factor of 600.

## PERCENTAGE OF MONITORED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS

### NEWSPAPERS

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>Evaluated Reports</b>	<b>%</b>
Daily Times	1,504	186	12.0
New Nigerian	1,197	126	10.0
The Comet	2,362	228	9.0
Post Express	1,439	210	14.0
Daily Champion	2,147	211	9.0
Daily Trust	1,074	178	16.0
National Interest	2,089	220	10.0
The Punch	2,434	338	13.0
ThisDay	1,697	296	17.0
The Guardian	2,308	208	9.0
<b>Newspapers Total</b>	<b>18,251</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>12.0</b>

### MAGAZINES

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>Evaluated Reports</b>	<b>%</b>
TELL	103	17	16.0
The News	41	9	21.0
The Week	51	8	15.0
The Source	56	13	25.0
Newswatch	108	16	14.0
<b>Magazines Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>17.0</b>

**ALL TITLES: 18,610 2,264 12.0**

## COMPARATIVE DATA (No of Evaluated Reports and Dimensions in square inches)

### NEWSPAPERS

Publication	Democracy	Political Issues	Human Rights	Public Accountability
Daily Times	98 (2,427)	52 (1,164)	11 (331)	18 (302)
New Nigerian	67 (1,769)	39 (1,033)	10 (238)	10 (222)
The Comet	125 (3,255)	63 (1,944)	20 (563)	19 (663)
Post Express	109 (2,332)	67 (1,440)	10 (347)	17 (409)
Daily Champion	97 (1,935)	80 (1,954)	18 (626)	16 (278)
Daily Trust	59 (1,619)	88 (2,214)	16 (391)	15 (368)
National Interest	119 (2,782)	64 (2,267)	17 (504)	18 (424)
The Punch	208 (4,789)	83 (1,805)	20 (820)	32 (754)
ThisDay	112 (2,759)	121 (3,499)	38 (1,517)	25 (588)
The Guardian	97 (2,385)	70 (1,918)	20 (779)	21 (514)
<b>Newspapers Total</b>	<b>1,091 (26,052)</b>	<b>727 (19,238)</b>	<b>180 (6,116)</b>	<b>191 (4522)</b>

### MAGAZINES

Publication	Democracy	Political Issues	Human Rights	Public Accountability
TELL	8 (656)	3 (179)	3 (575)	3 (240)
The News	4 (313)	4 (243)	-	1 (126)
The Week	2 (175)	1 (127)	4 (364)	1 (71)
The Source	4 (1,152)	2 (200)	2 (274)	5 (1,199)
Newswatch	11 (2,164)	-	1 (532)	4 (668)
<b>Magazines Total:</b>	<b>29 (4,460)</b>	<b>10 (749)</b>	<b>10 (1,745)</b>	<b>14 (2,304)</b>

**ALL TITLES:            1,120 (30,512)            737 (19,987)            190 (7,861)            205 (6,826)**

## SECTION 3: FINDINGS ON SPECIFIC PUBLICATIONS

### 1. Daily Times: (state-owned newspaper published in Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1-4	191	38	724	FCT (09) LA (07)	NGR(20)	SGEXE (12) FGEXE (08)
August 6-11	290	35	950	FCT LAGOS	NGR(19)	SGEXE FGEXE
August 13-18	295	40	779	FCT (09) ONDO (06)	NGR(19)	SGEXE (25) FGEXE (21)
August 20-25	310	43	1,086	FCT (11) LAGOS (10)		FGEXE (13) REGD PARTIES (8)
August 27-31	418	30	798	FCT (8)	NGR(19)	FG (26)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>4,337</b>	<b>FCT 37 LAGOS 17</b>	<b>NGR (58)</b>	<b>FG 68 SG 37</b>

**TOPIC / VARIABLES:** There were 98 reports in Democracy Issues with 2,427 square Inches dimension; 52 in Political Issues of 1,164 square inches; 11 in Human Rights of 331 square inches; and 18 in Public Accountability of 302 square inches.

**OBSERVATIONS:** In a clever move to snag more readers, Daily Times revived some of its dead titles, albeit as pull-outs in the regular newspaper. For example, the 16-page Sporting Times was a pull-out on August 1 while the 24 - page Lagos Weekend was a pullout on August 3. The only problem was that if the initiative is not sustained or if the inserts prove to be low-quality, the move could backfire. In the first week of the month, the news reports generally suffered from lack of depth. Many merely scratched the surface while others were hampered by thin or non-existent backgrounding. Some examples were “Adamawa Govt. suspends Hong - LG Chairman” (August 1, pg.4); “North Govs query Arewa” (August 2, pg. 1-2). Poor editorial judgement was manifested on August 2 in the report “20 sacked Lagos workers die” (page 5) which was one-sided and contained unsubstantiated claims. On August 6, two disparate reports on the front page were merged - AD governors’ meeting and Obasanjo solidarity forum’s comments on Lam Adesina. An example of an even-handed report was published on August 15-”Agents cripple ports operations.” Reporters sometimes editorialised as in the Gani Adams newsfeature of August 25. At other times they were speculative as in “State of Emergency likely in Ebonyi” (August 25). Who was Saka in the OPC report of Augsut 28 (pg 1). On the whole, the paper’s print quality was not of high standard. Parts of stories were sometimes illegible, e.g “Balarabe chides Obasanjo critics” (August 20). Apart from that, the newspaper has not mastered colour reproduction. The colour printing of August 30 was faint in part and dark in others.



## 2. New Nigerian - (State -owned newspaper published in Kaduna)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1-4	173	23	508			SG (10) FG (05)
August 6-11	181	20	529	FCT (4) OYO(3)	NGR (13)	PORG (9)
August 13-18	248	22	633	FCT (7) KADUNA (3)	NGR (7) FCT (3)	SG (15) FG (11)
August 20-25	371	43	1,022		NGR	SG (23) FG (21)
August 27-31	224	18	544	FCT (5)	NGR (14)	FG (14)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>3,236</b>	<b>FCT (16)</b>	<b>NGR (34)</b>	<b>FG-51; SG-48</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 67 reports (1769 sq inches); Political Issues - 39 reports (1,033 sq inches); Human Rights - 10 reports (238 sq. inches); Public Accountability - 10 reports (222 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** It was strange that on August 13, the newspaper devoted pages 1 and 2 to the National Agricultural Cooperatives and Rural Development Bank and its chief executive, Mr. Falalu Bello. The reports seemed to be an advertorial but they would have been better placed on the inside pages. A confusing headline on August 14 (page 12) said that “Osun Govt owes Councillors,” whereas the report itself indicated the contrary. As observed in the past, a high proportion of its reports concerning the South-West, South-East and South-South zones were stale. An example was “NULGE rejects new revenue formula” published on August 21. The report of August 30 titled “Ezeife says Deputy Govs are spare parts” was commendably followed the next day by a follow-up which concerned Osun deputy governor Iyiola Omisore’s rebuttal of Ezeife’s assertion. The newsprint used and the overall print quality of the newspaper are fairly average in standard.

### 3. The Comet - (Privately-owned newspaper published in Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1-4	463	39	1,074	FCT (7) LAGOS (4)	NGR (25)	IND FG
August 6-11	458	51	1,389	FCT (12) LAGOS (6)	NGR (26) LAGOS (5)	PORG (13) FG (10)
August 13-18	443	46	1,525	FCT (13) LAGOS (7)	NGR (14) LAGOS (7)	IND (31) SG (30)
August 20-25	582	50	1,434	FCT ONDO	NGR	IND (36) FG (35)
August 27-31	416	42	1,065	FCT (15)		SG (19) FG (16)
<b>AUGUST 1 - 31</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>6,487</b>	<b>FCT - 47 LAGOS - 17</b>	<b>NGR - 65</b>	<b>FG-61 SG - 49</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 125 reports (3,255 sq inches); Political Issues - 63 reports (1,944 sq inches); Public Accountability - 19 reports (663 sq. inches); Human Rights - 20 reports (563 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** The use of clear language in the newspaper was noticeable. And it has persevered in publishing informative news reports such as the one of August 6 headlined “Investors to export 100% of Products.” Nonetheless, the publication slipped up now and then. On August 15, a front page headline stated that “All set for IBB and Abdulsalami at Oputa.” But the continuation of the same report on page 2 bore a contradictory headline- “Why IBB may not appear at Oputa panel.” A vague report on the 2002 fiscal appropriations was published on August 14. It is doubtful whether readers would find it useful or credible. There was a pattern of messing up story continuations. On August 22, the Bureau Public Enterprises statement on NITEL privatization should have continued on page 2, but turned up on page 6. On August 25, the continuation of the Gani Adams report on front page was dropped completely. Headlines sometimes conflicted with their reports. On August 30, while the headline read “INEC fixes November for Voter Register Update”, the report itself was not categorical but only speculated that INEC may do so. On August 31, a report was headlined “NDLEA arrests 8 ships over N1.26 billion cocaine.” However the report itself gave readers to understand that the cocaine was valued at N1.26 million.

#### 4. Post-Express- (Privately-owned newspaper published in Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1-4	198	36	809	FCT (8) LAGOS(12)	NGR (21)	FG (12) SG(6)
August 6-11	209	31	761	FCT LAGOS		FG SG
August 13-18	372	59	1,239	FCT(13) LAGOS(7)		REGD PARTIES (24) SG(17)
August 20-25	273	36	963	LAGOS (8) FCT(7)	NGR	SG(20) FG(10)
August 27-31	387	48	1,045	LAGOS(11) FCT (8)	NGR (26)	SG (17) PDP (9)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>1,439</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>FCT (36) LAGOS (38)</b>	<b>NGR (47)</b>	<b>FG (22) SG (60)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 109 reports (2,332 sq inches); Political Issues - 67 reports (1,440sq inches); Public Accountability - 17 reports (409 sq. inches); Human Rights - 10 reports (347 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** Like many other publications, the newspaper also suffered from a heavy dependence on news from Lagos State and the Federal Capital Territory. In the first week of August, more than half of the reports came from these two areas. The August 1 front page story on satellite campus ban was a competent news report. The newspaper should be commended for doing several follow-ups in the month. Examples from August 2 are “FAAN strike paralyzes aviation”; “PDP appeals against court order”; and “Lagos APP disclaims annulment of congress”. A good move was the public opinion poll on Chief Maduekwe’s bicycle option whose findings were published on August 13. However, one weak area was the unimaginative use of photographs to illustrate reports. It was curious that the newspaper did not use a picture of Ganiyu Adam’s arrest with the relevant report on August 23. It also failed to get the comment of the citizenry on the development. A major slip occurred on August 30 in the report headlined “Senate to address zero allocation on resumption.” Unfortunately for Post Express, the Senate had resumed sitting a day earlier. Printing quality is just average. The newspaper sometimes grandly published reports based on “investigations” when the material probably came from news agency sources. An example was the reportage on Ekiti State elections on August 30.

## 5. Daily Champion (Privately-owned newspaper published in Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1-4	559	27	628	FCT LAGOS FCT (8)	NGR (20) NGR (19)	IND (22) FG (15)
August 6-11	500	34	699	OYO FCT (15)	NGR (34)	SG (19)
August 13-18	342	65	1,429	LAGOS (07) LAGOS (13)	AN (2) NGR (20)	FG (18) SG (23)
August 20-25	430	38	965	FCT (8) FCT (15)	LAGOS (6) NGR (30)	FG (17) FG (12)
August 27-31	316	47	1,072	LAGOS (11)	LAGOS (4)	SG (7)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>FCT (46)</b> <b>LAGOS (31)</b>	<b>NGR (123)</b>	<b>FG (62)</b> <b>SG (49)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 97 reports (1,935 sq. inches); Political Issues - 80 reports (1,954 sq. inches); Human Rights - 18 reports (626 sq. inches); Public Accountability - 16 reports (278 sq. inches)

**OBSERVATIONS:** Production headaches marred the reports at times. For instance, the page 37 report on August 8 headlined “Ekiti sets up committee on LG creation” was barely readable. On the editorial side, the editors often neglected to make their important stories as credible as possible, with the result that they ended up being speculative. On August 13 for instance, the report “Obasanjo reassures Atiku” contained unsubstantiated claims and not one news source was mentioned. Champion published somewhat stale news in the month with two reports on page 3 of the August 17 edition as examples. One was headlined “AD replies Akinjide” and the other “PDP denies rigging plot”. It was curious that in its August 23 report on the arrest of Ganiyu Adams of the OPC, the newspaper claimed that he wept profusely while being paraded by policemen. No other publication seemed to have witnessed the scene. A significant proportion of news published in the month concerned the various governments. Human rights issues received scant attention from the editors. A related issue was that in the last week of the month, 40 percent of the monitored reports were generated from Lagos State and the Federal Capital Territory alone.

The editors need to do more in terms of diversifying news sources and giving important stories adequate backgrounding. Apart from this, they would find it hard to explain why the report “New political group formed” (August 31 page 37) was published without a photograph of the rally.

## 6. Daily Trust (Privately-owned newspaper published in Kaduna )

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1- 4	169	31	870	FCT(11) AK	NGR(15)	SG(13) FG(8)
August 6- 11	123	33	864	FCT LAGOS	NGR LAGOS	FG SG
August 13-18	278	50	1,171	FCT(9) PLATEAU(4)	NGR(23)	FG(15) SG(11)
August 20- 25	273	31	867	FCT(10) KATSINA(3)	NGR(16) AD(2)	SG(14) FG(11)
August 27- 31	231	33	839	FCT(7) KADUNA(4)	NGR(20)	FG(07) PORG(07)
<b>August 1-31</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>4,611</b>	<b>FCT(37)</b>	<b>NGR(59)</b>	<b>FG(41) SG(38)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Political Issues - 88 reports (2,214 sq. inches); Democracy Issues - 59 reports (1,619 sq. inches); Human Rights - 16 reports (391 sq. inches); Public Accountability - 15 reports (368 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** The newspaper saw nothing wrong in publishing several news reports with each having a single news source. Worse still, some had no discernible source. An example was “FG, nurses negotiation to continue” published on August 1 (page 3). In other instances, it was difficult to ascertain where the news originated from. See for instance, “NULGE boss criticizes LG funding”, published also on August 1 (page 3). Another defect of many of the month’s reports was that they left unanswered questions. Publishing stale news was yet another failing of the newspaper’s editors. An example was published on page 8 of the August 3 edition with the headline “Osun commits N178 million to pensioners”. However, the report headlined “N3.6 million equipment vanish in Jigawa” (August 2, page 15) was a well-investigated story. In the month, there was heavy focus on governmental activities, especially those which concerned the north. News agency reports were also used extensively. (Please see pages 1, 2, and 3 of August 13) On August 14, a single report was published on pages 4 and 15.

The newspaper continued to set a high standard in aesthetics with clear printing and clear photographic production both for colour and black and white photographs.

Newsroom gate-keeping was often weak as evidenced by confusing headlines and disparate stories which should have been married. An example of the latter occurred on August 20 with “PDP endorses automatic ticket for incumbents”, and “PDP supports use of ID card for elections”.

A curious slip-up occurred in the last week of the month. A report on violence against women was published on two different days - August 27 and 28.

## 7. National Interest (Privately-owned Newspaper Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1- 4	299	29	735	FCT (8) LAGOS (6)		
August 8 -10	380	38	778	FCT (9)	NGR (22)	SG (15) PORG (8)
August 13 -18	469	55	1,421	FCT (18) LAGOS (6)		FG (21) SG (13)
August 20-25	405	50	1,406	FCT (19) LAGOS (12)	NGR (35)	FG (26) SG (15)
August 27-31	536	48	1,657	FCT (14)	NGR (28) FG (18)	SG (19)
<b>August 1-31</b>	<b>2,089</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>5,997</b>	<b>FCT (68) LAGOS (24)</b>	<b>NGR (85)</b>	<b>FG (55) SG (62)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 119 reports (2,782 sq. inches); Political Issues - 64 reports (2,267 sq. inches); Human Rights - 17 reports (504 sq. inches); Public Accountability - 18 reports (424 square inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** From the look of things, the newspaper had not overcome its production headaches. This was because it was not supplied for monitoring on August 6, 7 and 11. But a more serious lapse surfaced in the third week of the month when the newspaper reprinted five entire pages from Monday in its Tuesday (August 14) edition. The affected pages were 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Absolutely nothing was changed except that the copy date was erased. This was a strange thing for a newspaper to do and smacked of deception. Worse still, the reader was short-changed as he was served stale news in place of fresh ones. Glaring dereliction of editorial duty was noted in the edition of August 9 in the reports on National Frontiers/NDP which appeared separately on pages 2 and 5. Even a diligent newspaper reader was bound to be confused by the mishmash. The two reports - which incidentally emanated from the Abuja bureau - should have been married for the sake of clarity. Colour printing was discontinued in the week August 20 - 25. There was sensationalism in the quote "I will die for Sharia" (Gen. Buhari). This was on August 27. But there was nothing in the report itself to support the declaration.

The type and quality of newsprint used varied from time to time. But by month-end, both paper and printing quality had improved.

## 8. The Punch (privately-owned newspaper published in Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1- 4	324	53	1,417	FCT		SG (21) FG (14)
August 6- 11	495	84	1,914	LAGOS (14) FCT (13)	NGR (31)	SG (31) PORG (14)
August 13 - 18	533	80	2,029	FCT (18) ONDO (10)	NGR (36)	FG (80) SG (35)
August 20 - 25	505	72	1,980	FCT (18) LAGOS (13)		FG (27) SG (20)
August 27- 31	577	49	1,175	FCT (10) EBONYI ( )	NGR (31)	FG (27) SG
<b>August 1-31</b>	<b>2,434</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>8,515</b>	<b>FCT (59) LAGOS (27)</b>	<b>NGR (98)</b>	<b>FG (148) SG (107)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues 208 reports (4,789 sq. inches); Political Issues - 83 reports (1,805 sq. inches); Human Rights - 20 reports (820 sq. inches); Public Accountability - 32 reports (754 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** The newspaper stuck out its neck to cast an authoritative headline (Obasanjo overrules Chikwe's order) for an unconfirmed report. This was on August 3. It would have been wiser to cast a more tentative headline. In the same edition, a single report "Odili links Niger Delta crisis to arms proliferation" was published on two separate pages (6 and 7). The editors resorted to the desperate ploy of quoting unnamed sources in their report wherein APP condemned the neglect of the oil-producing areas (August 6, page 7) and the front page lead on NITEL (August 8) as well as the news on Senate President Anyim and the Enugu State Governor (August 7). Commendably, the edition of August 10 had at least three follow-up reports on Zamfara State, Afenifere and 1999 AD presidential candidate, Chief Olu Falae. Better still, the trio were well backgrounded. In the month in review, the newspaper carried news from all geopolitical zones of the country. In fact, it carried reports from virtually all the states. There was weak gate-keeping on August 20 (page 4) wherein the report "Crisis in Oyo AD" also contained extraneous news on 500,000 jobless people in the state. It was also observed that page layout and print quality were okay.

## 9. THISDAY (Privately-owned Newspaper Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	255	45	1,144	FCT (13) LAGOS (8)	NGR (28)	SG (15) FG (13)
August 6 - 11	293	48	1,225	-	-	FG IND
August 13 - 18	351	78	2,188	FCT (21) LAGOS (14)	NGR (42) LAGOS (8)	FG (24) SG (23)
August 20 - 25	494	66	1,956	LAGOS (16) FCT (13)	NGR (32) LAGOS (9)	SG (39) FG (35)
August 27 - 31	344	59	1,852	FCT (22) LAGOS (7)	NGR (32) LAGOS (7)	SG (19) FG (16)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>8,365</b>	<b>FCT (69) LAGOS (45)</b>	<b>NGR (134)</b>	<b>FG (88) SG (96)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Political Issues - 121 reports (3,499 sq. inches); Democracy Issues - 112 reports (2,759 sq. inches); Human Rights - 38 reports (1,517 sq. inches); and Public Accountability - 25 reports (588 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** The newspaper did very well this month in presenting detailed news reports to its readers. Many of them also had adequate backgrounding. Better still, the editors endeavoured to diversify news sources, especially for sensitive reports. An example of these was “Ebonyi defies Senate” (August 1, pages 1 and 4). Another example was “Audit indicts Unipetrol, AP, Nolchem” (also on August 1). On August 2, the report “Afenifere expels Lam Adesina” was not only detailed but also fair to the opposing camps. The newspaper was guilty of speculative journalism on August 21 in that the categorical announcement in the headline - “\$1.1bn oil windfall: states take FG to court” - was not matched by the tentative and tame report which indicated that states may go to court. “Aikhomu, SSS meet” (August 23) was also speculative and there was no substance in the report.

There is a need for sub-editors to tailor headlines to fit the gist of the reports so as not to mislead readers. For example on August 7, the headline “Ibori says State INEC cannot be scrapped” was misleading because what the governor actually said was that the Constitution Review Committee had to be involved before this could happen. More illustrations may need to be used to prevent news pages turning into a forbidding mass of printed matter. The newspaper’s print quality was okay.



## 10. The Guardian (Privately-owned Newspaper Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	348	31	741	FCT (8) LAGOS (3)	NGR (23)	IND (19) FG (17)
August 6 - 11	576	39	941	FCT (09) ONDO (6)	NGR (24)	FG (19) SG (18)
August 13 - 18	483	43	1,350	FCT (15) LAGOS (7)	NGR (11) LAGOS (6)	IND (24) SG (23)
August 20 - 25	513	53	1,464	FCT LAGOS	NGR	FG (38) IND (36)
August 27 - 31	388	42	1,105	FCT (16)	NGR (33)	FG (24) SG (19)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>5,601</b>	<b>FCT (48) LAGOS (10)</b>	<b>NGR (91)</b>	<b>FG (98) SG (60)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 97 reports (2,385 sq. inches); Political Issues - 70 reports (1,918 sq. inches); Human Rights - 20 reports (779 square inches); Public Accountability - 21 reports (514 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** In the month, the newspaper made impressive efforts to follow up on breaking news. In the first example, General Buhari's outburst that sharia should be adopted countrywide, attracted major follow-ups in the newspaper on August 28. The story itself was broken a day earlier on August 27. In the same manner, Iyiola Omisore was reached for a confirmation or denial of the report that he would dump AD for PDP. In the event, he debunked the report and this was duly published on August 30. The earlier report was run a day earlier. The follow-ups themselves as well as the speed with which they were generated are commendable. Unlike many other publications, the newspaper extended significant coverage to groups and individuals that have nothing to do with the three tiers of government. Not surprisingly for such a bulky newspaper, the publication carried a high volume of news on weekly basis. For example, in the second week of the month, the recorded total of 576 reports was one of the highest in any one week in August.

## 11. TELL (Privately-owned Newsmagazine Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	24	5	423	NGR	IND	FG
August 6 - 11	27	1	69	-	NGR	FG(1)
August 13 - 18	29	5	395	-	-	SG(3)
August 20 - 25	23	6	763	FCT	NGR(2) OYO(2)	SG(3) IND(4)
August 17 - 31			Not Monitored	-	-	-
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,650</b>	-	<b>NGR (2)</b>	<b>FG (1) SG (6)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 8 reports (656 square inches); Human Rights - 3 reports (575 square inches); Public Accountability - 3 reports (240 square inches); and Political Issues - 3 reports (179 square inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** The newsmagazine devoted a substantial part of its pages to promotional colour spreads this month. Virtually all were on individual states and their supposed achievements. This is a legitimate effort on the part of the publication. However, the chosen label for all of them - Special feature - is open to misinterpretation because some readers might feel that the promotional stories were regular investigative newsfeatures and assess them in that light. There are other labels such as supplement, advertiser's announcement and advertorial which preclude any misinterpretation and these should be preferred to a confusing label. That apart, TELL retained its high standard of editorial reportage as well as layout and printing. One investigation that was competently handled during the month was General Abubakar's problems with Oputa Panel. It was also noteworthy that new departments were introduced in order to increase its value for money. Some of these were Interview, Medicine, National Briefs and Music. The significant focus on human rights in the month was commendable.

## 12. The News (Privately-owned Newsmagazine Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	5	2	133	AN (2)	AN (2)	Sg (2)
August 6 - 11			Not Monitored			
August 13 - 18	17	3	250	FCT	-	PORG (2) PARTIES (2)
August 20 - 25	19	4	299	-	-	SG (4)
August 20 - 27			Not Monitored			
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>682</b>	-	-	<b>SG (6)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 4 reports (313 square inches); Political Issues - 4 reports (243 square inches); Public Accountability - 1 report (126 square inches). No report on Human Rights.

**OBSERVATIONS:** The first edition in the month was a mixed grill. On the positive side, the report on Governor Mbadinuju of Anambra State and his clash with his erstwhile sponsor was detailed and balanced. However, the investigative piece on alcohol and prostitution in Army barracks in Zamfara was one-sided as the military authorities were not contacted for their own version of events. Worse still, there was no photograph to back up the piece. In the third edition of the month (August 20), the omnibus piece and PDP on expelled national council members and the infighting and intrigues in both AD and APP was well executed. Titled “Warring Parties”, it gave an objective assessment of the current state of the registered parties. But the headline of the piece “Outing the IBB party” was speculative as there was nothing in the report to substantiate the claim. On the whole, the newsmagazine continued to lay commendable emphasis on publishing as much hard news as possible.

### 13. The Week (Privately-owned Newsmagazine Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	14	1	71	-	-	FG
August 6 - 11		Not Monitored				
August 13 - 18	11	2	142	LAGOS (1) FCT (1)	NGR (8)	IND (2)
August 20 - 25	14	2	221	ENUGU (1) LAGOS (1)	ENUGU (1) NGR (1)	SG (2) FG (1)
August 27 - 31	12	3	302	LAGOS (2)	NGR (2)	IND (2)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>FCT (1) LAGOS (4)</b>	<b>NGR (5)</b>	<b>FG (1) SG (2)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Human Rights - 4 reports (364 square inches); Democracy Issues - 2 reports (175 square inches); Political Issues - 1 report (127 square inches); and Public Accountability - 1 report (71 square inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** The publication still has some way to go before it can earn respect for its news reports. This is because many reports lacked depth and left some questions hanging unanswered. For instance in the third week of August, the report on page 29 claimed that the Yusuf Mamman faction of AD was set to join the Progressive Liberation Party. But there was little in the report to substantiate the claim. A related issue was the neglect of essential backgrounding in stories. In the same edition referred to above, the report on page 30 concerning the proposed electoral bill suffered from this defect. Additionally, some reports were opinionated and this is unhealthy for a supposedly neutral news organ. There were two examples of this in the fourth week edition. Another example of a report which suffered from weak backgrounding was the piece on AD’s criticism of Federal Government’s attacks on the Press. This was in the last week of August.

#### 14. The Source (Privately-owned Newsmagazine Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	10	5	898	FCT	-	-
August 6 - 11	19	4	1,125	-	NGR(2)	-
August 13 - 18			Not Monitored			
August 20 - 25	13	2	266	-	-	-
August 27 - 31	14	3	536	AN(3)	AN(3)	SG(3) FG(3)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,825</b>	-	<b>NGR(2)</b>	<b>FG(3)</b> <b>SG(3)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Public Accountability - 5 reports (1,199 square inches); Democracy Issues - 4 reports (1,152 square inches); Human Rights - 2 reports (274 square inches); Political Issues - 2 reports (200 sq. inches).

**OBSERVATIONS:** It was a fair month for the newsmagazine but it was observable that some weak reports slipped through. It was disappointing that the major story in the second edition of the month was speculative. This was on the pros and cons of a second term in office for President Obasanjo. Virtually everything in the report was already in the public domain. In the same edition, it was surprising that the publication published some unflattering things about Governor Victor Attah of Akwa Ibom State without endeavouring to get his own side of the matter. The same can be said of a cover story in the August 27 edition. Headlined “The Duke of Corruption” and ostensibly on the fraudulent treasury looting of Governor Donald Duke of Cross River State, the whole piece was full of hearsay and all manner of unsubstantiated claims. The grave allegations contained in the report required some proof which was lacking. To worsen matters, The Source made no attempt to contact the governor and his camp. The report looked too much like a politically motivated piece.

#### 15. Newswatch (Privately-owned Newsmagazine Published In Lagos)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
August 1 - 4	18	2	665	FCT	-	-
August 6 - 11	21	4	1,032	-	-	SG
August 13 - 18	24	4	957	FCT(2)	NGR(3)	PORG(3)
August 20 - 25	19	5	566	-	-	SG(5)
August 27 - 31	26	1	144	-	NGR(1)	FG(1) IND(1)
<b>August 1 - 31</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,364</b>	<b>FCT(2)</b>	<b>NGR(4)</b>	<b>FG(1)</b> <b>SG(5)</b>

**TOPIC/VARIABLES:** Democracy Issues - 11 reports (2164 square inches); Public Accountability - 4 reports (668 square inches); Human Rights - 1 report (532 square inches). No reports under Political issues variable.

**OBSERVATIONS:** The publication's printing quality was okay and the sub-editors did a good job of snagging errors in the production process. However, several reports were unnecessarily sketchy, especially in the first edition in the month. In the second week of August, the report on launching the Fourth Dimension in Benin was belated. Its editors sometimes jumped the gun and ended up publishing reports which lacked balance and accuracy. For example, the indictment of former Commerce Secretary, Patrick Aziza by a legislative committee was a work-in-progress which had not been conclusively proven. But the magazine gave the impression that the man's guilt had been proven. The same goes for a lead story on Anambra strongman, Emeka Ofor and the leadership crisis in the state. It lacked balance because there was no input from Governor Mbadinuju's camp. In the fourth week of August, the report on the labour union's opposition to Nigeria's membership of the World Trade Organisation required follow-up to become a competent package. A well-handled report was the one headlined "Why Afenifere expelled Lam Adesina" in the third week of August. Newswatch, it seems, wanted to turn interviews into a specialty, since it did so many.

**SECTION 4: STATISTICAL DATA**
***Frequency of Topics By Publication (%)***

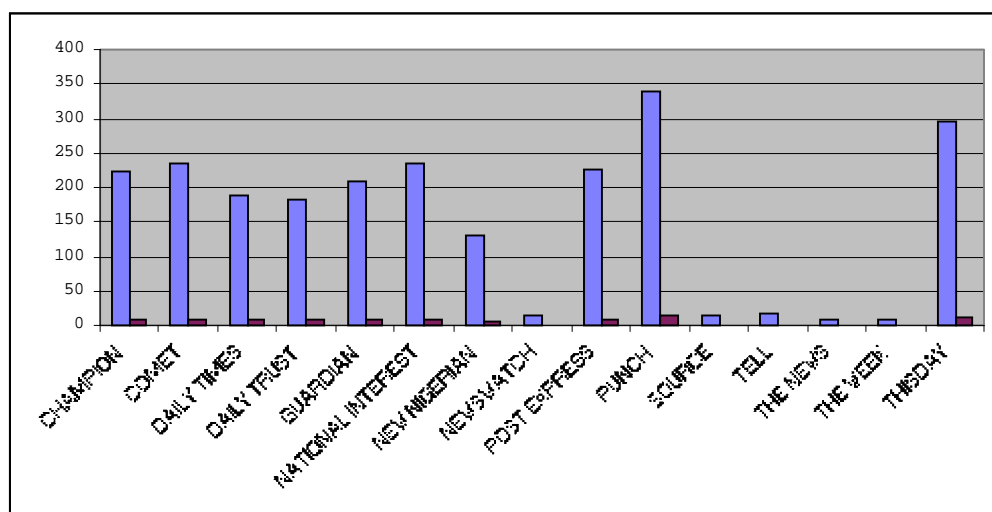
<b>Newspapers &amp; Magazines Variables</b>	Guardian	ThisDay	Post Express	Daily Trust	Champion	Daily Times	New Nigerian	National Interest	Punch	Comet	TELL	Newswatch	The News	The Source	The Week
Separation of Powers	11 (0.49)	7 (0.31)	4 (0.18)	4 (0.18)	9 (0.40)	7 (0.31)	7 (0.31)	12 (0.53)	26 (1.15)	6 (0.27)	- (-)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Recognition of Opposition	11 (0.49)	22 (1.11)	13 (0.57)	12 (0.53)	13 (0.57)	12 (0.53)	3 (0.13)	12 (0.53)	23 (1.02)	16 (0.71)	1 (0.04)	3 (0.13)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	- (-)
Registered Political Parties	31 (1.37)	31 (1.37)	38 (1.68)	16 (0.71)	41 (1.81)	25 (1.11)	16 (0.90)	42 (1.86)	63 (2.79)	57 (2.52)	3 (0.13)	2 (0.09)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	3 (0.13)
Other Political Associations	15 (0.66)	20 (0.88)	25 (1.11)	14 (0.63)	23 (1.02)	16 (0.71)	11 (0.48)	27 (1.19)	33 (1.46)	17 (0.75)	- (-)	3 (0.13)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Reports on INEC	3 (0.13)	6 (0.27)	1 (0.04)	3 (0.13)	2 (0.09)	6 (0.27)	- (-)	3 (0.13)	7 (0.31)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Other Democracy Issues	25 (1.11)	23 (1.02)	38 (1.68)	10 (0.44)	16 (0.71)	31 (1.37)	23 (1.02)	32 (1.42)	56 (2.48)	31 (1.37)	1 (0.04)	1 (0.04)	1 (0.04)	4 (0.17)	1 (0.04)
Gender Rights	- (-)	1 (0.04)	1 (0.04)	3 (0.13)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	3 (0.13)	3 (0.13)	3 (0.13)	3 (0.13)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Human Rights Violations	3 (0.13)	4 (0.18)	5 (0.22)	5 (0.22)	2 (0.09)	5 (0.22)	1 (0.04)	1 (0.04)	4 (0.18)	3 (0.13)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (0.04)	2 (0.09)
Human Rights Promotion	5 (0.22)	6 (0.27)	1 (0.04)	2 (0.09)	4 (0.18)	4 (0.18)	1 (0.04)	6 (0.27)	- (-)	3 (0.13)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Human Rights Investigation	12 (0.53)	27 (1.19)	6 (0.27)	10 (0.44)	13 (0.57)	10 (0.44)	5 (0.22)	12 (0.53)	12 (0.53)	12 (0.53)	3 (0.13)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	1 (0.04)	- (-)
Corruption	13 (0.57)	9 (0.40)	7 (0.31)	8 (0.35)	8 (0.35)	14 (0.62)	7 (0.31)	12 (0.53)	21 (0.93)	13 (0.57)	3 (0.13)	3 (0.13)	1 (0.13)	6 (0.26)	1 (0.04)
Promoting Transparency	9 (0.40)	16 (0.71)	13 (0.57)	8 (0.35)	9 (0.40)	4 (0.18)	4 (0.18)	6 (0.27)	10 (0.44)	7 (0.31)	- (-)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Political Issues	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Governments and Agencies	25 (1.11)	80 (3.54)	42 (1.86)	71 (3.14)	41 (1.81)	33 (1.46)	15 (0.66)	31 (1.37)	46 (2.03)	23 (1.02)	2 (0.09)	- (-)	1 (0.04)	2 (0.09)	1 (0.04)
Economic Policies	25 (1.11)	24 (1.06)	23 (1.02)	5 (0.22)	23 (1.02)	15 (0.66)	19 (0.84)	27 (1.19)	28 (1.24)	22 (0.97)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	- (-)
Emerging Political Issues	20 (0.88)	17 (0.75)	9 (0.40)	13 (0.57)	17 (0.75)	5 (0.22)	6 (0.27)	8 (0.35)	7 (0.31)	20 (0.88)	1 (0.04)	- (-)	2 (0.09)	- (-)	- (-)
Omitted Political Issues	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

## *Print Media: Frequency of Areas of Origin, Coverage Scope (%)*

<b>AREAS OF ORIGIN(%)</b>			<b>COVERAGE SCOPE(%)</b>		
AreaName	Frequency	Percentage (%)	ScopeName	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Abia	34	1.50	Abia	15	0.66
Adamawa	23	1.02	Adamawa	19	0.84
Akwa Ibom	11	0.49	Akwa Ibom	4	0.18
Anambra	36	1.59	Anambra	40	1.77
Bauchi	14	0.62	Bauchi	8	0.35
Benue	19	0.84	Benue	15	0.66
Borno	18	0.80	Borno	7	0.31
Bayelsa	22	0.97	Bayelsa	18	0.80
Cross River	41	1.81	Cross River	27	1.19
Delta	47	2.08	Delta	37	1.64
Ebonyi	39	1.72	Ebonyi	52	2.30
Edo	52	2.30	Edo	29	1.28
Ekiti	40	1.77	Ekiti	30	1.33
Enugu	42	1.86	Enugu	15	0.66
Abuja	554	24.50	Abuja	22	0.97
Gombe	15	0.66	Gombe	13	0.57
Imo	24	1.06	Imo	19	0.84
International	18	0.80	International	10	0.44
Jigawa	9	0.40	Jigawa	9	0.40
Kebbi	10	0.44	Kebbi	4	0.18
Kaduna	70	3.10	Kaduna	10	0.44
Kogi	16	0.71	Kogi	9	0.40
Kano	23	1.02	Kano	6	0.27
Katsina	23	1.02	Katsina	13	0.57
Kwara	46	2.03	Kwara	43	1.90
Lagos	305	13.49	Lagos	147	6.50
Nasarawa	10	0.44	Nasarawa	8	0.35
Niger	16	0.71	North Central	3	0.13
Nigeria	24	1.06	Niger Delta	17	0.75
Nil	247	10.92	Niger	6	0.27
Ondo	107	4.73	Nigeria	1247	55.15
Ogun	40	1.77	Nil	4	0.18
Osun	52	2.30	North West	4	0.18
Oyo	110	4.87	Ondo	81	3.58
Plateau	22	0.97	Ogun	21	0.93
Rivers	40	1.77	Osun	43	1.90
Sokoto	14	0.62	Oyo	35	1.55
Taraba	7	0.31	Plateau	5	0.22
Yobe	10	0.44	Rivers	19	0.84
Zamfara	11	0.49	South East	19	0.84
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2261</b>	<b>100.00</b>	Sokoto	10	0.44
			South South	7	0.31
			South West	71	3.14
			Taraba	4	0.18
			South	2	0.09
			North	18	0.80
			Yobe	7	0.31
			Zamfara	9	0.40
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>2261</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## Print Media: Frequency of Publications (%)

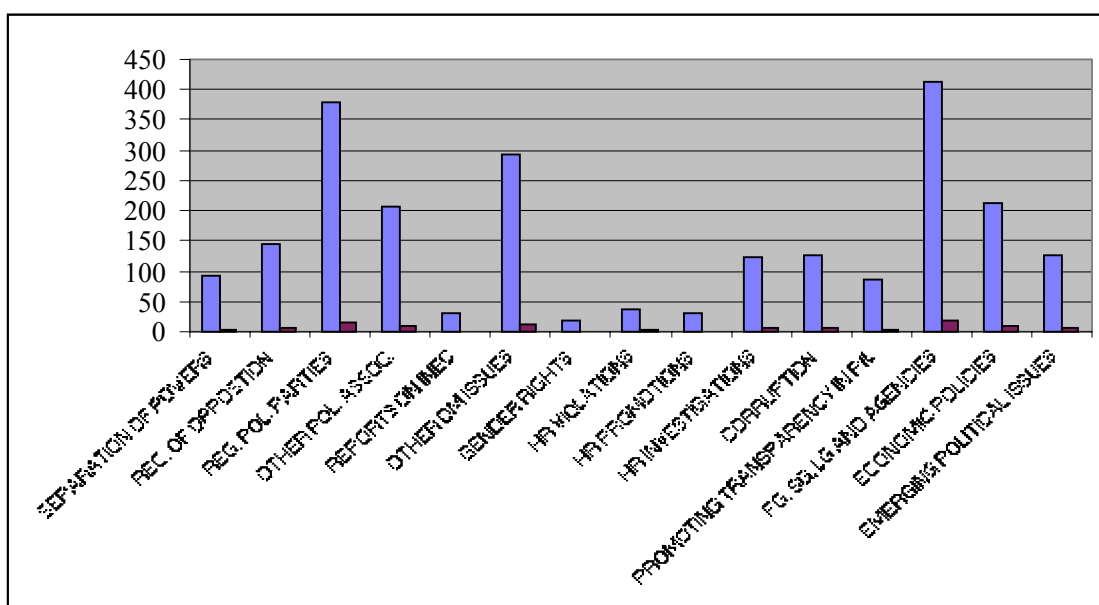
Publication	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Champion	222	9.55
Comet	234	10.07
Daily Times	187	8.05
Daily Trust	184	7.92
Guardian	208	8.95
National Interest	241	10.07
New Nigerian	131	5.64
Newswatch	15	0.65
Post Express	226	9.72
Punch	339	14.59
The Source	14	0.60
TELL	17	0.73
The News	9	0.39
The Week	8	0.34
Thisday	296	12.74
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2324</b>	<b>100.00</b>





## Print Media: Frequency of Topics (%)

TopicCode	TopicName	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Separation of Powers	94	4.04
	Recognition of Opposition	145	6.24
	Registered Political Parties	379	16.31
	Other Political Associations	208	8.95
	Reports on INEC	32	1.38
	Other Democracy Issues	293	12.61
	Gender Rights	18	0.77
	Human Rights Violations	36	1.55
	Human Rights Promotions	32	1.38
	Human Rights Investigations	124	5.34
	Corruption	126	5.42
	Promoting Transparency	87	3.74
	Government and Agencies	413	17.77
	Economic Policies	212	9.12
	Emerging Political Issues	<b>125</b>	<b>5.38</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2324</b>	<b>100.00</b>



## SECTION 5: 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.

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

<b>FCT</b>	-	Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
<b>NGR</b>	-	Nigeria
<b>FG</b>	-	Federal Govt and Agencies
<b>SG</b>	-	State Governments
<b>PORG</b>	-	Political Organisations
<b>AD</b>	-	Alliance for Democracy
<b>AK</b>	-	Akwa Ibom Stat
<b>IND</b>	-	Individuals



**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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