BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE
OF ELECTION-RELATED POLITICS AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

AUGUST 2024 | **REPORT**

BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE OF ELECTION-RELATED POLITICS AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

(August 2024 Report)

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FOREWORD

The role of the media in the electoral process and general democratic governance is central and essential. In a diverse and dynamic country like Nigeria, it serves as a powerful force that informs, educates and mobilises citizens to participate actively in the democratic process of choosing leaders for political offices. It also serves to scrutinize and hold political officeholders and institutions accountable to citizens.

The content that the media produce and disseminate is important to the extent that it contributes significantly to the management and success or otherwise of the electoral process and democratic governance.

Hence, stakeholder institutions such as civil society conduct media monitoring, which entails collecting and analysing data from related content of media on various platforms – broadcast, print and online.

Professionally conducted media content monitoring is a useful evidence-based approach to assessing the coverage of elections by a country's media. Among other things, it helps to provide a picture of media attention to issues in the elections, the balance in the coverage of election actors and institutions as well as the emergence and visibility of harmful content such as fake news and hate speech. It is also useful as a mechanism for an early warning system (to generate red flags for potential challenges and how to mitigate them) as well as shaping stakeholder perception of various elements of the electoral process such as participation and trust.

Building on past experiences, our organisation created a Media Monitoring initiative, with a well-trained and oriented team, which took off in 2022. The initiative focused on broadcasting platforms. Hence, the monitoring activity was concentrated on the contents of radio and television stations selected across the country. The coverage period was segmented into pre-election period, election days and post-election period.

This report presents the findings of the monitoring exercise for a particular month during the electoral process. It contains valuable insights and recommendations on the coverage provided by the broadcast media during the period. We trust it will be a useful resource for media professionals, media owners, regulators, policymakers, and local and international development organisations who are involved in supporting the development of a free, independent and pluralistic media which provides fair, accurate, inclusive and credible coverage of the electoral process in Nigeria.

Dr Akin Akingbulu,
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our organisation has a long history of monitoring media content during Nigeria's elections. Recognising the importance of teamwork in this endeavour, we have established a dedicated media monitoring team made up of dedicated persons who contributed immensely to this report.

We appreciate the remarkable efforts of our media monitors, Aminat Aminu, Babatunde Bakare, Bisola Adeyemo, Ifunanya Ugwumba, Javan Binam, Nurudeen Fasasi, Omotola Badejo and Qudus Adegoke. They diligently tracked the broadcasts and coded them for credible analysis. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Monitor Supervisor, Zainab Akodu, who ensured prompt data capture and accuracy. We also appreciate the efforts of our Writer/Analyst, Rotimi Akinola, who interpreted the data and provided enriching analyses for this document.

Furthermore, we wish to thank the European Union for their financial support towards our media monitoring activity and the publication of this report.

MANAGEMENT

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BVAS - Bimodal Voter Accreditation System
CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
EU SDGN II - European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Programme Phase Two
FBO - Faith-Based Organisation
FM - Frequency Modulation
INEC - Independent National Electoral Commission
IReV - INEC Result Viewing portal
LCDA - Local Council Development Area
LG - Local Government
LGA - Local Government Area
MDA - Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation
OAP - On-Air Personality
PSG - Political Support Group
PWDs - Persons With Disabilities
REC - Resident Electoral Commissioner
TV - Television
AA - Action Alliance
AAC - African Action Congress
ADC - African Democratic Congress
ADP - Action Democratic Party
APC - All Progressives Congress
APGA - All Progressives Grand Alliance
APM - Allied Peoples Movement
APP - Action Peoples Party
BP - Boot Party
LP - Labour Party
NNPP - New Nigeria Peoples Party
NRM - National Rescue Movement
PDP - Peoples Democratic Party
PRP - Peoples Redemption Party
SDP - Social Democratic Party
YPP - Young Progressives Party
ZLP - Zenith Labour Party

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Actor: A stakeholder in the electoral and general democratic process who is mentioned or used as the source of a broadcast.

Balance: The journalistic quality of a broadcast which is measured in the context of the variety of perspectives, sources and fairness.

Broadcast media: Media that transmit audio and video content to the public via radio waves, including radio and television stations.

Broadcast: Radio or television content.

Broadcasting: The transmission of programmes or information by radio or television.

Campaign activity/strategy: Tactics and approaches used by political candidates or parties to persuade, mobilise and engage voters during an election campaign, including policy development, message framing, voter outreach, fundraising, media engagement and 'get-out-the-vote' efforts.

Campaign promise: A commitment or pledge made by a political candidate or party during an election campaign, outlining their policy goals and intentions if elected.

Campaign: An organised effort by political parties and other relevant entities to win elections and influence public opinion.

Candidate: An individual who is running for public office in an election.

Citizen participation: Active involvement of individuals and communities in the political, social and economic life of their society, especially regarding protesting, petitioning, advocating and engaging in public discourse.

Corporate actor: An organisation or entity with stakes in the electoral and democratic process.

Discussion programme: Media content revolving around discourses about specific topics, often involving multiple participants.

Election administration: The process of managing, organising and overseeing all aspects of an electoral process from voter registration and education to vote casting, counting and tabulation.

Election observers: Independent individuals or groups who monitor the election process to ensure that it is free, fair and transparent.

Election officials: Individuals responsible for managing and overseeing the election process, including the conduct of voting, counting and collation of results. This is the purview of INEC officials.

Election petition: A formal complaint or challenge filed by a candidate, political party or voter alleging irregularities, fraud or violations of election laws.

Embassy: A diplomatic mission representing the government of one country in another country, responsible for conducting official diplomatic relations, promoting cooperation and providing consular services to citizens of the sending country.

Extreme/hate speech: Speech that incites hatred, violence or discrimination against individuals or groups based on their race, religion, gender, political affiliation or other characteristics.

Faith-based organisation: A non-governmental organisation centred around religious beliefs, values or practices, often engaging in charitable, social or advocacy work in line with their religious mission.

Fake news: False or misleading information presented as news, often intended to deceive or manipulate public opinion.

Foreign actor: An individual, organization, or government from another country, potentially influencing or interfering in the domestic affairs, elections, or democratic governance of a target country.

Government agency: An organisation or department within a government responsible for carrying out specific functions, providing services or enforcing regulations in a particular area.

High commission: A diplomatic mission representing the government of one country in another country, specifically when both countries are members of the British Commonwealth.

Inclusion: The practice of ensuring that people of diverse backgrounds and abilities are represented and have equal opportunities.

Individual actor: A single stakeholder in the electoral and democratic process.

Instance: The frequency of usage or mention of an actor or theme in a broadcast.

Interest group: An organised group of individuals sharing common concerns, goals or objectives, advocating for their interests and influencing public policy and decision-making processes.

Inter-party conflict: Disagreements, disputes or competition between different political parties, often arising from ideological, policy or personal differences.

Interview programme: A media content format where one person, usually the journalist or anchor, asks questions of an actor or source to gather information or opinion.

Intra-party conflict: Disagreements, disputes or competition within a single political party, often arising from ideological, policy or personal differences among its members.

Language: The quality of dialogue measured in the context of the deployment of extreme rhetoric.

Misinformation: False, inaccurate, or misleading information spread often with the intent to deceive or manipulate.

News report: A factual account of recent events, typically presented by journalists on television or the radio.

Non-governmental organization (NGO): A non-profit, independent organisation operating outside of government structures, often focused on social, environmental or humanitarian issues, and working to influence public policy, promote awareness or provide services.

Non-state actors: Violent individuals or groups who are not affiliated with the government or other official institutions.

Party agents: Representatives of political parties who are present at polling units and other stages of the election process to ensure that their party's interests are protected.

Party chieftains: High-ranking members or leaders of political parties who hold significant influence and power within the party.

Political party: An organised group of people with similar political aims and opinions, seeking to influence public policy by getting their candidates elected to public office.

Political party: Organised group of individuals and supporters sharing common ideological, policy or political goals, participating in the electoral process and governance by contesting elections, advocating for their agenda and holding elected office.

Political support group (PSG): An organised group of individuals providing support, resources or assistance to a political candidate, party or cause, often through volunteering, fundraising or campaigning.

Professional body: An organisation that represents and regulates a specific profession or occupation.

Programme typology: The classification of programmes based on their inherent characteristics, such as their objectives, structure and content.

Radio station: A media organisation which deploys radio technology as its primary mode of content distribution.

Radio: A form of media and sound communication by radio waves, usually through the transmission of programmes from single broadcast stations to multitudes of individual listeners equipped with radio receivers.

Rule of law: The principle that all individuals, including government officials and politicians, are subject to and accountable under the same laws, which are clear, publicly accessible and enforced fairly.

Rural area: Geographical region characterised by low population density and limited infrastructure, often facing unique challenges and opportunities in access to services, economic development and political representation.

Security agency: A government agency responsible for maintaining public safety, law enforcement and national security.

Security: Reportage and discussions around the safety of the polity, and usually tied to the role of security agencies in the electoral process and broader democratic governance.

Sociocultural group: A group of individuals sharing common social, cultural or ethnic backgrounds, often organised around shared values, traditions or identities.

Source: An actor quoted or interviewed in a broadcast.

Television station: A media organisation which deploys television technology as its primary mode of content distribution.

Television: Broadcast media technology based on a system for converting audiovisual signals into electrical signals, transmitting them by radio or other means, and displaying them electronically on the screens of receiving devices also called 'television' or TV for short.

Thematic emphasis: The focus on specific themes or topics within a piece of content or a series of programmes.

Transparency and accountability: Principles ensuring that political institutions, processes and actors are open, honest and responsible to the public through accessible information and mechanisms holding them accountable for their actions, decisions and performance.

Underage voting: The act of allowing individuals who are below the legal voting age to vote in an election.

Urban area: A densely populated, built-up geographical region with a high concentration of infrastructure, services and economic activities, often serving as political, cultural and

economic hubs and presenting distinct challenges and opportunities in governance, development and social inclusion.

Usage: The deployment of an actor as a source of a broadcast.

Voter education: Providing potential voters with the necessary information to make an informed choice at the polling booth.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In preparation for the 2024 off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states, the Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO), with funding from EU SDGN II, conducted a comprehensive media monitoring effort to evaluate the coverage of election-related politics and democratic governance by broadcast stations in Nigeria. The analysis in this report focused on radio and television content, aiming to promote adherence to ethical journalism standards, discourage the dissemination of misinformation, and encourage the inclusion of underrepresented demographics such as women, youth and PWDs.

The data analysed during the period under review suggest a media terrain that prioritised traditional news reporting while maintaining a commitment to balance. However, the low level of representation for women, youth and PWDs indicates a significant gap in inclusiveness. Overall, the broadcast media focused on citizen participation and campaign strategies, indicating the dominance of these themes during the period under review.

News reports dominated the radio broadcasts, making up 75% of the content, followed by discussion programmes at 18% and interviews at 7%. All applicable broadcasts adhered to the journalistic principle of balance, with no instances of extreme language reported.

Key themes included citizen participation (39.8%), election administration (10.6%) and campaign activities/strategies (9.4%). Security issues (5.9%) and intra-party conflict (4.3%) also received some attention as the media geared up for the 2024 off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states.

Most individuals quoted and referenced in the radio broadcasts were adult males from urban areas. In contrast, women represented 19% of sources and 7% of mentions, while youth accounted for 3.1% of sources and 13.3% of mentions. PWDs were mentioned 2% of the time but were not cited as sources.

The APC was the most prominent political party, representing 35.8% of sources and 38.1% of mentions on radio. The PDP followed with 30.2% of sources and 29.7% of mentions, while the LP had 15.1% of sources and 13.9% of mentions.

Security agencies garnered more attention than INEC, with 54.5% of sources and 51.8% of mentions, compared to the electoral body's 28.8% of sources and 34% of mentions. Both entities received more coverage than all other government agencies combined in their category.

Higher levels of government were more visible than LGAs, accounting for 91% of sources and 80% of mentions, while LCDAs were not featured in the government category. NGOs had greater visibility than other actors in the interest group category, with 42% of sources and

17% of mentions, while embassies made up two-thirds of the sources and one-third of the mentions in the foreign actors' section.

On television, news reports constituted 73% of the analysed programmes, while discussions and interviews represented 19% and 8% of the contents, respectively. The television stations adhered to the principle of balance, achieving this in 100% of their broadcasts, and did not record the deployment of inflammatory rhetoric. They, however, maintained the trend observed on the radio in terms of inclusiveness, with women's and youth issues each receiving only 1.2% of the coverage and topics related to PWDs accounting for just 0.2% of the thematic focus areas. The main themes included citizen participation (31%) and campaign activities/strategies (15.7%).

Additionally, women (22% of sources; 13.9% of mentions), youth (3.8% of sources; 14.6% of mentions) and PWD (1% of mentions) actors were less visible compared to their male, older adult and non-PWD counterparts. The most frequently featured political parties were the APC (48% of sources; 39.9% of mentions), PDP (23.6% of sources; 32.1% of mentions), and LP (13% of sources; 11.7% of mentions).

Security agencies were more prominently featured than INEC, with 69.1% of sources and 52.6% of mentions, while the electoral body accounted for 22.1% of sources and 32.1% of mentions.

LCDAs (2.7% of sources; 2% of mentions) and LGAs (5.3% of sources; 14% of mentions) were less visible than higher levels of government (92% of sources; 84% of mentions), while NGOs (39.4% of sources; 22.4% of mentions) were more prominent than PSGs, FBOs and sociocultural groups.

In the foreign actors' category, international NGOs accounted for four out of five sources and 31.6% of the mentions, while foreign government representatives made up one-fifth of the sources and 36.8% of the mentions. Embassies and high commissions represented 21.1% and 10.5% of the mentions respectively but were not cited as sources.

BACKGROUND

In the build-up to the 2024 off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states, CEMESO, with funding from EU SDGN II, continued its media monitoring effort to evaluate the coverage of election-related politics and democratic governance by broadcast stations in the country.

Through its evaluation of the broadcast media, CEMESO aimed to foster adherence to ethical and professional journalism standards while discouraging the spread of misinformation, the use of extreme language, and biased reporting. Additionally, CEMESO sought to promote the inclusion of underrepresented demographics, such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs)."**METHODOLOGY**

The initiative focused on relevant programmes broadcast by carefully selected radio and television stations. These stations were chosen based on:

- Audience reach
- Location
- Political programming
- Digital footprint and
- Ownership

A dedicated team, based in Lagos, monitored and analysed content accessed through online and traditional distribution channels. Inaccessible stations were replaced using the criteria stated above, and their data was included in the analyses crafted within the period the stations were accessible.

A total of 891 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 401 contents from the radio stations and 490 contents from the television stations.

The following radio stations were monitored:

- Adaba FM Akure - Ondo state [Privately owned]

- Arewa Radio - Kano state [Privately owned]
- Boss Radio Owerri - Imo state [Privately owned]
- Breeze FM Akure - Ondo state [Privately owned]
- Bridge FM Asaba - Delta state [Privately owned]
- Crest FM Akure - Ondo state [Privately owned]
- Gotel Radio Yola - Adamawa state [Privately owned]
- Grace FM Lokoja - Kogi state [Privately owned]
- Independent Television Radio (ITV Radio) Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Invicta FM - Kaduna state [Privately owned]
- Jay FM Jos - Plateau state [Privately owned]
- Kapital FM (Operated by Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Abuja) - Abuja [Government-owned]
- KU FM Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- NAS FM Yola - Adamawa state [Privately owned]
- New Cruse FM Ikere-Ekiti - Ekiti state [Privately owned]
- Nigeria Info Port Harcourt - Rivers state [Privately owned]
- Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC Radio) - Osun state [Government-owned]
- Peoples' FM Yenagoa - Bayelsa state [Privately owned]
- Positive FM (Operated by Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Akure) - Ondo state [Government-owned]
- Radio Rivers - Rivers state [Government-owned]
- Sapientia FM Onitsha - Anambra state [Privately owned]
- Speed FM Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Splash FM Ibadan - Oyo state [Privately owned]
- Super FM Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Urban Radio - Enugu state [Privately owned]

The following television stations were monitored:

- Adamawa Television (ATV) Yola - Adamawa [Privately owned]
- Africa Independent Television (AIT) - Network [Privately owned]
- Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC TV) - Akwa Ibom [Government owned]
- Anambra Broadcasting Service Television (ABS TV) - Anambra state [Government owned]
- Arise Television (Arise TV) - Network [Privately owned]
- Channels Television (Channels TV) - Network [Privately owned]
- Gotel Television (Gotel TV) Yola - Adamawa [Privately owned]
- Independent Television (ITV) Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Kwara State Television (KSTV) - Kwara state [Government-owned]
- Lagos Television (LTV) - Lagos state [Government-owned]

- Liberty Television (Liberty TV) - Abuja [Privately owned]
- Nigerian Television Authority International (NTAi) - Network [Government owned]
- Ogun Television (OGTV) - Ogun state [Government owned]
- Ondo State Radiovision Corporation (OSRC TV) – Ondo state [Government owned]
- Silverbird Television (STV) - Lagos state [Privately owned]
- Television Continental (TVC News) - Network [Privately owned]

The monitoring endeavour sought to answer the following questions:

- What were the broadcast media talking about?
- Who were the actors the broadcast media gave coverage to?
- What was the quality of reporting when measured in terms of balance?
- Were there traces of extreme language in the radio and television broadcasts?

The findings are presented in three distinct sections. The first segment provides an evaluation of radio stations' performance in covering the issues. The second section offers parallel analyses of television stations. The final section harmonises the insights from radio and television stations to present a combined assessment of broadcast media coverage of election-related politics and democratic governance in Nigeria during the period under review.

PART I

CONTENT OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO

Broadcasts were systematically monitored across the selected radio stations in August 2024. The resulting analyses are structured into four primary categories: programme typology, thematic emphasis, programme quality and inclusion. A similar presentation format applies to subsequent sections.

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY ON RADIO

A total of 401 news reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected radio stations.

Chart 1: Radio broadcast formats (August 2024)
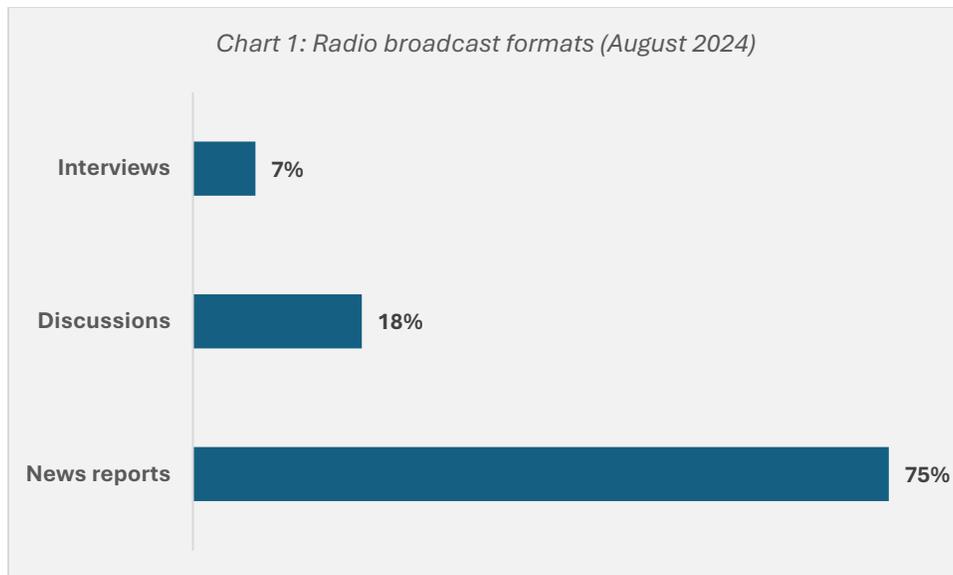
Out of the contents analysed during the period under review, 301, as Chart 1 shows, were packaged as news reports, accounting for 75% of contents. The other radio broadcasts were packaged as discussions (18%; 73 stories) and interviews (7%; 27 stories).

THEMATIC EMPHASIS ON RADIO

The thematic emphasis or thematic focus highlights identified topics or issues that dominated the monitored radio broadcasts.

Chart 2: Thematic focus of radio broadcasts (August 2024)

Theme	Percentage
Attacks on INEC	0%
Attacks on CSOs	0%
Attacks on media/journalists	0%
Extreme/hate speech	0%
Youth and election issues	0.4%
PWD issues	0.4%
Women/gender issues	0.4%
Misinformation	0.6%
Rule of law	0.8%
Transparency and accountability	2.7%
Election petitions	2.7%
Inter-party conflict	2.9%
Campaign promises	3.3%
Voter education	3.9%
Intra-party conflict	4.3%
Security	5.9%
Campaign activities/strategies	9.4%
Election administration	10.6%
Other issues	12%
Citizen participation	39.8%

According to the data in Chart 2, citizen participation, a general democratic governance issue largely driven by anti-government protests, accounted for 39.8% (195 in 490 instances) of radio coverage during the period in review.

- "Violence disrupts protests across states in Nigeria," ITV Radio reported on August 1, indicating the nature of coverage of citizen participation issues during the period under review.

- In a similar vein, "IGP charges security agencies to be alert as nationwide protests commence," Kapital FM reported on August 1.

- Also on August 1, OSBC Radio reported that although the protests were peaceful in Osun state, businesses were mostly closed for fear of the type of violent demonstrations witnessed in parts of Abuja, Bayelsa, Kano and Katsina.

- In another instance, "Confederation of APC support groups urge Nigerians to shun violent protests and choose dialogue," Kapital FM reported on August 8.

- Also, "The presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 poll, Peter Obi, has opined that the nation-wide protests that ended on August 10 were a call on Nigerian leaders to reflect deeply on the growing poverty in the country and take steps to address it," Boss Radio reported on August 12.

Another democratic governance theme, transparency and accountability, received 2.7% (13 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law received 0.8% (4 instances) of the coverage.

- "CSOs hold policy conversation, canvasses for accountable governance in the local governments," Kapital FM reported on August 6, focusing on transparency and accountability.

- In another instance, "SDP in Bauchi has announced that it would not participate in the forthcoming local government elections in the state, citing lack of transparency in the process," NAS FM reported on August 9.

- Also, "FG inaugurates 10-member committee to enforce Supreme Court judgment on local government autonomy," Nigeria Info reported on August 20.

- In an instance focused on the rule of law, "A Rivers state high court sitting in Port Harcourt has granted an order restraining the national leader of the APC from going ahead with the scheduled ward, local government and state congresses," Boss Radio reported on August 23.

- During the August 13 edition of Boss Radio discussion programme 'State of the Nation,' a certain Chief Jude commented on the Supreme Court's decision on local government autonomy, saying that the top court's pronouncements are final. The comment was focused on the rule of law.

Election administration received 10.6% (52 instances) of the coverage while voter education received 3.9% (19 instances) of the coverage.

- "INEC has released the final register of voters for the upcoming governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states," Arewa Radio reported on August 5, focusing on election administration.

- In a related instance, "INEC has said that there are 77,914 newly registered voters for the Edo and Ondo elections," Crest FM reported on August 5.

- In another instance, "Anambra State Independent Electoral Commission has announced Saturday 28 September 2024 as the date for the local government election in the state," Speed FM reported on August 13.

- Also, "Edo guber election: INEC says that over 50 per cent of new PVCs have been collected in Edo state ahead of the election," Breeze FM reported on August 28.

- In an instance focused on voter education, KU FM reported on September 23 that "INEC in Edo state has urged registered and eligible voters to collect their PVCs from any of the collection centres, advising them to channel PVC errors/issues to INEC officials at the centres; the commission also advised voters to come out en masse in September and vote for their preferred candidates."

Campaign activities/strategies received 9.4% (46 instances) of the radio coverage while campaign promises, a related theme, received 3.3% (16 instances) of the coverage.

- "Edo YPP guber candidate, Paul Okungbowa, canvasses for support ahead of Edo guber election," ITV Radio reported on August 2, focusing on campaign activities/strategies.

- In another instance, "Ondo PDP inaugurates 500-member campaign council ahead of guber election," Positive FM reported on August 15.

- Also, "Political affairs analyst Paul Alelome decries dearth of issue-based campaign ahead of Edo guber election," Kapital FM reported on August 30.

- During the August 13 edition of Super FM programme 'What The Honourable Has To Say,' analysts discussed the security, economy and education manifestos of PDP and LP governorship candidates in Edo state, Asue Ighodalo and Olumide Akpata. The discussion was focused on their campaign promises.

- In another instance focused on campaign promises, Super FM analysts discussed an electoral promise by Edo APC candidate Monday Okphebolo, who said he would return 10 private properties that were allegedly seized by the Godwin Obaseki-led government to their owners.

Whereas intra-party conflict received 4.3% (21 instances) of the coverage, inter-party conflict accounted for 2.9% (14 instances) of the attention. Election petitions received 2.7% (13 instances) of the coverage.

- On August 8, New Cruse FM reported that "The State High Court sitting in Gboko, Benue State on Thursday restrained the PDP from conducting the forthcoming congress scheduled for Saturday, August 10, 2024 in six local governments. The restraining order was signed by Justice J. M. Ayua in a motion ex parte brought before the court. The applicants in the suit are Senator Orker Jev, Terseer Tsumba, Aondoyina Grace, Tergun Tsegba, and 13 others. According to the applicant's counsels, F.T. Anongo and G.M. Tyoh prayed for a restraining order preventing the party from proceeding with local government congresses until it determined the reason the ward congress scheduled for July 27, 2024 did not take place." The applicants and respondents are PDP members; hence, the report represented an instance of an intra-party conflict leading to an election petition.

- In another instance focusing on intra-party conflict, Boss Radio reported on August 12 that "The ruling APC has begun consultations with the leadership of the Senate to facilitate the reinstatement of Senator Ali Ndume as the chief whip. The move comes one month after Ndume was relieved of the position for repeated criticism of President Bola Tinubu and the ruling party."

- Also, South-South leader and former federal information commissioner Edwin Clark "has asked PDP national chairman Umar Illiya to show FCT minister Nyesom Wike out of the party," Crest FM reported on August 20. Wike, a PDP member who holds a position in the APC government, was said to be involved in anti-party activities.

- In an instance focused on inter-party conflict, "Rivers APC chairman Tony Okocha has accused the state government of sponsoring attacks on its secretariat," Nigeria Info reported on August 7. The PDP-led state government reportedly responded by absolving itself of blame for any form of violence in the state.

- Also, "Edo guber election: Edo APC accuses PDP-led state government of undermining the September 21 ballot," Breeze FM reported on August 28.

Security issues received 5.9% (29 instances) of the coverage. Attacks on media/journalists, INEC and CSOs were not featured.

- "Explosions rock APP secretariat in rivers, party asks police to launch an investigation into the matter," Breeze FM reported on August 12, focusing on election-related security issues.

- Also, "The National Security Adviser to the President Bola Tinubu, Nuhu Ribadu, has assured that the security agencies would defend the integrity of the governorship

elections in Edo and Ondo states using every lawful means," Gotel Radio reported on August 14.

- In a related instance, "INEC holds meeting with security agencies, national security adviser, warns against violence in the forthcoming guber election," ITV Radio reported on August 15, focusing on election-related security issues.

- Also, "Osun State Independent Electoral Commission expresses readiness to conduct free and fair local government election, set for sensitisation against electoral violence," Positive FM reported on August 15.

- In another instance, "Governor Godwin Obaseki has called on the Nigerian military to help seize illegal guns that some gangs and groups in the state allegedly kept for use during the governorship election slated for next month," Speed FM reported on August 16.

Women/gender, PWD and youth issues each received 0.4% (2 instances) of the coverage.

- "Middle-Belt Dynamic Women in Emoha local government has endorsed a former minority leader in Rivers state, Azubike Odom, for the chairmanship position in the forthcoming local election in the state," Nigeria Info reported on August 16, focusing on women's issues.

- "President of National Women Leaders Amina Brahim calls for reduction of the price of party nomination forms for women politicians," Kapital FM reported on August 30 in another instance.

Misinformation received 0.6% (3 instances) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech was not featured.

- "Niger Delta Developmental Commission has said that the news making rounds on social media that it used the money mapped out for contractors to support the governorship candidate of the APC in Edo state is false," Sapientia FM reported on August 12, focusing on election-related misinformation.

- In another instance, "Stakeholders at 2024 Press Week charge media practitioners to combat misinformation and adequately report issues of accountability in governance," Kapital FM reported on August 15.

Other issues received 12% (59 instances) of the coverage.

QUALITY OF RADIO PROGRAMMES — BALANCE

Balanced reporting presents a variety of perspectives and sources on significant election-related issues while maintaining journalism's obligation to provide context. In contrast, unbalanced reporting fails to do so. The selected radio broadcasts were analysed to assess their adherence to this standard.
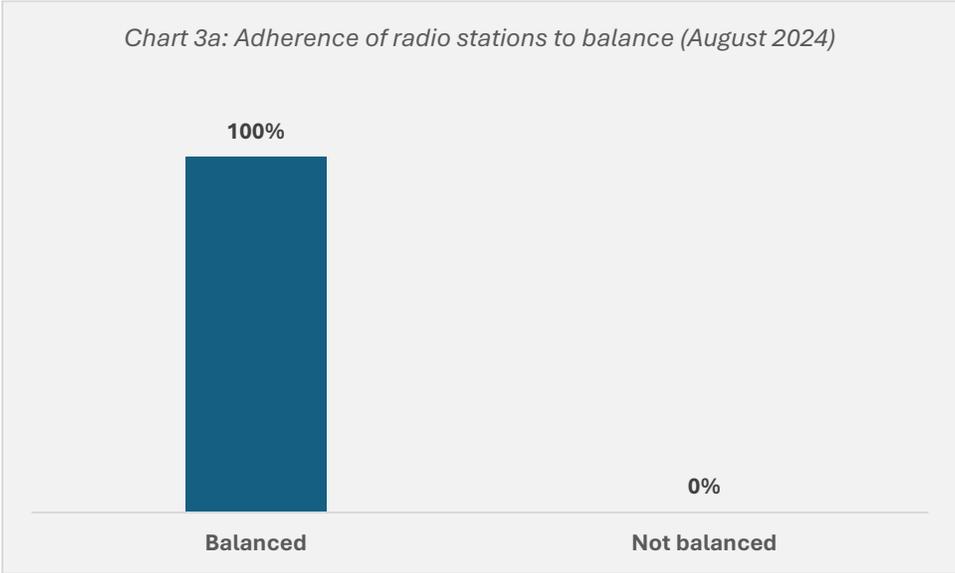

Chart 3a: Adherence of radio stations to balance (August 2024)

Chart 3a shows that 100% (27 applicable stories) of the radio broadcasts were balanced.

Chart 3b: Adherence of government and privately owned radio stations to balance (August 2024)
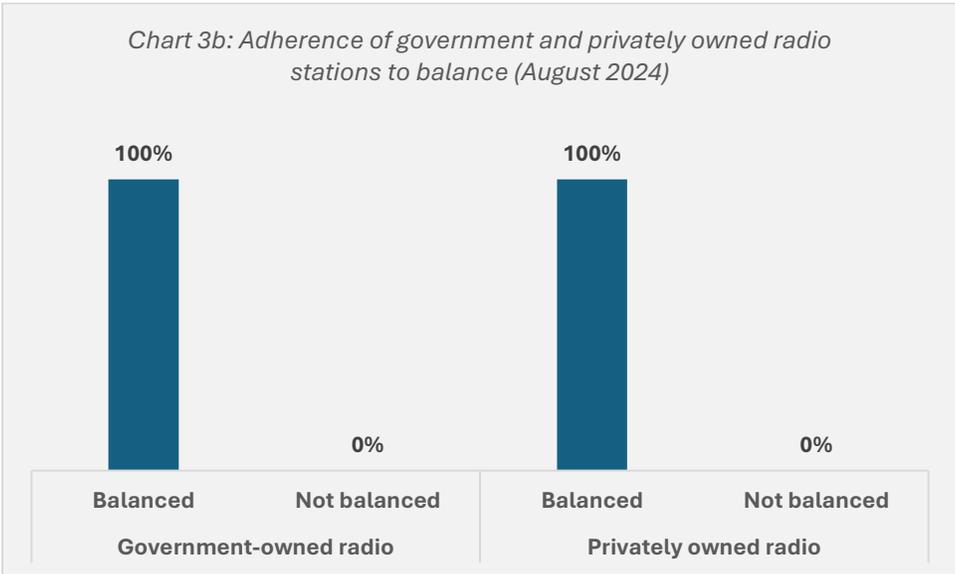
Chart 3b shows that 100% (4 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned radio stations and 100% (23 stories) of the broadcasts from privately owned radio stations were balanced.

QUALITY OF RADIO PROGRAMMES — LANGUAGE

Extreme language can incite hatred, prejudice and/or violence towards specific individuals or groups within society. The selected radio stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language and avoidance of inflammatory rhetoric in their programmes. The noted incidents involved not only the media and its sources using provocative language but also those who actively opposed such rhetoric.
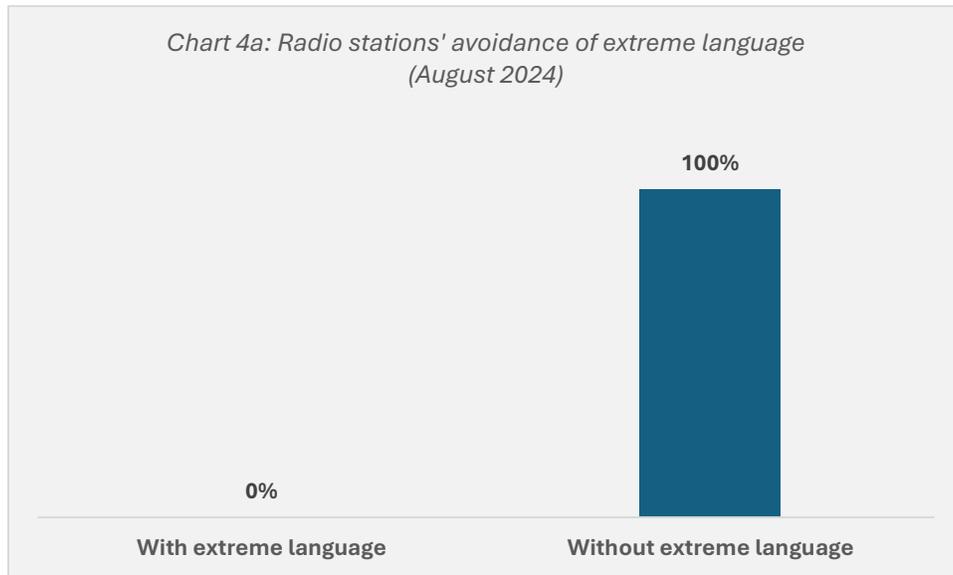
Chart 4a: Radio stations' avoidance of extreme language (August 2024)

	With extreme language	Without extreme language
	0%	100%

Chart 4a shows that the radio stations avoided extreme language in 100% (401 stories) of their programmes.

Chart 4b: Government and privately-owned radio stations' avoidance of extreme language (August 2024)

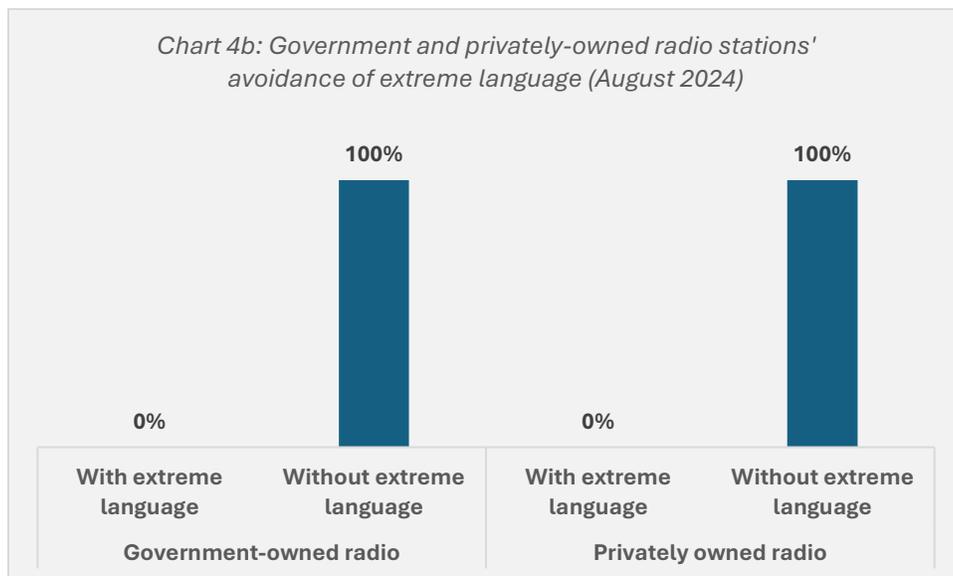| Government-owned radio		Privately owned radio	
With extreme language	Without extreme language	With extreme language	Without extreme language
0%	100%	0%	100%

Chart 4b reveals that all 85 (100%) stories from government-owned stations and 316 (100%) stories) from privately-owned stations were free of inflammatory rhetoric.

VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS ON RADIO

INCLUSION: VISIBILITY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS ON RADIO

This section assesses the visibility of vulnerable groups in radio broadcasts during the period in review, with a focus on their gender, age, and disability status.

PWDs

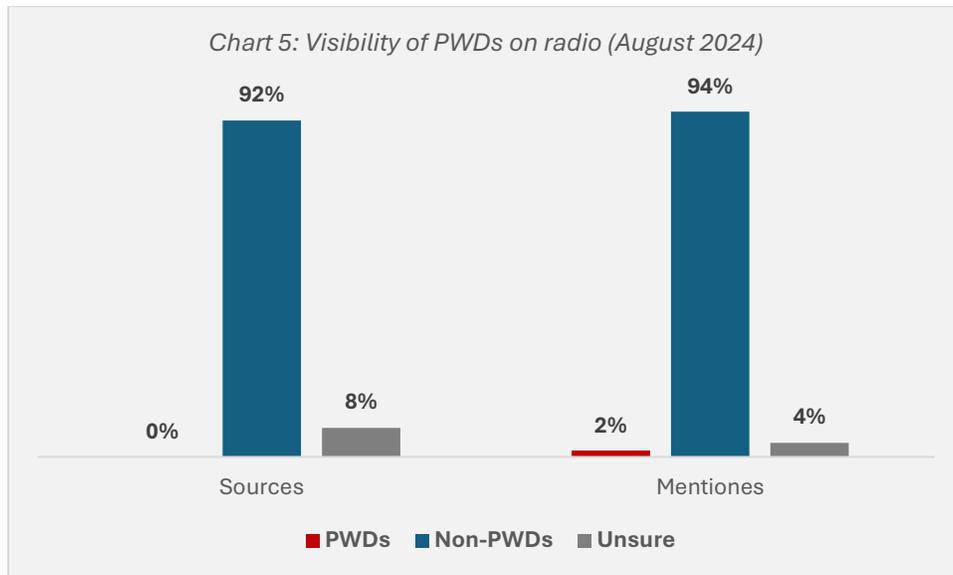Chart 5: Visibility of PWDs on radio (August 2024)

Chart 5 shows that PWDs received 2% of the mentions (3 out of 181 instances) but were not cited as sources. In contrast, non-PWD actors represented 92% of the sources (347 out of 377 instances) and 94% of the mentions (171 instances). Additionally, the sources in 30 instances (8%) and mentions in seven instances (4%) were indeterminate. This data reflects the previously noted low level of coverage dedicated to PWD issues, which was 0.4% (2 out of 490 instances) as shown in Chart 2.

Women

Chart 6: Visibility of women on radio (August 2024)

```
Sources                    Mentions
Men: 81%    Women: 19%     Men: 93%    Women: 7%
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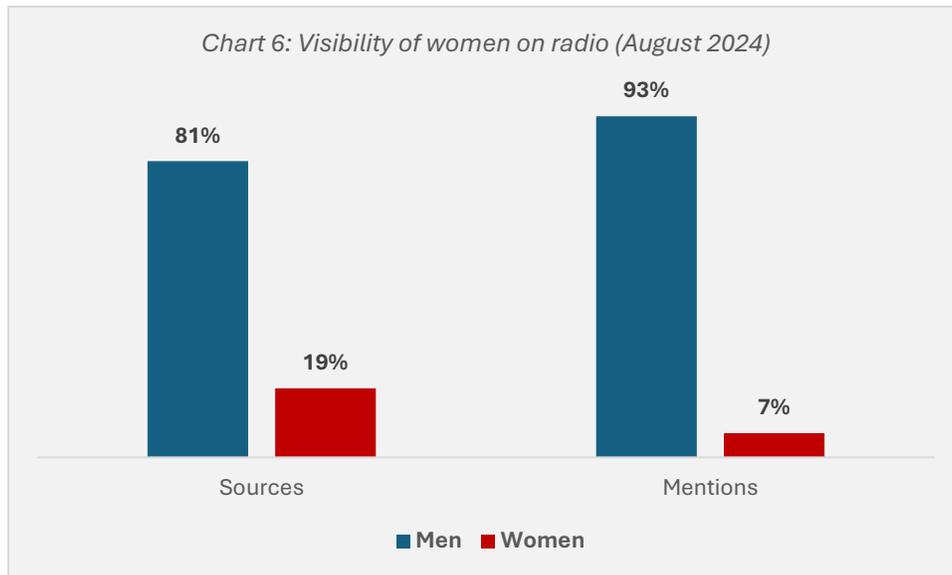
Men ■ Women ■

Chart 6 illustrates that women comprised 19% of the sources (76 out of 402 instances) and 7% of the mentions (14 out of 198 instances). In contrast, men accounted for 81% of the sources (326 instances) and 93% of the mentions (198 instances). The data indicates that women were less visible than their male counterparts, reinforcing the previously noted low level of coverage dedicated to women's issues, which was 0.4% (2 out of 490 instances) as shown in Chart 2.

- "Middle-Belt Dynamic Women in Emoha Local Government Area has endorsed a former minority leader in Rivers state, Azubike Odom, for the chairmanship position in the forthcoming election in the state," Nigeria Info reported on August 16, citing the women's group as the source.

- During the August 27 edition of Kapital FM discussion programme 'Politics Nationwide,' INEC official Mrs Alese urged Edo politicians to run issue-based campaigns, adding that the political class should collaborate with INEC for effective voter education. She also urged Edo voters to act responsibly during the guber election. The discussion was another instance of a woman serving as the source of a radio broadcast during the period in review.

- "NBC director Gloria Makinde stresses the need for all political parties to have equitable access to every broadcast station, hints on meeting with political and democratic stakeholders," Kapital FM reported on August 30, citing the female NBC director as the source.

- Also, "President of National Women Leaders Amina Brahim calls for reduction of the price of party nomination forms for women politicians," Kapital FM reported on August 30.

- In an instance in which women were mentioned, "Ondo governor applauds women, CSOs for keeping their promise on not joining nationwide protests," Breeze FM reported on August 2.

Youth

The African Youth Charter[1] defines youth as individuals aged between 15 and 35. This report adopted the same age bracket. However, individuals older than 35 were also considered youth if they represented a youth group or initiative. Those younger than 15 are categorised as children.

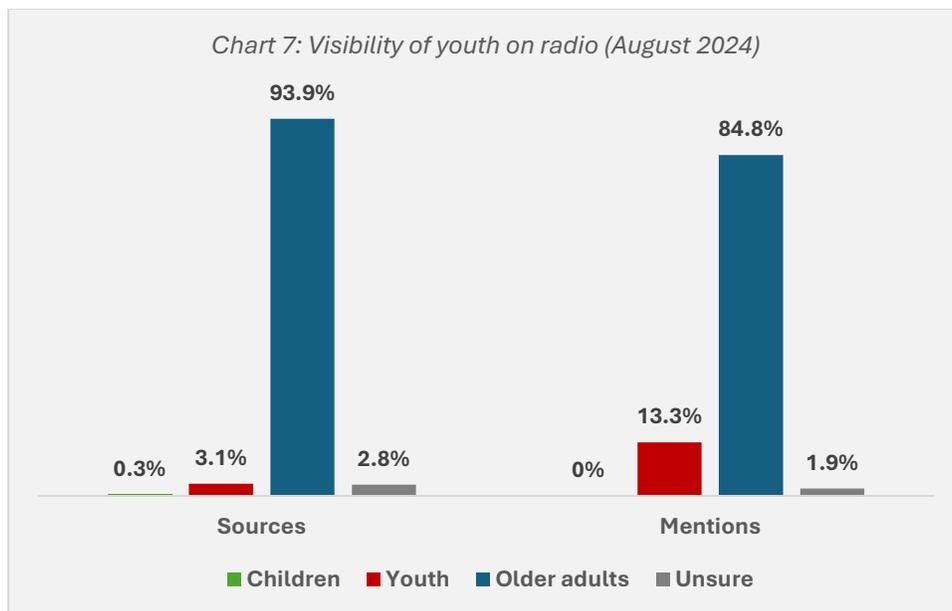*Chart 7: Visibility of youth on radio (August 2024)*

Chart 7 shows that youth made up 3.1% of the sources (12 out of 391 instances) and 13.3% of the mentions (36 out of 270 instances). In contrast, older adults constituted 93.9% of the sources (367 instances) and 84.8% of the mentions (229 instances). Children represented only 0.3% of the sources (1 instance) and were not mentioned at all. Additionally, the sources in 11 instances (2.8%) and mentions in five instances (1.9%)were indeterminate. This data highlights the low visibility of youth actors, reflecting the previously noted minimal coverage (0.4%; 2 out of 490 instances) dedicated to youth issues, as shown in Chart 2.

- "National Commission for Almajiri and Out-Of-School Children's Education expresses concern as to the involvement of children in the ongoing protests, calls for government support," Kapital FM reported on August 7, using a child actor as the source.

- During the August 5 edition of NAS FM interview programme 'Inda ba Kasa At 8 PM,' guest and youth actor Comrade Danladi Jonah spoke on President Bola Tinubu's speech on the nationwide protests, saying that the Nigerian leader did not address issues raised by the protesters. The interview represented an instance of a youth actor serving as the source of a radio broadcast during the period in review.

- "Youths took to the streets of Jalingo, Taraba state, to protest the prevailing hardships, chanting 'we do not agree; we do not agree' to draw attention to the challenges they are going through," Gotel Radio reported on August 1, mentioning youth.

- "The Nigerian Army has arrested the soldier who shot and killed a 16-year-old demonstrator who was among the protesters in Zaria, Kaduna state," Sapientia FM reported on August 8, mentioning a youth. An August 8 broadcast by Splash FM identified the teenage victim as Ismail Muhammad.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS FEATURED ON RADIO

This section examines the social status of the individuals used as sources and mentioned in the broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period under review.

Aspirants/candidates, political office holders, other politicians and their spouses occupy the political side of this section while journalists/on-air-personalities (OAPs), public intellectuals/commentators, religious leaders, traditional rulers and other citizens occupy its public side.

Chart 8a: Status of individual actors featured on radio (August 2024)
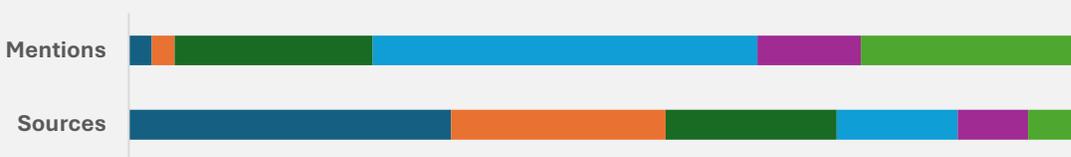
	Sources	Mentions
■ Journalists/OAPs	33.8%	2.4%
■ Public intellectuals/commentators	22.5%	2.4%
■ Other politicians	18%	20.8%
■ Other citizens	12.7%	40.4%
■ Political officeholders	7.4%	10.8%
■ Aspirants/candidates	4.9%	22.6%
■ Traditional rulers	0.4%	0.3%
■ Religious leaders	0.4%	0.3%
■ Spouses of political officeholders	0%	0%
■ Spouses of aspirants/candidates	0%	0%

Chart 8a shows that journalists/OAPs accounted for 33.8% (96 in 284 instances) of the sources and 2.4% (8 in 332 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators represented 22.5% (64 instances) of the sources and 2.4% of the mentions.

Aspirants/candidates accounted for 4.9% (14 instances) of the sources and 22.6% (75 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders represented 7.4% (21 instances) and 10.8% (36 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians made up 18% (51 instances) of the sources and 20.8% (69 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of politicians were not featured.

Whereas traditional rulers and religious leaders each accounted for 0.4% (1 instance) of the sources and 0.3% (1 instance) of the mentions, other citizens constituted 12.7% (36 instances) of the sources and 40.4% (134 instances) of the mentions.

Given that politicians play a significant role in elections, the visibility of political officeholders, aspirants, candidates and other politicians was also examined. The results are displayed in Chart 8b.

Chart 8b: Status of politicians featured on radio (August 2024)
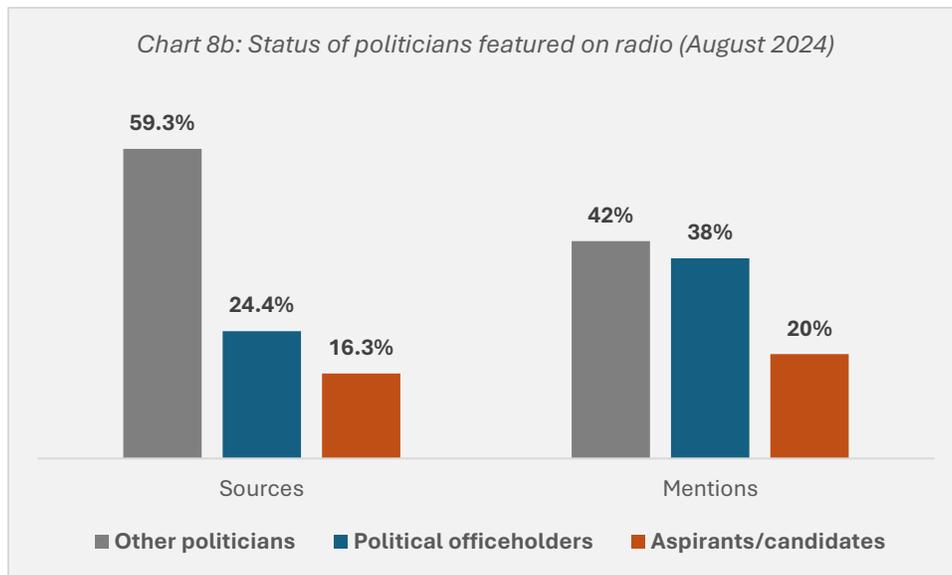
Chart 8b shows that aspirants/candidates made up 16.3% (14 in 86 instances) of the sources and 20% (36 in 180 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders accounted for 24.4% (21 instances) of the sources and 38% (69 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians constituted 59.3% (51 instances) of the sources and 42% (75 instances) of the mentions.

The visibility of politicians compared to that of non-politicians was also analysed.

Chart 8c: Visibility of politicians and other citizens on radio (August 2024)

Sources — Politicians: 30%, Other citizens: 70%
Mentions — Politicians: 54%, Other citizens: 46%

Legend: Politicians, Other citizens
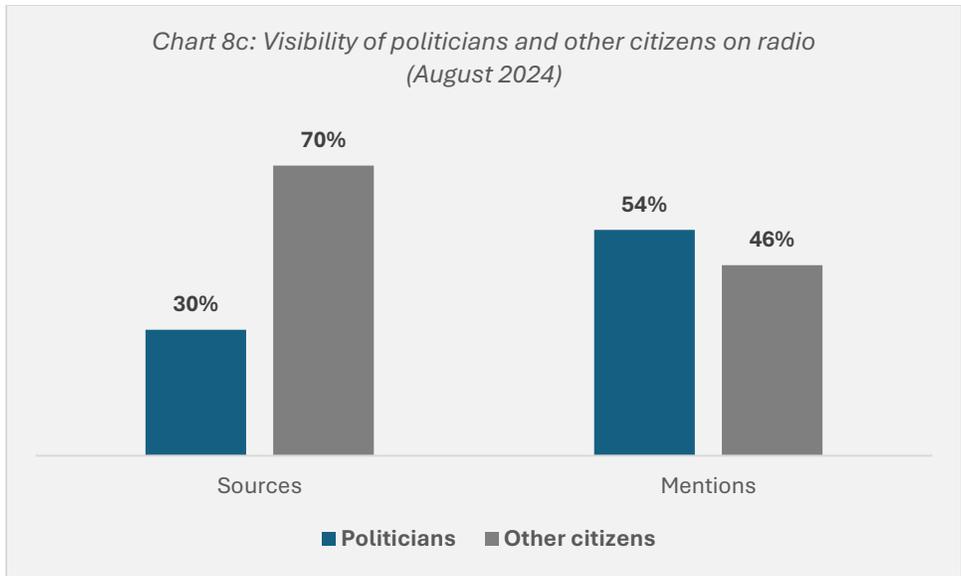
According to Chart 8c, politicians constituted 30% (86 in 284 instances) of the sources and 54% (180 in 332 instances) of the mentions while other citizens accounted for 70% (198 instances) of the sources and 46% (152 instances) of the mentions. The chart indicates that the individuals on the 'public side' were more prominent than those on the 'political' side in terms of sources, the reverse being the case in terms of mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS ON RADIO

Chart 9: Geographiical distribution of actors on radio (August 2024)

Sources — Rural: 0%, Urban: 99.5%, Unsure: 0.5%
Mentions — Rural: 0%, Urban: 99.1%, Unsure: 0.9%
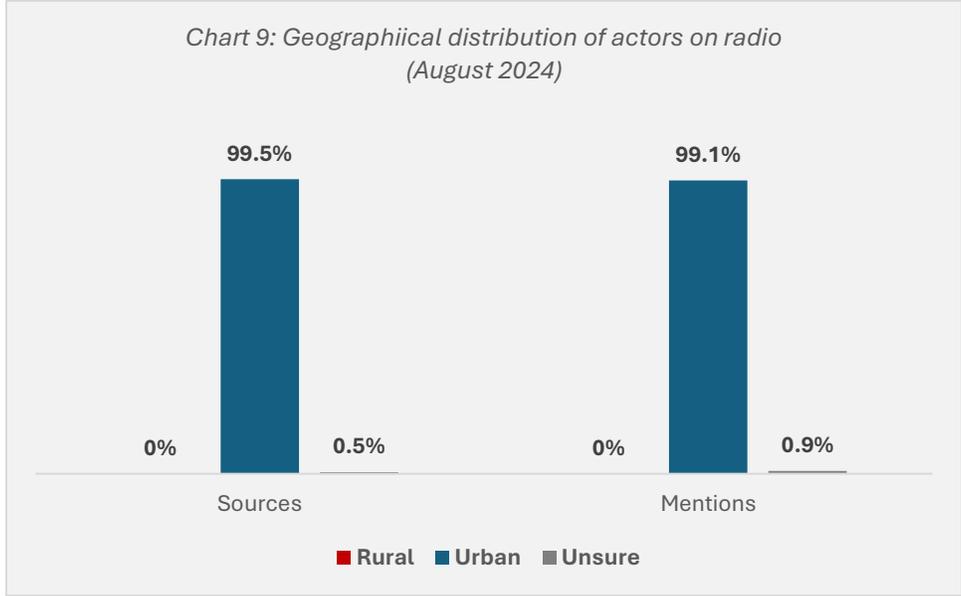
Legend: Rural, Urban, Unsure

Chart 9 indicates that actors from urban areas overwhelmingly dominated radio coverage during the reviewed period, representing 99.5% of the sources (391 out of 393 instances) and 99.1% of the mentions (211 out of 213 instances). Rural actors were not featured. The

location of the sources in two instances (0.5%) and mentions in two instances (0.9%) remained indeterminate.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON RADIO

The corporate actors include political parties, government agencies, interest groups and foreign entities.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Chart 10: Visibility of political parties on radio (August 2024)

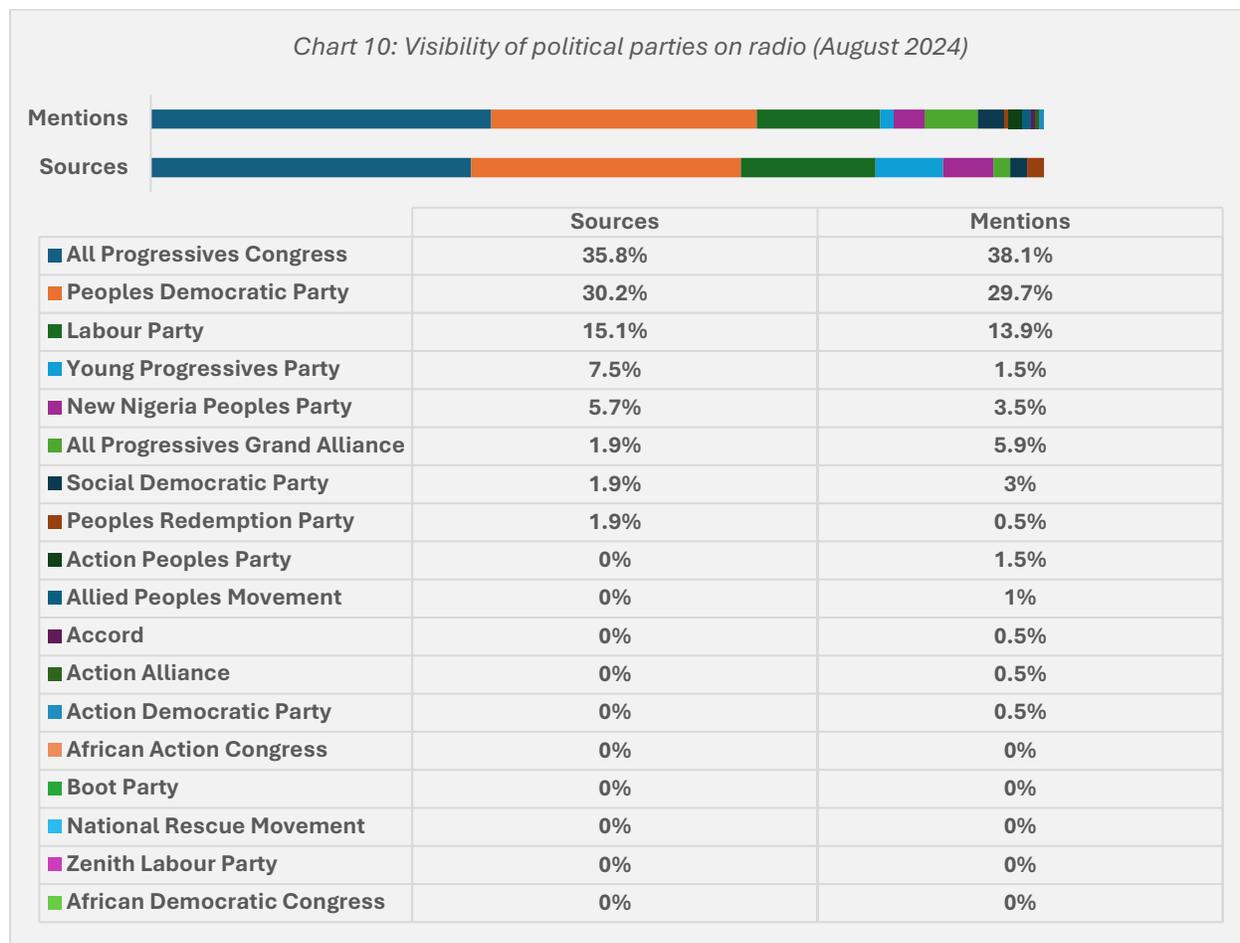|	Sources	Mentions
■ All Progressives Congress	35.8%	38.1%
■ Peoples Democratic Party	30.2%	29.7%
■ Labour Party	15.1%	13.9%
■ Young Progressives Party	7.5%	1.5%
■ New Nigeria Peoples Party	5.7%	3.5%
■ All Progressives Grand Alliance	1.9%	5.9%
■ Social Democratic Party	1.9%	3%
■ Peoples Redemption Party	1.9%	0.5%
■ Action Peoples Party	0%	1.5%
■ Allied Peoples Movement	0%	1%
■ Accord	0%	0.5%
■ Action Alliance	0%	0.5%
■ Action Democratic Party	0%	0.5%
■ African Action Congress	0%	0%
■ Boot Party	0%	0%
■ National Rescue Movement	0%	0%
■ Zenith Labour Party	0%	0%
■ African Democratic Congress	0%	0%

Chart 10 shows that All Progressives Congress (APC) was the most visible political party, accounting for 35.8% (19 in 53 instances) of the sources and 38.1% (77 in 202 instances) of the mentions.

- "USA chapter of APC urges Nigerians not to protest unlawfully," Kapital FM reported on August 8, using the APC as the source.

- Also, "APC national chairman Abdullahi Ganduje has described the claims that protesters carted away sensitive documents relating to his corruption trials as baseless," Urban Radio reported on August 15.

- In an instance in which the party was mentioned, "The caretaker committee of the APC has rejected the ruling of the Rivers State High Court against Sen. Abdullahi Ganduje," Sapientia FM reported on August 12.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) constituted 30.2% (16 instances) of the sources and 29.7% (60 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) represented 15.1% (8 instances) of the sources and 13.9% (28 instances) of the mentions.

- "The acting national chairman of the PDP, Umar Damagu, says nobody can make him resign from his position," Speed FM reported on August 21, mentioning PDP.

- "The Court of Appeal in Abuja has overturned the judgement of a Federal High Court which ordered the PDP to allow the participation of 381 ad hoc delegates in its February 22 primary election in Edo state," KU FM reported on August 6, also mentioning PDP.

- "Edo APC, LP and PDP suspend campaign as protest continues," ITV Radio reported on August 5, mentioning LP and three other political parties.

Whereas Young Progressives Party (YPP) made up 7.5% (4 instances) of the sources and 1.5% (3 instances) of the mentions, New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) represented 5.7% (3 instances) of the sources and 3.5% (7 instances) of the mentions.

All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) each accounted for 1.9% (1 instance) of the sources, as well as 5.9% (12 instances), 3% (6 instances) and 0.5% (1 instance) of the mentions.

Action Peoples Party (APP) and Allied Peoples Movement (APM) accounted for 1.5% (3 instances) and 1% (2 instances) of the mentions respectively. They were, however, not used as sources. The same was true for Accord, Action Alliance (AA) and Action Democratic Party (ADP) each of which constituted 0.5% (1 instance) of the mentions.

The other political parties identified in the chart were not featured.

GOVERNMENT

This section examines the visibility of the federal and state arms of government — the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature. It also assesses the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) in comparison with that of the higher levels of government.

Federal government

Chart 11a: Visibility of the federal arms of government on radio (August 2024)
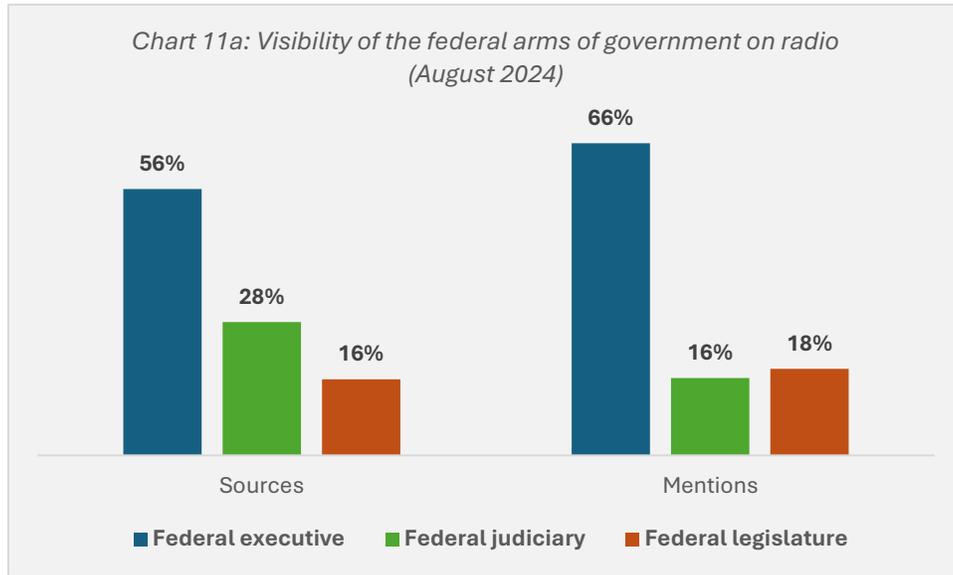
The federal executive, as Chart 11a shows, accounted for 56% (14 in 25 instances) of the sources and 66% (101 in 154 instances) of the mentions, making it the most featured actor in this subsection. The federal judiciary constituted 28% (7 instances) of the sources and 16% (25 instances) of the mentions while the federal legislature represented 16% (4 instances) of the sources and 18% (28 instances) of the mentions.

State governments

Chart 11b: Visibility of state governments on radio (August 2024)
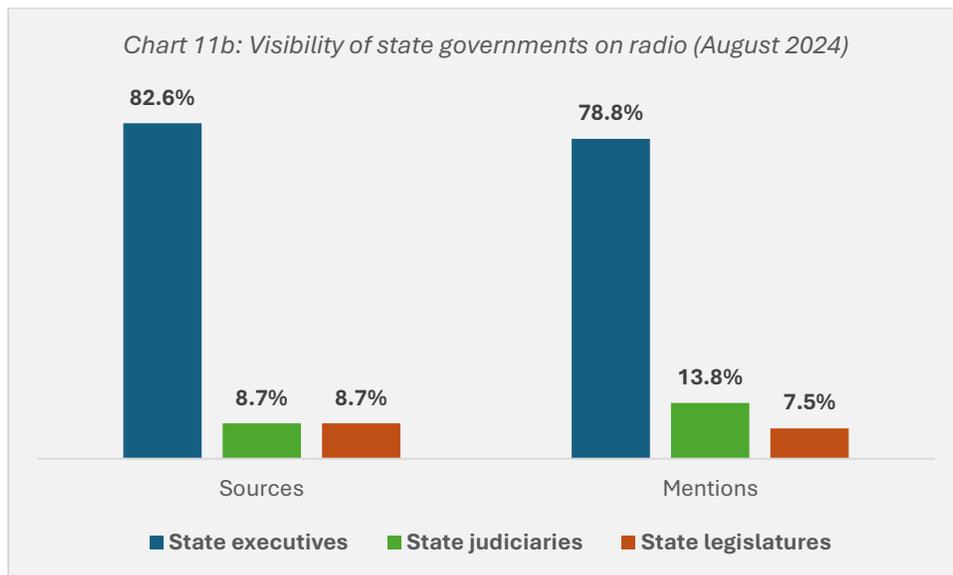
State executives, Chart 11b shows, accounted for 82.6% (19 in 23 instances) of the sources and 78.8% (63 in 80 instances) of the mentions. State judiciaries and state legislatures each made up 8.7% (2 instances) of the sources, as well as 13.8% (11 instances) and 7.5% (6 instances) of the mentions.

Local governments

This subsection compares the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government (the state and federal levels).

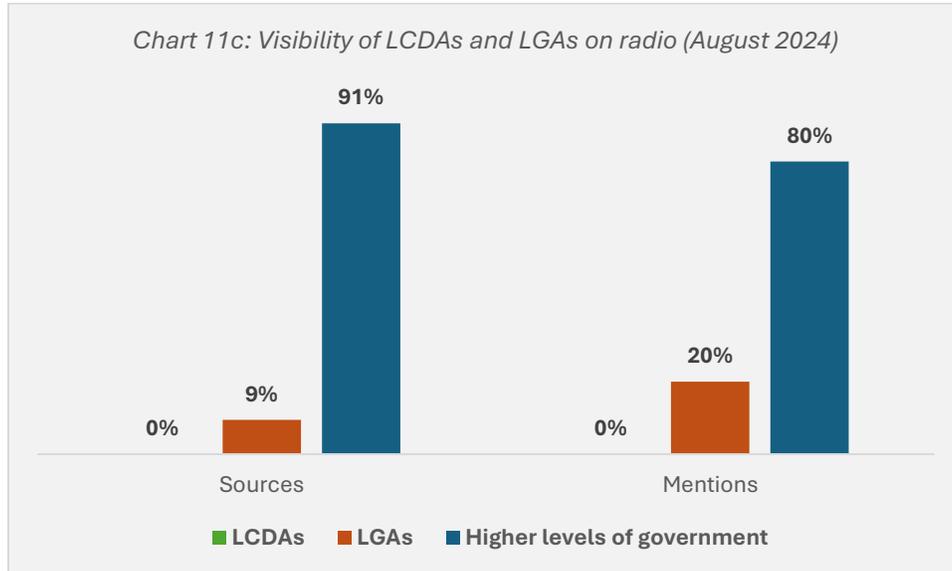**Chart 11c: Visibility of LCDAs and LGAs on radio (August 2024)**

Chart 11c shows that LGAs made up 9% (5 in 53 instances) of the sources and 20% (58 in 292 instances) of the mentions. The higher levels of government dominated this category, constituting 91% (48 instances) of the sources and 80% (234 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs were not featured.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

This section assesses the visibility of government agencies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies which conduct and safeguard the elections, state government agencies, and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) is also analysed.

54.5% **51.8%**

28.8% **34%**

9.1% **7.6%** **11.2%**

0% **2.5%** **0.5%**

Sources Mentions

■ **Security agencies** ■ **INEC**

■ **MDAs** ■ **State government agencies**

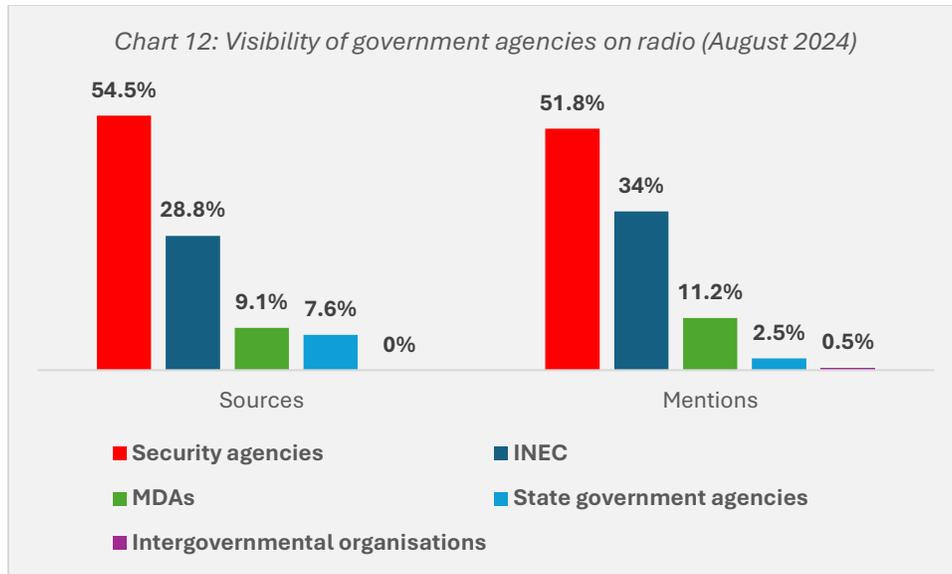■ **Intergovernmental organisations**

Chart 12 shows that security agencies constituted 54.5% (36 in 66 instances) of the sources and 51.8% (102 in 197 instances) of the mentions, making them the most visible actors in this category. INEC accounted for 28.8% (19 instances) of the sources and 34% (67 instances) of the mentions. MDAs made up 9.1% (6 instances) of the sources and 11.2% (22 instances) of the mentions while state government agencies accounted for 7.6% (5 instances) of the sources and 2.5% (5 instances) of the mentions. Intergovernmental agencies received 0.5% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

- "Kano State Police Command said it has arrested several protesters who allegedly destroyed and looted other public infrastructure and vandalized the Digital Innovation Park in the state," New Cruse reported on August 1, featuring a security agency, that is, the police.

- "Governor Godwin Obaseki has called on the Nigerian military to help seize illegal guns that some gangs and groups in the state allegedly kept for use during the governorship election slated for next month," Speed FM reported on August 16, mentioning the military.

- "INEC releases final voter registers for Edo and Ondo guber elections," ITV Radio reported on August 7, using INEC as the source.

- Also, "INEC official in Edo state Mr Timidi Wariowei said the commission would begin the distribution and collection of PVCs ahead of the governorship election in the state," Arewa Radio reported on August 15.

- In an instance in which MDAs were featured, "NBC director Gloria Makinde stresses the need for all political parties to have equitable access to every broadcast station, hints on meeting with political and democratic stakeholders," Kapital FM reported on August 30, using an official of the government-run broadcasting regulatory body, NBC, as the source.

INTEREST GROUPS

This section examines the visibility of corporate actors such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that play critical roles in the electoral process and democratic governance. It also assesses the visibility of faith-based organisations (FBOs), sociocultural groups, government-organised NGOs and political support groups (PSGs).

Chart 13: Visibility of interest groups on radio (August 2024)
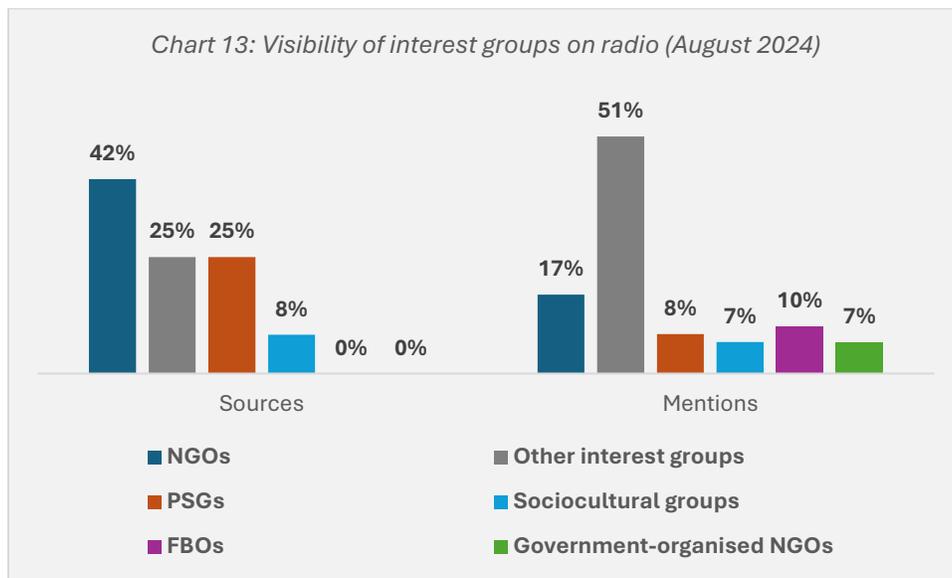
According to Chart 13, NGOs accounted for 42% (10 in 24 instances) of the sources and 17% (10 in 59 instances) of the mentions. PSGs constituted a fourth (25%; 6 instances) of the sources and 8% (5 instances) of the mentions while sociocultural groups represented 8% (2 instances) of the sources and 7% (4 instances) of the mentions. FBOs and government-organised NGOs accounted for 10% (6 instances) and 7% (4 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Other interest groups made up 25% (6 instances) of the sources and 51% (30 instances) of the mentions.

- "CEMESO trains journalists on sensitisation of electorate and voter education; IPC charges media on reportage of women, youth and PWDs," Kapital FM reported on August 13, featuring two NGOs, Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO) and International Press Centre (IPC).

- "Confederation of APC Support Groups urges Nigerians to shun violent protests, choose dialogue," Kapital FM reported on August 8, using a PSG as the source.

- "Ohaneze Ndigbo Youth Council Worldwide speaks over comment by House of Representative Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu that APC would take over Abia state in 2027," Boss Radio reported on August 23, using a sociocultural group as the source.

FOREIGN ACTORS

This section examines the visibility of foreign actors such as embassies, high commissions, international non-governmental organisations (international NGOs) and foreign government representatives.

Chart 14: Visibility of foreign actors on radio (August 2024)
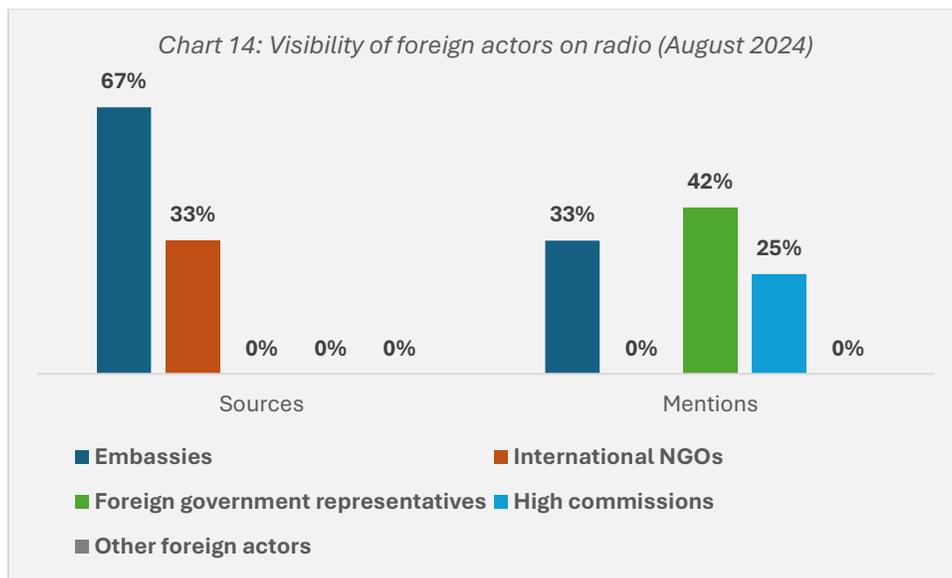
According to Chart 14, embassies accounted for 67% (2 in 3 instances) of the sources and 33% (4 in 12 instances) of the mentions. High commissions made up a fourth (25%; 3 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The reverse was the case for foreign government representatives and international NGOs as they accounted for 42% (5 instances) and 25% (3 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analysis of the content for August 2024 revealed that news reports were the most prevalent format in radio broadcasts, comprising 75% of the content, followed by discussion programmes at 18% and interviews at 7%. The radio stations adhered to the journalistic pillar of balance in 100% of the applicable broadcasts and did not record any instances of extreme language.

The most prominent themes included citizen participation (39.8%), election administration (10.6%) and campaign activities/strategies (9.4%), with security issues (5.9%) and intra-party conflict (4.3%) also receiving some coverage as the media prepared for the upcoming off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states.

Most of the individuals quoted and mentioned in the broadcasts were adult males from urban areas, while women (19% of sources; 7% of mentions) and youth (3.1% of sources; 13.3% of mentions) received limited attention. PWDs were mentioned 2% of the time but were not cited as sources.

The APC emerged as the most visible political party, accounting for 35.8% of the sources and 38.1% of the mentions in its category. The PDP followed with 30.2% of sources and 29.7% of mentions, while the LP garnered 15.1% of sources and 13.9% of mentions.

Security agencies were more prominent than INEC, with 54.5% of sources and 51.8% of mentions compared to the electoral umpire's 28.8% of sources and 34% of mentions. Both entities received more coverage than all other government agencies combined in their category.

Higher levels of government were more visible than local government areas (LGAs), with 91% of sources and 80% of mentions, while LCDAs were not featured in the government category. NGOs enjoyed greater visibility than other actors in the interest group category, with 42% of sources and 17% of mentions, while embassies accounted for two-thirds of the sources and one-third of the mentions in the foreign actors' section.

PART II

CONTENT OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

Relevant broadcasts were monitored on selected television stations in August 2024. The findings are presented below.

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY ON TELEVISION

A total of 490 news reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected television stations.

Chart 15: Television broadcast formats
(August 2024)

73% News reports
19% Discussions
8% Interviews
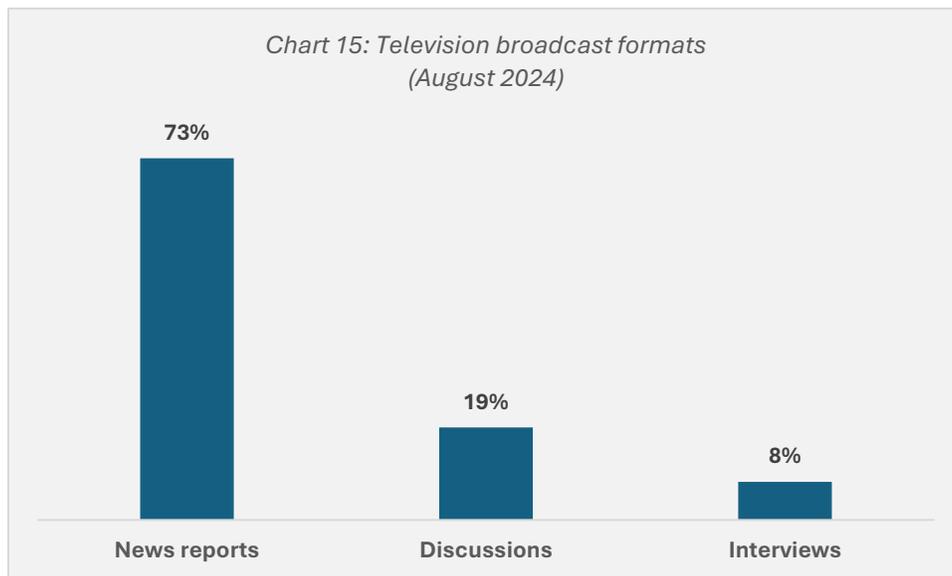
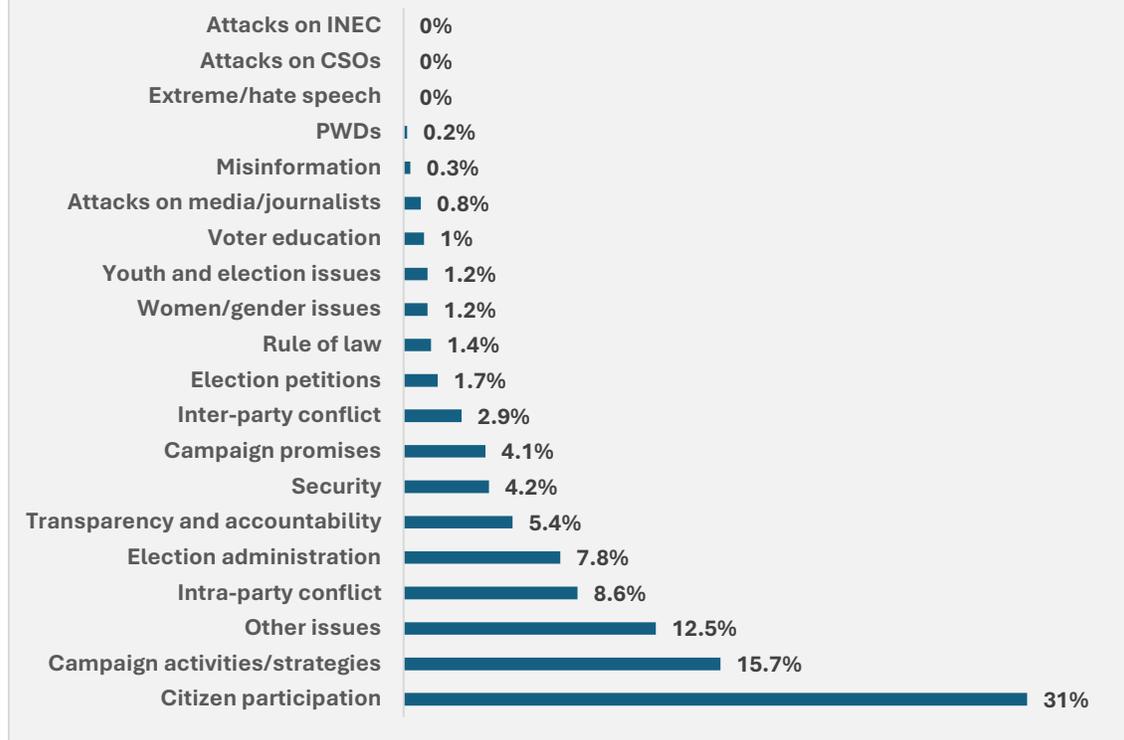Out of the contents analysed during the period under review, 360 were packaged as news reports. These, according to Chart 15, constituted 73% of the contents. The remaining television broadcasts were aired in the discussion (19%; 92 stories) and interview (8%; 38 stories) formats.

THEMATIC EMPHASIS ON TELEVISION

Thematic focus refers to the dominant topics or issues covered in monitored television broadcasts.

Chart 16: Thematic focus of television broadcasts (August 2024)

Theme	Percentage
Attacks on INEC	0%
Attacks on CSOs	0%
Extreme/hate speech	0%
PWDs	0.2%
Misinformation	0.3%
Attacks on media/journalists	0.8%
Voter education	1%
Youth and election issues	1.2%
Women/gender issues	1.2%
Rule of law	1.4%
Election petitions	1.7%
Inter-party conflict	2.9%
Campaign promises	4.1%
Security	4.2%
Transparency and accountability	5.4%
Election administration	7.8%
Intra-party conflict	8.6%
Other issues	12.5%
Campaign activities/strategies	15.7%
Citizen participation	31%

Citizen participation, as Chart 16 shows, was the most reported and discussed topic on television during the period in review, accounting for 31% (183 in 591 instances) of the thematic focus areas. Transparency and accountability received 5.4% (32 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law received 1.4% (8 instances) of the attention.

- "Police disperse protesters with tear gas in Abuja," LTV reported on August 1 concerning the 'End Bad Governance' or 'Hunger' protests staged during the period under review. The report was focused on citizen participation.

- In a related instance, "Peaceful protests hold in Ogun and Oyo states," Channels Television reported on August 1.

- Liberty TV reported on August 13 that "The governors of Kano, Kaduna and Yobe have lifted curfews imposed after the nationwide 'End Bad Governance' protest degenerated into violence in their states".

- Local government autonomy was the fulcrum of the instances of reportage focused on transparency and accountability. For instance, LTV reported on August 20 that "Federal government inaugurates committee to enforce local government autonomy".

- In a related instance, "Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) has applauded the Supreme Court for judgement on local government autonomy," Liberty TV reported on August 20.

- Also, during an interview on Channels TV's 'Politics Today' on August 5, ADP national chairman Yabagi Sanni stated that governors should be held accountable for the substantial revenues they receive from the federal government, particularly the funds allocated for local government operations before the Supreme Court ruled on local government autonomy.

- In an instance focused on the rule of law, The Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) has challenged the newly sworn-in Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, to use her position to promote the rule of law and equality in justice for Nigerians irrespective of their status," KSTV reported on August 26.

- In another instance, "NBA holds national conference as President Tinubu expresses commitment to rule of law, Lagos Governor Sanwo-Olu hints on collaboration with the judiciary for improved electoral process," LTV reported on August 26.

- During a discussion segment of the August 7 edition of Channels TV's programme 'Sunrise Daily,' PDP spokesperson Ibrahim Abdullahi commented on the reported refusal of Oyo state local government chairmen to comply with the Supreme Court judgment on local government autonomy, assuring that Governor Seyi Makinde would ensure compliance with the ruling.

Campaign activities/strategies received 15.7% (93 instances) of the coverage while campaign promises received 4.1% (24 instances) of the coverage.

- "The PDP Campaign Organisation urges voters to reject APC in the Edo state governorship election due to the prevailing hardship they caused," AIT reported on August 2, focusing on campaign activities/strategies.

- In a related instance, "Edo 2024 election: APC holds mega rally to flag off campaign in Edo South," ITV reported on August 13.

- "Ondo PDP inaugurates 500-member campaign council ahead of Ondo guber election," Channels TV reported on August 15.

- Also, "The APC Ondo State Chapter has said the party will record a victory in the forthcoming governorship election in the state," OSRC TV reported on August 20.

- During an August 27 discussion on Arise TV's 'This Morning Show,' Edo LP governorship candidate Olumide Akpata claimed that APC and PDP ran the state for 25 years with nothing to show for it. He promised to deliver on electricity, agriculture, education and security if elected to office. The discussion was focused on campaign promises.

- In a related instance, "Edo APC campaigns in Ikpoba Okha communities, promises improved health and infrastructure," Channels TV reported on August 29.

- Also, "Governor Obaseki says election of PDP's Asue Ighodalo will sustain the reforms of the last eight years," ITV reported on August 30.

Whereas intra-party conflict and inter-party conflict received 8.6% (51 instances) and 2.9% (17 instances) of the coverage respectively, election petitions enjoyed 1.7% (10 instances).

- "Senator representing Borno South Ali Ndume has brokered a truce with the national working committee of APC over differences with the party which led to his removal as the Senate Chief Whip," NTA reported August 6, focusing on intra-party conflict.

- During a discussion segment of the August 7 edition of AIT programme 'Democracy Today,' Benue PDP media consultant Colinus Hwande said that Governor Ortom was suspended from the party for choosing LP candidate in last year's general election and asking PDP members to vote for APC in the yet-to-be-conducted 2027 presidential election. The discussion was also focused on intra-party conflict.

- During an August 12 interview on Channel TV's 'Politics Today,' reinstated Rivers APC chairman Emeka Beke threatened to take disciplinary action against defecting Rivers lawmakers if they failed to attend a planned APC stakeholder meeting. The intra-party conflict was the focus of the discussion. The lawmakers had defected from PDP but seemed uncommitted to their new platform.

- In an instance focused on inter-party conflict, "Edo 2024 election: PDP campaign says no truck of rice given to Edo state by FG, says APC shouldn't promote fallacy," ITV reported on August 5. Both parties traded words on a reported federal government food palliative programme.

- In another instance, "Rivers APC chairman Tony Okocha canvasses support for President Bola Tinubu, alleges that PDP's Governor Siminalayi Fubara sponsored nationwide protest in Rivers state," Channels TV reported on August 13.

- Also, Rivers APP calls for the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the explosion at its state secretariat in Port Harcourt," TVC news reported on August 14. "The improvised explosive device was allegedly planted by suspected political thugs who likely supported another party," the report said.

While election administration received 7.8% (46 instances) of the coverage, voter education received 1% (6 instances) of the coverage.

- "Edo guber: INEC tasks media on ethical conduct, asks them to apply for accreditation to cover off-cycle election," ITV reported on August 1, focusing on election administration.

- In a related instance, "Off-cycle elections: INEC registers 177,914 new voters ahead of elections," OGTV reported on August 5.

- In another instance, "LG election: Kano State Independent Electoral Commission set to conduct exercise," ITV reported on August 6.

- Also, "Ahead of the Ondo and Edo governorship elections, INEC has released the final list of voters as the continuous voter registration exercise ends in the two states," NTA reported on August 6.

- During an August 30 interview on Channels TV's 'Politics Today,' INEC chairman's spokesperson Rotimi Oyekanmi hinted at the commission's adequate preparation and planned mock accreditation in Edo state, adding that Edo residents have turned out well for the collection of voter cards.

- During the August 8 edition of LTV's 'The Conversation,' interviewee Barrister Tosin Akande opined that INEC's voter education department was not as active as necessary. The comment was focused on voter education.

- Also, during the August 15 edition of ITV programme 'This Morning on ITV,' new media expert and youth advocate Sarah Igunbor, political analyst Grant Osazuwa Aghedo and civil rights activist Armstrong Ovie-Afabor urged INEC and other stakeholders in the electoral process to embark on robust voter education to properly educate the electorate on the power of the ballot. The session was focused on voter education.

Security issues received 4.2% (25 instances) of the coverage while attacks on the media/journalists formed 0.8% (5 instances) of the reportage and discussions. Attacks on INEC and CSOs were not featured.

- "Explosive device detonates at APP secretariat in Port Harcourt, party leadership alleges that attack is political," Channels TV reported on August 12, focusing on election-related security issues.

- In another instance, "Security agencies promise adequate security during Edo and Ondo guber elections," Channels TV reported on August 14.

- Also, "INEC chairman Professor Mahmood Yakubu calls for vigilance ahead of Edo and Ondo governorship elections," Liberty TV reported on August 14.

- "Political parties to sign peace accord on September 12 ahead of Edo guber election," LTV reported on August 29.

- In an instance focused on attacks on the media/journalists, "Police attack protester, AIT correspondent in Abuja as nationwide hunger protests commence," AIT reported on August 1, focusing on security issues arising from the protest staged during the period in review.

- In a related instance, "Reacting to the nationwide protest, the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has condemned the harassment and intimidation of journalists by security operatives," OSRC TV reported on August 4.

- Also, "Nationwide protest subsides on day seven as governors relax curfew and hoodlums molest journalist," Channels TV reported on August 7.

Whereas women/gender issues and youth issues each received 1.2% (7 instances) of the coverage, PWD issues accounted for 0.2% (1 instance).

- During an August 14 interview on OGTV's 'Ijoba Awarawa,' APC politician Omolola Talabi spoke about the participation and inclusion of women in local government elections and other polls in the country. The discussion was focused on election-related women's issues.

- In an instance focused on youth issues, "Youth advocate Abdulsalam Ashade celebrates International Youth Day, says youth are not really involved in politics because of intimidation," LTV reported on August 13.

- In a related instance, "Catholic archbishop Onaiyekan asks politicians to give space to young people," Channels TV reported on August 13.

Misinformation received 0.3% (2 instances) of the coverage, while extreme/hate speech was neither reported nor discussed.

- Oseh Anenih, the director of strategy for Edo PDP guber candidate Asue Ighodalo's campaign organisation, claimed on August 8 that if propaganda was an Olympics sport, APC chieftain Adams Oshiomhole would have won a gold medal. The discussion was focused on alleged misinformation spread by the APC chieftain. He made the claim on Arise TV programme 'This Morning Show'.

- During the August 19 edition of the show, civil activist Ogbidi Emmanuel spoke about the challenges of curtailing the spread of election-related misinformation and propaganda on social media, placing most of the blame on political parties.

Other issues received 12.5% (74 instances) of the coverage.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION — BALANCE

Balanced reporting presents various perspectives and sources on significant election-related issues while maintaining journalism's obligation to provide context. In contrast, unbalanced reporting fails to do so. The selected television broadcasts were analysed to assess their adherence to this standard.
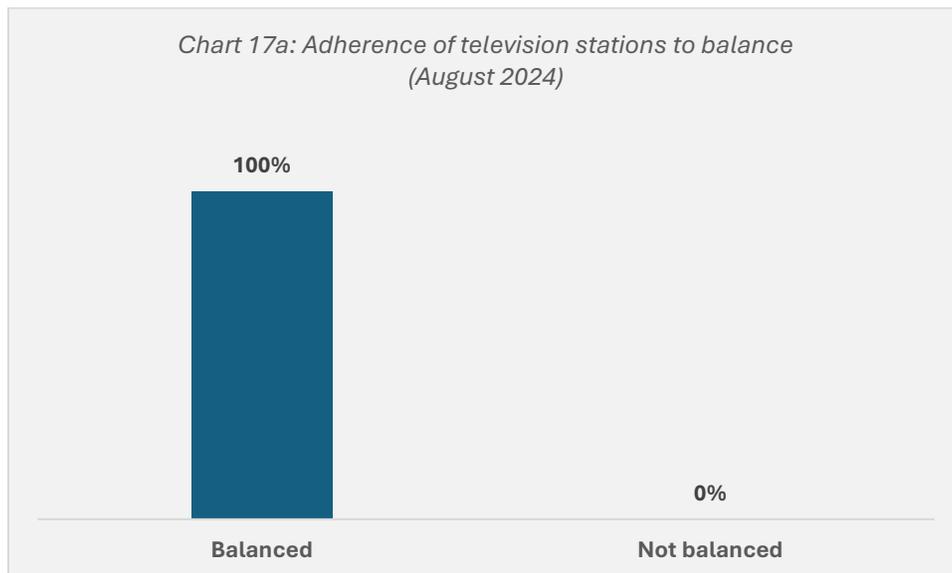

Chart 17a: Adherence of television stations to balance (August 2024)

100%

0%

Balanced   Not balanced

Chart 17a shows that 100% (123 applicable stories) of the television broadcasts were balanced.

Chart 17b: Adherence of government and privately owned television stations to balance (August 2024)

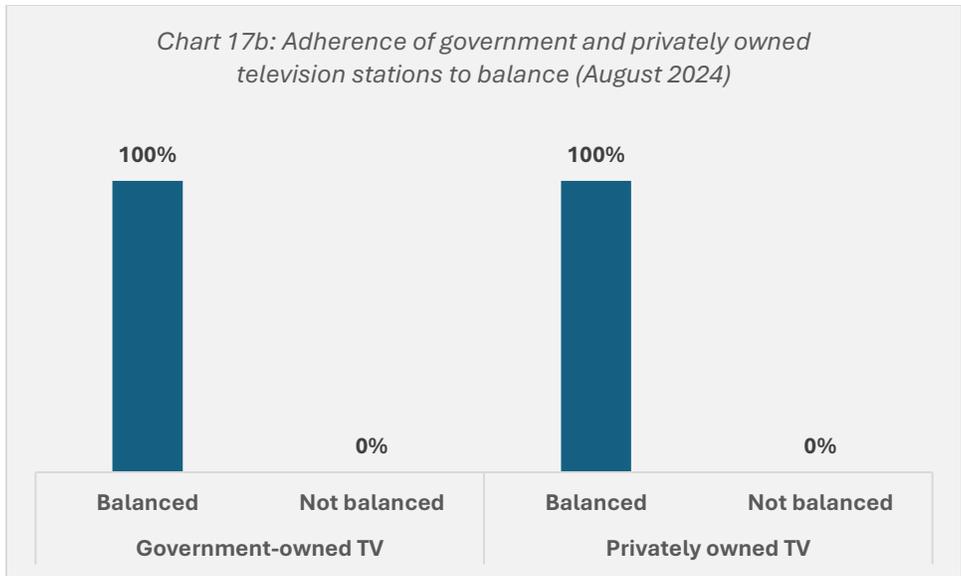|	Government-owned TV		Privately owned TV	
	Balanced	Not balanced	Balanced	Not balanced
	100%	0%	100%	0%

Chart 17b shows that 100% (12 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned television stations and 100% (111 stories) of the broadcasts from privately-owned television stations were balanced.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION — LANGUAGE

The selected television stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language in their programmes. The recorded incidents involved not only the media and its sources using provocative language but also those who actively opposed inflammatory rhetoric.
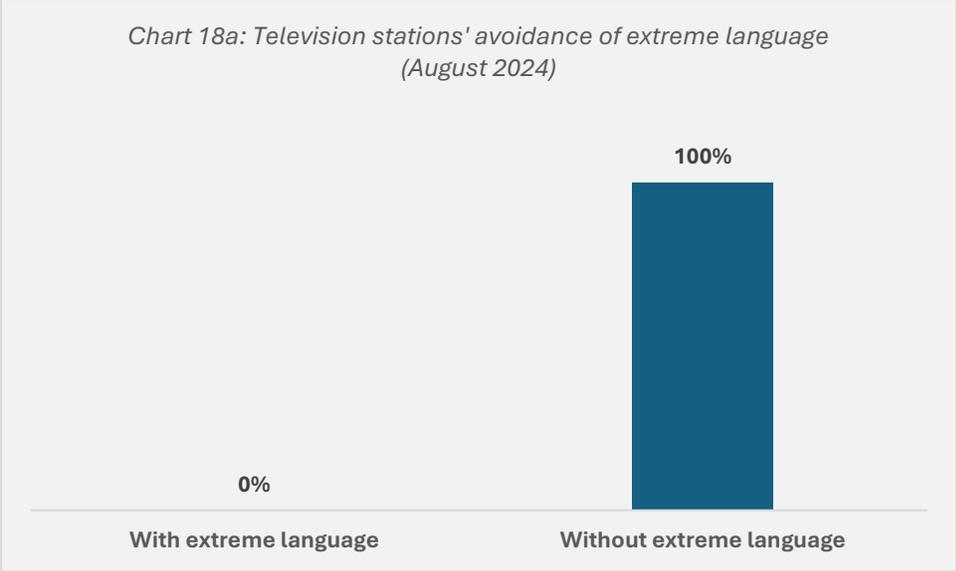
Chart 18a: Television stations' avoidance of extreme language (August 2024)

With extreme language	Without extreme language
0%	100%

Chart 18a shows that the television stations avoided extreme language in 100% (490 stories) of their programmes.

Chart 18b: Government and privately-owned television stations' avoidance of extreme language (August 2024)
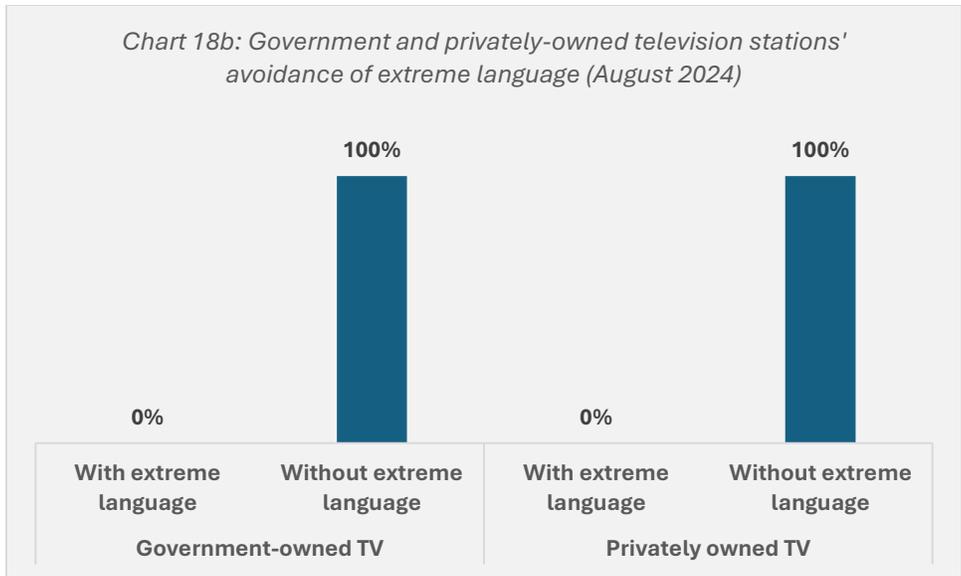
Chart 18b reveals that 100% (129 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned stations were free of extreme language. The same was true for the 361 stories from privately-owned television stations.

VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS ON TELEVISION

INCLUSION: VISIBILITY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS ON TELEVISION

This section assesses the visibility of vulnerable groups on television during the period in review, with a focus on gender, age and disability.

PWDs

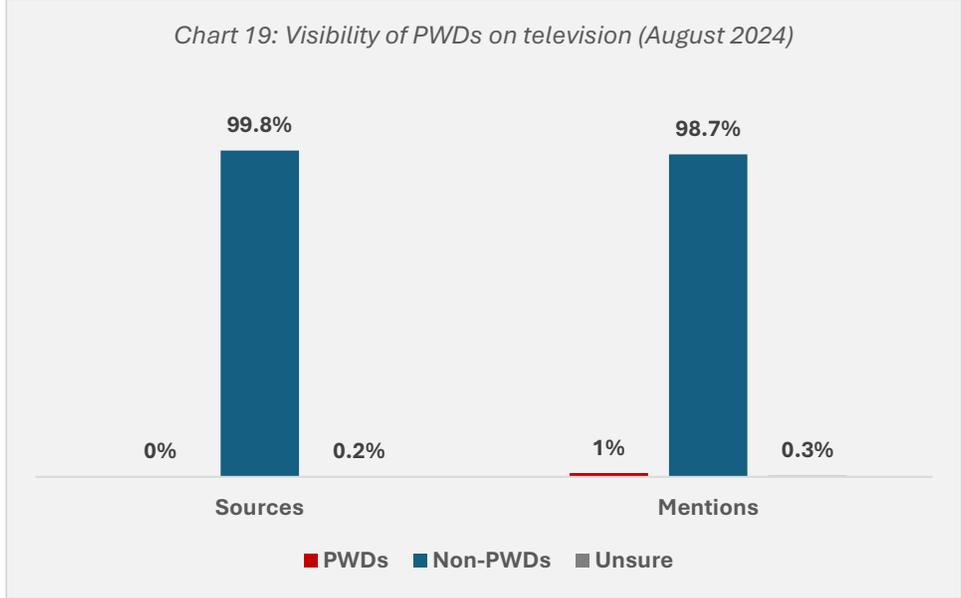*Chart 19: Visibility of PWDs on television (August 2024)*

Chart 19 shows that PWD actors represented 1% (3 out of 299 instances) of the sources, but they were not mentioned at all. In contrast, non-PWD actors comprised 99.8% (489 out of 490 instances) of the sources and 98.7% (295 instances) of the mentions. In 0.2% of sources (1 instance) and 0.3% of mentions (1 instance), the PWD status were indeterminate. This data reflects the previously noted low level of coverage (0.2%; 1 out of 591 instances) dedicated to PWD issues as illustrated in Chart 16.

Women

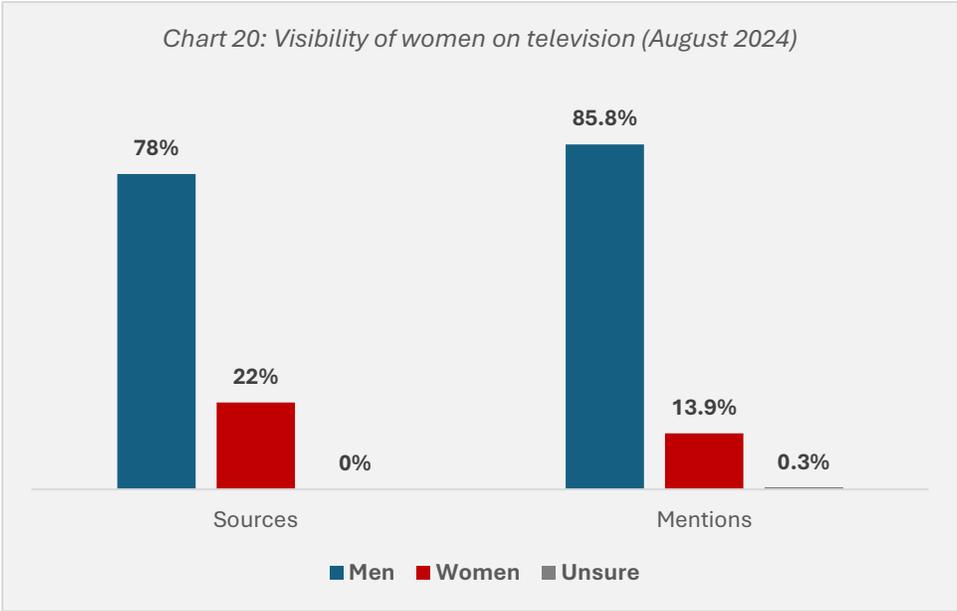*Chart 20: Visibility of women on television (August 2024)*

Chart 20 reveals that women made up 22% (112 out of 519 instances) of the sources and 13.9% (47 out of 338 instances) of the mentions, while men accounted for 78% (407 instances) of the sources and 85.8% (290 instances) of the mentions. There was one instance (0.3%) of mention where the gender context could not be determined. This data indicates that female actors were less visible compared to their male counterparts and reflects the previously noted low level of coverage (1.2%; 7 out of 591 instances) dedicated to women's issues as illustrated in Chart 16.

- "O'datiwa Women Initiative visits Ondo City, drums support for Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa," OSRC TV reported on August 20, using the special adviser to the governor on women affairs, Mrs Seun Osamaye, who led the team, as the source. Osamaye said the governor was passionate about women and their progress in society.

- In another instance, "Edo 2024: Edo House of Assembly deputy majority leader Natasha Osawaru visits stakeholders in Egor, urges them to vote for PDP guber candidate," ITV reported on August 21, using Osawaru, a woman, as the source of the television broadcast.

- In an instance in which women were mentioned, "Edo governorship election: APC leaders interact with progressive women in Edo state," ITV reported on August 1.

- In another instance, "Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa receives more PDP defectors to APC; the defectors were led by former PDP women leader Mrs Esther Ebiwanjumi, who said they were impressed by the governor's leadership style," OSRC TV reported on August 6.

- Also, "Muslim women in Ondo state have pitched their tent with Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa in the November 16 governorship election," OSRC TV reported on August 11.

Youth

The African Youth Charter[1] categorises individuals aged between 15 and 35 as youth. This report adopted the same age bracket. However, individuals older than 35 were also considered youth if they represented a youth group or initiative. Those younger than 15 are categorised as children.

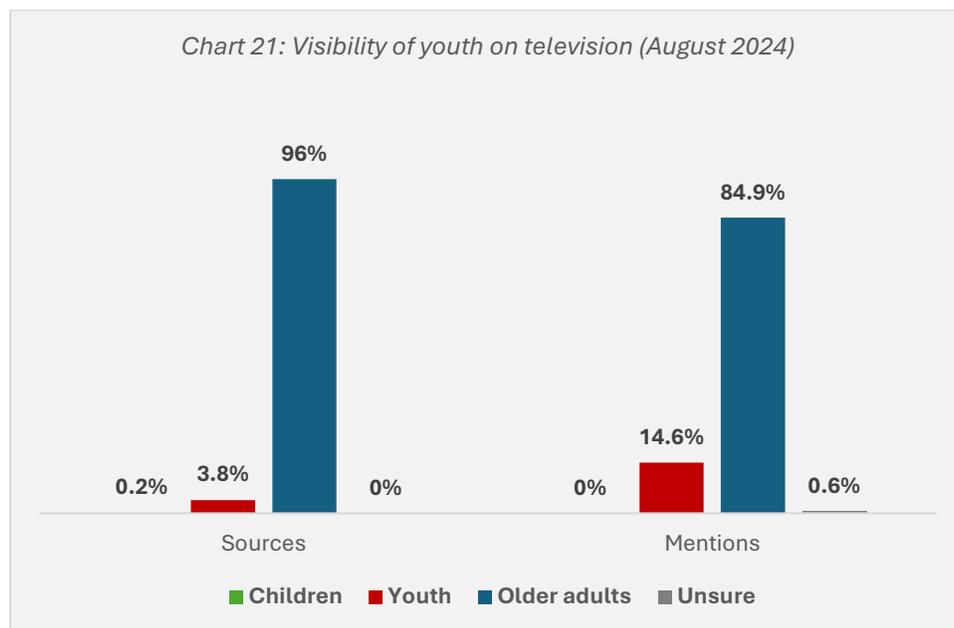*Chart 21: Visibility of youth on television (August 2024)*

Chart 21 shows that youth represented 3.8% (19 out of 499 instances) of the sources and 14.6% (52 out of 357 instances) of the mentions. In contrast, older adults comprised 96% (479 instances) of the sources and 84.9% (303 instances) of the mentions. Children accounted for 0.2% (1 instance) of the sources but received no mentions. Additionally, in two instances (0.6%), the mention was indeterminate. This data highlights the limited visibility of youth actors, reflecting the previously noted low level of coverage (1.2%; 7 out of 591 instances) dedicated to youth and election issues as shown in Chart 16.

- "Ondo chapter of National Youth Association endorses the re-election of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa," Channels TV reported on August 5, using the youth association as the source.

- During an August 9 discussion on Channels TV's 'Sunrise Daily,' IPAC chairman Yusuf Dantalle spoke about plans to promote youth inclusion. Youth were mentioned in the broadcast.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS FEATURED ON TELEVISION

This section focuses on the social status of the individual actors given attention in the relevant broadcasts on the selected television stations during the period in review. Aspirants/candidates, political office holders and other politicians occupy the political side of this categorisation while journalists/on-air-personalities (OAPs), public intellectuals/commentators, religious leaders and traditional rulers occupy the public side. The spouses of political aspirants/candidates and the spouses of political office holders are also included.

Chart 22a: Status of individual actors featured on television (August 2024)

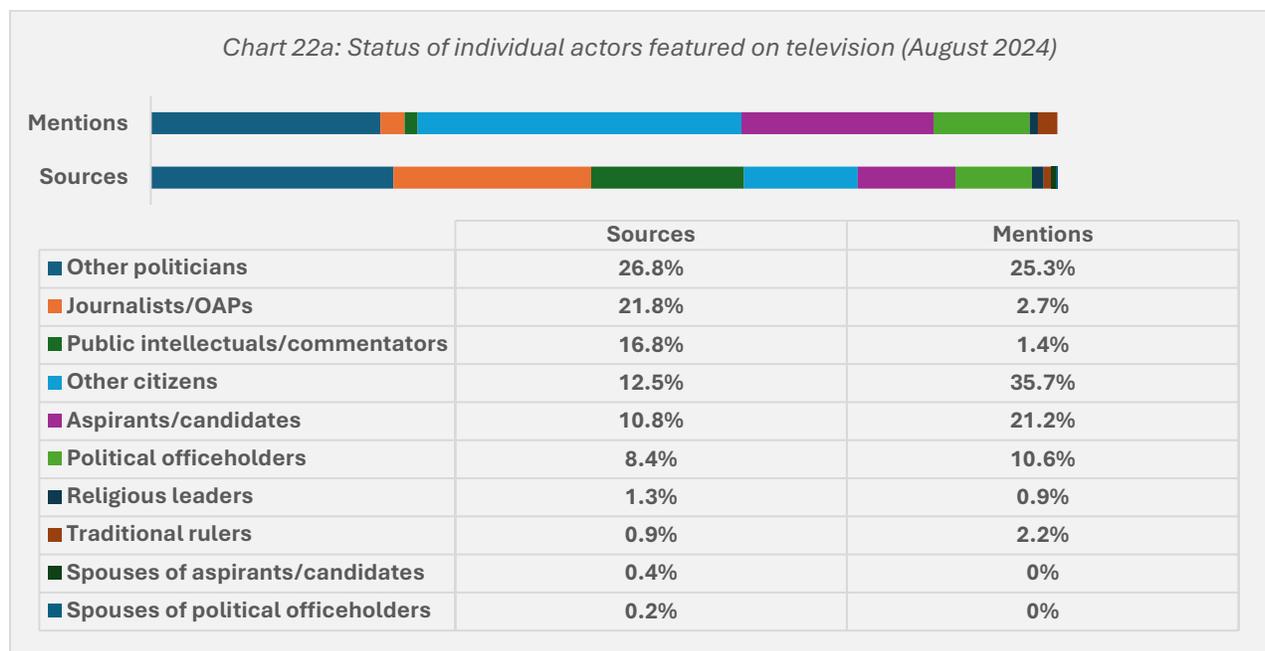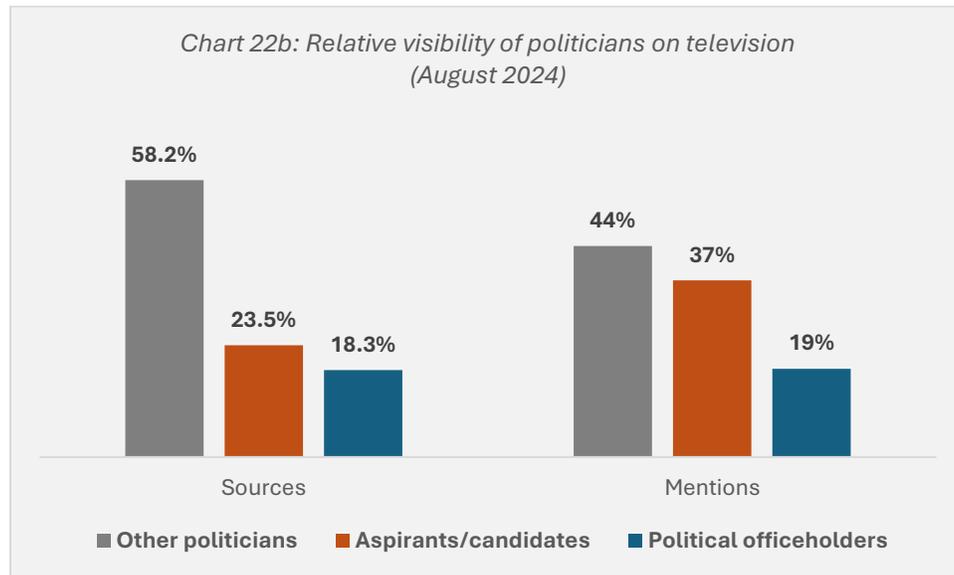|	Sources	Mentions
Other politicians	26.8%	25.3%
Journalists/OAPs	21.8%	2.7%
Public intellectuals/commentators	16.8%	1.4%
Other citizens	12.5%	35.7%
Aspirants/candidates	10.8%	21.2%
Political officeholders	8.4%	10.6%
Religious leaders	1.3%	0.9%
Traditional rulers	0.9%	2.2%
Spouses of aspirants/candidates	0.4%	0%
Spouses of political officeholders	0.2%	0%

Chart 22a shows aspirants/candidates constituted 10.8% (50 in 463 instances) of the sources and 21.2% (118 in 557 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders accounted for 8.4% (39 instances) of the sources and 10.6% (59 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians, many of whom were party chieftains, accounted for 26.8% (124 instances) of the sources and 25.3% (141 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of aspirants/candidates and the spouses of political officeholders made up 0.4% (2 instances) and 0.2% (1 instance) of the sources respectively but enjoyed no mention.

Journalists/OAPs represented 21.8% (101 instances) of the sources and 2.7% (15 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators made up 16.8% (78 instances) of the sources and 1.4% (8 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas religious leaders made up 1.3% (6 instances) of the sources and 0.9% (5 instances) of the mentions, traditional rulers accounted for 0.9% (4 instances) of the sources and 2.2% (12 instances) of the mentions.

Other citizens represented 12.5% (58 instances) of the sources and 35.7% (199 instances) of the mentions.

Since politicians are major players in elections, the comparative visibility of political office holders, aspirants/candidates and other politicians was analysed. The findings are presented in Chart 22b.

Chart 22b: Relative visibility of politicians on television (August 2024)

Aspirants/candidates, Chart 22b shows, constituted 23.5% (50 in 213 instances) of the sources and 37% (118 in 318 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders represented 18.3% (39 instances) of the sources and 19% (59 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians were more visible as they accounted for 58.2% (124 instances) of the sources and 44% (141 instances) of the mentions.

Chart 22c: Visibility of politicians and other citizens on television (August 2024)
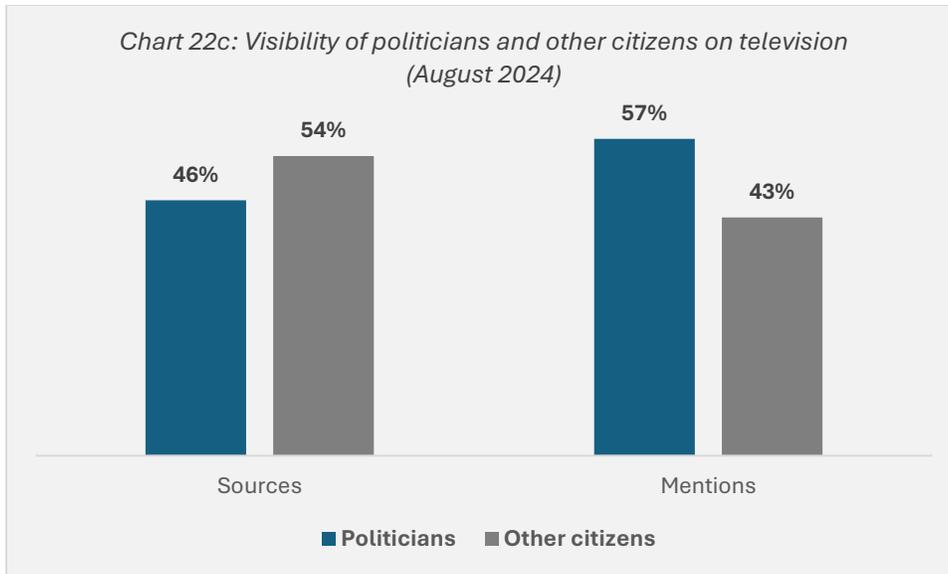
According to Chart 22c, politicians represented 46% (213 in 463 instances) of the sources and 57% (318 in 557 instances) of the mentions, while other citizens made up 54% (250 instances) of the sources and 43% (239 instances) of the mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS ON TELEVISION

Chart 23: Geographical distribution of actors on television (August 2024)
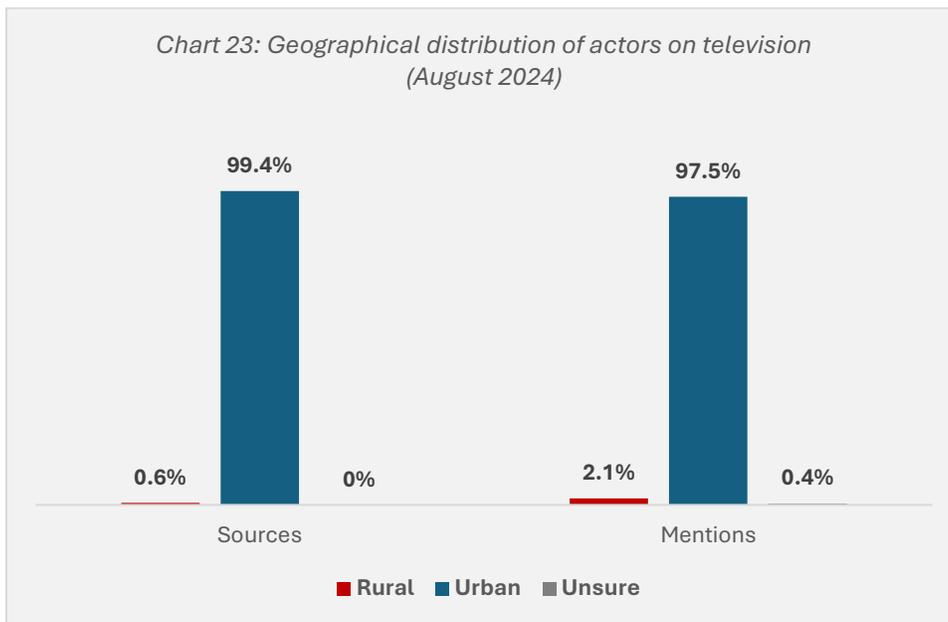
According to Chart 23, actors from rural locations constituted 0.6% (3 in 487 instances) of the sources and 2.1% (5 in 243 instances) of the mentions while those from urban locations accounted for 99.4% (484 instances) of the sources and 97.5% (237 instances) of the mentions. The location could not be determined in one instance of mention (0,4%).

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON TELEVISION

The corporate actors include political parties, governments and their government agencies, interest groups and foreign actors.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Chart 24: Visibility of political parties on television (August 2024)

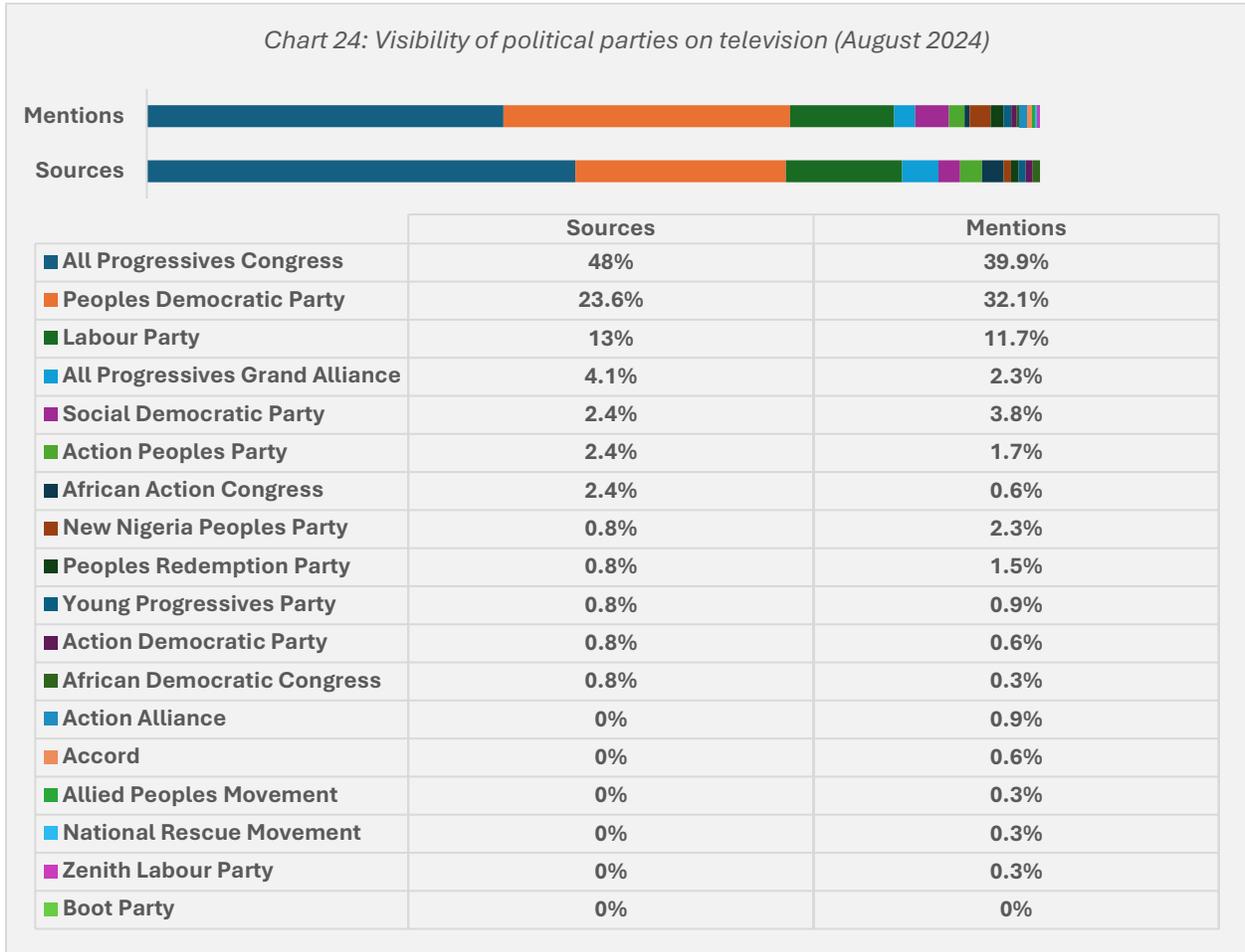|	Sources	Mentions
■ All Progressives Congress	48%	39.9%
■ Peoples Democratic Party	23.6%	32.1%
■ Labour Party	13%	11.7%
■ All Progressives Grand Alliance	4.1%	2.3%
■ Social Democratic Party	2.4%	3.8%
■ Action Peoples Party	2.4%	1.7%
■ African Action Congress	2.4%	0.6%
■ New Nigeria Peoples Party	0.8%	2.3%
■ Peoples Redemption Party	0.8%	1.5%
■ Young Progressives Party	0.8%	0.9%
■ Action Democratic Party	0.8%	0.6%
■ African Democratic Congress	0.8%	0.3%
■ Action Alliance	0%	0.9%
■ Accord	0%	0.6%
■ Allied Peoples Movement	0%	0.3%
■ National Rescue Movement	0%	0.3%
■ Zenith Labour Party	0%	0.3%
■ Boot Party	0%	0%

Chart 24 shows that All Progressives Congress (APC) was the most featured political party in this category, accounting for 48% (59 in 123 instances) of the sources and 39.9% (137 in 343 instances) of the mentions.

- During the August 12 edition of OSRC TV programme 'AM Today,' an APC youth leader in the Southwest, Mr Kolade Lawal, said that Nigerian youth have invested too much in nation building to be politically marginalised. Lawal commented in commemoration of the 2024 International Youth Day. The session presented an instance in which an APC actor was the source of a television broadcast during the period in review.

- In another instance, "Edo APC takes campaign to Edo central, promises development," Channels TV reported on August 14.

- Also, "Edo APC takes campaign to Auchi, promises better water supply," Channels TV reported on August 15.

- In an instance in which APC was mentioned, "Edo governorship election: APC leaders interact with progressive women in Edo state," ITV reported on August 1.

- In another instance, "Edo APC candidate Monday Okpebholo meets with professionals, business community as he makes promises for a better Edo," AIT reported on August 28.

- Also, "APC Youth Wing hints on four-year plan for youth development," LTV reported on August 8.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) constituted 23.6% (29 instances) of the sources and 32.1% (110 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) represented 13% (16 instances) of the sources and 11.7% (40 instances) of the mentions.

- "Edo 2024 election: Edo state PDP media campaign council urges political opponents to shun campaign of calumny," ITV reported on August 15, featuring PDP.

- In another instance, "PDP inaugurates reconciliatory and disciplinary committees, intends to settle intra-party conflicts," Channels TV reported on August 21.

- In an instance in which LP was featured, "LP guber candidate Olumide Akpata arrives Benin to commence second round of campaigns," ITV reported on August 13.

- On August 15, Ayo Olorunfemi claimed on Channels TV's 'Sunrise Daily' that he was the authentic governorship candidate of LP in Ondo state, adding that any factional candidate was an imposter.

All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) represented 4.1% (5 instances) of the sources and 2.3% (8 instances) of the mentions.

Social Democratic Party (SDP), Action Peoples Party (APP) and African Action Congress (AAC) each accounted for 2.4% (3 instances) of the sources, as well as 3.8% (13 instances), 1.7% (6 instances) and 0.6% (2 instances) of the mentions respectively.

New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Young Progressives Party (YPP), Action Democratic Party (ADP) and African Democratic Congress (ADC) each

constituted 0.8% (1 instance) of the sources, as well as 2.3% (8 instances), 1.5% (5 instances), 0.9% (3 instances), 0.6% (2 instances) and 0.3% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively.

Action Alliance (AA) and Accord made up 0.9% (3 instances) and 0.6% (2 instances) of the mentions respectively but were not used as sources. The same was true for Allied Peoples Movement (APM), National Rescue Movement (NRM) and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), each of which accounted for 0.3% (1 instance) of the mentions.

Boot Party (BP) was not featured.

GOVERNMENT

This section focuses on the visibility of the federal and state arms of government — the executive, the judiciary and the legislature — in relevant television programmes during the period under review. It also compares the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government.

Federal government

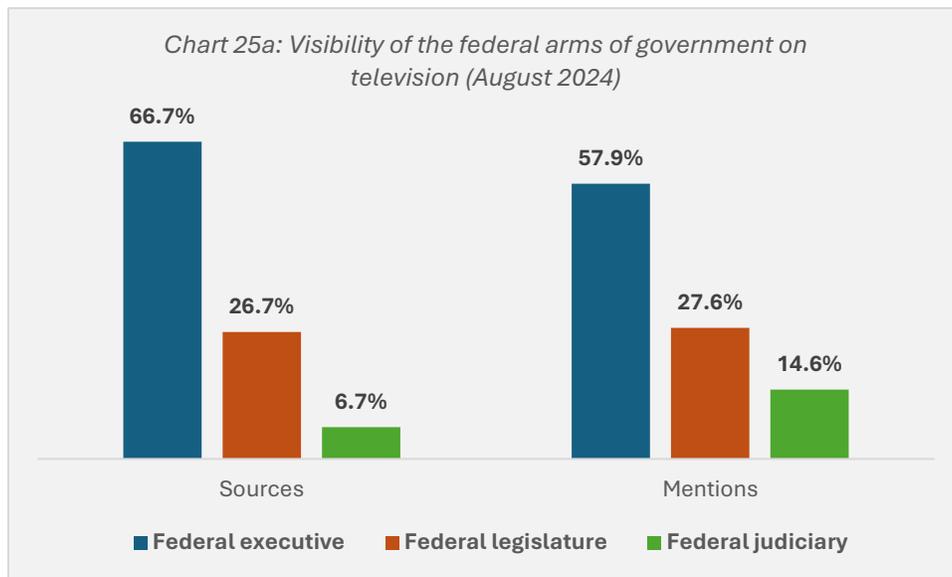Chart 25a: Visibility of the federal arms of government on television (August 2024)

Chart 25a shows that the federal executive constituted 66.7% (20 in 30 instances) of the sources and 57.9% (147 in 254 instances) of the mentions while the federal legislature accounted for 26.7% (8 instances) of the sources and 27.6% (70 instances) of the mentions. The federal judiciary made up 6.7% (2 instances) of the sources and 14.6% (37 instances) of the mentions.

State governments

Chart 25b: Visibility of the state arms of government on television (August 2024)
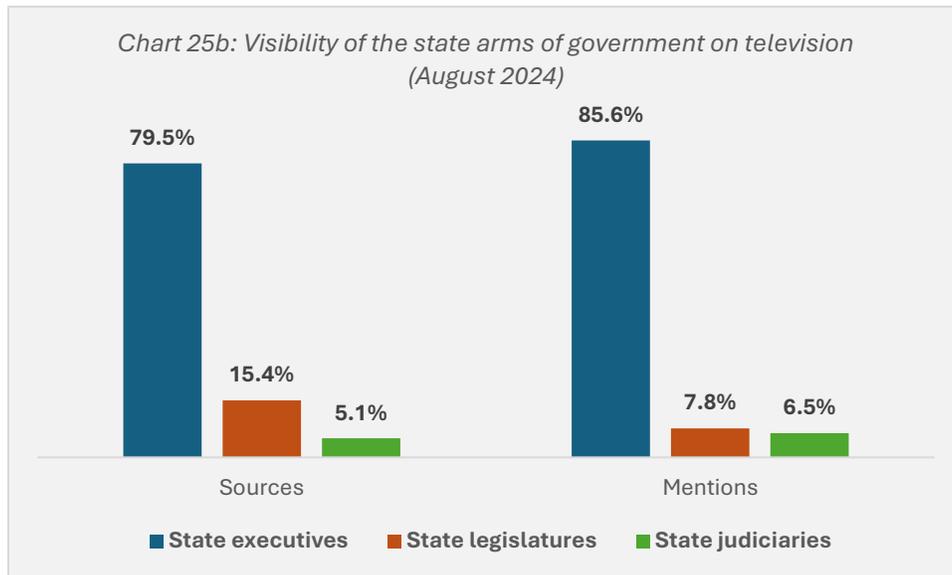
According to Chart 25b, state executives accounted for 79.5% (31 in 39 instances) of the sources and 85.6% (131 in 153 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures constituted 15.4% (6 instances) of the sources and 7.8% (12 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries represented 5.1% (2 instances) of the sources and 6.5% (10 instances) of the mentions.

LCDAs and LGAs

Chart 25c: Visibility of LCDAs and LGAs on television (August 2024)
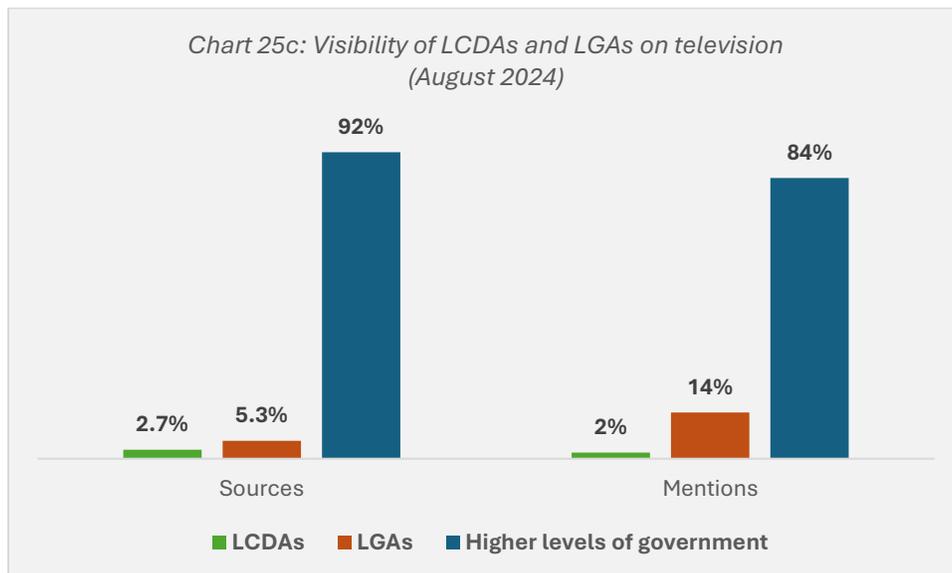
According to Chart 25c, LCDAs represented 2.7% (2 in 75 instances) of the sources and 2% (9 in 483 instances) of the mentions while LGAs accounted for 5.3% (4 instances) of the sources and 14% (67 instances) of the mentions. The higher levels of government received the most

attention, accounting for 92% (69 instances) of the sources and 84% (407 instances) of the mentions.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

This section assesses the visibility of government agencies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies which conduct and safeguard the elections, state government agencies, and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) is also analysed.

Chart 26: Visibility of government agencies on television (August 2024)
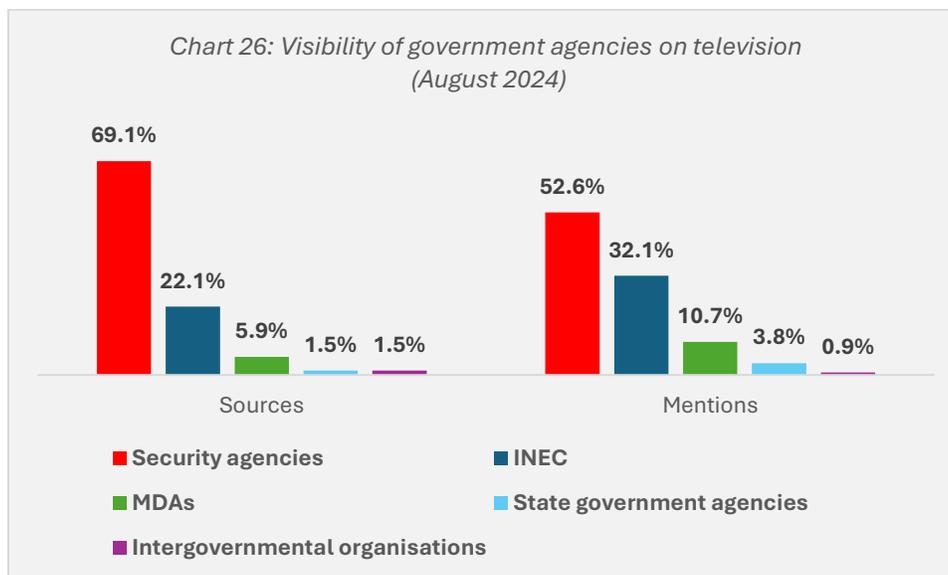
Chart 26 shows that security agencies received the most attention in this category, accounting for 69.1% (47 in 68 instances) of the sources and 52.6% (123 in 234 instances) of the mentions. INEC represented 22.1% (15 instances) of the sources and 32.1% (75 instances) of the mentions. MDAs accounted for 5.9% (4 instances) of the sources and 10.7% (25 instances) of the mentions. State government agencies and intergovernmental organisations each constituted 1.5% (1 instance) of the sources, as well as 3.8% (9 instances) and 0.9% (2 instances) of the mentions.

- Security agencies were mostly featured in television broadcasts focused on the 'End Bad Governance' protests. For instance, "The Chief of Defence Staff, Christopher Musa, said President Tinubu has ordered crackdown on the protesters flying Russian flag in the name of protest against hardship in the country," Liberty TV reported on August 7.

- Channels TV also reported on August 7 that "Army arrest soldier for killing protester in Kaduna".

- "Off-cycle election: INEC calls for vigilance of security agencies ahead of the election," OGVT reported on August 14, featuring INEC.

- Also, "INEC promises credible off-cycle elections," Channels TV reported on August 16.

- In another instance in which a government agency was featured, "The Ministry of Labour and Employment has cautioned the Joe Ajaero-led Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) against interfering in the activities of the Labour Party (LP) and other political parties as this contravenes the Act that established the unions," AIT reported on August 7.

INTEREST GROUPS

This section addresses the visibility of corporate actors such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that play critical roles in the election process. It also addresses the visibility of faith-based organisations (FBOs), sociocultural groups, government-organised NGOs and political support groups (PSGs).

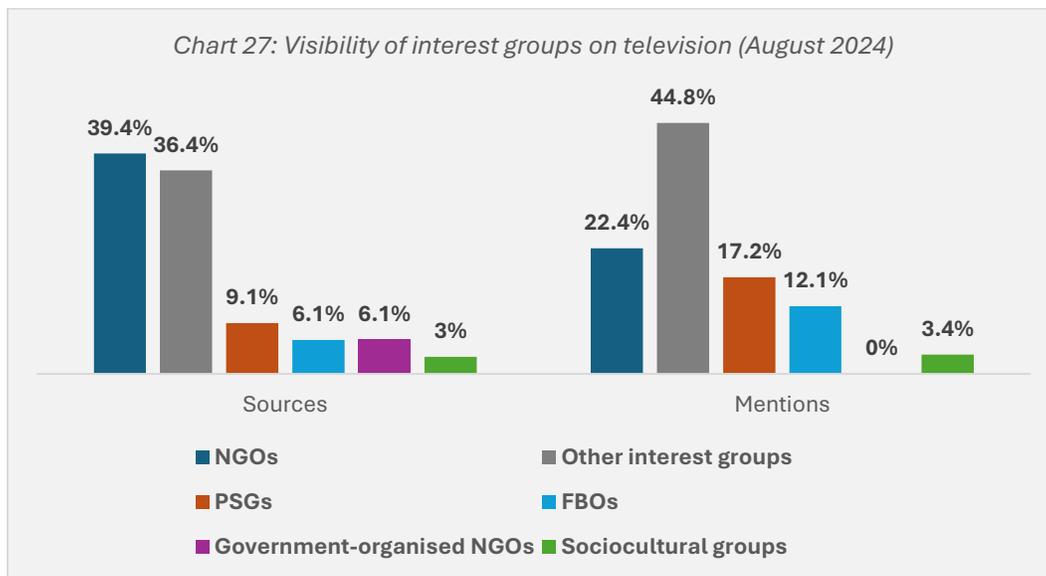Chart 27: Visibility of interest groups on television (August 2024)

Chart 27 shows that NGOs constituted 39.4% (13 in 33 instances) of the sources and 22.4% (13 in 58 instances) of the mentions while PSGs comprised 9.1% (3 instances) of the sources and 17.2% (10 instances) of the mentions. FBOs and government-organised NGOs each accounted for 6.1% (2 instances) of the sources, with the former representing 12.1% (7 instances) of the mentions while the latter was not mentioned. Sociocultural groups made up 3% (1 instance) of the sources and 3.4% (2 instances) of the mentions while other interest groups accounted for 36.4% (12 instances) of the sources and 44.8% (26 instances) of the mentions.

- "Edo 2024: NOCSON urges Nigeria Police to do the needful in upcoming gubernatorial election and INEC to conduct a free and credible poll," ITV reported on August 13, featuring an NGO.

- In another instance in which an interest group was featured in an election-related broadcast during the period in review, "Edo 2024 election: Coalition of registered political parties, CRPP, endorses Asue and Ogie candidacy," ITV reported on August 13.

FOREIGN ACTORS

This section concerns the visibility of foreign actors such as embassies, high commissions, international NGOs and foreign government representatives in the television broadcasts.

Chart 28: Visibility of foreign actors on television (August 2024)
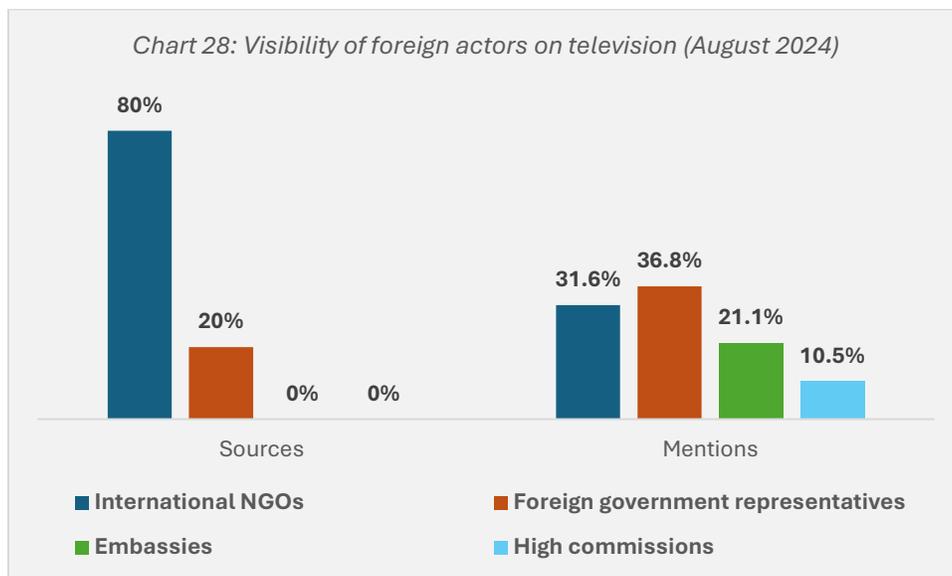
Chart 28 shows that four (80%) out of the five sources and 31.6% (6 in 19 instances) of the mentions were international NGOs while a fifth (20%) of the sources and 36.8% (7 instances) of the mentions were foreign government representatives. Embassies and high commissions accounted for 21.1% (4 instances) and 10.5% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

- "European Union leadership meets with INEC, promises support for Nigeria's democracy," LTV reported on August 8, featuring a foreign actor.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In August 2024, news reports comprised 73% of the television programmes analysed, while discussions and interviews made up 19% and 8% of the program types respectively. The television stations adhered to the principle of balance, achieving this 100% of the time, and did not employ inflammatory rhetoric. However, they fell short in terms of inclusiveness, with

women's and youth issues each receiving only 1.2% of the coverage, while issues related to persons with disabilities (PWDs) accounted for a mere 0.2% of the thematic focus. The predominant themes included citizen participation (31%) and campaign activities/strategies (15.7%).

Moreover, female (22% sources; 13.9% mentions), youth (3.8% sources; 14.6% mentions), and PWD (1% mentions) actors were less visible compared to their male, older adult and non-PWD counterparts. The most featured political parties were the APC (48% sources; 39.9% mentions), PDP (23.6% sources; 32.1% mentions) and LP (13% sources; 11.7% mentions).

Security agencies were more prominent than INEC, with 69.1% of sources and 52.6% of mentions, while the electoral body accounted for 22.1% of sources and 32.1% of mentions. Both actors received more attention than MDAs, which had 5.9% of sources and 10.7% of mentions, as well as other government agencies combined.

LCDAs (2.7% sources; 2% mentions) and LGAs (5.3% sources; 14% mentions) were less visible than higher levels of government (92% sources; 84% mentions), while NGOs (39.4% sources; 22.4% mentions) were more prominent than PSGs, FBOs and sociocultural groups.

In the category of foreign actors, four out of five sources and 31.6% of the mentions were attributed to international NGOs, while a fifth of the sources and 36.8% of the mentions were from foreign government representatives. Embassies and high commissions accounted for 21.1% and 10.5% of the mentions respectively but were not utilised as sources.

PART III

COMBINED REPORT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS

A total of 891 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 401 contents from the radio stations and 490 contents from the television stations.

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY

News reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected radio and television stations.

Chart 29: Boadcast programming formats (August 2024)
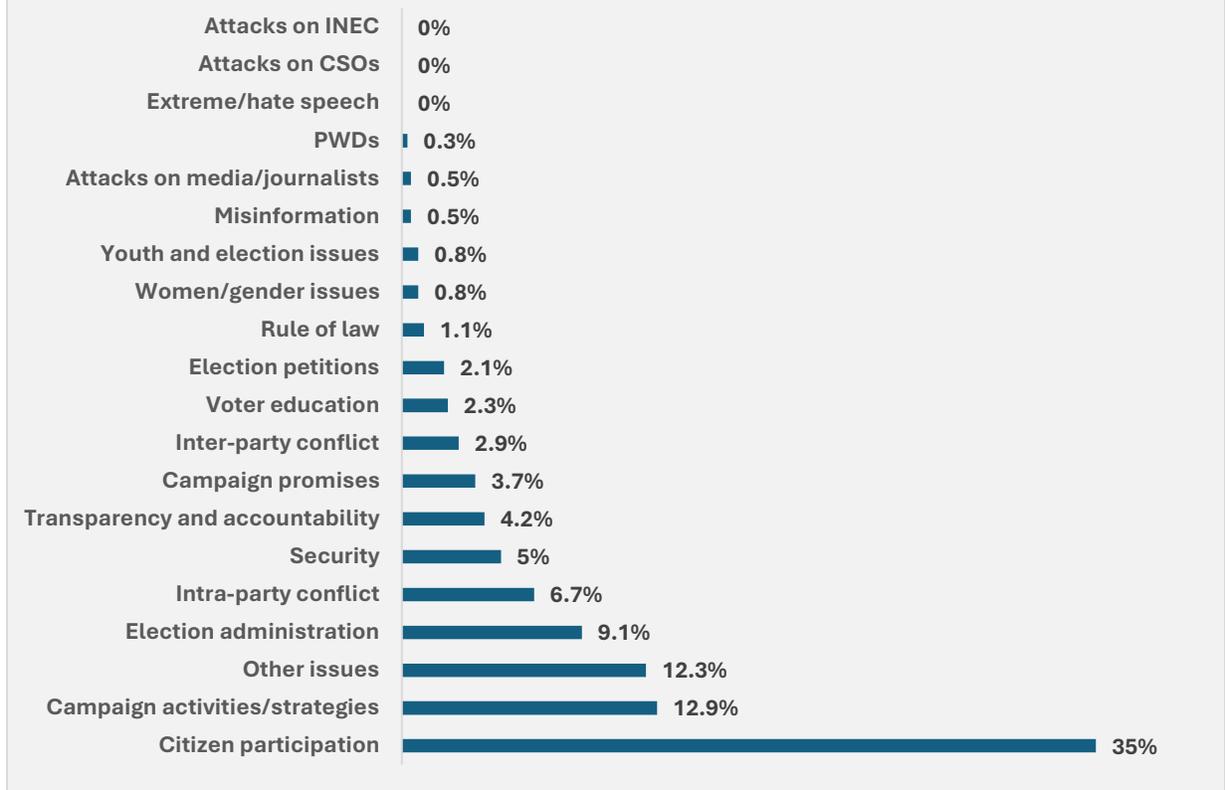
- News reports 74%
- Discussions 19%
- Interviews 7%
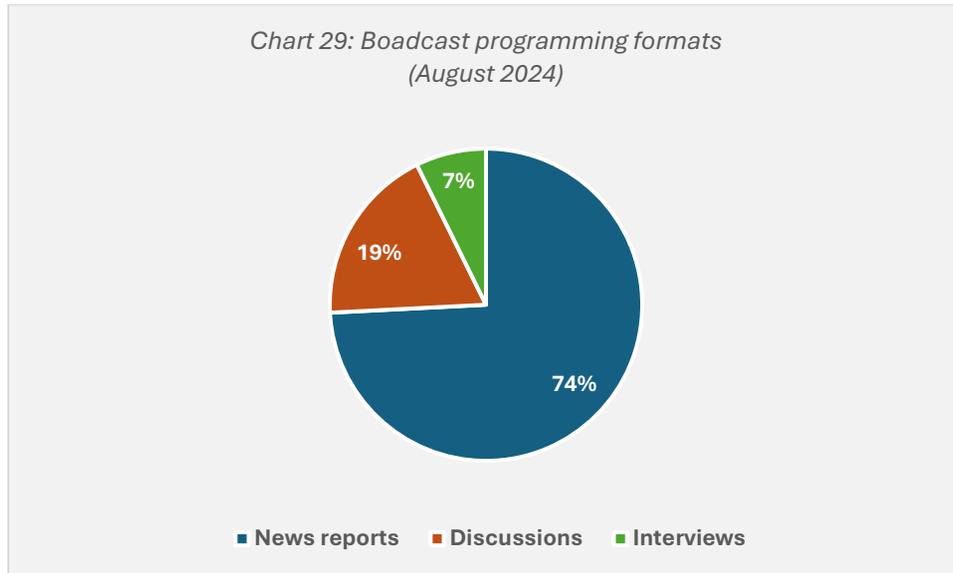
Out of the contents analysed during the period in review, 661 were packaged as news reports, representing, as Chart 29 shows, 74% of the contents. The remaining radio and television broadcasts were packaged as discussions (19%; 165 stories) and interviews (7%; 65 stories).

THEMATIC EMPHASIS

Thematic focus highlights identified topics or issues that dominated the monitored radio and television broadcasts.

Chart 30: Thematic focus of broadcasts (August 2024)

Theme	Percentage
Attacks on INEC	0%
Attacks on CSOs	0%
Extreme/hate speech	0%
PWDs	0.3%
Attacks on media/journalists	0.5%
Misinformation	0.5%
Youth and election issues	0.8%
Women/gender issues	0.8%
Rule of law	1.1%
Election petitions	2.1%
Voter education	2.3%
Inter-party conflict	2.9%
Campaign promises	3.7%
Transparency and accountability	4.2%
Security	5%
Intra-party conflict	6.7%
Election administration	9.1%
Other issues	12.3%
Campaign activities/strategies	12.9%
Citizen participation	35%

According to Chart 30, citizen participation was the most reported and discussed theme, accounting for 35% (378 in 1081 instances) of the coverage. Transparency and accountability received 4.2% (45 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law enjoyed 1.1% (12 instances) of the attention.

Whereas campaign activities/strategies and campaign promises received 12.9% (139 instances) and 3.7% (40 instances) of the coverage, election administration and voter education accounted for 9.1% (98 instances) and 2.3% (25 instances) of the attention respectively.

Intra-party conflict and inter-party conflict received 6.7% (72 instances) and 2.9% (31 instances) of the coverage respectively while election petitions accounted for 2.1% (23 instances) of the coverage.

Security issues accounted for 5% (54 instances) of the coverage while attacks on media/journalists represented 0.5% (5 instances) of the reportage and conversations. Attacks on INEC and CSOs were not featured.

Whereas women/gender issues and youth issues each accounted for 0.8% (9 instances) of the coverage, PWD issues represented 0.3% (3 instances) of the coverage.

Misinformation received 0.5% (5 instances) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech was not featured. Other issues accounted for 12.3% (133 instances) of the coverage.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES — BALANCE

Balanced reporting presents a variety of perspectives and sources on relevant issues while maintaining journalism's obligation to provide context. In contrast, unbalanced reporting fails to do so. The selected radio and television broadcasts were analysed to assess their adherence to this standard.
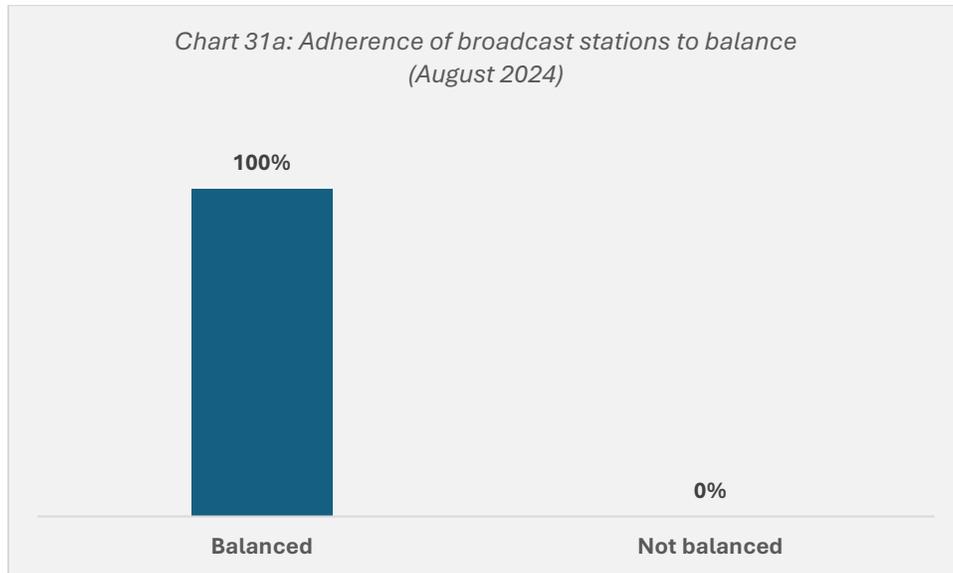

Chart 31a: Adherence of broadcast stations to balance (August 2024)

Chart 31a shows that 100% (150 stories) of the applicable broadcasts were balanced.

Chart 31b: Adherence of government and privately-owned stations to balance (August 2024)
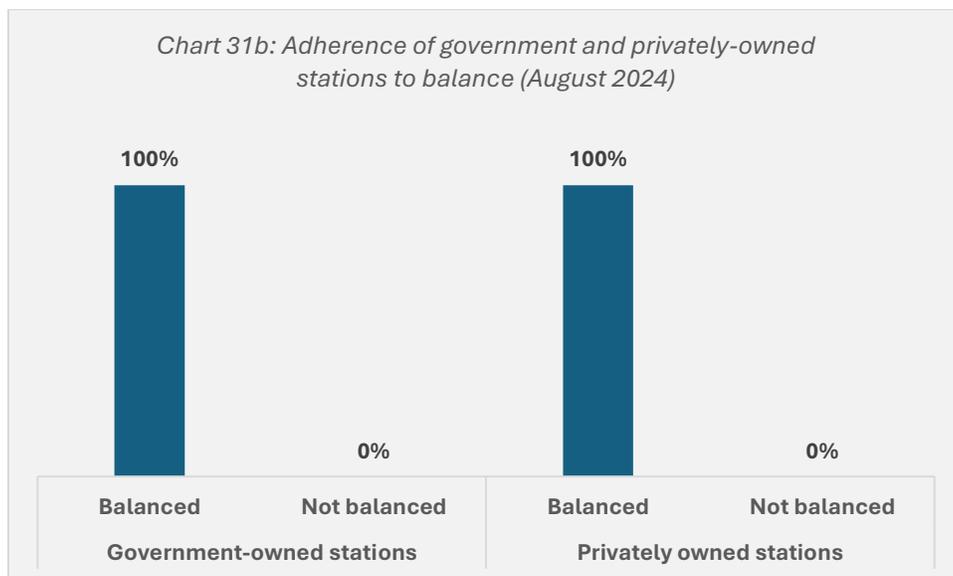
Chart 31b shows that 100% (16 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned stations and 100% (134 stories) of the broadcasts from privately-owned stations were balanced.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES — LANGUAGE

Extreme language can incite hatred, prejudice and/or violence towards specific individuals or groups within society. The selected radio and television stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language and avoidance of extreme speech in their election-related programming. The incidents captured instances of provocative media coverage and counteractions against inflammatory rhetoric.
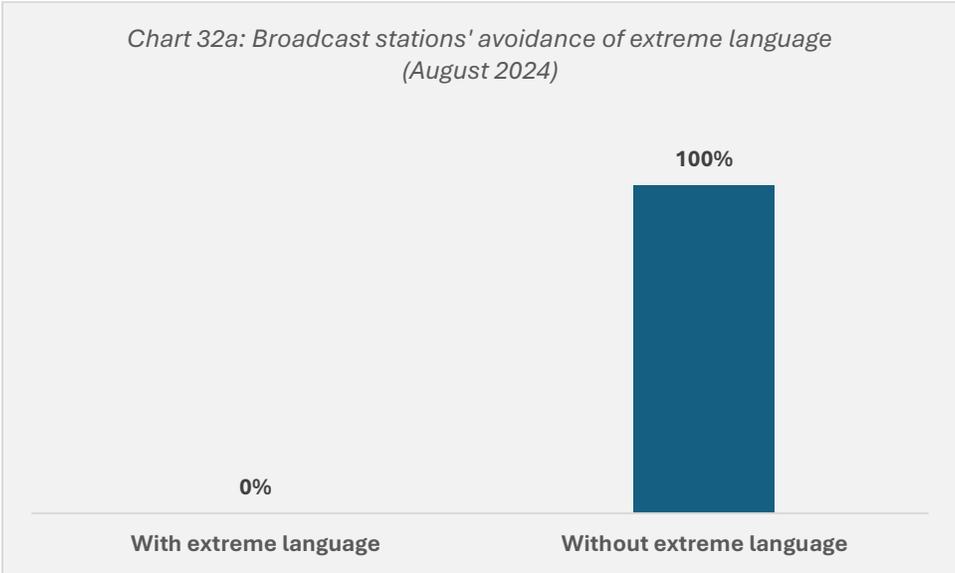

Chart 32a: Broadcast stations' avoidance of extreme language (August 2024)

Chart 32a shows that the broadcast stations avoided extreme language in 100% (891 stories) of their programmes.

Chart 32b: Government and privately-owned stations' avoidance of extreme language (August 2024)
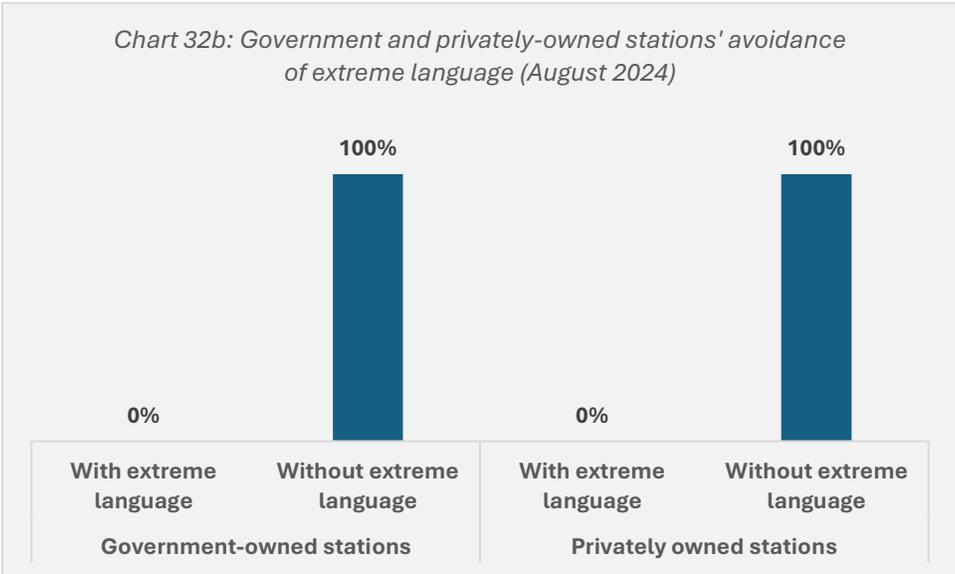
Chart 32b reveals that none of the 214 programmes from government-owned stations and the 677 programmes from privately-owned stations contained extreme language.

VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS

INCLUSION: VISIBILITY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS

This section assesses the visibility of vulnerable groups in the radio and television broadcasts during the period in review with a focus on their gender, age and disability.

PWDs

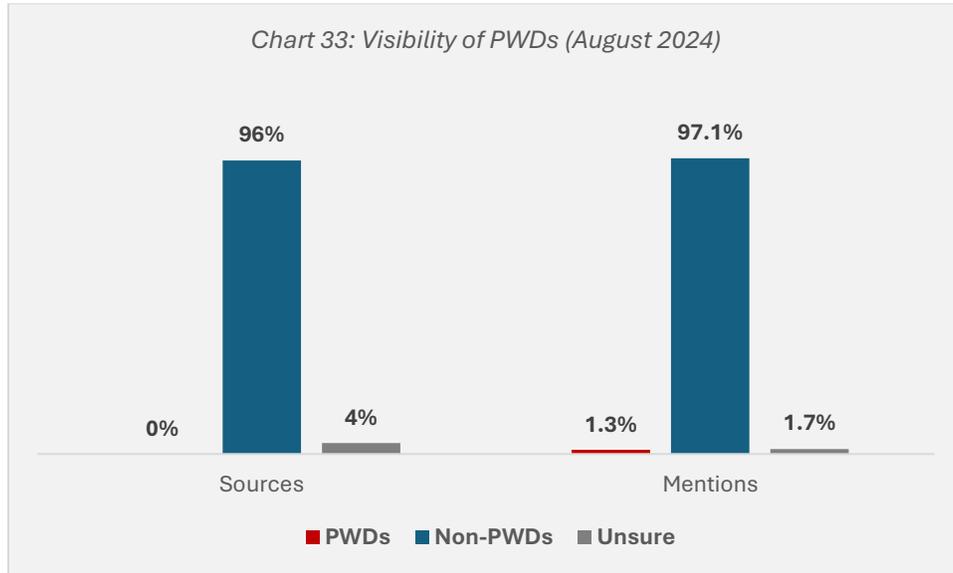Chart 33: Visibility of PWDs (August 2024)

Chart 33 shows that PWDs made up 1.3% of the mentions (6 out of 480 instances) but were not cited as sources. In contrast, non-PWD actors represented 96% of the sources (836 out of 867 instances) and 97.1% of the mentions (466 instances). In 4% of sources (31 instances) and 1.7% of mentions (8 instance)s, the PWD status could not be determined. This data reflects the low coverage (0.3%; 3 out of 1081 instances) dedicated to PWD issues as previously noted in Chart 30.

Women

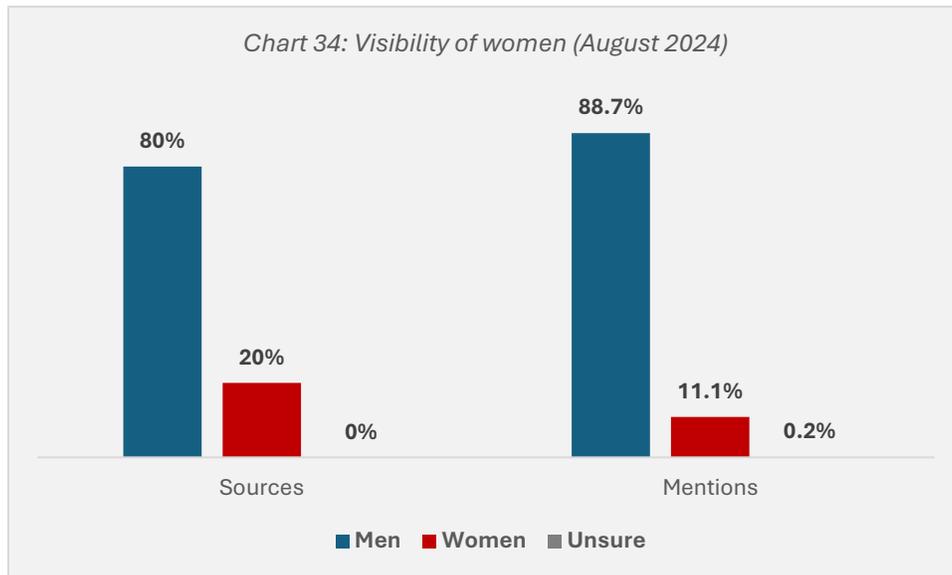Chart 34: Visibility of women (August 2024)

Chart 34 reveals that women constituted 20% of the sources (188 out of 921 instances) and 11.1% of the mentions (61 out of 550 instances), while men made up 80% of the sources (733 instances) and 88.7% of the mentions (488 instances). In one instance (0.2%), the gender context could not be determined. The data indicates that women were less visible compared to their male counterparts, reflecting the limited coverage (0.8%; 9 out of 1081 instances) dedicated to women's issues as previously highlighted in Chart 30.

Youth

The African Youth Charter[1] categorises individuals aged between 15 and 35 as youth. This report adopted the same age bracket. However, individuals older than 35 were also considered youth if they represented a youth group or initiative. Those younger than 15 are categorised as children.
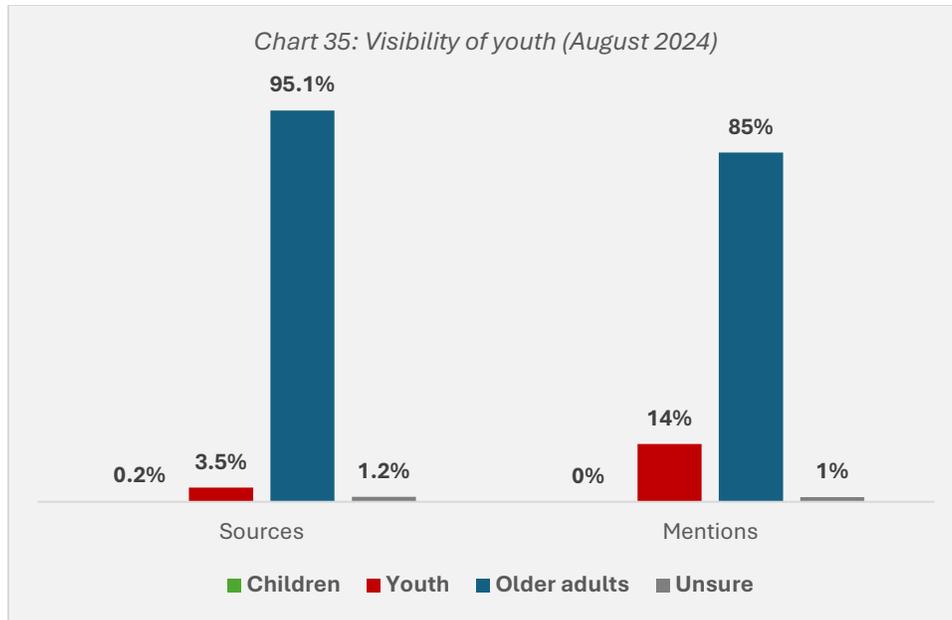
Chart 35: Visibility of youth (August 2024)

Chart 35 shows that youth comprised 3.5% of the sources (31 out of 890 instances) and 14% of the mentions (88 out of 627 instances) within this category. In contrast, older adults accounted for a significant 95.1% of the sources (846 instances) and 85% of the mentions (532 instances). Child actors represented a mere 0.2% of the sources (2 instances) and were not mentioned at all. Additionally, in 11 instances (1.2%) and 7 instances (1%) respectively, the sources and mentions could not be identified. This limited visibility of youth actors reflects the overall minimal coverage (0.8%; 9 out of 1081 instances) dedicated to youth as previously indicated in Chart 30.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS

This section of the report deals with the social status of the individual actors featured in the broadcasts during the period in review. Whereas aspirants/candidates, political officeholders and other politicians occupy the 'political side' of this segment, journalists/on-air personalities (OAPs), public intellectuals/commentators, religious leaders, and traditional rulers, coded as 'other citizens' in Chart 36c, occupy its 'public side'. The visibility of the spouses of politicians was also analysed.

**Chart 36a: Status of individual actors (August 2024)**
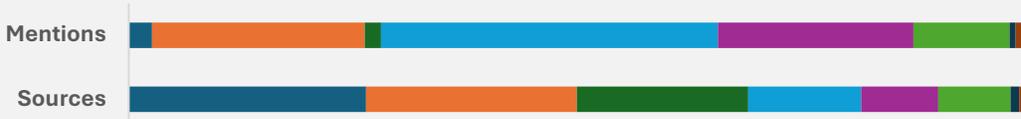
	Sources	Mentions
■ Journalist/OAPs	26.4%	2.6%
■ Other politicians	23.4%	23.6%
■ Public intellectuals/commentators	19%	1.8%
■ Other citizens	12.6%	37.5%
■ Aspirants/candidates	8.6%	21.7%
■ Political officeholders	8%	10.7%
■ Religious leaders	0.9%	0.7%
■ Traditional rulers	0.7%	1.5%
■ Spouses of aspirants/candidates	0.3%	0%
■ Spouses of political officeholders	0.1%	0%

According to Chart 36a, journalists/OAPs accounted for 26.4% (197 in 747 instances) of the sources and 2.6% (23 in 889 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators represented 19% (142 instances) of the sources and 1.8% (16 instances) of the mentions.

Aspirants/candidates constituted 8.6% (64 instances) of the sources and 21.7% (193 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders represented 8% (60 instances) of the sources and 10.7% (95 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians accounted for 23.4% (175 instances) of the sources and 23.6% (210 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas religious leaders constituted 0.9% (7 instances) of the sources and 0.7% (6 instances) of the mentions, traditional rulers accounted for 0.7% (5 instances) of the sources and 1.5% (13 instances) of the mentions.

Other citizens comprised 12.6% (94 instances) of the sources and 37.5% (333 instances) of the mentions.

Chart 36b: Relative visibility of politicians (August 2024)
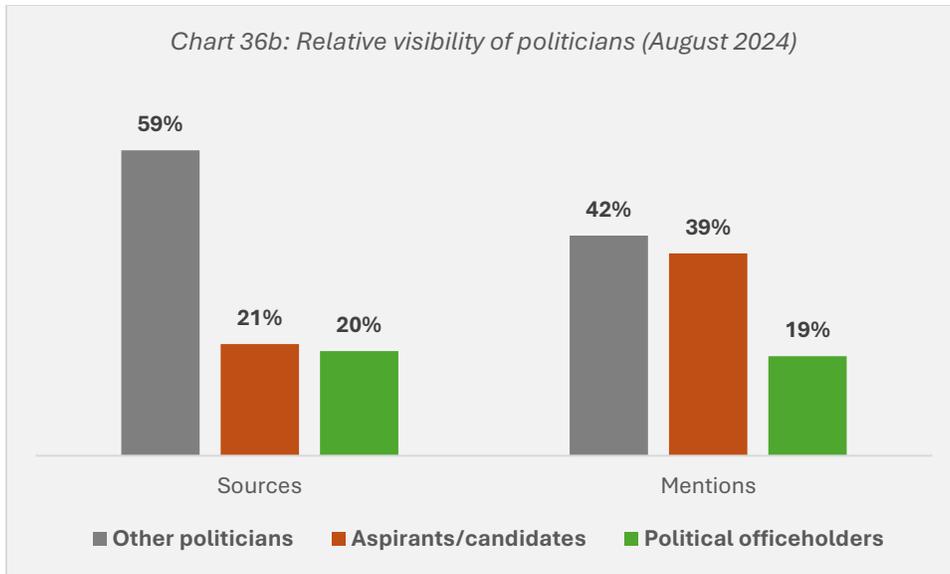
According to Chart 36b, aspirants/candidates comprised 21% (64 in 299 instances) of the sources and 39% (193 in 498 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders represented 20% (60 instances) of the sources and 19% (95 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians accounted for 59% (175 instances) of the sources and 42% (210 instances) of the mentions.

Chart 36c: Visibility of politicians and other citizens (August 2024)
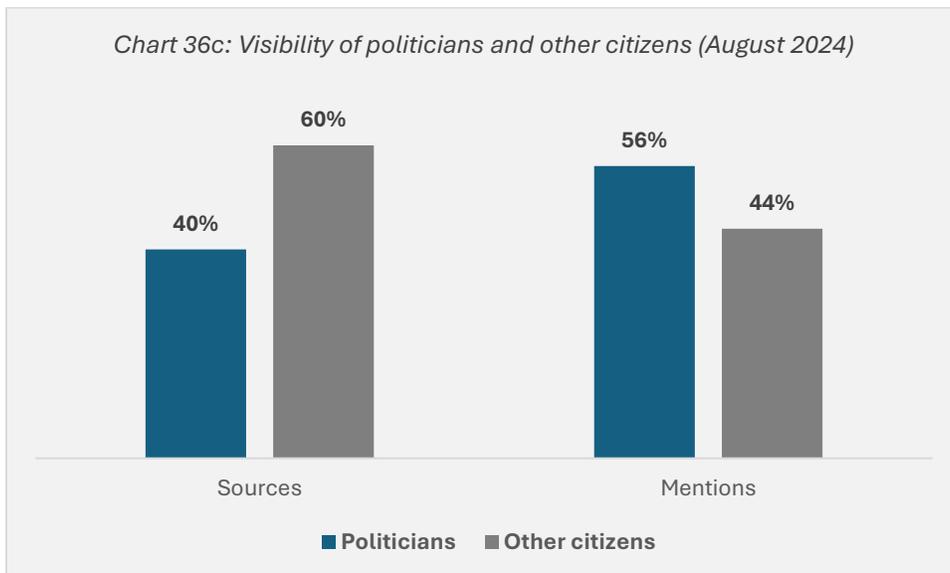
Politicians, Chart 36c shows, accounted for 40% (299 in 747 instances) of the sources and 56% (498 in 889 instances) of the mentions while other citizens received 60% (448 instances) of the sources and 44% (391 instances) of the mentions. The data indicates that other citizens were more visible as sources than politicians, but the opposite was true in terms of mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS

Chart 37: Geographical distribution of actors (August 2024)
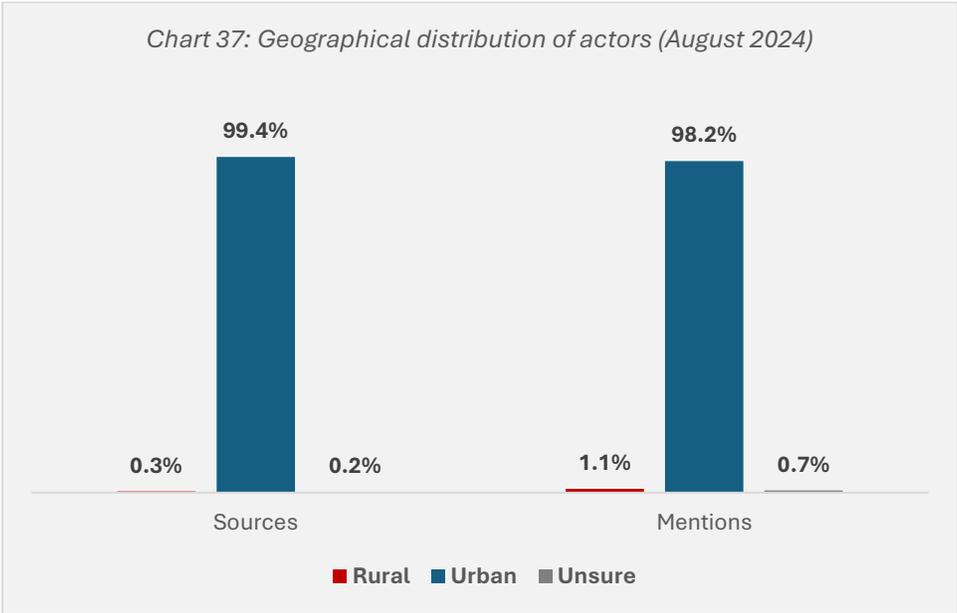
Chart 37 shows that actors from urban areas accounted for 99.4% (875 in 880 instances) of the sources and 98.2% (448 in 456 instances) of the mentions while those acting from rural areas comprised 0.3% (3 instances) of the sources and 1.1% (5 instances) of the mentions. The location of sources and mentions could not be determined in 2 (0.2%) and 3 (0.7%) instances respectively.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS

The corporate actors include political parties, government and government agencies, interest groups and foreign actors.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Chart 38: Visibility of political parties (August 2024)

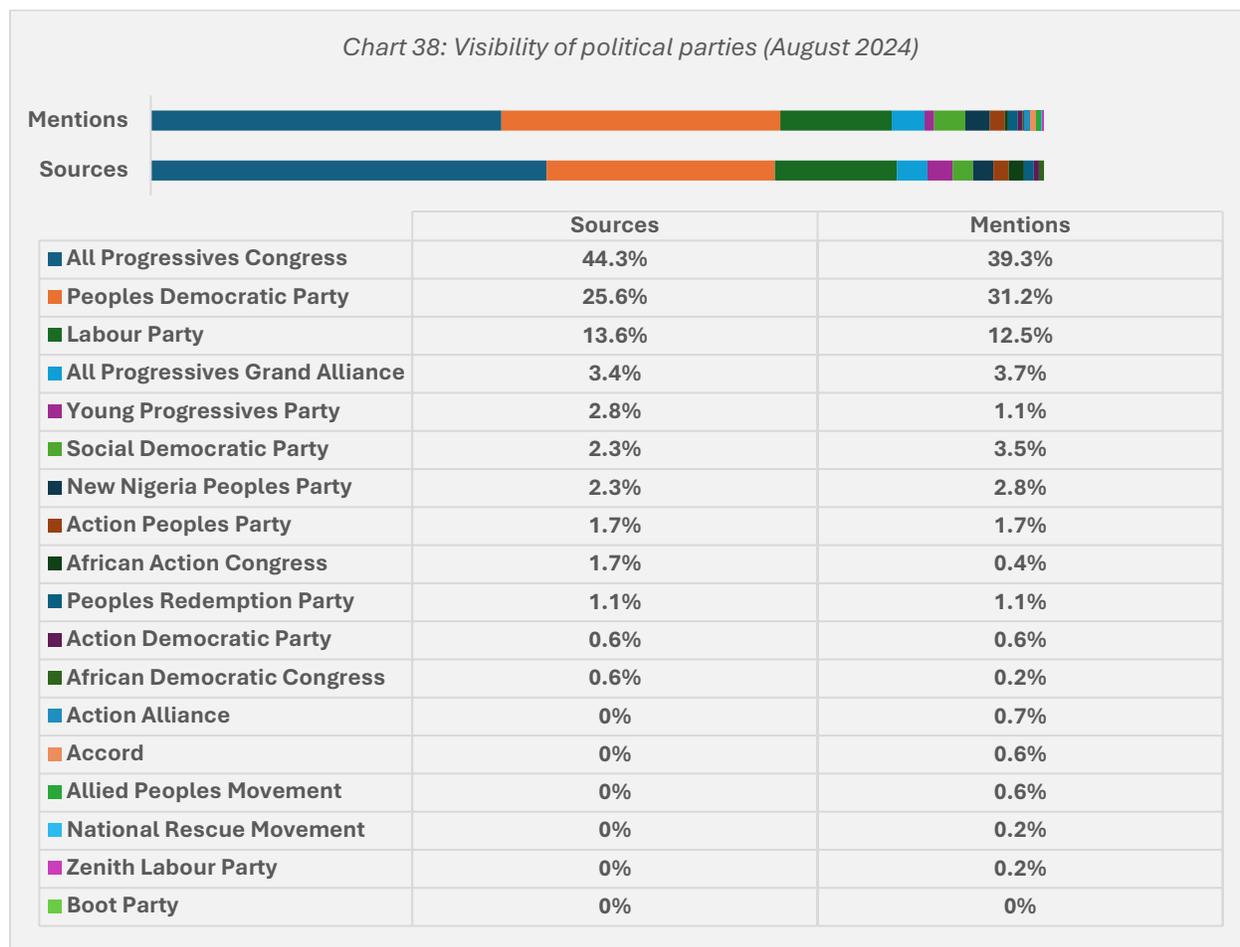|	Sources	Mentions
■ All Progressives Congress	44.3%	39.3%
■ Peoples Democratic Party	25.6%	31.2%
■ Labour Party	13.6%	12.5%
■ All Progressives Grand Alliance	3.4%	3.7%
■ Young Progressives Party	2.8%	1.1%
■ Social Democratic Party	2.3%	3.5%
■ New Nigeria Peoples Party	2.3%	2.8%
■ Action Peoples Party	1.7%	1.7%
■ African Action Congress	1.7%	0.4%
■ Peoples Redemption Party	1.1%	1.1%
■ Action Democratic Party	0.6%	0.6%
■ African Democratic Congress	0.6%	0.2%
■ Action Alliance	0%	0.7%
■ Accord	0%	0.6%
■ Allied Peoples Movement	0%	0.6%
■ National Rescue Movement	0%	0.2%
■ Zenith Labour Party	0%	0.2%
■ Boot Party	0%	0%

Chart 38 shows that Boot Party (BP) was the only actor that was not featured in the analysed broadcasts.

All Progressives Congress (APC) enjoyed the most visibility, accounting for 44.3% (78 in 176 instances) of the sources and 39.3% (214 in 545 instances) of the mentions. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) constituted 25.6% (45 instances) of the sources and 31.2% (170 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) represented 13.6% (24 instances) of the sources and 12.5% (68 instances) of the mentions.

All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) represented 3.4% (6 instances) of the sources and 3.7% (20 instances) of the mentions while Young Progressives Party (YPP) accounted for 2.8% (5 instances) of the sources and 1.1% (6 instances) of the mentions.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) and New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) each comprised 2.3% (4 instances) of the sources, as well as 3.5% (19 instances) and 2.8% (15 instances) of the mentions respectively.

Action Peoples Party (APP) and African Action Congress (AAC) each accounted for 1.7% (3 instances) of the sources, as well as 1.7% (9 instances) and 0.4% (2 instances) of the mentions respectively. Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) constituted 1.1% (2 instances) of the sources and 1.1% (6 instances) of the mentions.

Action Democratic Party (ADP) and African Democratic Congress (ADC) each made up 0.6% (1 instance) of the sources, as well as 0.6% (3 instances) and 0.2% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively.

Action Alliance (AA) accounted for 0.7% (4 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for Accord and Allied Peoples Movement (APM), each of which represented 0.6% (3 instances) of the mentions. Also, National Rescue Movement (NRM) and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) each constituted 0.2% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

GOVERNMENT

This section focuses on the visibility of the federal and state arms of government — the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature — in the broadcasts during the period under review. It also compares the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government.

Federal government

Chart 39a: Relative visibility of the federal arms of government
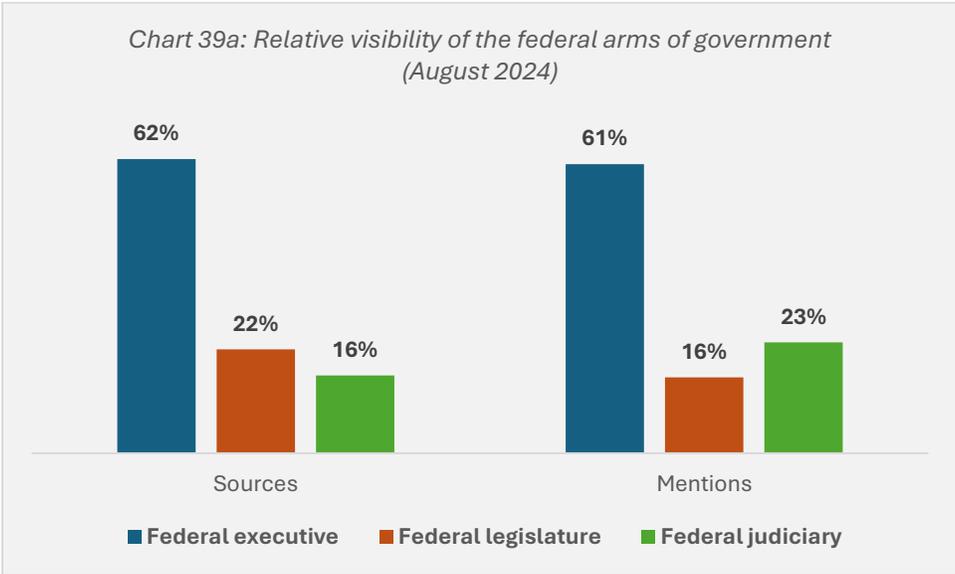(August 2024)

Chart 39a shows that the federal executive constituted 62% (34 in 55 instances) of the sources and 61% (248 in 408 instances) of the mentions, making it the most visible actor in this section. The federal legislature accounted for 22% (12 instances) of the sources and 16% (65 instances) of the mentions while the federal judiciary represented 16% (9 instances) of the sources and 23% (95 instances) of the mentions.

State governments

Chart 39b: Relative visibility of the state arms of government (August 2024)

Sources: State executives 81%, State legislatures 13%, State judiciaries 6%

Mentions: State executives 83%, State legislatures 8%, State judiciaries 9%

Legend: State executives, State legislatures, State judiciaries
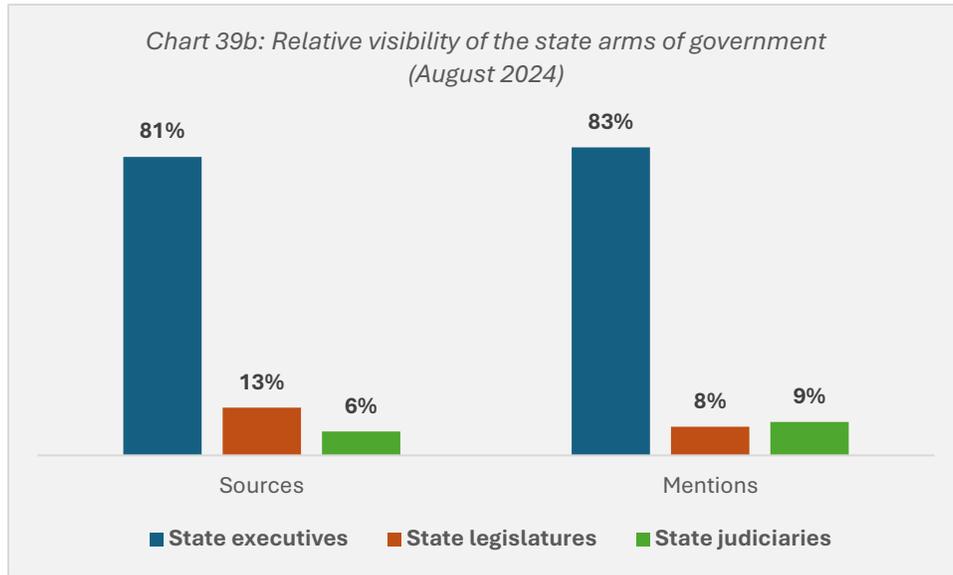
Chart 39b shows that state executives accounted for 81% (50 in 62 instances) of the sources and 83% (194 in 233 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures comprised 13% (8 instances) of the sources and 8% (18 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries constituted 6% (4 instances) of the sources and 9% (21 instances) of the mentions.

LCDAs and LGAs

Chart 39c: Visibility of LCDAs and LGAs (August 2024)

Sources: LCDAs 2%, LGAs 7%, Higher levels of government 91%

Mentions: LCDAs 1%, LGAs 16%, Higher levels of government 83%

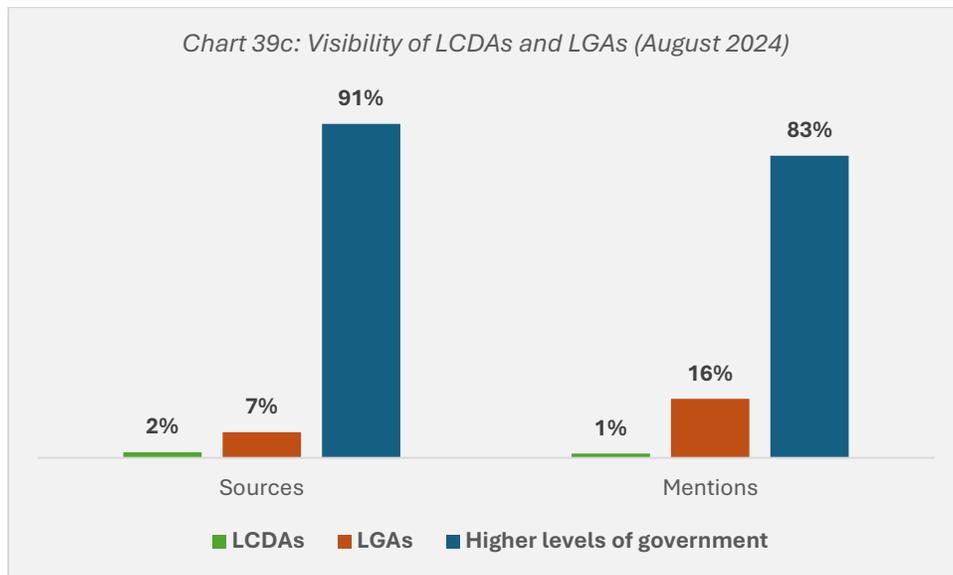Legend: LCDAs, LGAs, Higher levels of government

Chart 39c shows that the higher levels of government made up 91% (117 in 128 instances) of the sources and 83% (641 in 775 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs accounted for 2% (2 instances) of the sources and 1% (9 instances) of the mentions while LGAs constituted 7% (9 instances) of the sources and 16% (125 instances) of the mentions.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

This section assesses the visibility of government agencies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies which conduct and safeguard the elections, state government agencies and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) is also analysed.

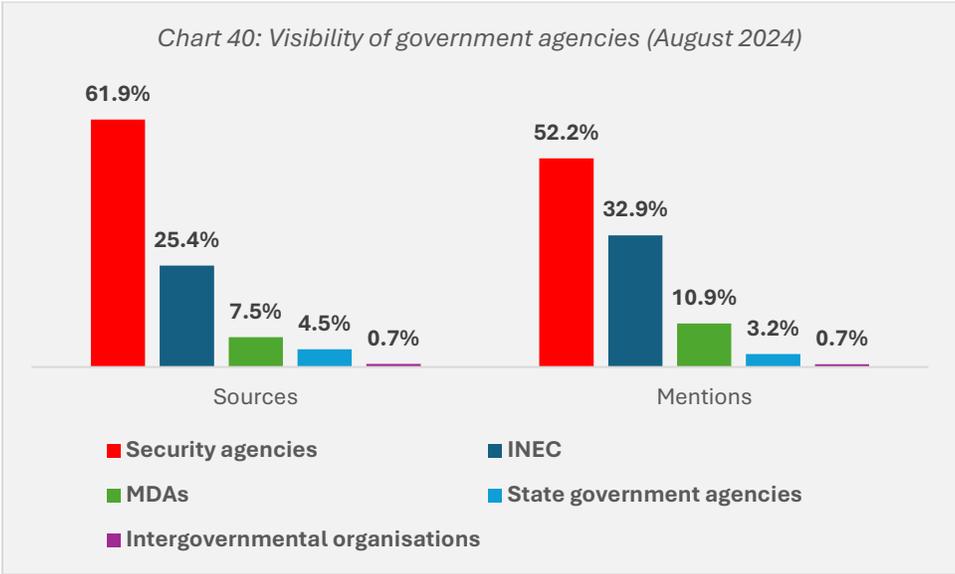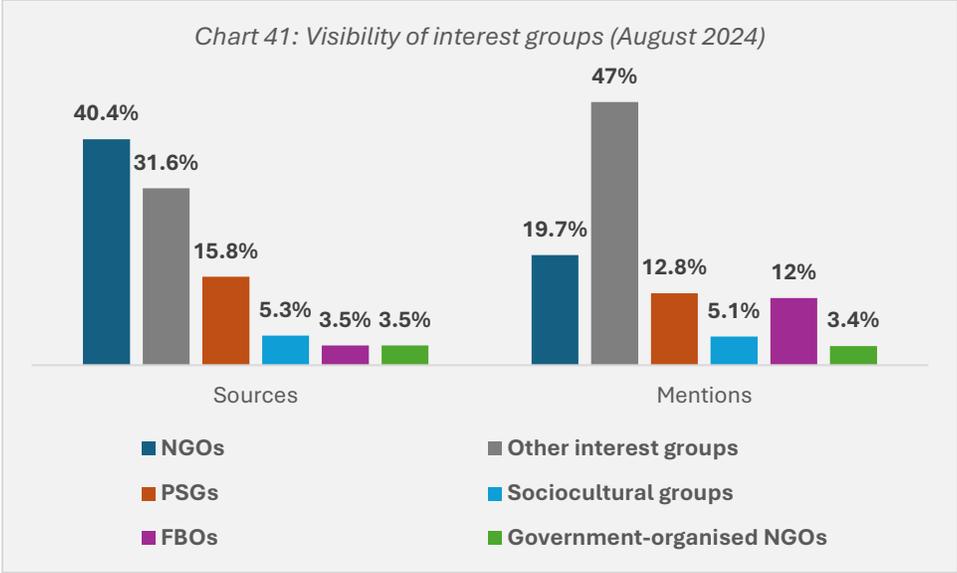Chart 40: Visibility of government agencies (August 2024)

Chart 40 shows that security agencies constituted 61.9% (83 in 134 instances) of the sources and 52.2% (225 in 431 instances) of the mentions, making them the most featured actors in this section. INEC accounted for 25.4% (34 instances) of the sources and 32.9% (142 instances) of the mentions. MDAs made up 7.5% (10 instances) of the sources and 10.9% (47 instances) of the mentions while state government agencies represented 4.5% (6 instances) of the sources and 3.2% (14 instances) of the mentions. Intergovernmental organisations made up 0.7% (1 instance) of the sources and 0.7% (3 instances) of the mentions.

INTEREST GROUPS

This section addresses the visibility of corporate actors such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that play critical roles in the election process. It also addresses the visibility of faith-based organisations (FBOs), sociocultural groups, government-organised NGOs and political support groups (PSGs).

Chart 41: Visibility of interest groups (August 2024)

Chart 41: Visibility of interest groups (August 2024)

Sources: NGOs 40.4%, Other interest groups 31.6%, PSGs 15.8%, Sociocultural groups 5.3%, FBOs 3.5%, Government-organised NGOs 3.5%

Mentions: NGOs 19.7%, Other interest groups 47%, PSGs 12.8%, Sociocultural groups 5.1%, FBOs 12%, Government-organised NGOs 3.4%

Legend:
- NGOs
- Other interest groups
- PSGs
- Sociocultural groups
- FBOs
- Government-organised NGOs

According to Chart 41, NGOs accounted for 40.4% (23 in 57 instances) of the sources and 19.7% (23 in 117 instances) of the mentions while PSGs comprised 15.8% (9 instances) of the sources and 12.8% (15 instances) of the mentions. Sociocultural groups made up 5.3% (3 instances) of the sources and 5.1% (6 instances) of the mentions. FBOs and Government-organised NGOs each represented 3.5% (2 instances) of the sources, as well as 12% (14 instances) and 3.4% (4 instances) of the mentions.

FOREIGN ACTORS

Foreign actors such as embassies, high commissions, international NGOs and foreign government representatives play crucial roles in nurturing democracies. Their visibility is analysed in the chart below.

Chart 42: Visibility of foreign actors (August 2024)

Sources: International NGOs 63%, Embassies 25%, Foreign government representatives 13%, High commissions 0%

Mentions: International NGOs 19%, Embassies 26%, Foreign government representatives 39%, High commissions 16%

Legend:
- International NGOs
- Embassies
- Foreign government representatives
- High commissions
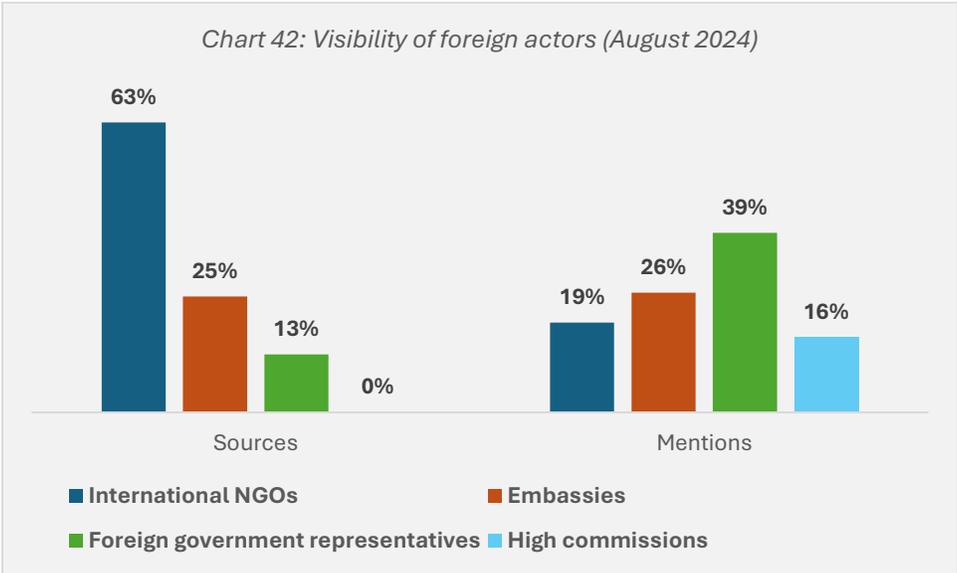
According to Chart 42, international NGOs represented 63% (5 in 8 instances) of the sources and 19% (6 instances) of the mentions while foreign government representatives accounted for 13% (1 instance) of the sources and 39% (12 instances) of the mentions. Embassies comprised 25% (2 instances) of the sources and 26% (8 instances) of the mentions while high commissions made up 16% (5 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analysis of the content during the review period revealed that news reports, comprising 74% of the content, dominated the sampled broadcasts while discussion programmes accounted for 19% and interviews made up 7%. The radio and television stations maintained a principle of balance across all broadcasts, with no instances of extreme language noted.

Citizen participation (35%) and campaign activities/strategies (12.9%) emerged as the most frequently reported and discussed themes, highlighting the focus of coverage of election-related and broader democratic governance issues during this period. In contrast, issues concerning women (0.8%), youth (0.8%) and PWDs (0.3%) received significantly less attention. Women represented 20% of the sources and 11.1% of the mentions, while men garnered more focus in gender-related discussions. Youth accounted for 3.5% of the sources and 14% of the mentions, and PWDs were mentioned in only 1.3% of instances, indicating their lower visibility compared to older adults and non-PWD actors.

In terms of political party coverage, the APC received the most attention, with 44.3% of the sources and 39.3% of the mentions, followed by the PDP at 25.6% of the sources and 31.2% of the mentions and the LP at 13.6% of the sources and 12.5% of the mentions. LCDAs (2% sources; 1% mentions) and LGAs (7% sources; 16% mentions) were less visible than higher levels of government, which accounted for 91% of the sources and 83% of the mentions.

Security agencies were more prominent in their category, with 61.9% of the sources and 52.2% of the mentions, compared to INEC which had 25.4% of the sources and 32.9% of the mentions. Both corporate actors received more attention than other government agencies combined, indicating a focus on safety in the political environment during the review period.

NGOs were more visible than FBOs, PSGs and sociocultural organisations, with NGOs accounting for 40.4% of the sources and 19.7% of the mentions. However, uncategorized interest groups, many of which were professional bodies, had a higher mention rate (47%) despite representing 31.6% of the sources.

International NGOs received significant attention, with 63% of the sources and 19% of the mentions, followed by embassies at 25% of the sources and 26% of the mentions, and foreign government representatives at 13% of the sources and 39% of the mentions. High commissions accounted for only 16% of the mentions in the foreign actors' category.

REFERENCE

1. African Youth Charter (2006), Page 3.
https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7789-treaty-0033_-_african_youth_charter_e.pd

DISCLAIMER