

MONTHLY
REPORT



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

DECEMBER 2024 REPORT



Funded by
the European Union



Published in 2024

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IN NIGERIA**

(December 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, the Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO), 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
IPC - International Press Council
IReV - INEC Result Viewing portal
LCDA - Local Council Development Area
LG - Local Government
LGA - Local Government Area
MDA - Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NBC - National Broadcasting Commission
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation
NOA - National Orientation Agency
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 journalists or anchors ask questions of actors or sources 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, 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

Following the 2024 off-cycle governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states, the Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO) undertook an extensive media monitoring initiative. This effort aimed to assess how broadcast stations in Nigeria covered election-related politics and democratic governance. The analysis presented in this report concentrated on radio and television content, with the goals of promoting ethical journalism standards, combating misinformation and encouraging the representation of underrepresented demographics.

Radio broadcasts were predominantly packaged as news reports (77.8%), with discussions (12.5%) and interviews (9.7%) making up the remainder. Television programmes were, on the other hand, aired in the news (55.6%), discussion (24.8%) and interview (19.7%) formats. Both mediums demonstrated a strong commitment to journalistic balance, with radio achieving 100% adherence and television at 95%, although television recorded an instance of the deployment of extreme language (0.9%).

The primary topics of discussion across both platforms included intra-party conflict (19.1% radio; 22.1% TV), election administration (16.9% radio; 9.6% TV), and transparency and accountability (14.6% radio; 25.7% TV). Notably, issues concerning women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and youth received minimal coverage, with women's issues absent altogether. Radio coverage for PWD and youth issues was only 1.1% each, while television coverage was slightly higher at 2.2% for women and 0.7% for PWDs. Youth issues were not featured on television at all.

In terms of gender representation, female sources constituted 14% of radio broadcasts, while women accounted for 14% of sources and 12% of mentions on television. Youth and PWD representation were notably low across both platforms, with youth sources at 2% on radio and 1% on television, and PWD sources at 1% on radio and 1% on television.

Political party representation was dominated by the All Progressives Congress (APC), which accounted for 42.3% of sources and 35.1% of mentions on radio, and 40% of sources and 36.8% of mentions on television. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Labour Party (LP) followed, with PDP at 19.2% sources (31.1% mentions on radio) and 31% sources (32.5% mentions on TV), while LP had 19.2% sources (18.9% mentions on radio) and 20% sources (17.9% mentions on TV).

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was the most prominent government agency, representing 68% of sources and 56.8% of mentions on radio, and 75% of sources and 64.1% of mentions on television. Local government councils (LCDAs and LGAs) were less visible compared to higher levels of government, with LGAs accounting for 6% of sources and 23% of mentions on radio, and 12% of sources and 22% of mentions on television.

BACKGROUND

Following 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 189 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 72 contents from the radio stations and 117 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]
- Glory FM (Bayelsa State Broadcasting Corporation, BSBC Radio) - Bayelsa state [Government-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]
- 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]
- News Central - Network [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]
- 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 subsequent 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 December 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 72 news reports, interviews and discussion programmes were monitored on the selected radio stations.

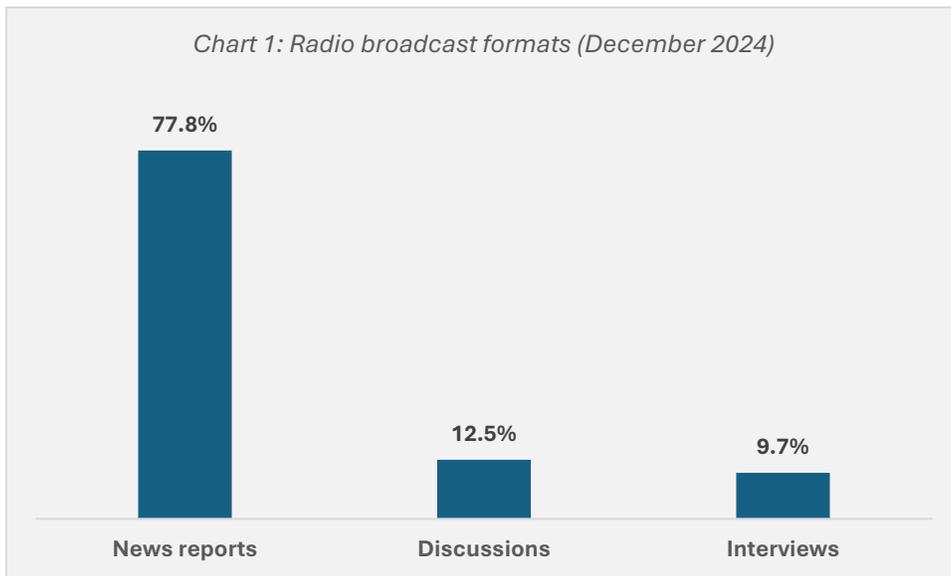


Chart 1 shows that 77.8% (56 in 72 contents) of the broadcasts analysed during the period under review were packaged as news reports. The other radio broadcasts were packaged as discussion (12.5%; 9 stories) and interview programmes (9.7%; 7 stories).

THEMATIC EMPHASIS ON RADIO

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

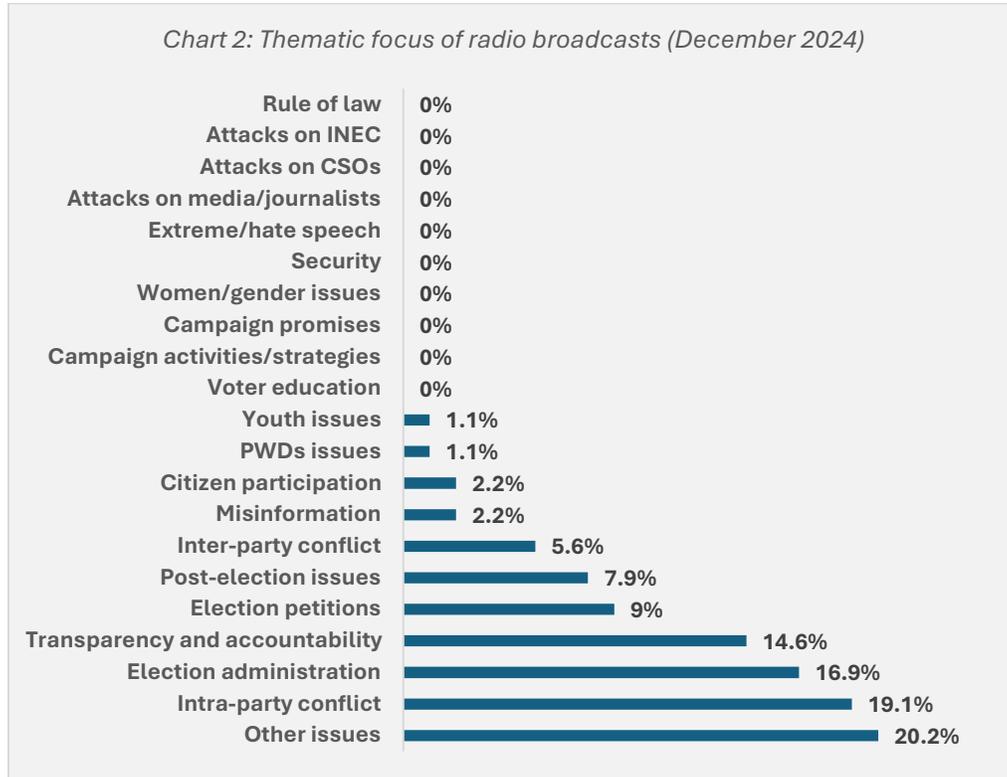


Chart 2 shows that intra-party conflict and inter-party conflict accounted for 19.1% (17 in 89 instances) and 5.6% (5 instances) of the radio coverage during the period under review. Election petitions made up 9% (8 instances) of the coverage.

- “LP experienced a major setback after losing four of its members in the House of Representatives to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC),” New Cruse FM reported on December 5, focusing on intra and inter-party conflict. “The defecting lawmakers,” the report continued, “include Tochukwu Chinedu Okere from Imo, Donatus Matthew from Kaduna, Akiba Basse from Cross River and Esosa Iyawe from Edo. In a related development, Erhiatake Ibori-Suenu, the daughter of former Delta State governor James Ibori, also switched allegiance from the PDP to the APC.”
- “LP initiates legal action against defected lawmakers,” ITV Radio reported on December 6.
- “PDP expresses concern over alleged refusal of NWC to conduct NEC meeting to address leadership crises,” Kapital FM reported on December 6.

- During a December 31 interview on Kapital FM, IPAC chairman Yusuf Dantalle stated that money and lack of internal democracy within political parties contribute to intra-party crises.
- “The Akure Division of the Federal High Court in Ondo State has dismissed a lawsuit aimed at disqualifying the APC governorship candidate, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, from the recently concluded gubernatorial election in the state,” Gotel Radio reported on December 2, focusing on election petitions.
- “Tension flared at the Edo State High Court complex, the venue of the Edo State Election Petition Tribunal, as supporters of the APC and PDP clashed during the tribunal sitting,” Arewa Radio reported on December 10.
- Also, “Ondo NNPP disowns suit instituted by its candidate against governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, asks for withdrawal of party name from suit,” ITV Radio reported on December 12, focusing on election petitions.

Whereas election administration accounted for 16.9% (15 instances) of the thematic focus areas, voter education was not featured.

- “Katsina LG election: Katsina Independence Electoral Commission pledges a free, fair and credible election, trains officers ahead of poll,” Breeze FM reported on December 9, focusing on election administration.
- “INEC proposes review of PVCs as sole means of accreditation ahead of 2027 election, seeks reforms to improve electoral system,” ITV Radio reported on December 12.
- “The Senate has declared the seat of Edo State Governor Monday Okpebholo vacant and has urged INEC to conduct a by-election to fill the position,” KU FM reported on December 30.

Transparency and accountability constituted 14.6% (13 instances) of the coverage while citizen participation received 2.2% (2 instances) of the attention. The rule of law was not featured.

- “Edo state governor Senator Monday Okpebohlo has given a 48-hour deadline to the 18 local government council chairmen in the state to submit statements of accounts,” Speed FM reported on December 2, focusing on transparency and accountability.

- The Nigeria Governors Forum, according to a December 3 report by Splash FM, has endorsed the administrative and financial autonomy of local government councils in Nigeria.
- “AGF Lateef Fagbemi warns governors, says tampering with local government funds is an impeachable offence,” ITV Radio reported on December 13.
- “Nigeria Police deny reports that officers shot ‘End Bad Governance in Nigeria’ protesters across the nation,” Sapientia FM reported on December 2, focusing on citizen participation.

Youth and PWD issues each received 1.1% (1 instance) of the coverage. Women/gender issues were, however, not featured.

- During a December 19 appearance on Kapital FM programme ‘Electoral Reform Hour,’ Hamzat Lawal, the Chief Executive of Connected Development, expressed the view that godfatherism posed a significant challenge to the political participation of young people.
- “The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities is diligently working to introduce a special allowance aimed at alleviating the financial burden of PWDs,” Splash FM reported on December 2.

Misinformation made up 2.2% (2 instances) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech was neither reported nor discussed.

- During a December 19 appearance on Kapital FM programme ‘Electoral Reform Hour,’ Hamzat Lawal, the Chief Executive of Connected Development, stated that there was insufficient clarity regarding the laws related to electoral misinformation.

Security issues, and attacks on media/journalists, INEC and CSOs, were not featured. The same was true for campaign activities/strategies and campaign promises.

Post-election and other issues accounted for 7.9% (7 instances) and 20.2% (18 instances) of the coverage respectively.

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.

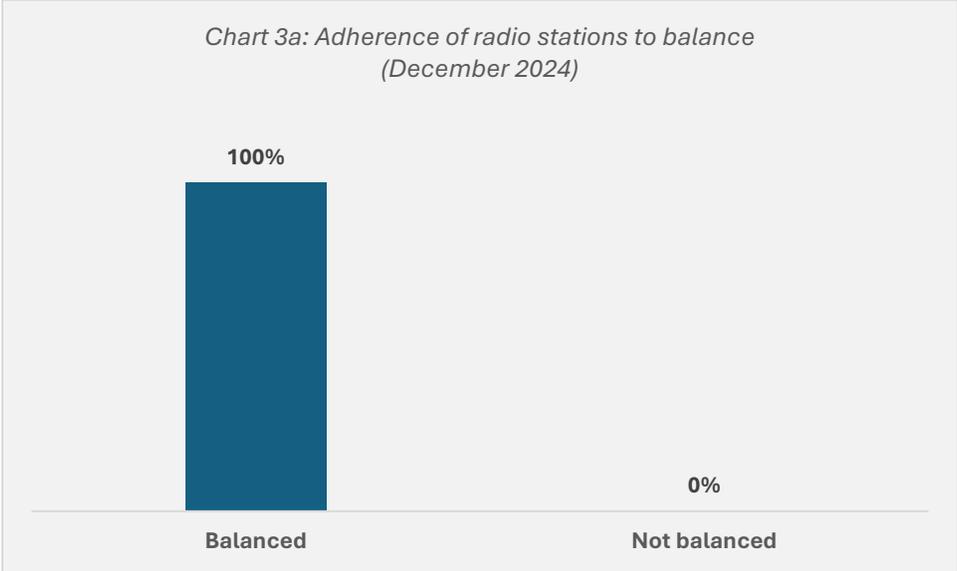


Chart 3a shows that 100% (8 applicable stories) of the sampled radio broadcasts were balanced.

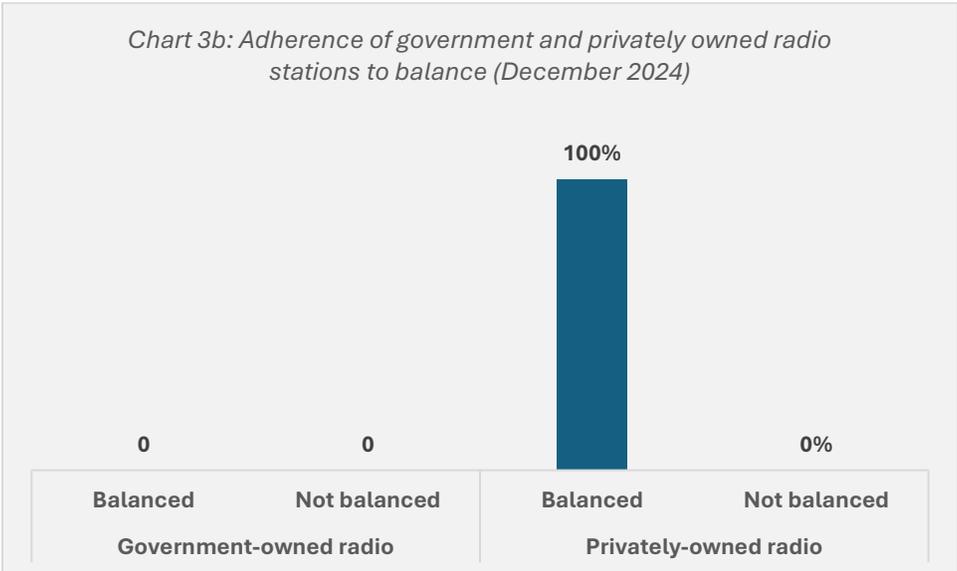


Chart 3b shows that 100% (8 stories) of the broadcasts from privately owned radio stations were balanced. The context could not be applied to broadcasts from government-owned radio stations.

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 the media or its sources employing provocative language and the actions of those actively opposing such rhetoric.

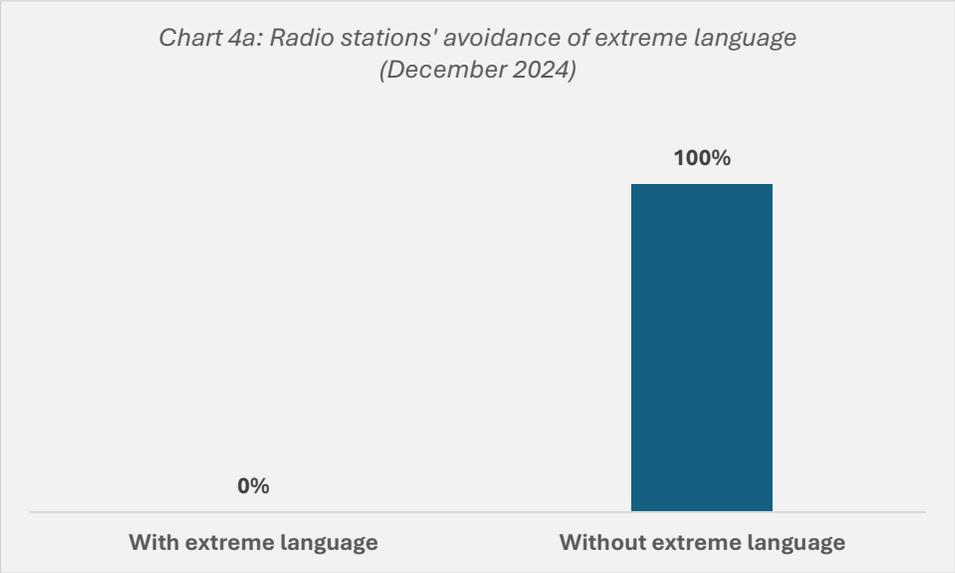


Chart 4a shows that the radio stations avoided extreme language in 100% (72 stories) of their programmes.

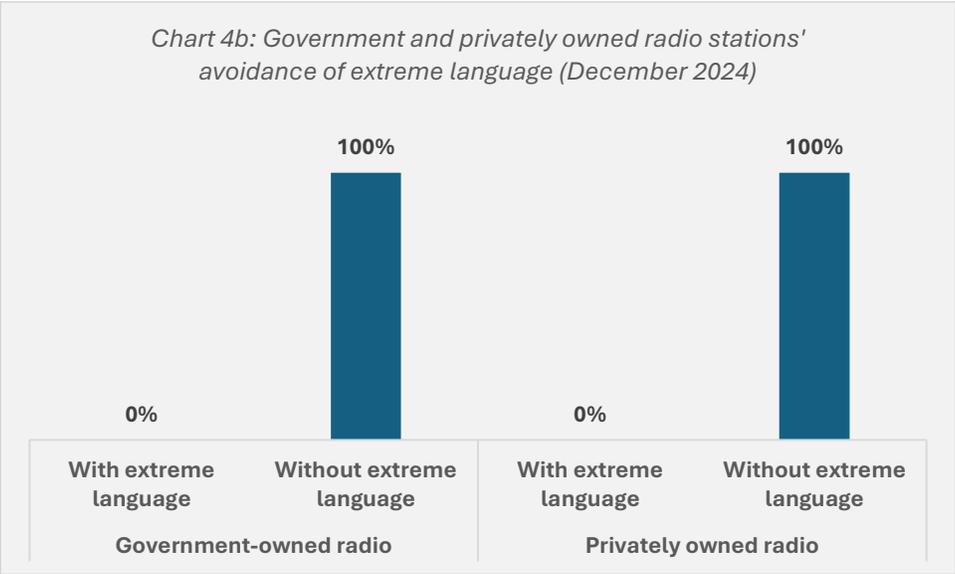


Chart 4b reveals that all nine (100%) stories from government-owned radio stations and 63 (100%) stories from privately owned radio stations contained no extreme language.

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 PWD status.

PWDs

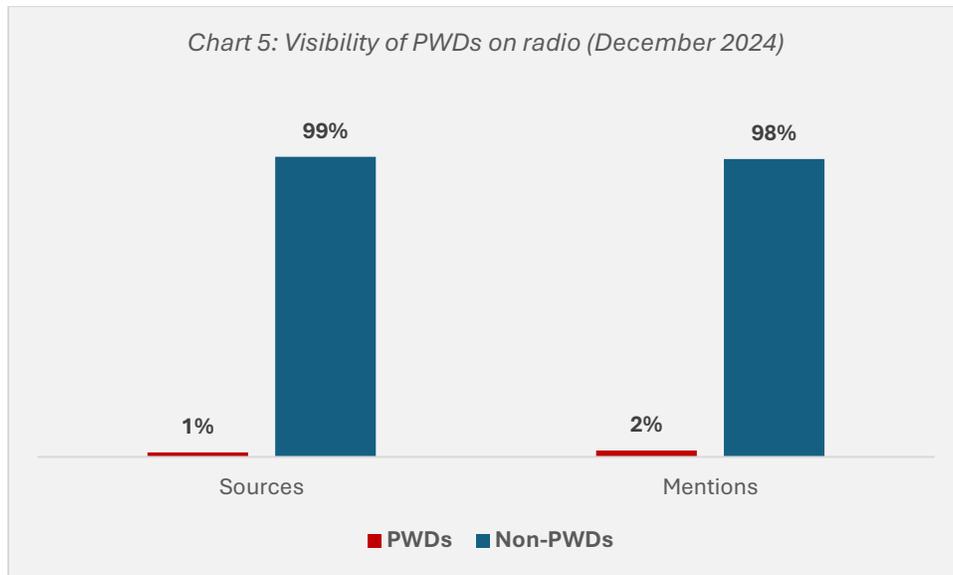


Chart 5 shows that PWD actors represented 1% (1 in 69 instances) of the sources and 2% (1 in 47 instances) of the mentions. Non-PWD actors, on the other hand, constituted 99% (68 instances) of the sources and 98% (46 instances) of the mentions. The data reflects the previously noted low level of coverage of PWD issues (1.1%; 1 in 89 instances) previously shown in Chart 2.

- “The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities is diligently working to introduce a special allowance aimed at alleviating the financial burden of PWDs,” Splash FM reported on December 2. PWDs were featured in the report.

Women

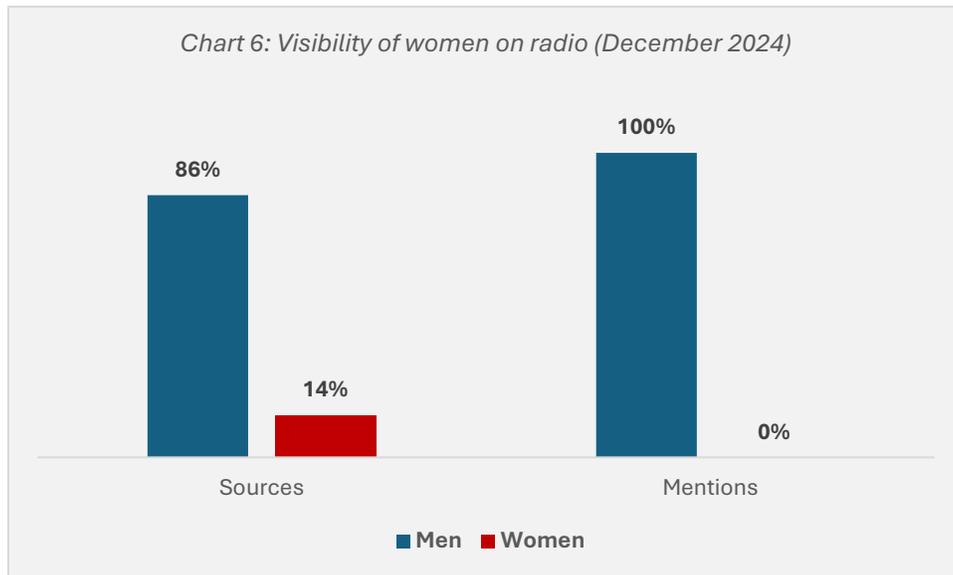


Chart 6 shows that women constituted 14% (10 in 72 instances) of the sources but enjoyed no mention. Men, on the other hand, accounted for 86% (62 instances) of the sources and 100% (48 instances) of the mentions. The data indicates that women were less visible than their male counterparts, echoing the previously noted lack of coverage dedicated to women's issues as shown in Chart 2. This also means that the women featured on the radio during the period under review did not discuss women's issues.

Youth

The African Youth Charter¹ 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.

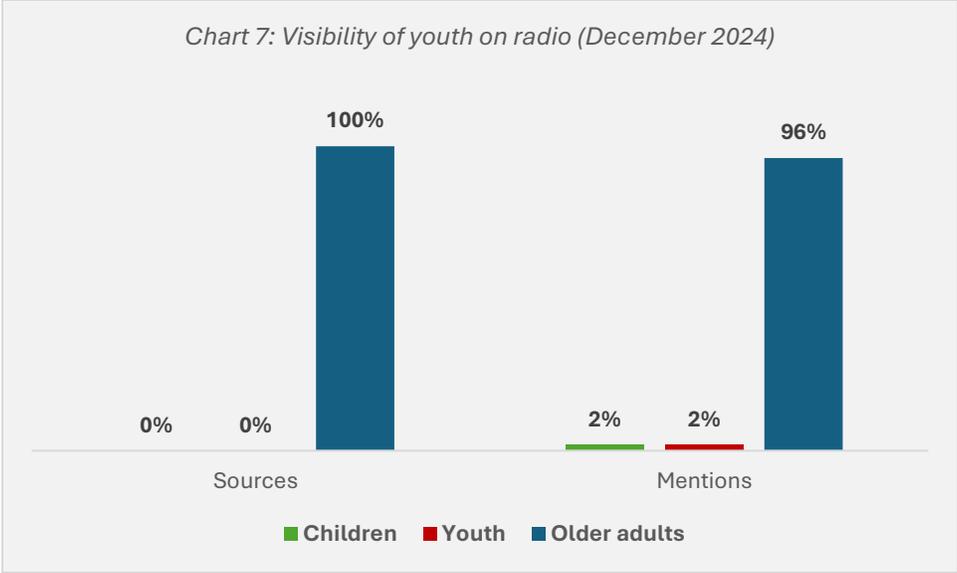


Chart 7 shows that youth constituted 2% (1 in 51 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for children. Older adults made up 100% (69 instances) of the sources and 96% (49 instances) of the mentions. The data highlights the low visibility of youth actors, reflecting the previously noted low level of coverage of youth issues (1.1%; 1 in 89 instances) as shown in Chart 2.

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 (December 2024)

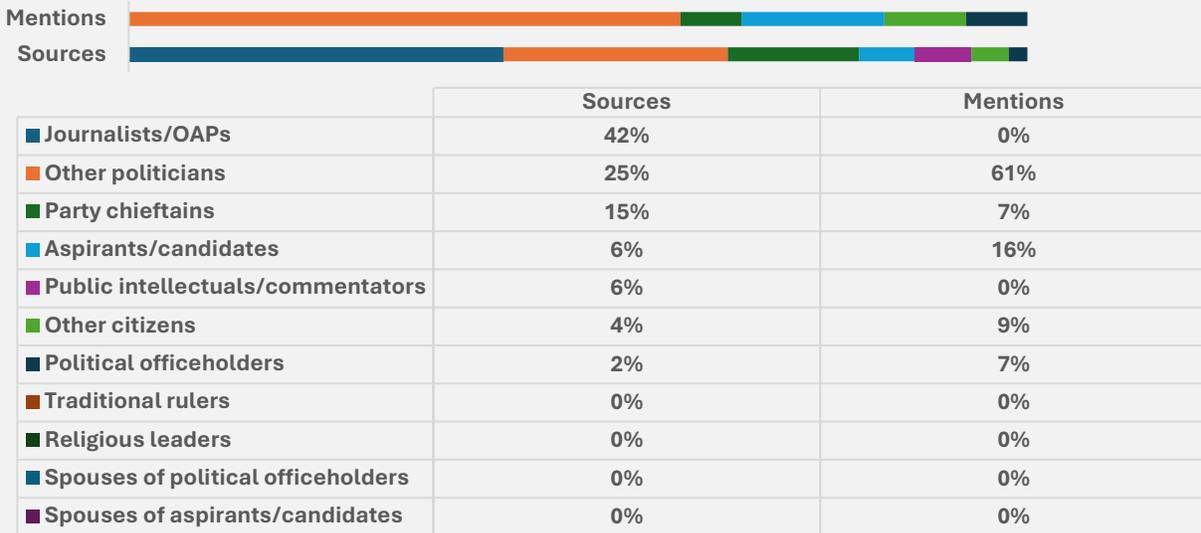


Chart 8a shows that journalists/OAPs made up 42% (20 in 48 instances) of the sources but enjoyed no mention. The same was true for public intellectuals/commentators who accounted for 6% (3 instances) of the sources.

Party chieftains accounted for 15% (7 instances) of the sources and 7% (3 in 44 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates made up 6% (3 instances) of the sources and 16% (7 instances) of the mentions. Political officeholders constituted 2% (1 instance) of the sources and 7% (3 instances) of the mentions while other politicians accounted for 25% (12 instances) of the sources and 61% (27 instances) of the mentions.

The spouses of politicians were not featured. The same was true for traditional rulers and religious leaders.

Other citizens accounted for 4% (2 instances) of the sources and 9% (4 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.

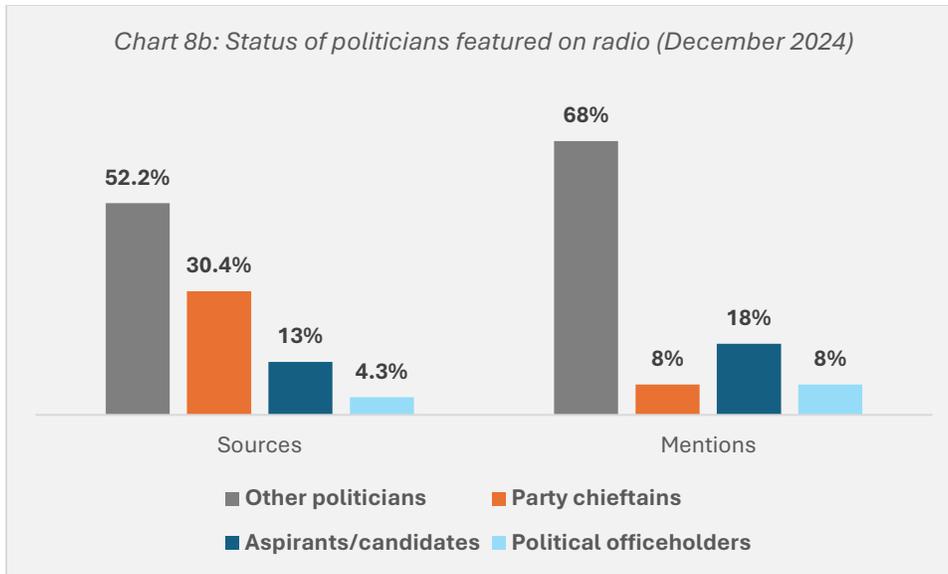


Chart 8b shows that party chieftains made up 30.4% (7 in 23 instances) of the sources and 8% (3 in 40 instances) of the mentions. Aspirants/candidates accounted for 13% (3 instances) of the sources and 18% (7 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders made up 4.3% (1 instance) of the sources and 8% (3 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians accounted for 52.2% (12 instances) of the sources and 68% (27 instances) of the mentions.

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

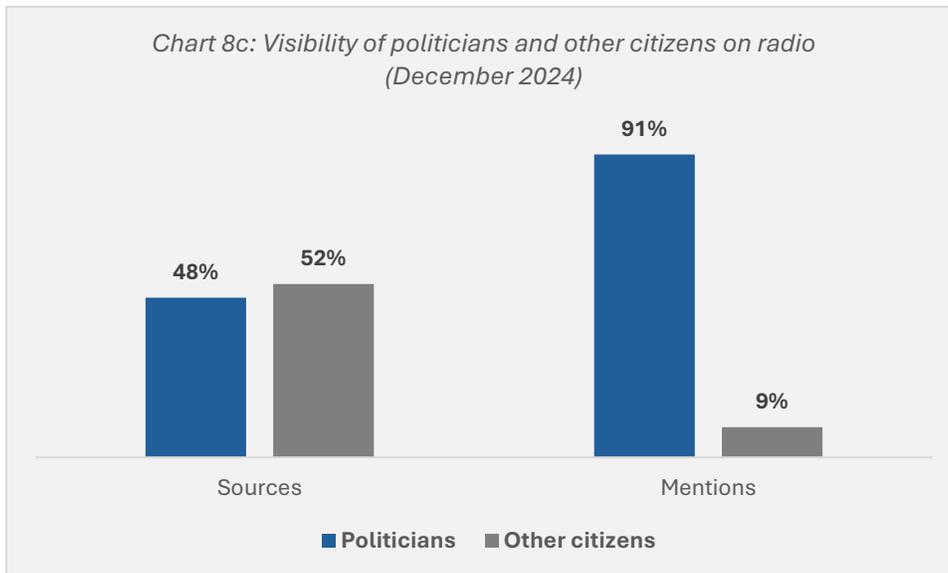


Chart 8c shows that politicians constituted 48% (23 in 48 instances) of the sources and 91% (40 in 44 instances) of the mentions while other citizens made up 52% (25 instances) of the sources and 9% (4 instances) of the mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS ON RADIO

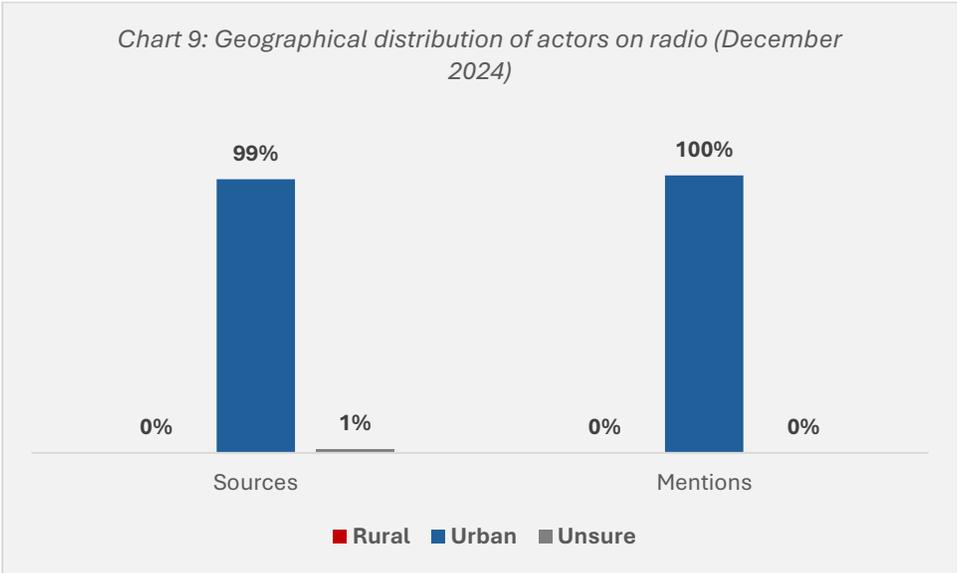
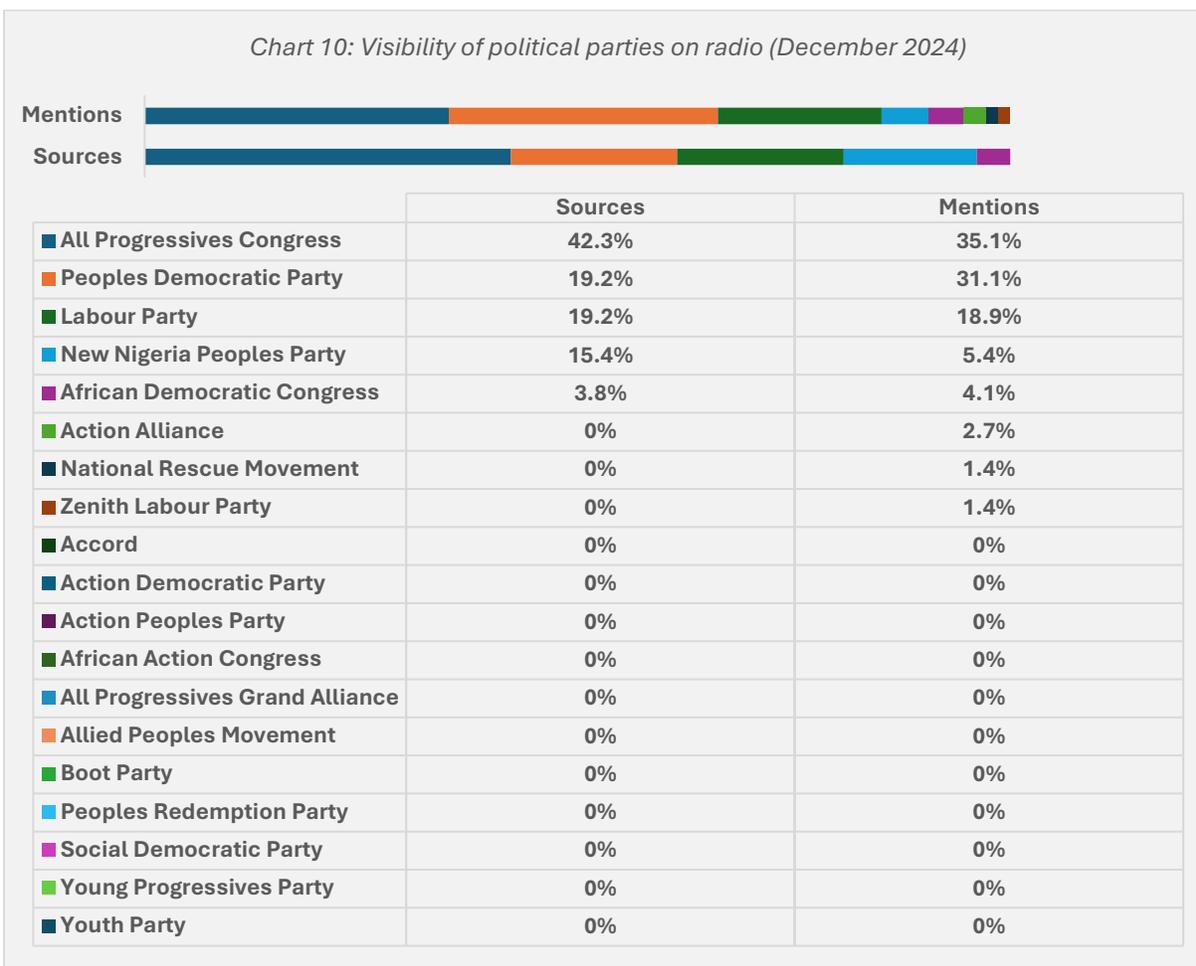


Chart 9 indicates that actors from urban areas dominated radio coverage during the reviewed period, accounting for 99% (69 in 70 instances) of the sources and 100% (33 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors were not featured. There was one instance (1%) in which the location of the sources could not be identified.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON RADIO

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

POLITICAL PARTIES



According to Chart 10, All Progressives Congress (APC) accounted for 42.3% (11 in 26 instances) of the sources and 35.1% (26 in 74 instances) of the mentions, making it the most visible political party on radio during the period under review.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Labour Party (LP) each constituted 19.2% (5 instances) of the sources as well as 31.1% (23 instances) and 18.9% (14 instances) of the mentions respectively.

New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) made up 15.4% (4 instances) of the sources and 5.4% (4 instances) of the mentions while African Democratic Congress (ADC) constituted 3.8% (1 instance) of the sources and 4.1% (3 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas Action Alliance (AA) constituted 2.7% (2 instances) of the mentions, National Rescue Movement (NRM) and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) each made up 1.4% (1 instance) of the mentions. They were not used as sources.

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

Federal government

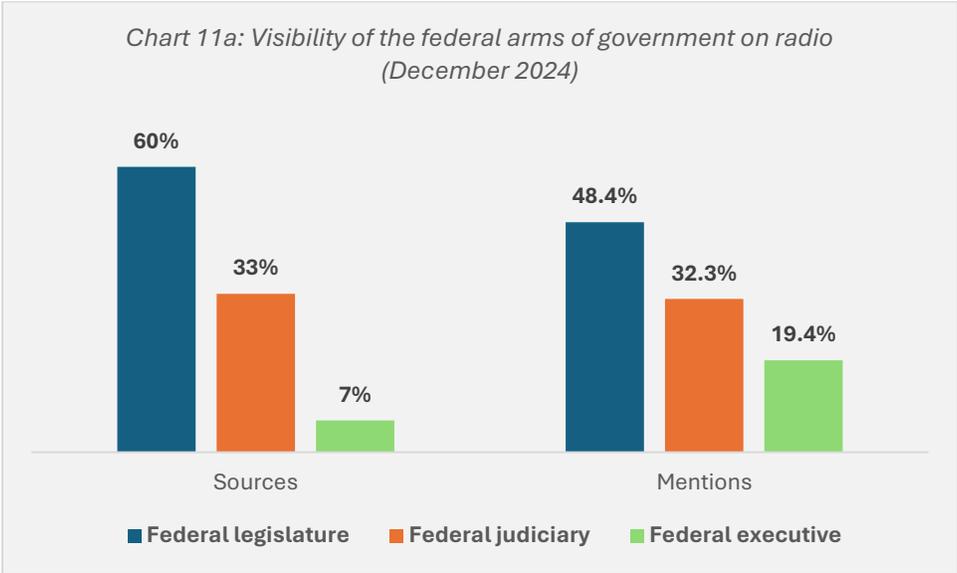


Chart 11a shows that the federal legislature constituted 60% (9 in 15 instances) of the sources and 48.4% (15 in 31 instances) of the mentions, making it the most featured actor in this category. The federal judiciary accounted for 33% (5 instances) of the sources and 32.3% (10 instances) of the mentions while the federal executive made up 7% (1 instance) of the sources and 19.4% (6 instances) of the mentions.

State governments

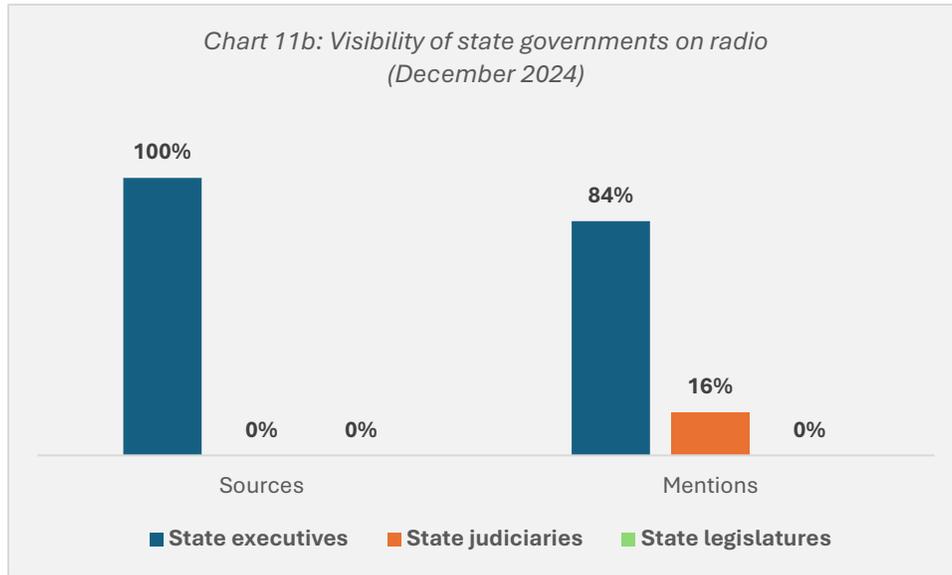
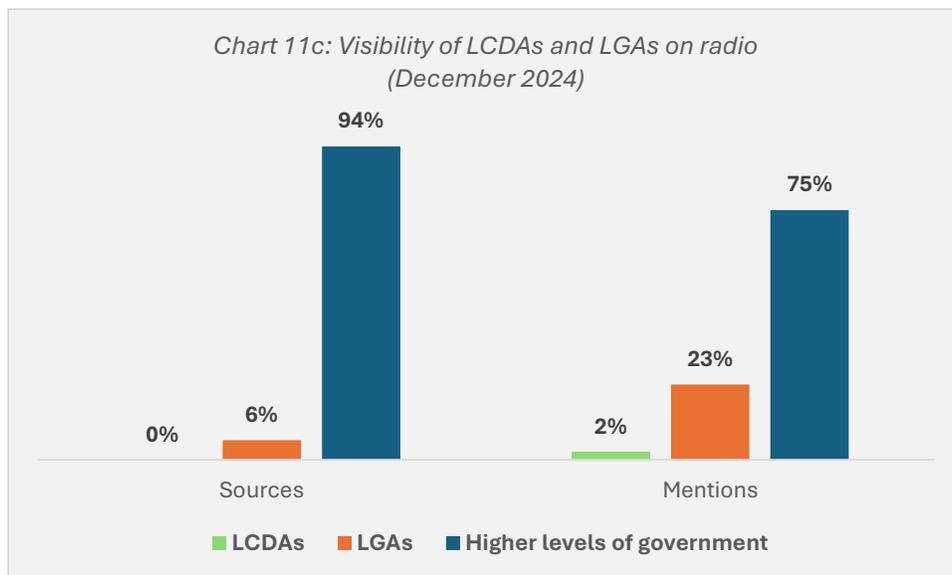


Chart 11b shows that state executives made up 100% (1 instance) of the sources and 84% (27 in 32 instances) of the mentions. State judiciaries constituted 16% (5 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. State legislatures were not featured.

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).

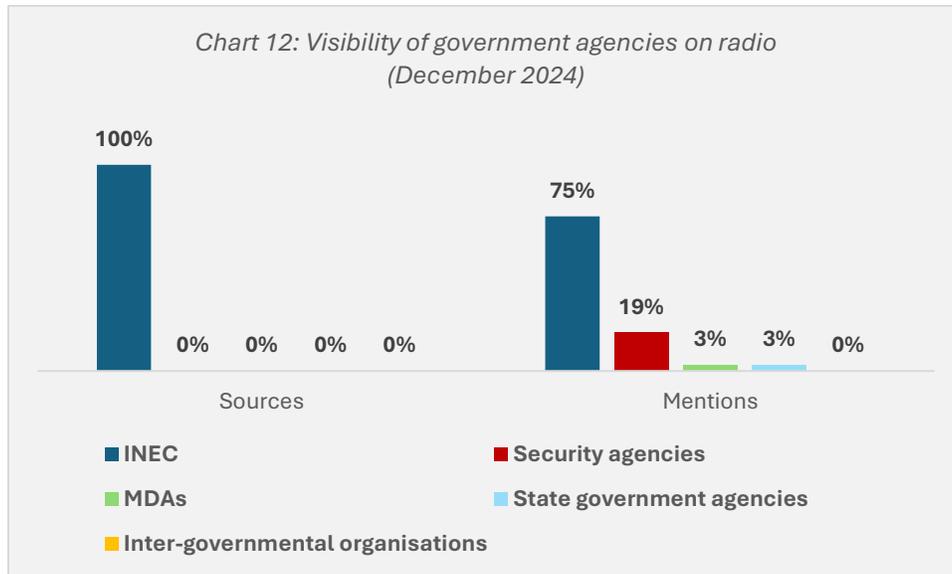


According to Chart 11c, the higher levels of government constituted 94% (16 in 17 instances) of the sources and 75% (63 in 84 instances) of the mentions in this category. LGAs made up

6% (1 instance) of the sources and 23% (19 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs accounted for 2% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

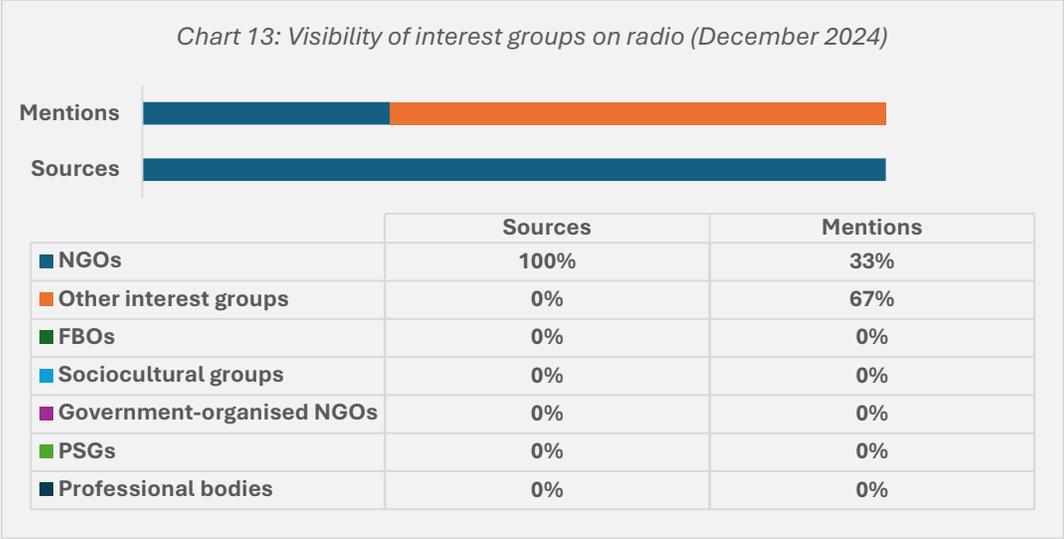
This section assesses the visibility of government agencies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies which conduct and safeguard the elections, state government agencies, and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies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



According to Chart 12, INEC was the most visible actor in this category, accounting for 100% (5 instances) of the sources and 75% (24 in 32 instances) of the mentions. Security agencies made up 19% (6 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for MDAs and state government agencies each of which accounted for 3% (1 instance) of the mentions. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

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 and government-organised NGOs.



According to Chart 13, NGOs accounted for 100% (4 instances) of the sources and 33% (1 in 3 instances) of the mentions. FBOs, PSGs, sociocultural groups and professional bodies were not featured. Other interest groups made up 67% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

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.

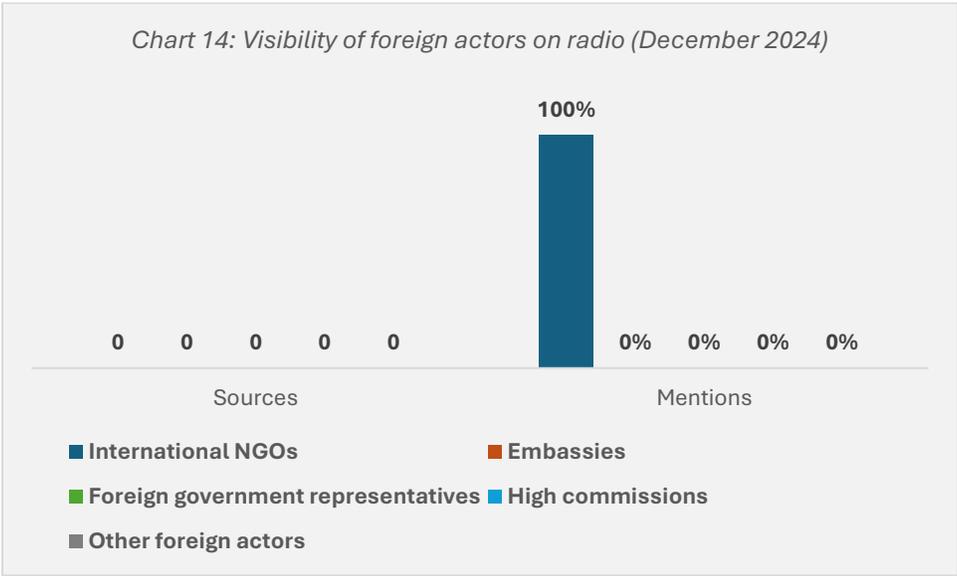


Chart 14 shows that international NGOs accounted for 100% (2 instances) of the mentions in this category. They were, however, not used as sources. The other foreign actors identified in the chart were not featured.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analysis of the content for December 2024 revealed that 77.8% of the radio broadcasts were packaged as news reports while the others were packaged as discussions (12.5%) and interviews (9.7%). The radio stations adhered to the journalistic principle of balance in 100% of the applicable broadcasts and recorded no instances of extreme language.

Intra-party conflict (19.1%), election administration (16.9%), and transparency and accountability (14.6%) were the most reported and discussed issues. PWD and youth issues each enjoyed a meagre 1.1% of the coverage. Women's issues were not featured. Female actors, however, accounted for 14% of the sources in the gender category, indicating that the women featured in the radio broadcasts did not discuss women's issues. Youth actors constituted only 2% of the mentions. PWD actors accounted for 1% of the sources and 1% of the mentions in their category.

APC accounted for the most sources (42.3%) and mentions (35.1%) in the political party section while PDP and LP each accounted for 19.2% of the sources as well as 31.1% and 18.9% of the mentions respectively.

INEC (68% sources; 56.8% mentions) was more prominent than the other government agencies combined. Security agencies made up 19% of the mentions and were not used as sources.

LCDAs (2% mentions) and LGAs (6% sources; 23% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government (94% sources; 75% mentions) in the government category. NGOs (100% sources; 33% mentions) were more visible than other interest groups. International NGOs were the only foreign actors featured in the radio broadcasts.

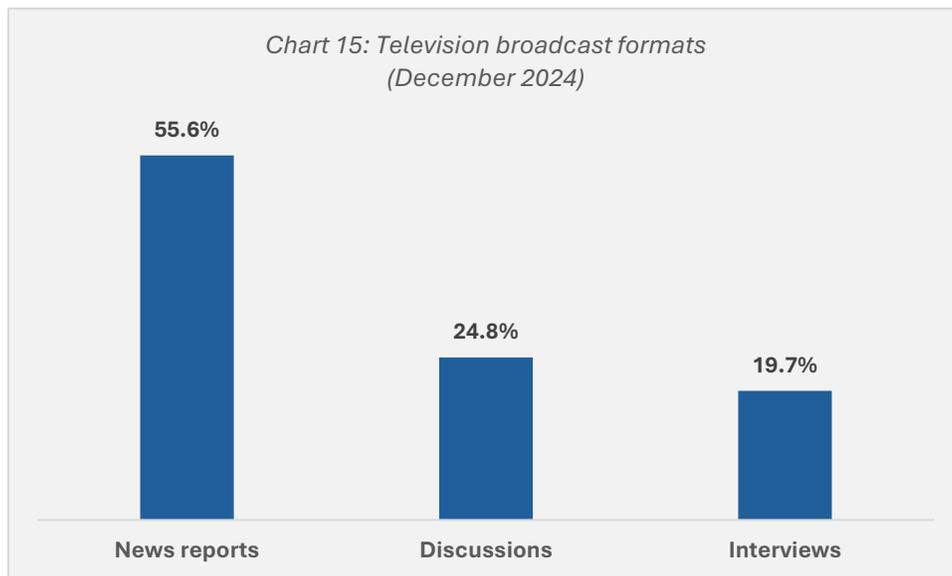
PART II

CONTENT OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

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

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY ON TELEVISION

A total of 117 news reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected television stations.

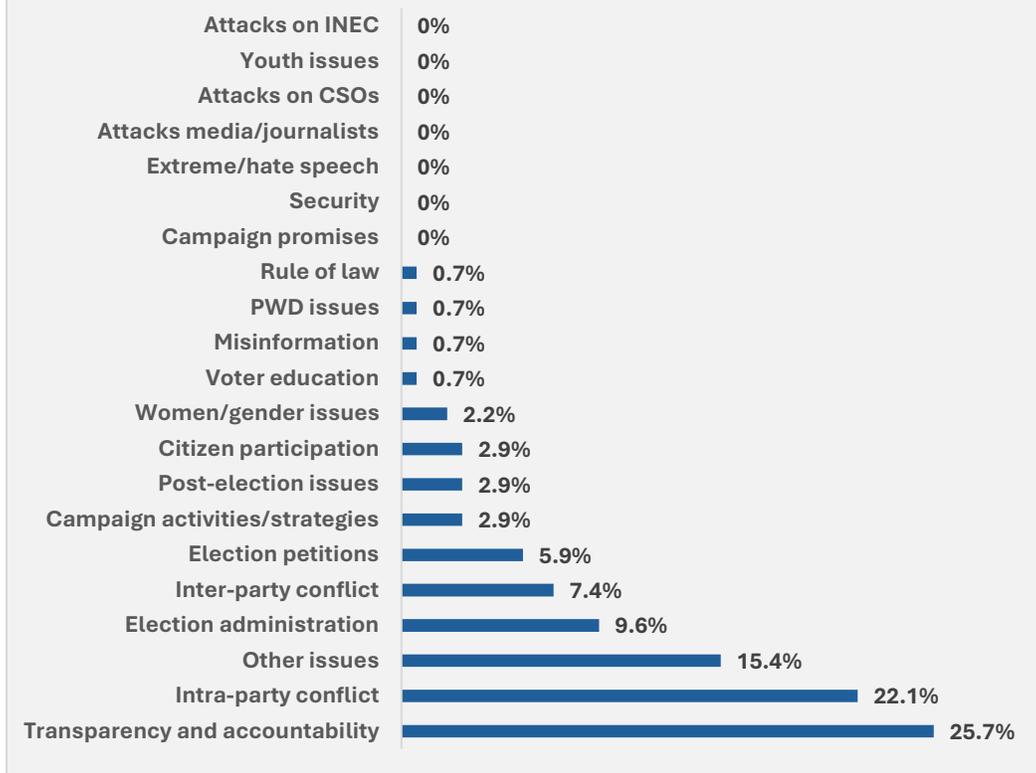


Out of the contents analysed during the period under review, 65 were packaged as news reports. These, according to Chart 15, represented 55.6% of the contents. The remaining television broadcasts were aired in the discussion (24.8%; 29 stories) and interview (19.7%; 23 stories) formats.

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 (December 2024)



Transparency and accountability, Chart 16 shows, accounted for 25.7% (35 in 136 instances), the most, of the issues reported and discussed on television during the period under review. Citizen participation and the rule of law received 2.9% (4 instances) and 0.7% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively.

“AGF maintains that Supreme Court judgment on local government autonomy must be enforced,” Channels TV reported on December 12, focusing on transparency and accountability.

During a December 31 interview on LTV programme ‘Talking Point,’ public affairs analyst Taiwo Olapade stated that local government autonomy was a significant achievement for the government in 2024. He, however, expressed regrets that it had not been officially implemented.

- “Take It Back Movement demands immediate release of female activist Abiodun Thomas who was arrested by the Nigeria police,” News Central reported on December 13, focusing on citizen participation.
- “Rule of law: Justice minister says no governor has power to suspend, remove LG chairman, deputies,” ITV reported on December 19.

Whereas intra-party conflict and inter-party conflict made up 22.1% (30 instances) and 7.4% (10 instances) of the coverage respectively, election petitions enjoyed 5.9% (8 instances) of the attention.

- “Lagos APC holds summit, emphasises need to resolve internal conflicts, be united,” ITV reported on December 5, focusing on intra-party conflict.
- During a December 22 interview on Channels TV’s ‘Politics Today,’ factional Rivers APC chairman Emeka Beke asserted that he, not Tony Okocha, was the legally recognised state chairman of the party. He contended that FCT minister Nyesom Wike (a PDP member serving under an APC-led presidency) was to blame for his leadership challenges within the APC. The interview was focused on intra and inter-party conflict.
- During a discussion segment of the December 24 edition of News Central programme ‘Breakfast Central,’ LP official Marcel Nogobehi highlighted the crises rocking the party but pointed out that gains made by the Obidient Movement were good.
- “APC sets up committee to reconcile aggrieved party members in Adamawa state,” Channels TV reported on December 29.
- “Edo PDP condemns suspension of 18 local government chairmen, says it is unconstitutional and abuse of local government autonomy,” Channels TV reported on December 17, focusing on inter-party conflict.
- Also, “Edo PDP alleges plan by APC-led state government to change local government account signatories,” Channels TV reported on December 31.
- In an instance focusing on election petitions, “Ondo guber: Court dismisses suit challenging qualification of Governor Aiyedatiwa, deputy,” OGTV reported on December 2.
- “Edo governorship election: Tribunal receives seven petitions against Governor Okpebholo,” OGTV reported on December 9.

Election administration represented 9.6% (13 instances) of the themes while voter education received 0.7% (1 instance) of the coverage.

- During a December 3 interview on Arise TV programme ‘Arise Primetime,’ Osita Chidoka, founder of the Athena Centre for Policy and Leadership, claimed that INEC has inexplicably disabled the result viewing feature of the BVAS on the IREV platform

in Edo and Ondo, which he considered a significant violation of transparency. The comment was based on election administration.

- Also, “INEC set to implement recommendations obtained from internal and external engagements about 2023 general election,” Channels TV reported on December 12.
- During the discussion segment of the December 15 edition of ITV’s ‘This Morning On ITV,’ Oshahon Okoro, Hon. Napoleon Agbama, Iyeyemi Onajomo, Ahmed Evabakare and Ahmed Momodu, all political analysts, raised concerns about voter apathy and highlighted the need for voter education.

Campaign activities/strategies constituted 2.9% (4 instances) of the coverage. Campaign promises were not featured.

- During a December 10 interview on News Central’s ‘Politics HQ,’ LP chieftain Marcel Ngogbehei addressed what he identified as Nigeria’s biggest challenge: a segment of the population’s disengagement from politics. He noted that entering politics often required overcoming significant obstacles. He also emphasises that LP’s mobilisation efforts for future elections would extend from the local government level down to the polling units.
- “Benue APC endorses President Tinubu for 2027 presidency,” Channels TV reported on December 29.

Women’s and PWD issues received 2.2% (3 instances) and 0.7% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively. Youth issues were neither reported nor discussed.

- “Edo disability law enforcement: NAPVID, ROLAC, others want immediate implementation of disability law in the state,” ITV News reported on December 5.
- During a December 18 discussion on LTV programme ‘The Conversation,’ public intellectual Obadare Adenekan said that the proposal for special seats for women would enhance their participation in governance.

Misinformation accounted for 0.7% (1 instance) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech was not featured. Also, security issues, and attacks on media/journalists, INEC and CSOs, were not featured.

Post-election and other issues received 2.9% (4 instances) and 15.4% (21 instances) of the coverage respectively.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION — 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 television broadcasts were analysed to assess their adherence to this standard.

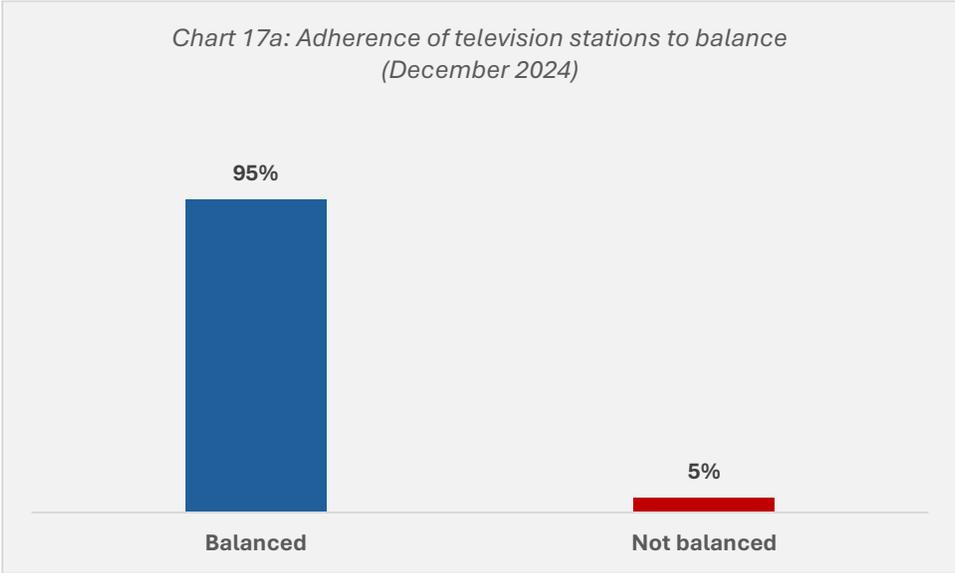


Chart 17a shows that 95% (21 in 22 applicable stories) of sampled television broadcasts were balanced while 5% (1 story) were not.

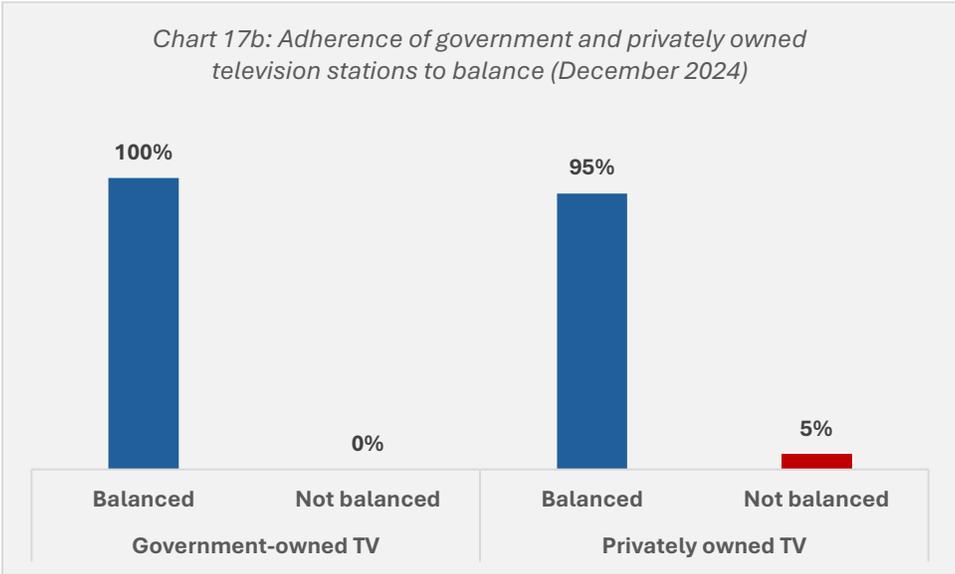


Chart 17b shows that 100% (3 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned television stations were balanced. In contrast, 95% (18 in 19 stories) of the broadcasts from privately owned television stations were balanced while 5% (1 story) were not. The data indicates that

private television stations were responsible for the only instance of unbalanced broadcast recorded during the period under review.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION — LANGUAGE

The selected television stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language in their programmes. The recorded incidents included the media or its sources employing provocative language and the actions of those actively decrying inflammatory rhetoric.

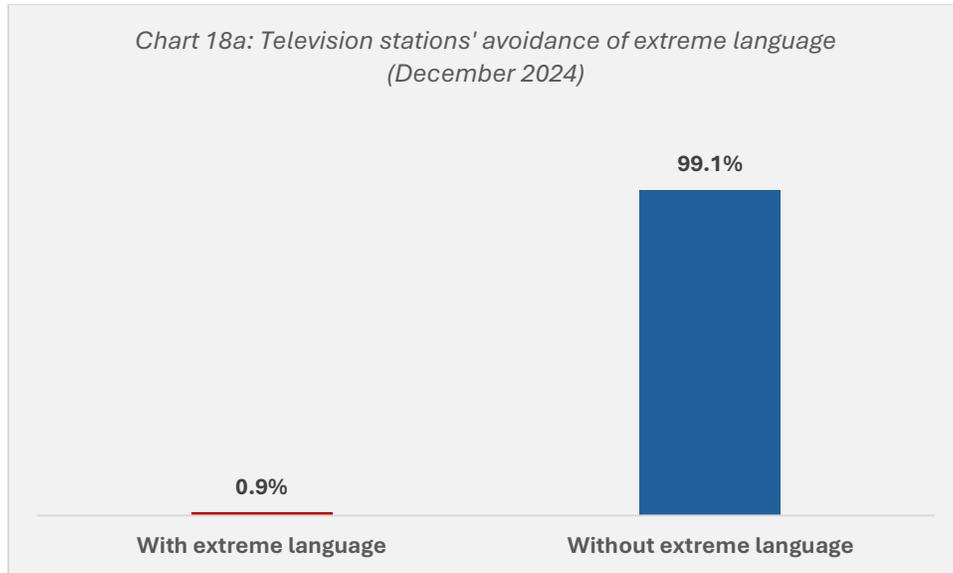


Chart 18a shows that the television stations avoided extreme language in 99.1% (116 in 117 stories) of their programmes and fell short in 0.9% (1 story) of the programmes.

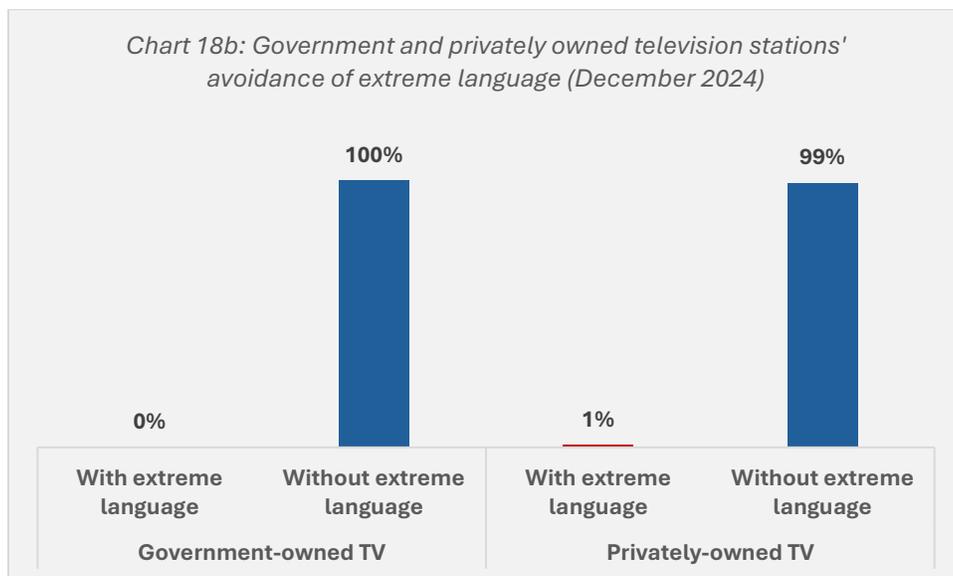


Chart 18b shows that 100% (15 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned television stations were free of extreme language. In contrast, 99% (101 in 102 stories) of the

broadcasts from privately owned television stations avoided extreme language while 1% (1 story) did not.

- “Martin Amaewhule-led Rivers Assembly frowns at Governor Fubara’s presentation of 2025 to three lawmakers loyal to him,” Channels TV reported on December 31. Amaewhule, according to the report, said that Fubara “is a rascal in government house”. His characterisation of Fubara was deemed an extreme rhetoric.

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 PWD status.

PWDs

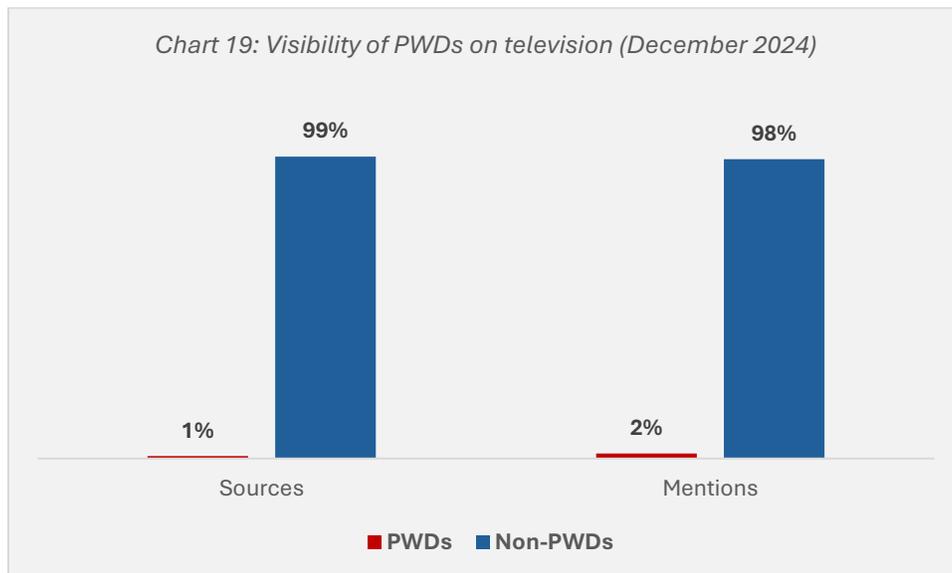
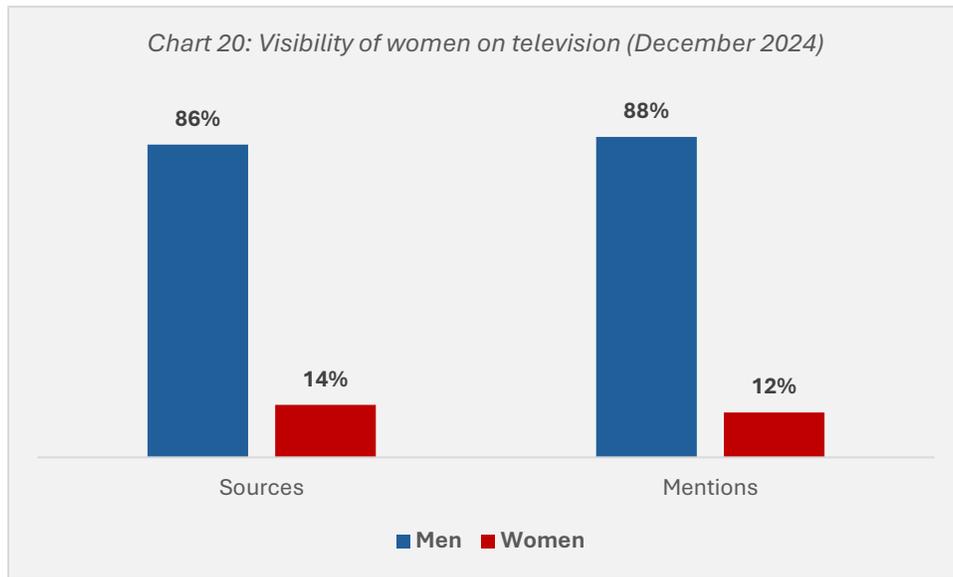


Chart 19 shows that PWD actors made up 1% (1 in 118 instances) of the sources and 2% (1 in 59 instances) of the mentions while non-PWD actors accounted for 99% (117 instances) of the sources and 98% (58 instances) of the mentions. The data reflects the previously noted low level of coverage of PWD issues (0.7%; 1 in 136 instances) as shown in Chart 16.

- “Edo disability law enforcement: NAPVID, ROLAC, others want immediate implementation of disability law in the state,” ITV News reported on December 5, featuring PWDs.

Women



According to Chart 20, women constituted 14% (17 in 118 instances) of the sources and 12% (8 in 65 instances) of the mentions while men accounted for 86% (101 instances) of the sources and 88% (57 instances) of the mentions. The data indicates that female actors were less visible compared to their male counterparts and reflects the previously noted low level of coverage (2.2%; 3 in 136 instances) dedicated to women's issues as shown in Chart 16.

- During a December 18 discussion on LTV programme 'The Conversation,' public intellectual Obadare Adenekan said that the proposal for special seats for women would enhance their participation in governance. Women were mentioned in the report.

Youth

The African Youth Charter¹ 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.

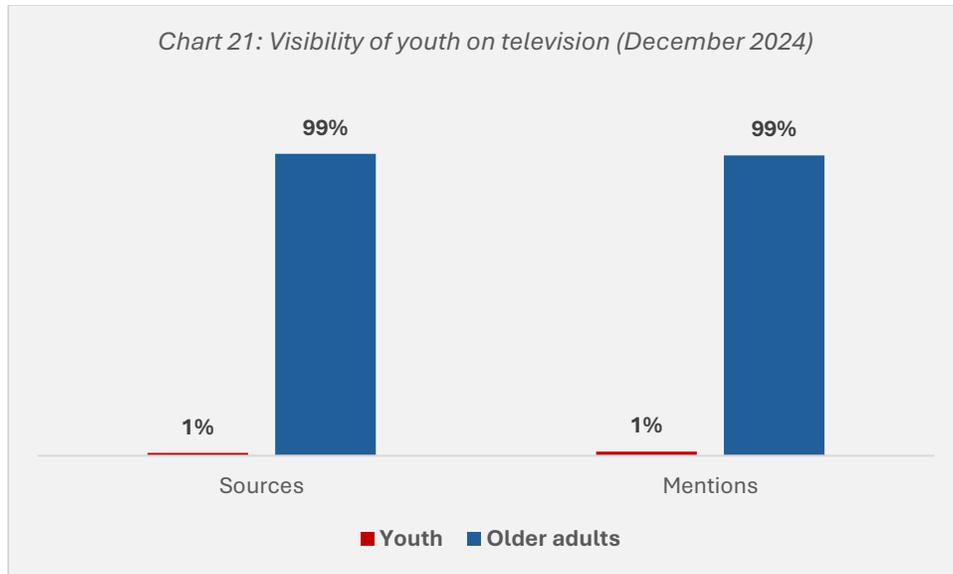


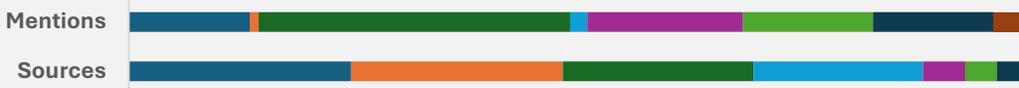
Chart 21 shows that youth made up 1% (1 in 116 instances) of the sources and 1% (1 in 73 instances) of the mentions while older adults represented 99% (115 instances) of the sources and 99% (72 instances) of the mentions. The data highlights the limited visibility of youth actors, reflecting the previously noted lack of coverage of youth issues as illustrated in Chart 16.

- During a December discussion on TVC News programme 'This Morning,' the Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Barrister Moyosore Ogunlewe, disclosed plans to empower Kosofe youths in the coming year.

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 (December 2024)



	Sources	Mentions
■ Party chieftains	24.7%	13.5%
■ Journalists/OAPs	23.5%	1%
■ Other politicians	21.2%	34.6%
■ Public intellectuals/commentators	18.8%	1.9%
■ Other citizens	4.7%	17.3%
■ Aspirants/candidates	3.5%	14.4%
■ Political officeholders	3.5%	13.5%
■ Traditional rulers	0%	2.9%
■ Religious leaders	0%	1%
■ Spouses of political officeholders	0%	0%
■ Spouses of aspirants/candidates	0%	0%

Chart 22a shows that party chieftains constituted 24.7% (21 in 85 instances) of the sources and 13.5% (14 in 104 instances) of the mentions. Aspirants/candidates and political officeholders each accounted for 3.5% (3 instances) of the sources as well as for 14.4% (15 instances) and 13.5% (14 instances) of the mentions respectively. Other politicians made up 21.2% (18 instances) of the sources and 34.6% (36 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of politicians were not featured.

Journalists/OAPs constituted 23.5% (20 instances) of the sources and 1% (1 instance) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators accounted for 18.8% (16 instances) of the sources and 1.9% (2 instances) of the mentions.

Traditional rulers and religious leaders made up 2.9% (3 instances) and 1% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively. They were, however, not used as sources.

Other citizens accounted for 4.7% (4 instances) of the sources and 17.3% (18 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.

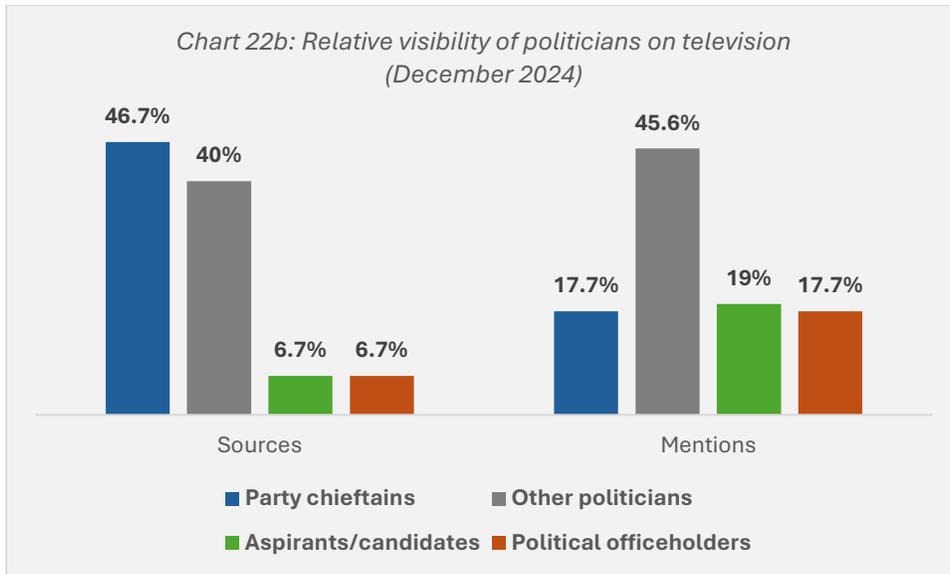


Chart 22b shows that party chieftains made up 46.7% (21 in 45 instances) of the sources and 17.7% (14 in 79 instances) of the mentions. Aspirants/candidates and political officeholders each accounted for 6.7% (3 instances) of the sources as well as for 19% (15 instances) and 17.7% (14 instances) of the mentions respectively. Other politicians made up 40% (18 instances) of the sources and 45.6% (36 instances) of the mentions.

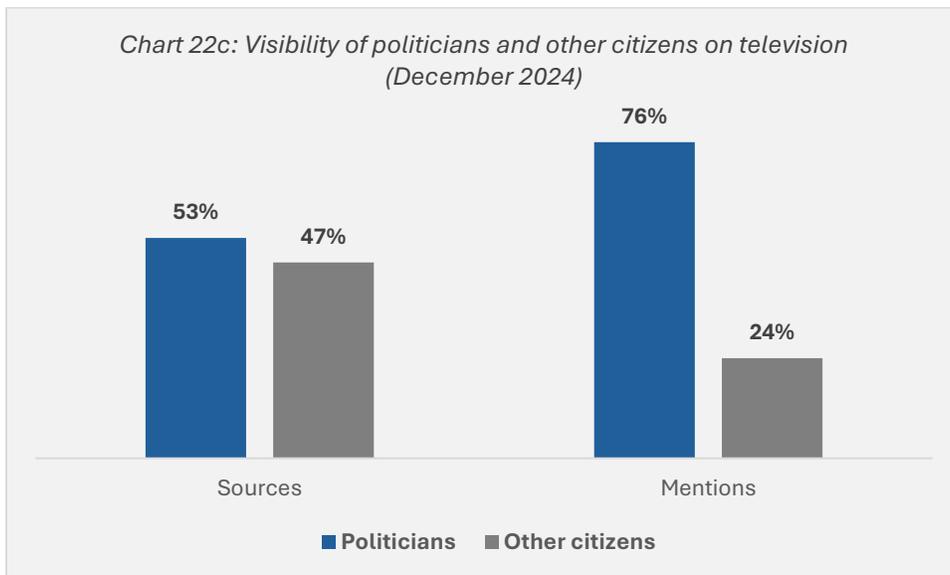


Chart 22c shows that politicians constituted 53% (45 in 85 instances) of the sources and 76% (79 in 104 instances) of the mentions while other citizens made up 47% (40 instances) of the sources and 24% (25 instances) of the mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS ON TELEVISION

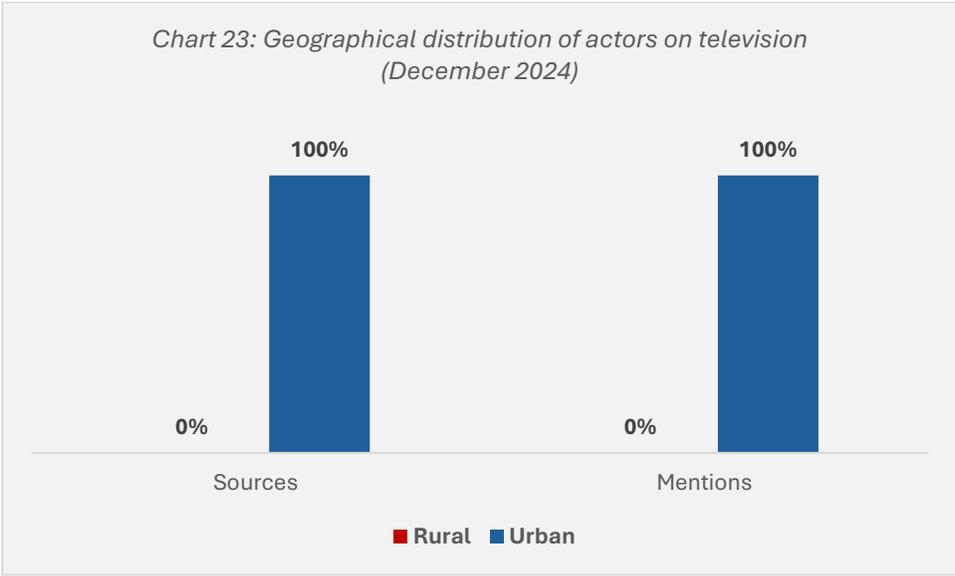


Chart 23 shows that actors from urban locations made up 100% (115 instances) of the sources and 100% (44 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors were not featured.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON TELEVISION

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

POLITICAL PARTIES

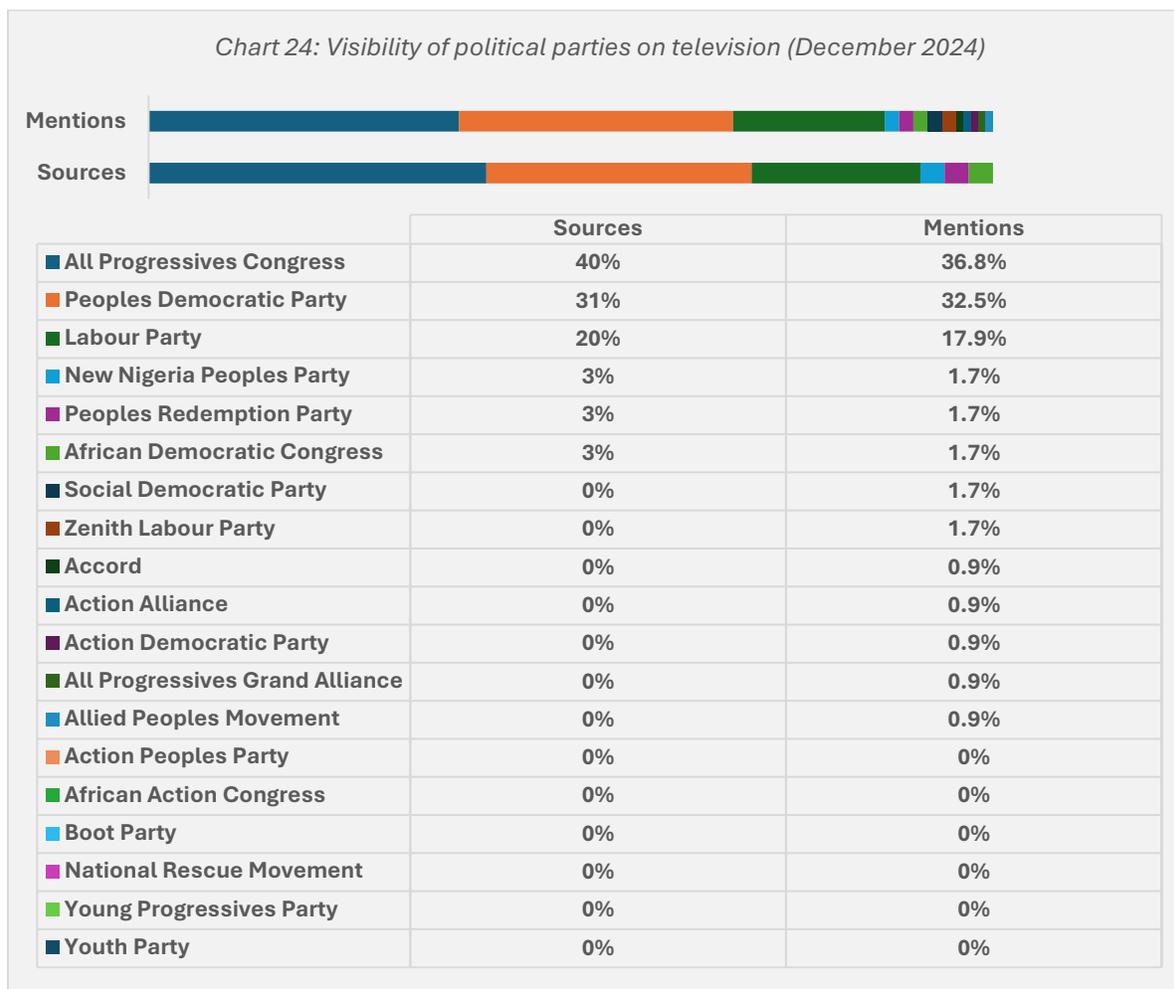


Chart 24 shows that All Progressives Congress (APC) was the most featured political party, accounting for 40% (14 in 35 instances) of the sources and 36.8% (43 in 117 instances) of the mentions.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) made up 31% (11 instances) of the sources and 32.5% (38 instances) of mentions while Labour Party (LP) represented 20% (7 instances) of the sources and 17.9% (2 instances) of the mentions.

New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) and African Democratic Congress (ADC) each accounted for 3% (1 instance) of the sources and 1.7% (2 instances) of the mentions.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) each made up 1.7% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for Accord, Action Alliance (AA), Action Democratic Party (ADP), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and Allied Peoples Movement (APM), each of which represented 0.9% (1 instance) of the mentions.

The other actors identified in the chart were 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

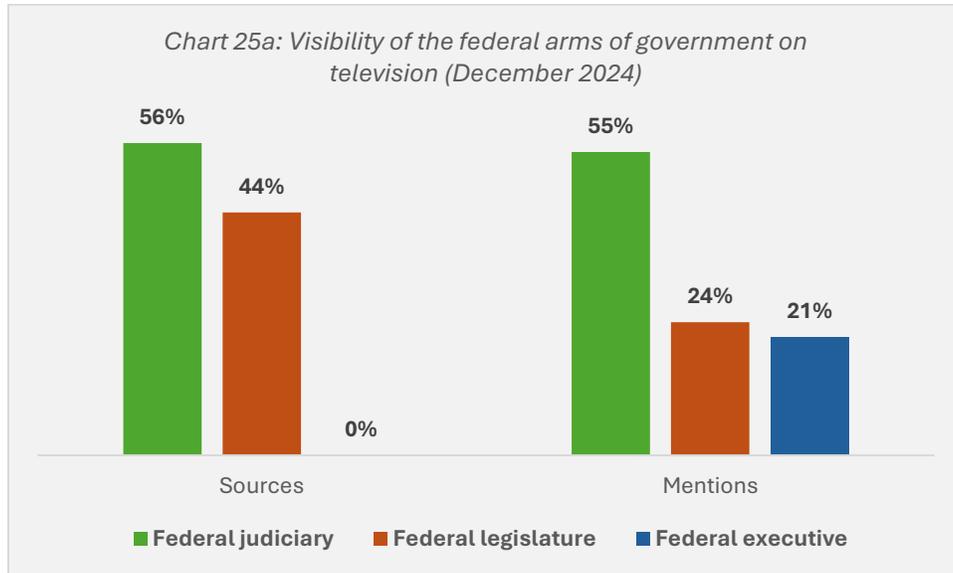


Chart 25a shows that the federal judiciary made up 56% (9 in 16 instances) of the sources and 55% (41 in 75 instances) of the mentions, making it the most featured actor in this category. The federal legislature accounted for 44% (7 instances) of the sources and 24% (18 instances) of the mentions while the federal executive made up 21% (16 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

State governments

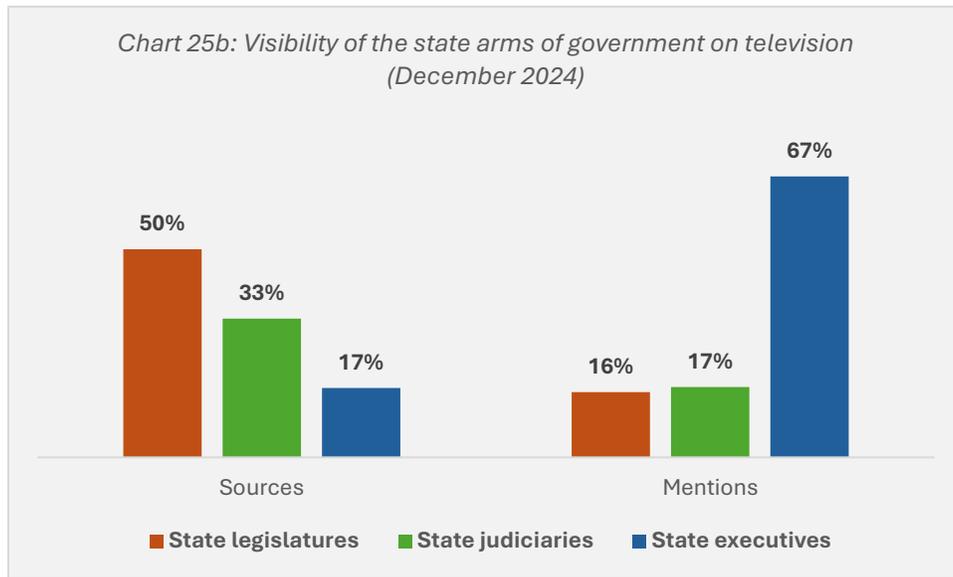
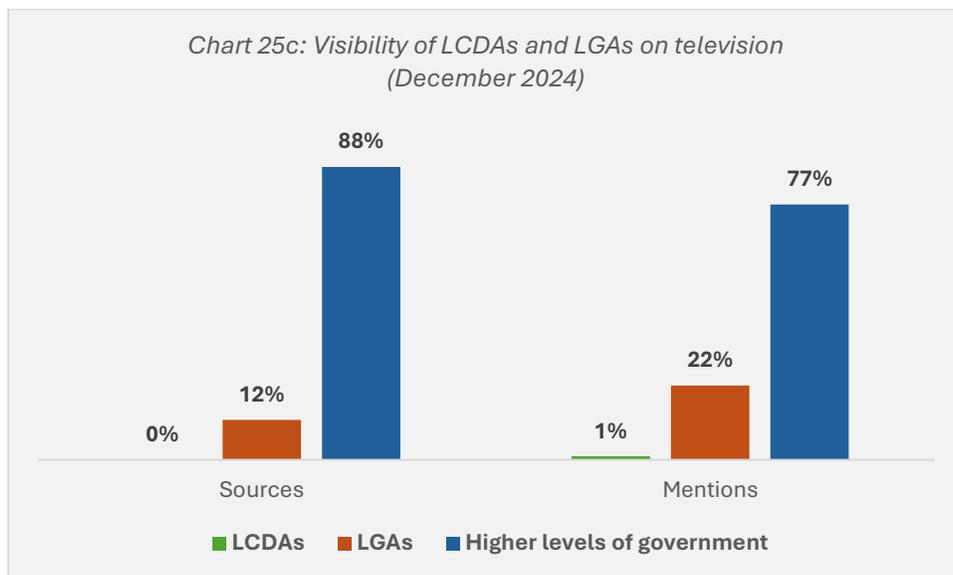


Chart 25b shows that state executives represented 50% (3 in 6 instances) of the sources and 16% (13 in 83 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries accounted for 33% (2 instances) of the sources and 17% (14 instances) of the mentions. State executives constituted 17% (1 instance) of the sources and 67% (56 instances) of the mentions.

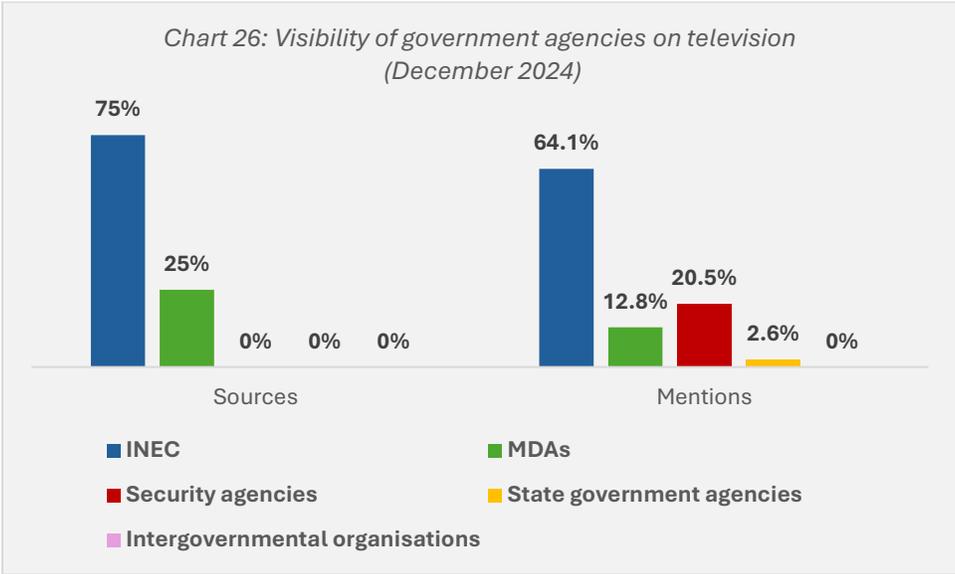
LCDAs and LGAs



According to Chart 25c, the higher levels of government dominated this category with 88% (22 in 25 instances) of the sources and 77% (158 in 206 instances) of the mentions. LGAs made up 12% (3 instances) of the sources and 22% (46 instances) of the mentions while LCDAs accounted for 1% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

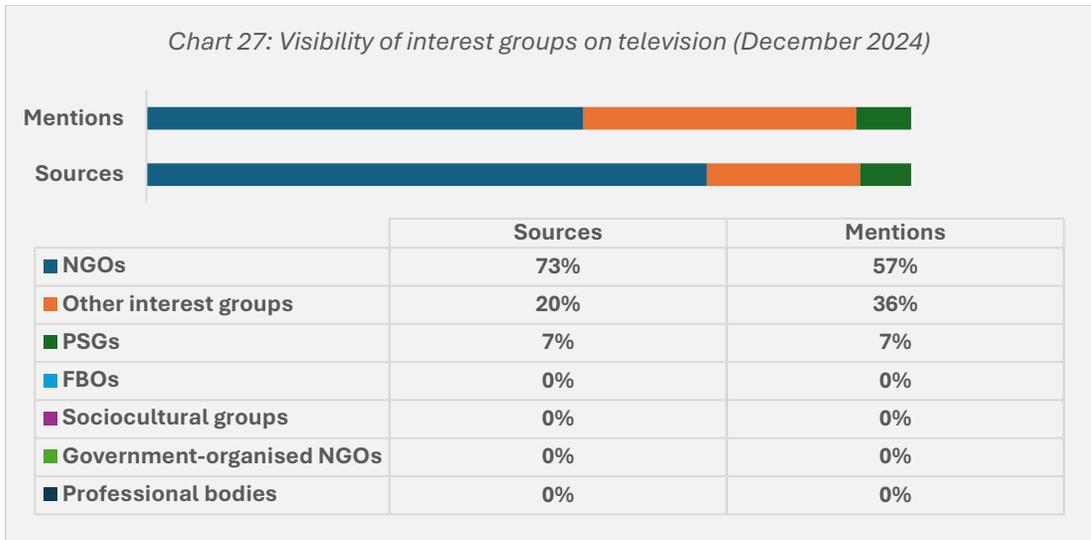
This section assesses the visibility of government agencies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies, which conduct and safeguard the elections, state government agencies, and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies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



According to Chart 26, INEC constituted 75% (3 in four instances) of the sources and received 64.1% (25 in 39 instances) of the mentions, making it the most frequently featured government agency on television during the reviewed period. MDAs followed with 25% (1 instance) of the sources and 12.8% (5 instances) of the mentions. Security agencies and state government agencies accounted for 20.5% (8 instances) and 2.6% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively. They were, however, not used as sources. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

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).



According to Chart 27, NGOs accounted for 73% (11 in 15 instances) of the sources and 57% (8 in 14 instances) of the mentions, making them the most featured interest group on television during the period under review. PSGs made up 7% (1 instance) of the sources and 7% (1 instance) of the mentions while other interest groups accounted for 20% (3 instances) of the sources and 36% (5 instances) of the mentions. Sociocultural groups and professional bodies were not featured.

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.

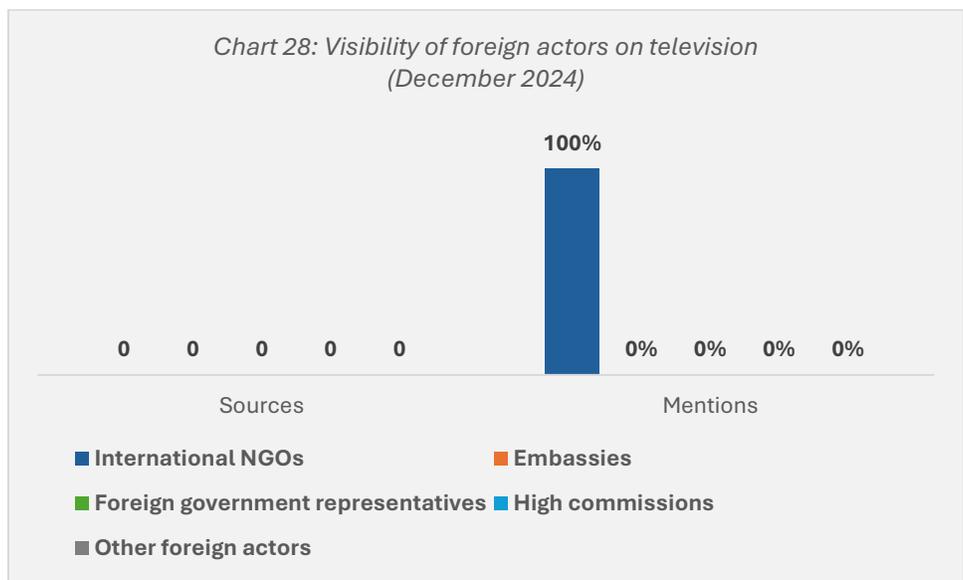


Chart 28 shows that international NGOs accounted for 100% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources. No other foreign actor was featured.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Most (55.6%) of the television programmes analysed during the period under review were packaged as news reports, with the rest taking the discussion (24.8%) and interview (19.7%) formats. The television stations adhered to the principle of balance 95% of the time and recorded one instance (0.9%) of extreme language.

Women's and PWD issues constituted 2.2% and 0.7% of the themes. Youth issues were, however, not featured. Transparency and accountability (25.7%), intra-party conflict (22.1%) and election administration (9.6%) were the most reported and discussed issues. Women (14% sources; 12% mentions), youth (1% sources; 1% mentions) and PWDs (1% sources; 2% mentions) were not as visible as non-PWD adult males.

APC (40% sources; 36.8% mentions), PDP (31% sources; 32.5% mentions) and LP (20% sources; 17.9% mentions) were the most featured political parties.

INEC represented 75% of the sources and 64.1% of the mentions in the government agency category where it was more visible than MDAs (25% sources; 12.8% mentions), security agencies (20.5% mentions) and state government agencies (2.6% mentions) combined.

LCDAs (1% mentions) and LGAs (12% sources; 22% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government (88% sources; 77% mentions) in the government category, while NGOs (73% sources; 57% mentions) were more visible than other interest groups combined.

International NGOs (100% mentions) were the only foreign actors featured on television during the period under review.

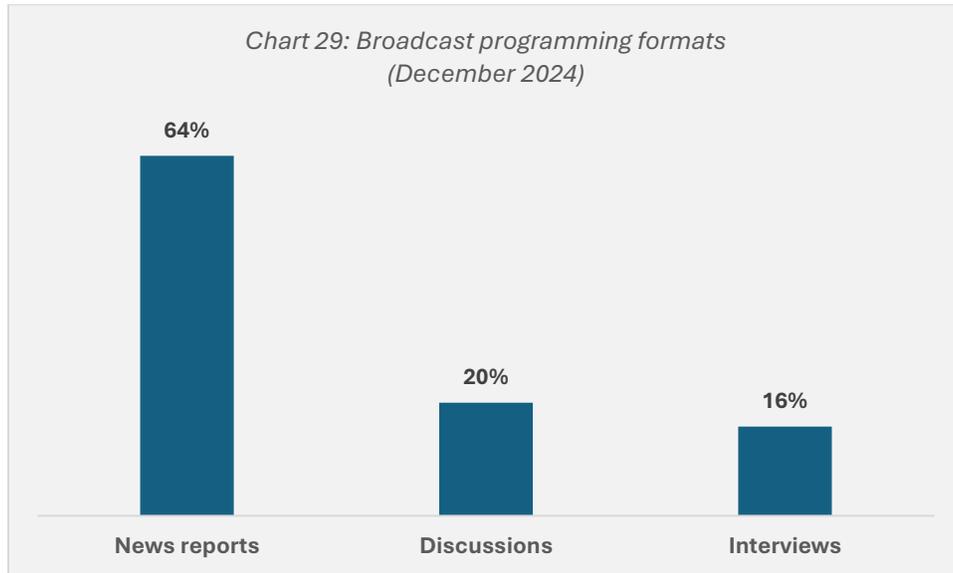
PART III

COMBINED REPORT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS

A total of 189 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 72 contents from the radio stations and 117 contents from the television stations.

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY

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

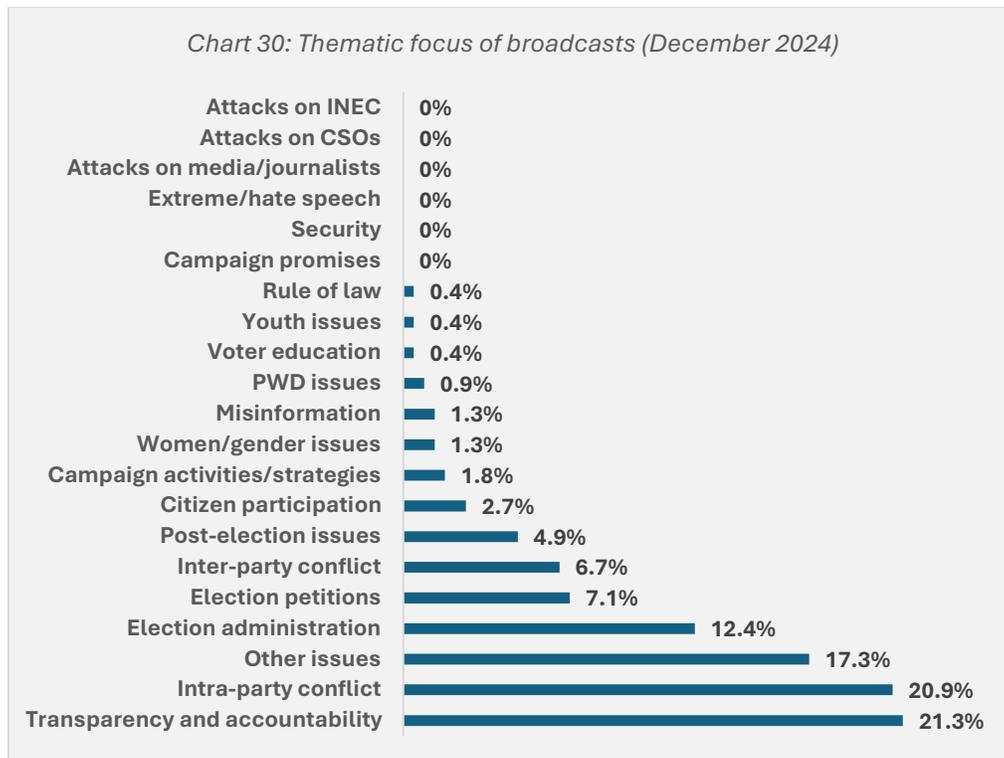


Out of the contents analysed during the period in review, 121 were packaged as news reports, representing, as Chart 29 shows, 64% of the contents. The remaining radio and television broadcasts were packaged as discussions (20%; 38 stories) and interviews (16%; 30 stories).

THEMATIC EMPHASIS

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

Chart 30: Thematic focus of broadcasts (December 2024)



According to Chart 30, transparency and accountability accounted for 21.3% (48 in 225 instances), the most, of the thematic focus areas reported and discussed in the broadcast media during the period under review. Citizen participation and the rule of law constituted 2.7% (6 instances) and 0.4% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively.

Intra-party conflict made up 20.9% (47 instances) of the coverage while inter-party conflict represented 6.7% (15 instances) of the coverage. Election petitions received 7.1% (16 instances) of the attention.

Election administration and voter education made up 12.4% (28 instances) and 0.4% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively.

Whereas campaign activities/strategies constituted 1.8% (4 instances) of the coverage, campaign promises were not featured.

Women's and PWD issues comprised 1.3% (3 instances) and 0.9% (2 instances) of the coverage respectively; youth issues accounted for 0.4% (1 instance) of the coverage.

Misinformation made up 1.3% (3 instances) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech was not featured. Security issues, and attacks on media/journalists, INEC and CSOs, were also not featured.

Post-election issues and other issues accounted for 4.9% (11 instances) and 17.3% (39 instances) of the coverage respectively.

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.

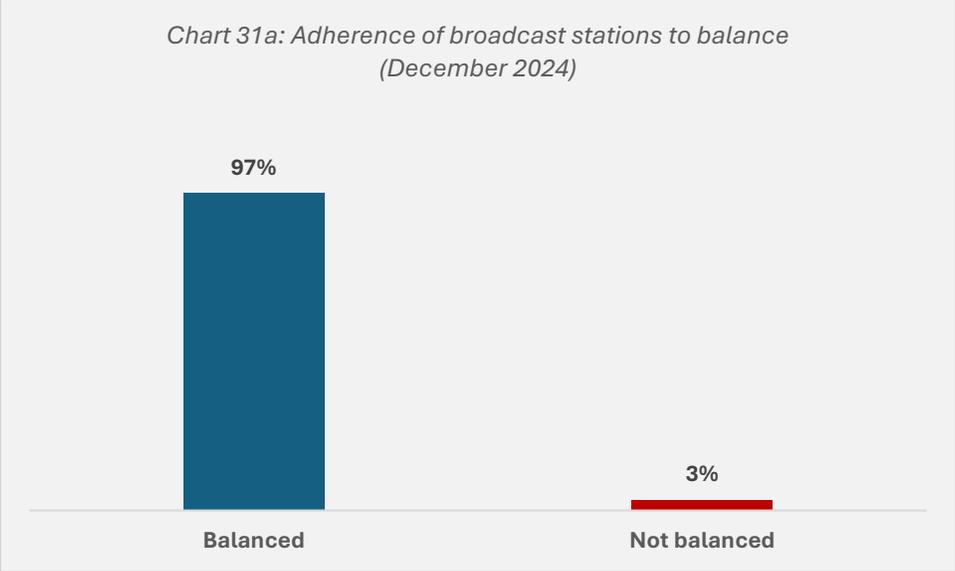


Chart 31a shows that 97% (29 in 30 applicable stories) of the sampled broadcasts were balanced while 3% (1 story) were not.

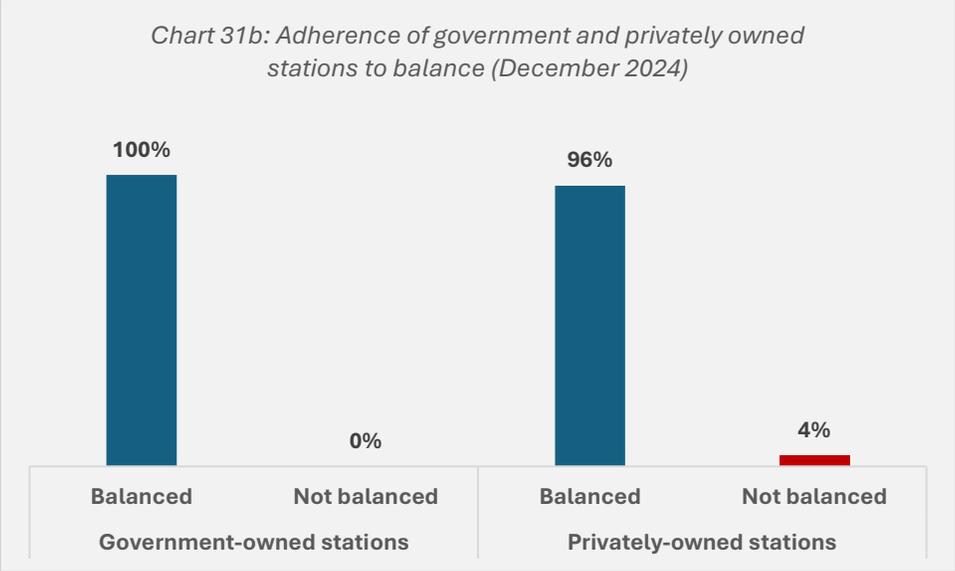


Chart 31b shows that 100% (3 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned stations were balanced. In contrast, 96% (26 in 27 stories) of the broadcasts from privately owned stations were balanced while 4% (1 story) were not.

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.

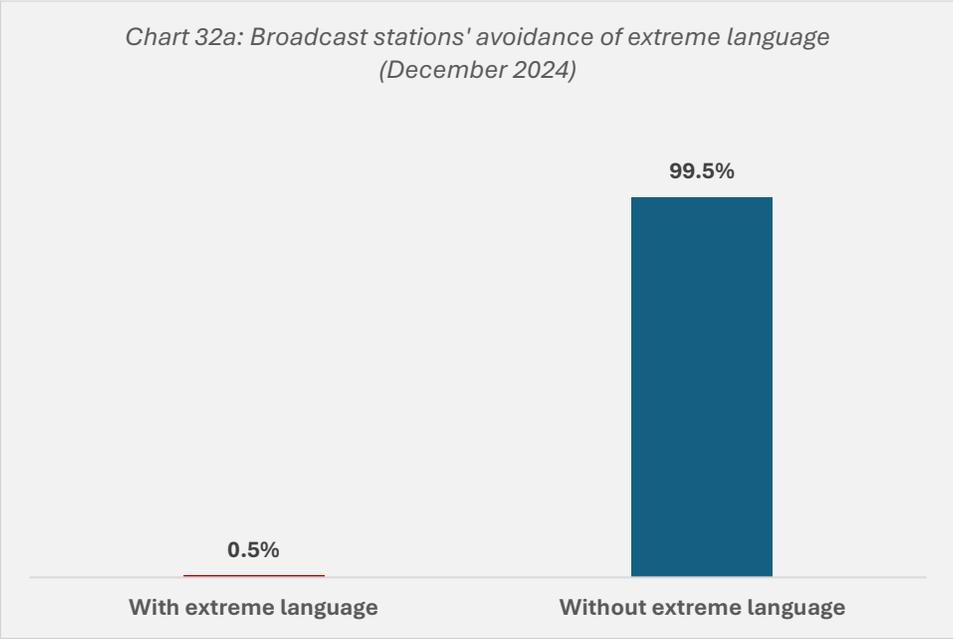


Chart 32a shows that the broadcast stations avoided extreme language in 99.5% (188 in 189 stories) of their programmes but fell short in 0.5% (1 story) of their programmes.

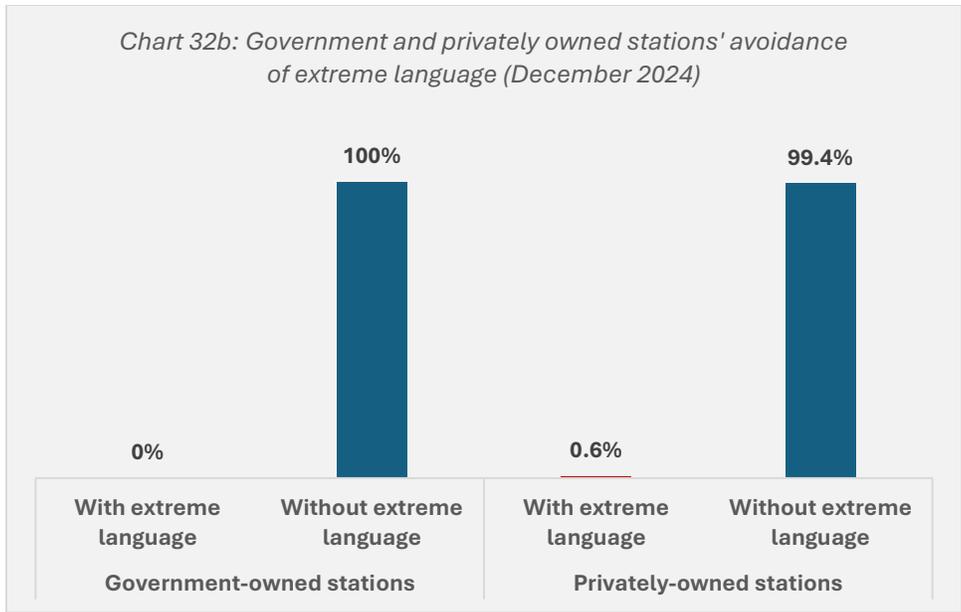


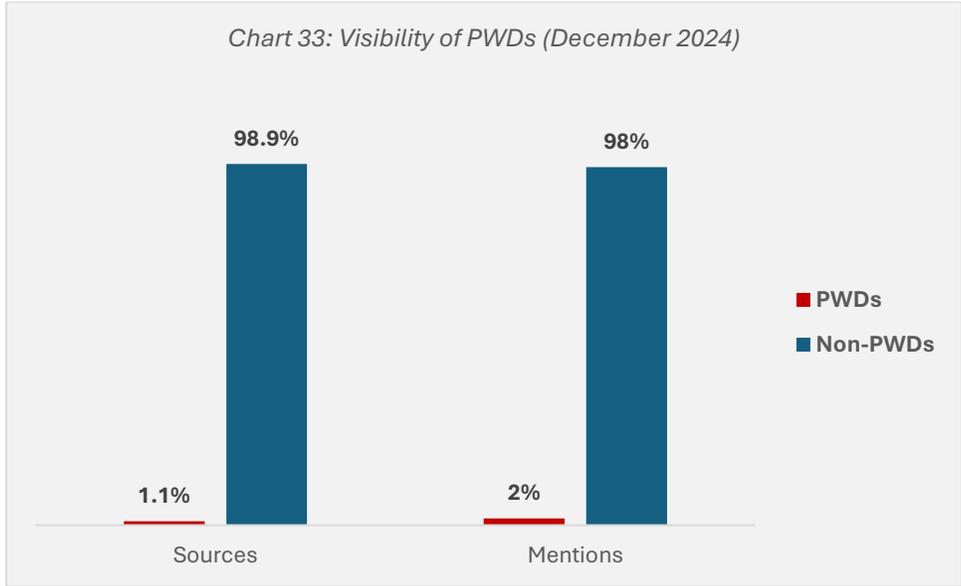
Chart 32b shows that 100% (24 stories) of the programmes from government-owned stations were free of extreme language. The chart also shows that 99.4% (164 in 165 stories) of the programmes from privately owned stations were free of extreme language while 0.6% (1 story) were not.

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 PWD status.

PWDs



According to Chart 33, PWD actors represented 0.5% (2 in 187 instances) of the sources and 2% (2 in 106 instances) of the mentions while non-PWDs accounted for 98.9% (185 instances) of the sources and 98% (104 instances) of the mentions in this category. The data reflects the low level of coverage of PWD issues (0.9%; 2 in 225 instances) as previously noted in Chart 30.

Women

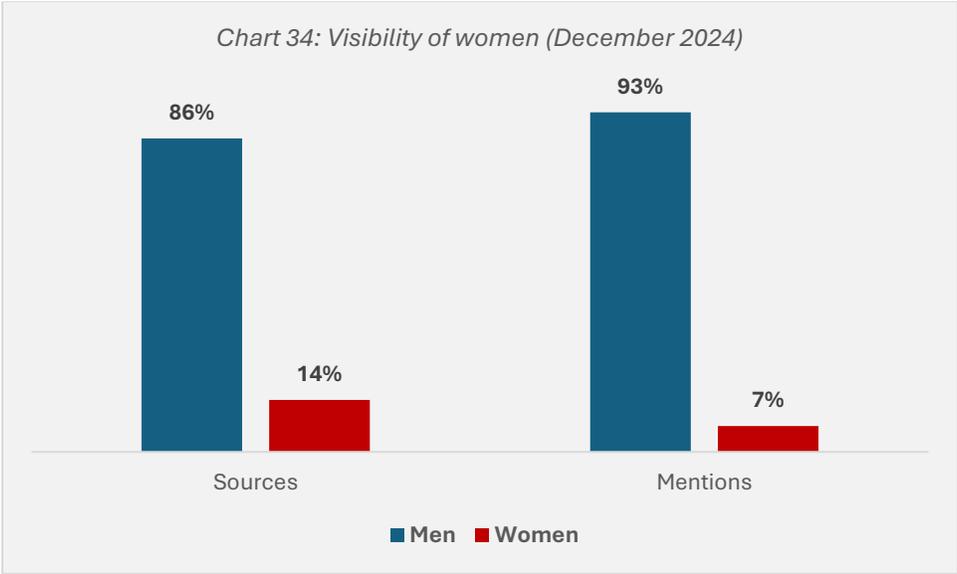


Chart 34 shows that women constituted 14% (27 in 190 instances) of the sources and 7% (8 in 113 instances) of the mentions while men constituted 86% (163 instances) of the sources and 93% (105 instances) of the mentions. The data indicates that women were not as visible as men, reflecting the limited coverage (1.3%; 2 in 225 instances) dedicated to women's issues as previously revealed in Chart 30.

Youth

The African Youth Charter¹ 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.

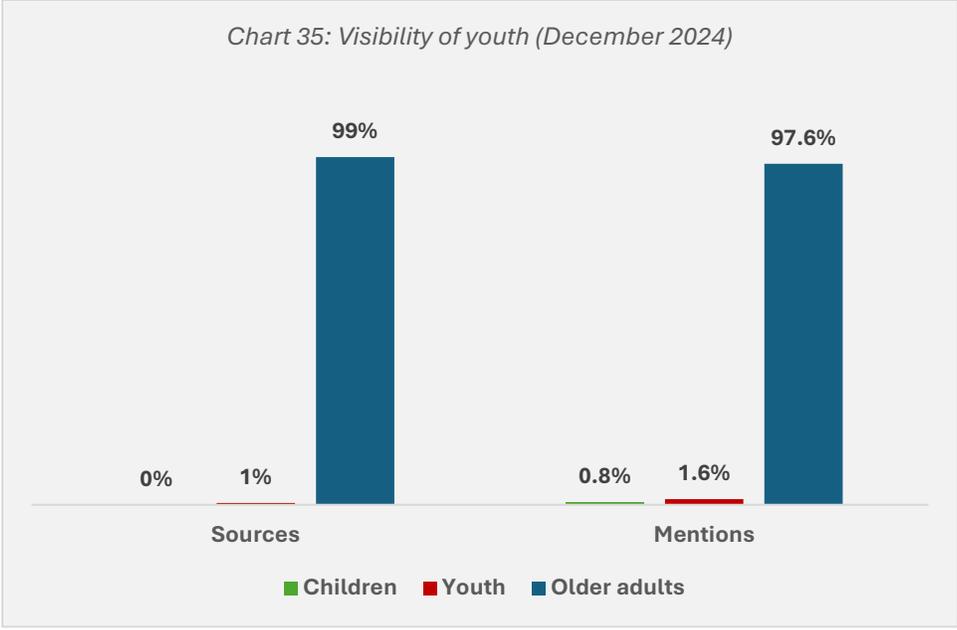


Chart 35 shows that youth represented 1% (1 in 185 instances) of the sources and 1.6% (2 in 124 instances) of the mentions in this category. Older adults constituted 99% (184 instances) of the sources and 97.6% (121 instances) of the mentions while children accounted for 0.8% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The low visibility of youth actors reflects the overall minimal coverage (0.2%; 1 in 225 instances) dedicated to youth as previously shown 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 (December 2024)

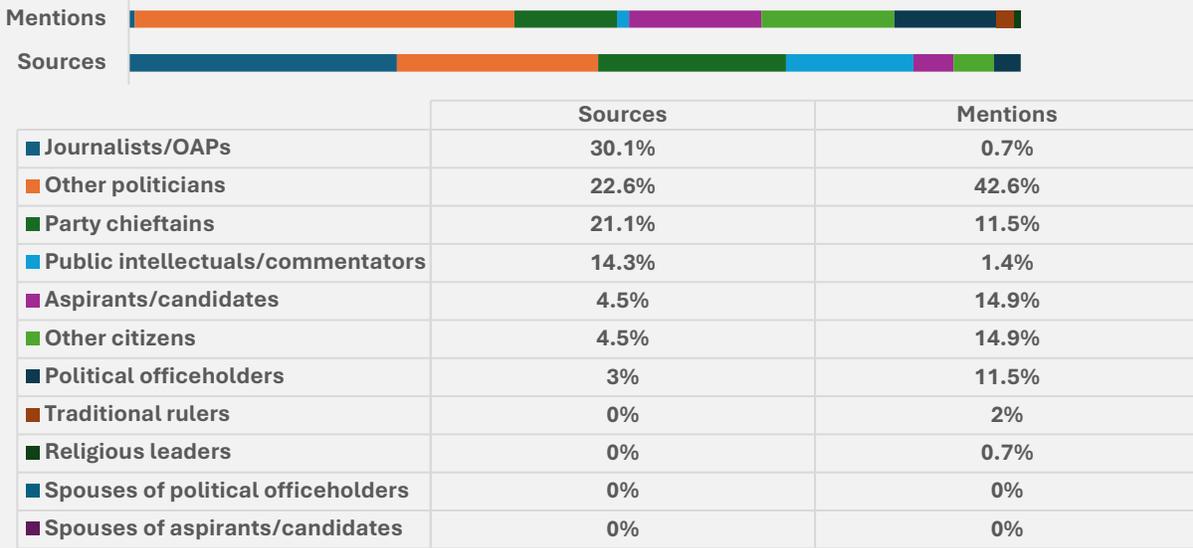
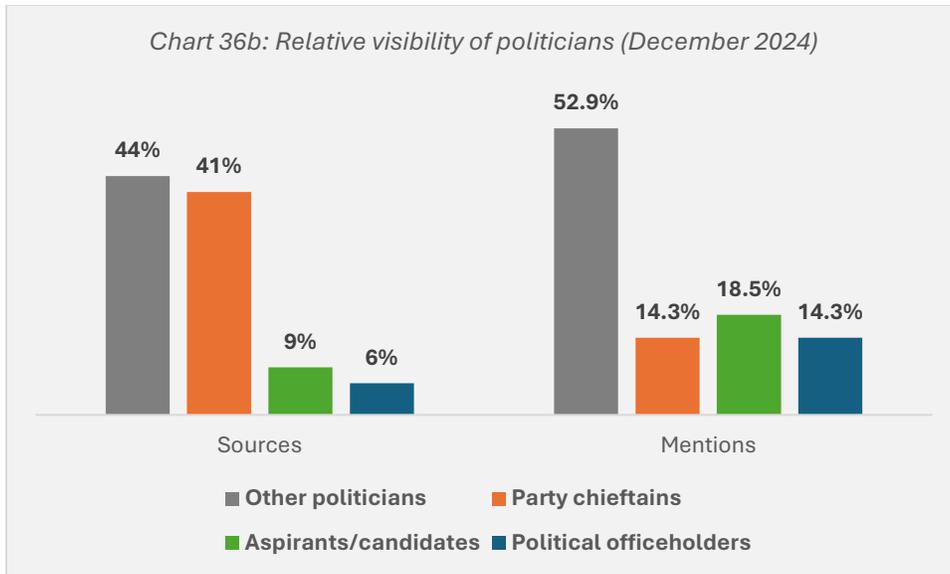


Chart 36a shows that journalists/OAPs accounted for 30.1% (40 in 133 instances) of the sources and 0.7% (1 in 148 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators made up 14.3% (19 instances) of the sources and 1.4% (2 instances) of the mentions.

Party chieftains and political officeholders each constituted 11.5% (17 instances) of the mentions as well as 21.1% (28 instances) and 3% (4 instances) of the sources respectively. Aspirants/candidates represented 4.5% (6 instances) of the sources and 14.9% (22 instances) of the mentions while other politicians accounted for 22.6% (30 instances) of the sources and 42.6% (63 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of politicians were not featured.

Traditional rulers and religious leaders accounted for 2% (3 instances) and 0.7% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively but were not used as sources.

Other citizens constituted 4.5% (6 instances) of the sources and 14.9% (22 instances) of the mentions.



According to Chart 36b, party chieftains and political officeholders each made up 14.3% (17 in 119 instances) of the mentions as well as 41% (28 in 68 instances) and 6% (4 instances) of the sources respectively. Aspirants/candidates comprised 9% (6 instances) of the sources and 18.5% (22 instances) of the mentions while other politicians accounted for 44% (30 instances) of the sources and 52.9% (63 instances) of the mentions.

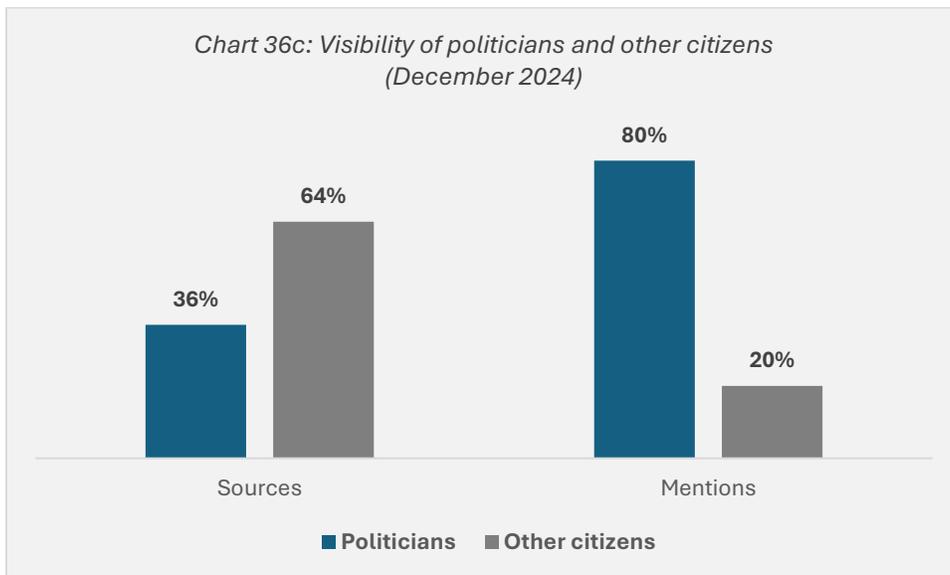


Chart 36c shows that politicians represented 36% (48 in 133 instances) of the sources and 80% (119 in 148 instances) of the mentions while other citizens made up 64% (85 instances) of the sources and 20% (29 instances) of the mentions. The data shows that other citizens were more visible as sources than politicians, but the opposite was true in terms of mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS

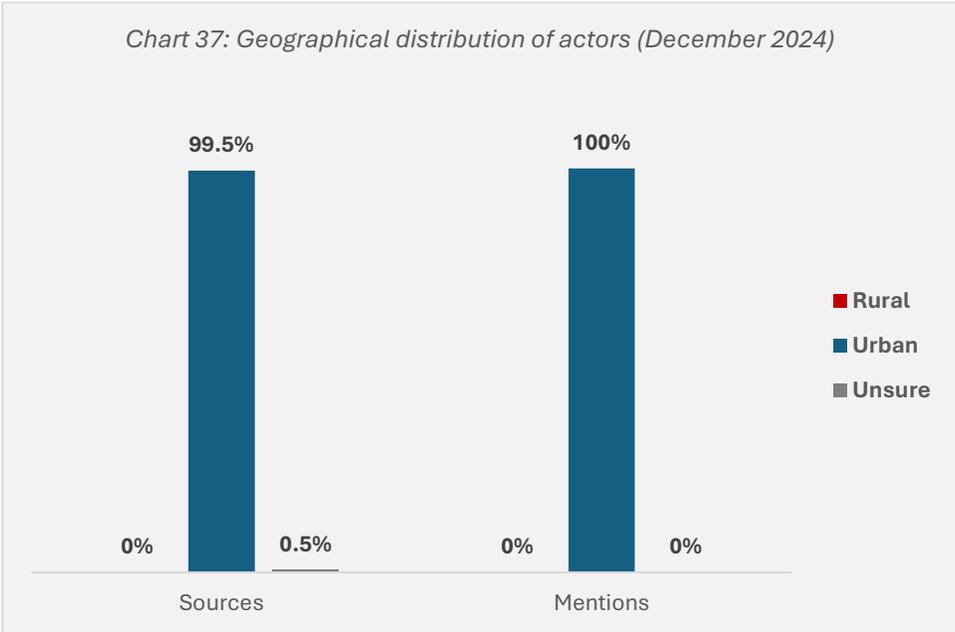
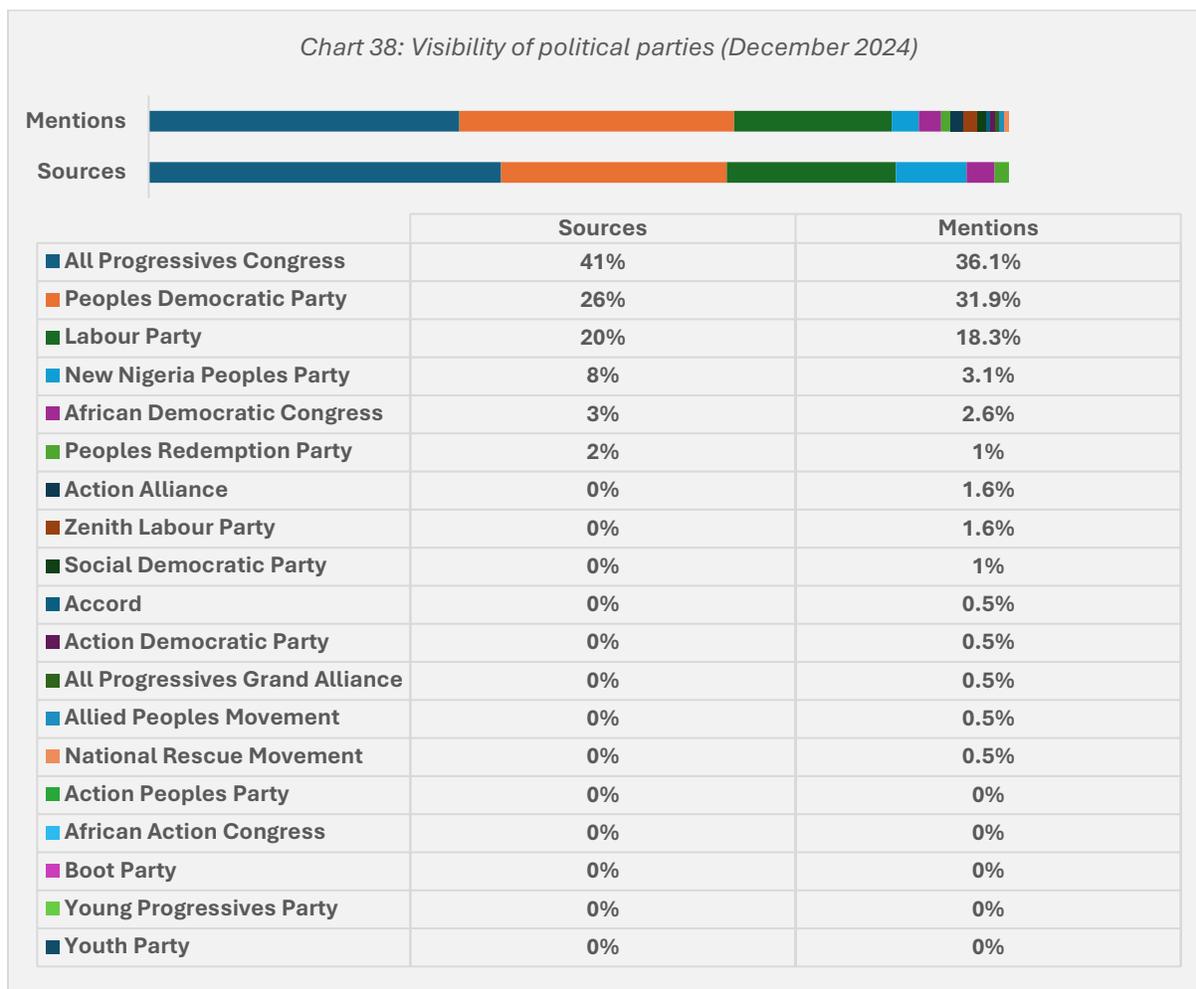


Chart 37 shows that actors from urban areas made up 99.5% (184 in 185 instances) of the sources and 100% (77 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors were not featured. There was one instance (0.5%) in which the location of a source could not be determined.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS

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

POLITICAL PARTIES



According to Chart 38, All Progressives Congress (APC) was the most visible political party, accounting for 41% (25 in 61 instances) of the sources and 36.1% (69 in 191 instances) of the mentions.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) made up 26% (16 instances) of the sources and 31.9% (61 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) represented 20% (12 instances) of the sources and 18.3% (35 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) accounted for 8% (5 instances) of the sources and 3.1% (6 instances) of the mentions, African Democratic Congress constituted 3% (2 instances) of the sources and 2.6% (5 instances) of the mentions. Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) made up 2% (1 instance) of the sources and 1% (2 instances) of the mentions.

Action Alliance (AA) and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) each represented 1.6% (3 instances) of the mentions while Social Democratic Party (SDP) made up 1% (2 instances) of the mentions. They were, however, not used as sources.

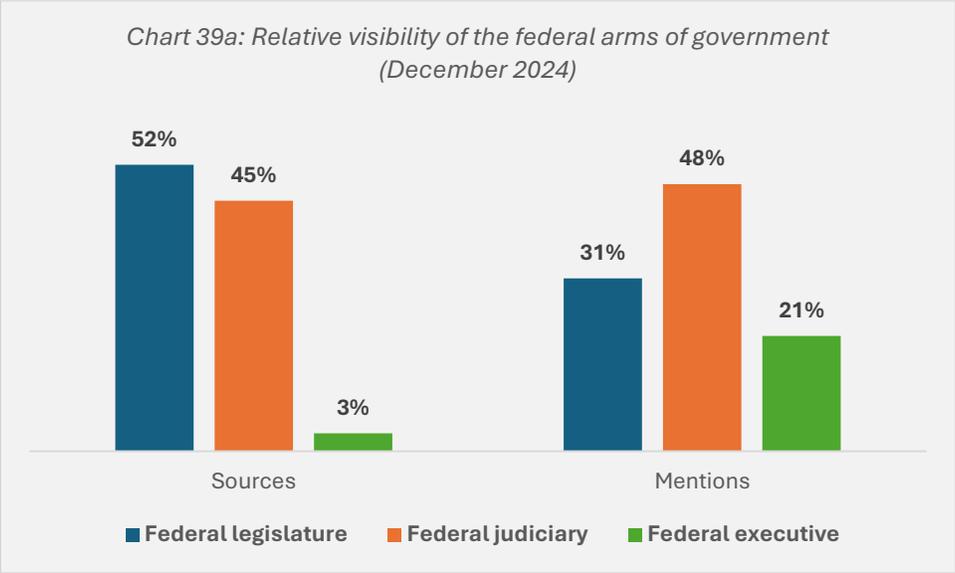
Similarly, Accord, Action Democratic Party (ADP), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and National Rescue Movement (NRM) each accounted for 0.5% (1 instance) of the mentions.

The other political parties identified in the chart were 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 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



According to Chart 39a, the federal legislature constituted 52% (16 in 31 instances) of the sources and 31% (33 in 106 instances) of the mentions. The federal judiciary made up 45% (14 instances) of the sources and 48% (51 instances) of the mentions while the federal executive accounted for 3% (1 instance) of the sources and 21% (22 instances) of the mentions.

State governments

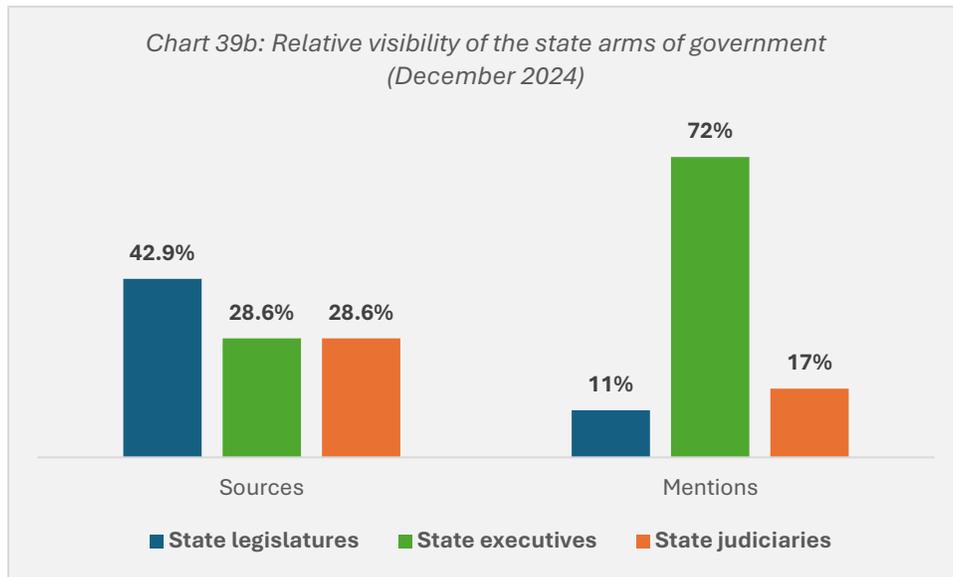


Chart 39b shows that state legislatures accounted for 42.9% (3 in 7 instances) of the sources and 11% (13 in 115 instances) of the mentions. State executives and state judiciaries each represented 28.6% (2 instances) of the sources as well as 72% (83 instances) and 17% (19 instances) of the mentions respectively.

LCDAs and LGAs

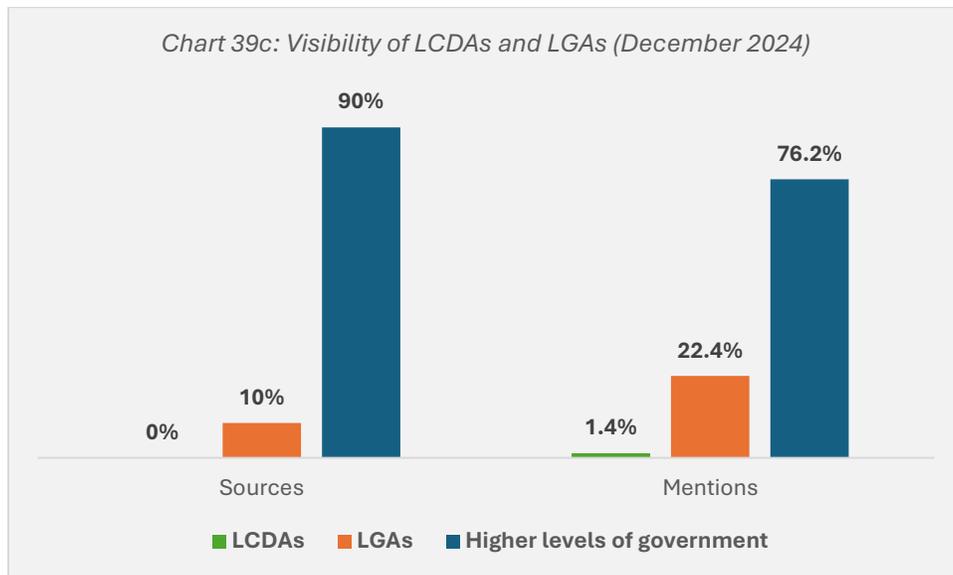
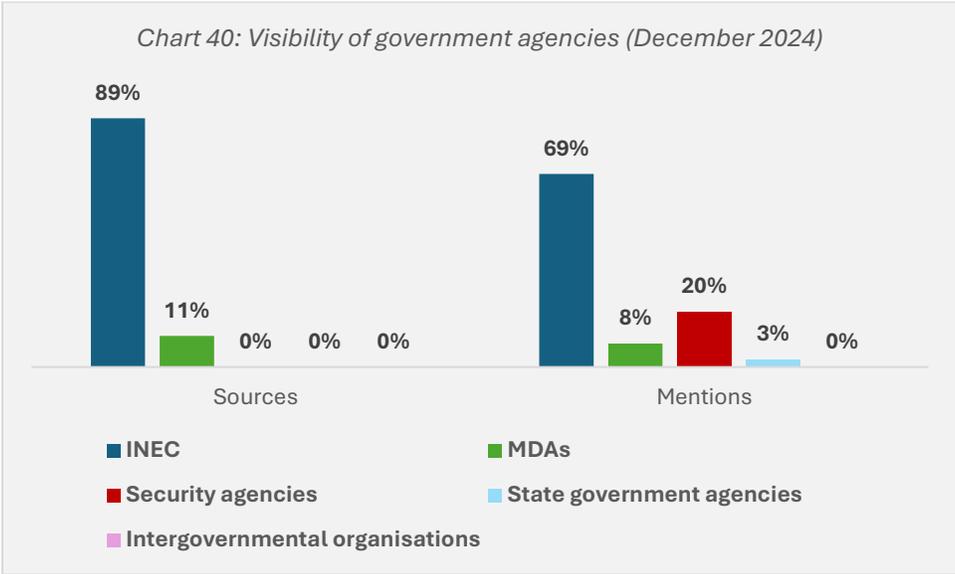


Chart 39c shows that the higher levels of government accounted for 90% (38 in 42 instances) of the sources and 76.2% (221 in 290 instances) of the mentions. LGAs represented 10% (4 instances) of the sources and 22.4% (65 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs represented 1.4% (4 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources.

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.



INEC, Chart 40 shows, accounted for 89% (8 in 9 instances) of the sources and 69% (49 in 71 instances) of the mentions, making the electoral body the most featured government agency during the period under review. MDAs made up 11% (1 instance) of the sources and 8% (6 instances) of the mentions. Security agencies received 20% (14 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for state government agencies, which accounted for 3% (2 instances) of the mentions. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

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).

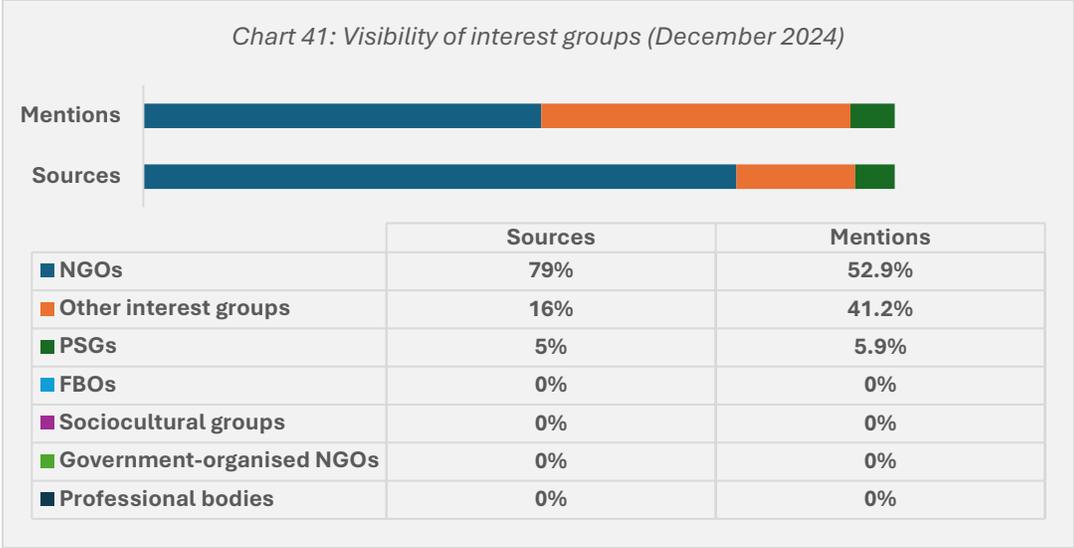


Chart 41 shows that NGOs made up 79% (15 in 19 instances) of the sources and 52.9% (9 in 17 instances) of the mentions, making them the most visible actors in this section. PSGs constituted 5% (1 instance) of the sources and 5.9% (1 instance) of the mentions. FBOs, sociocultural groups and professional bodies were not featured. Other interest groups accounted for 16% (3 instances) of the sources and 41.2% (7 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.

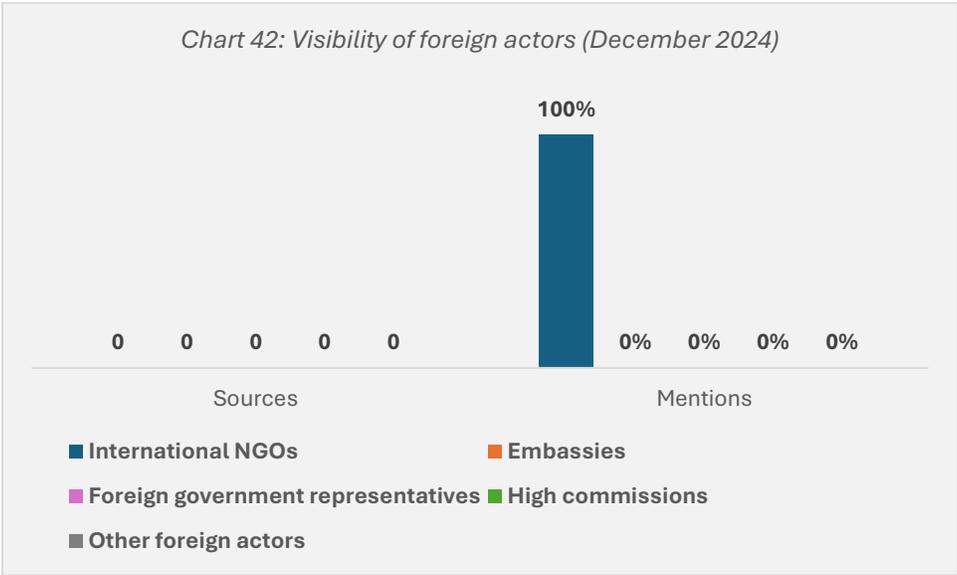


Chart 42 shows that international NGOs accounted for 100% (3 instances) of the mentions, making them the only foreign actors featured in the analysed broadcasts.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analysis of the content during the review period showed that most (64%) of the sampled broadcasts were packaged as news reports, 20% as discussion programmes and 16% as interviews. The stations maintained the principle of balance 97% of the time and recorded one instance (0.5% of total programmes) of the use of extreme language.

Transparency and accountability (21.3%), intra-party conflict (20.9%) and election administration (12.4%) were the most reported and discussed topics. Women's, PWD and youth issues comprised 1.3%, 0.9% and 0.4% of the coverage respectively, indicating that inclusion-related themes were not as prominent as the aforementioned.

Additionally, women actors constituted 14% of the sources and 7% of the mentions, indicating that men garnered more attention in the analysed broadcasts. Youth made up 1% of the sources and 1.6% of the mentions in the age category while PWDs represented 1.1% of the sources and 2% of the mentions in their category.

APC (41% sources; 36.1% mentions) was the most visible political party and was followed by PDP (26% sources; 31.9% mentions) and LP (20% sources; 18.3% mentions).

LCDAs (1.4% mentions) and LGAs (10% sources; 22.4% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government, which accounted for 90% of the sources and 76.2% of the mentions.

INEC (89% sources; 69% mentions) was more visible than the other agencies in its category as MDAs accounted for 11% of the sources and 8% of the mentions. Security agencies, mentioned 20% of the time, were not used as sources.

NGOs (79% sources; 52.9% mentions) were more visible than other interest groups combined.

International NGOs (100% mentions) were the only foreign actors featured in the analysed broadcasts.

REFERENCE

1. African Youth Charter (2006), Page 3.

https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7789-treaty-0033_-_african_youth_charter_e.pdf

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