

MONTHLY  
REPORT



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

JANUARY 2025 REPORT



Funded by  
the European Union



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*(January 2025 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 and used 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 – 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 Disability  
**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 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

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 both 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, in contrast, 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.

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, PWDs and youth received minimal coverage. 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).

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 authorities (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

The CEMESO media monitoring initiative, with funding from EU SDGN II, aims to evaluate the coverage of election-related politics and democratic governance by broadcast stations in Nigeria.

By evaluating the broadcast media, CEMESO aimed to foster adherence to ethical and professional journalism standards and discourage the dissemination of hate misinformation, the deployment of extreme language and the tendencies for biased reportage of the issues. CEMESO also aimed to promote the inclusion of usually underreported demographics such as women, youth and 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 are replaced using the criteria stated above, and their data is included in the analyses crafted within the period the stations were accessible.

A total of 356 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 139 contents from the radio stations and 217 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 station performance in covering the issues. The subsequent section offers parallel analyses of television stations. The final section harmonises the insights from both 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 January 2025. 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 139 news reports, interviews and discussion programmes were monitored on the selected radio stations.

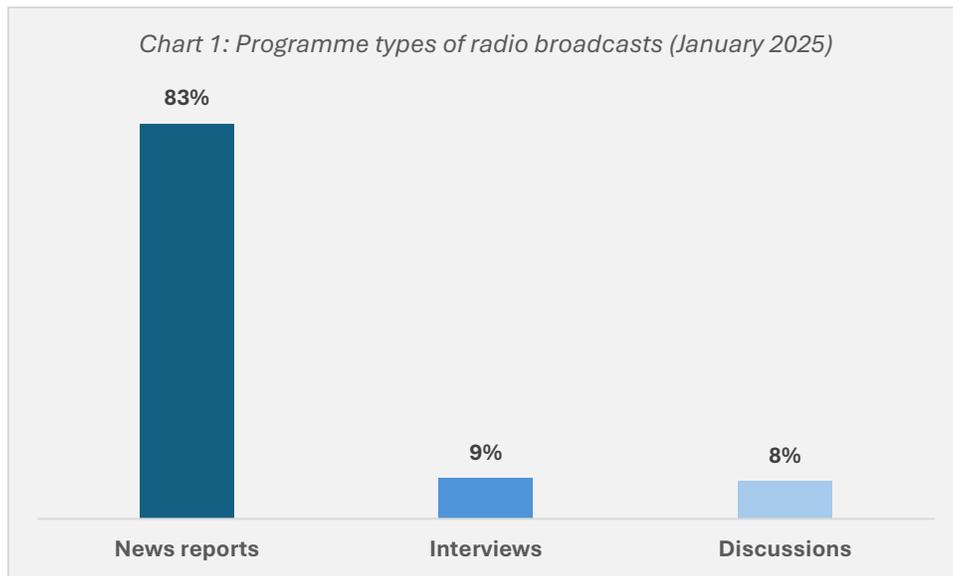


Chart 1 shows that 83% (116 in 139 contents) of the broadcasts analysed during the period under review were packaged as news reports. The other radio broadcasts were packaged as interviews (9%; 12 contents) and discussion programmes (8%; 11 contents).

## THEMATIC EMPHASIS ON RADIO

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

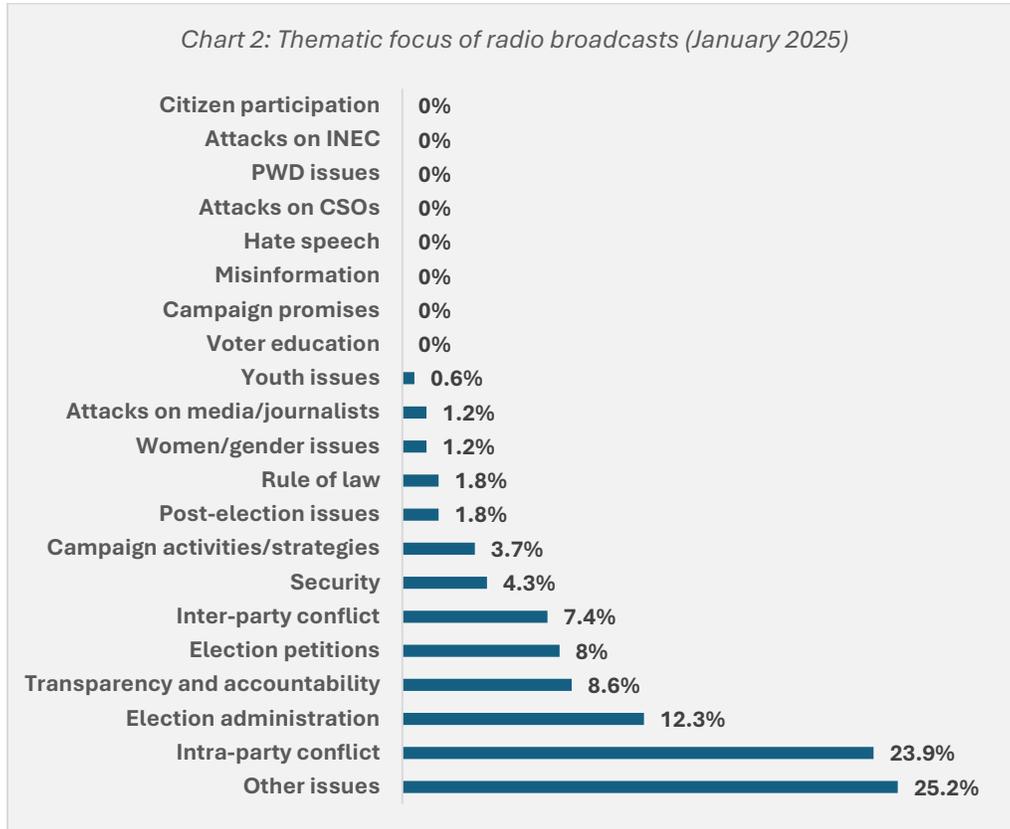


Chart 2 shows that intra-party conflict and inter-party conflict made up 23.9% (39 in 163 instances) and 7.4% (12 instances) of the radio coverage during the period under review. Election petitions made up 8% (13 instances) of the coverage.

- The leadership crisis rocking the Labour Party (LP) was on the menu during a discussion segment of the January 21 edition of Boss Radio programme 'State of the Nation'. The crisis, it was discussed, took a dramatic turn on Saturday when the 29-member caretaker committee established by Abia State Governor Alex Otti and LP 2023 presidential candidate Peter Obi issued a warning to Julius Abure to cease presenting himself as the party's national chairman. The warning followed the Court of Appeal in Abuja affirming Abure's chairmanship just 24 hours earlier. The committee rejected the court's ruling and vowed to contest the decision. Chief Cosmos Umali, a guest on the show, expressed concern that LP was heading towards self-destruction due to internal conflicts, urging members to respect the court's ruling and move forward. The segment presented an instance in which intra-party conflict was the focus of a radio broadcast during the period under review.

- In another instance, the national treasurer of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Ahmed Muhammed, has stated that the party acknowledges Similayi Fubara, the Governor of Rivers State, as its leader in the state. Mr Muhammed, according to a January 23 report by Nigeria Info, made this remark while leading a delegation from the National Working Committee to a closed-door meeting with the governor last night.
- "Ned Nwoko, senator representing Delta North Senatorial District, defects from the PDP due to its ongoing internal crisis," Breeze FM reported on January 21.
- "Edo PDP member asks party members to be united to take power from the ruling APC, blames Governor Okpebholo for crises in Edo and asks him to focus on governance," Kapital FM reported on January 23, focusing on inter-party conflict.
- "Edo election petition tribunal continues proceedings as PDP presents witnesses for cross examination," ITV Radio reported on January 21, focusing on an election petition.
- In a related instance, "The PDP and its candidate, Asue Ighodalo, have begun calling witnesses to justify their claim that the APC candidate, Monday Okpebholo, did not win the Edo state governorship poll as declared by INEC," Gotel Radio reported on January 22.

Election administration accounted for 12.3% (20 instances) of the thematic focus areas. Voter education was, however, not featured.

- During a discussion segment of the January 31 edition of Urban Radio programme 'Urban Parliament,' public affairs analyst Dr Chukwudi Anyanuka said that the ruling APC was attempting to make Nigeria a one-party state. He emphasised that the opposition should respond by advocating for electoral reform and the independence of the judiciary.
- "The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, has raised concerns over the escalating costs and logistical challenges posed by the increasing frequency of by-elections across Nigeria," Boss Radio reported on January 22.

Transparency and accountability constituted 8.6% (14 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law represented 1.8% (3 instances) of the coverage. Citizen participation was not featured.

- “Major opposition parties urge APC-led government to be sincere in the disbursement of the vulnerable household funds,” Breeze FM reported on January 24, focusing on transparency and accountability.
- “The National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) has accused the saboteurs in the President Tinubu’s government of using tactics to frustrate the implementation of the Supreme Court judgement on local government autonomy,” NAS FM reported on January 27.
- In an instance focusing on the rule of law, “Some senior lawyers in the country have once again called on the Chief Justice of the Federation, Mrs Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, to ensure independent of judiciary as it is the fundamental principle that ensures the rule of law,” NAS FM reported on January 27.

Whereas security issues constituted 4.3% (7 instances) of the coverage, attacks on media/journalists made up 1.2% (2 instances) of the coverage. Attacks of INEC and CSOs were neither reported nor discussed.

- “The Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, through its secretary, has disclosed that security related issues were the reasons for relocating its venue from Benin City to Abuja,” Arewa Radio reported on January 27, focusing on security issues.

Campaign activities/strategies made up 3.7% (6 instances) of the coverage. Campaign promises were not featured.

- On January 30, Radio Bayelsa reported that, “in anticipation of the upcoming bye-elections in Bayelsa State, Hon. Esther Dawaki, an aspirant for the Chikun/Kajuru Federal House of Representatives under the PDP, has highlighted the significant underrepresentation that the people of the constituency have endured over the past two decades. She has pledged to provide effective representation if elected.” The report was focused on campaign activities/strategies.

Women’s issues and youth issues constituted 1.2% (2 instances) and 0.6% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively. PWD issues received no coverage. Also, misinformation and hate speech were not featured.

- “Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu has stated that reserving exclusive seats for women in parliament will promote gender inclusion in both the political and social spheres,” Kapital FM reported on January 27.

Post-election and other issues accounted for 1.8% (3 instances) and 25.2% (41 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.

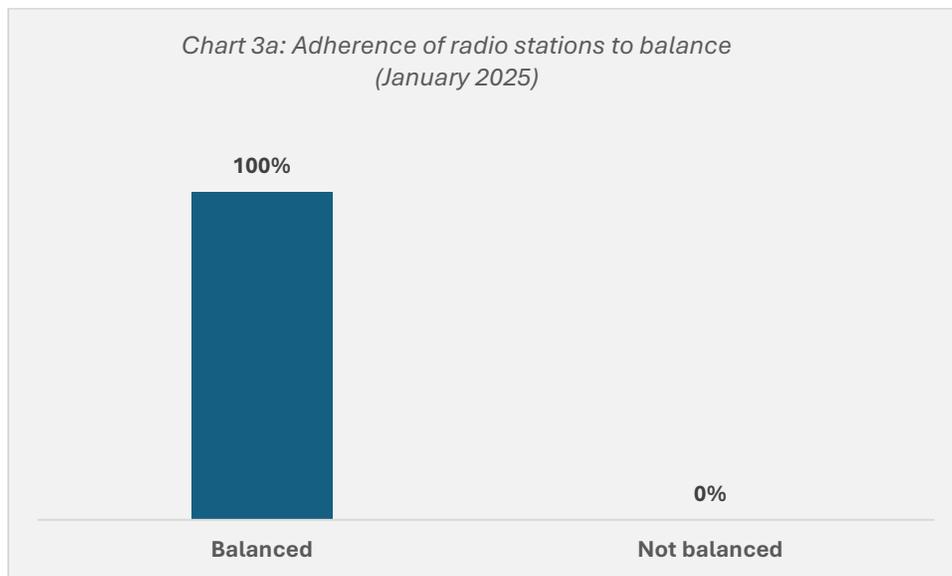


Chart 3a shows that 100% (7 applicable contents) of the sampled radio broadcasts were balanced.

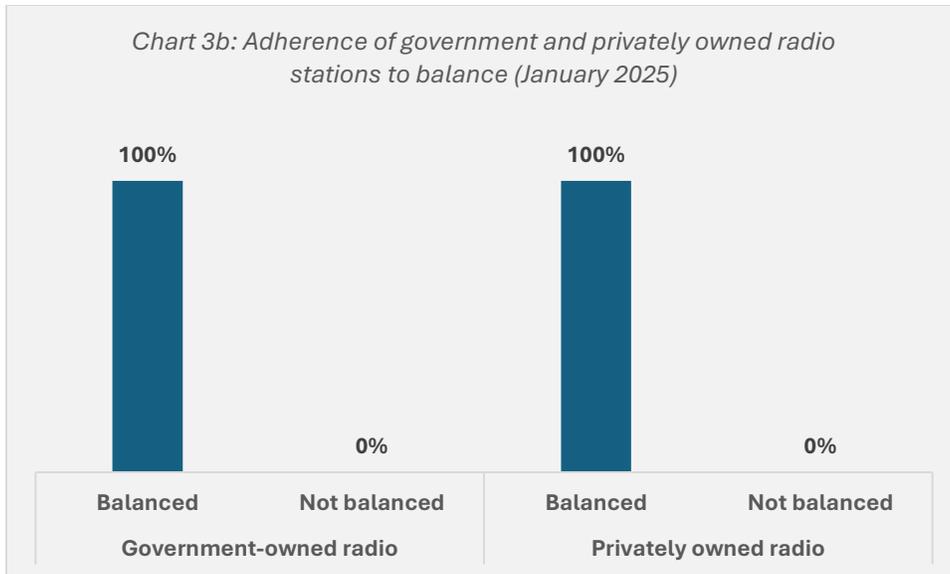


Chart 3b shows that 100% (3 contents) of the broadcasts from government-owned stations and 100% (4 contents) from privately owned radio stations were balanced.

## 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 did not solely involve the media or its sources employing provocative language; they also involved the actions of those actively opposing such rhetoric.

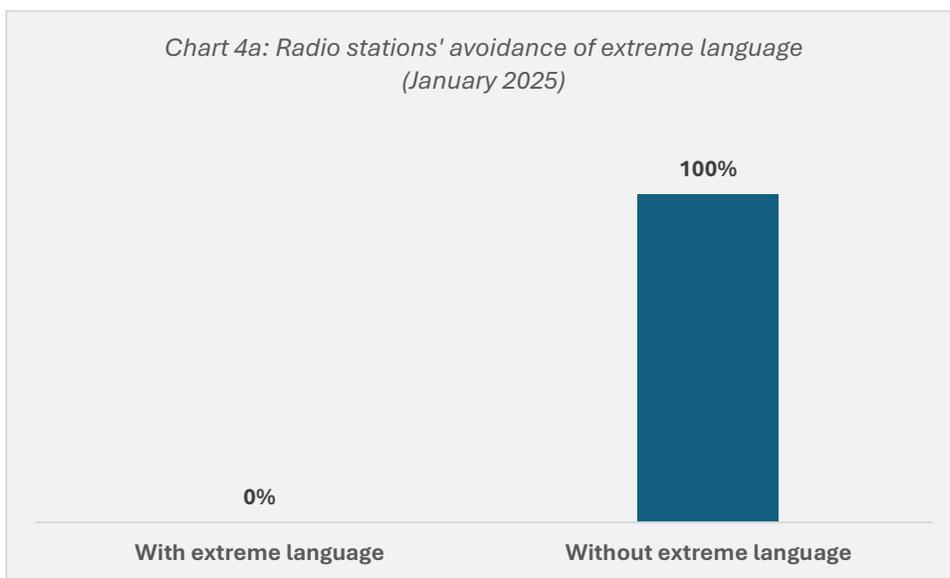


Chart 4a shows that the radio stations avoided extreme language in 100% (139 contents) of their programmes.

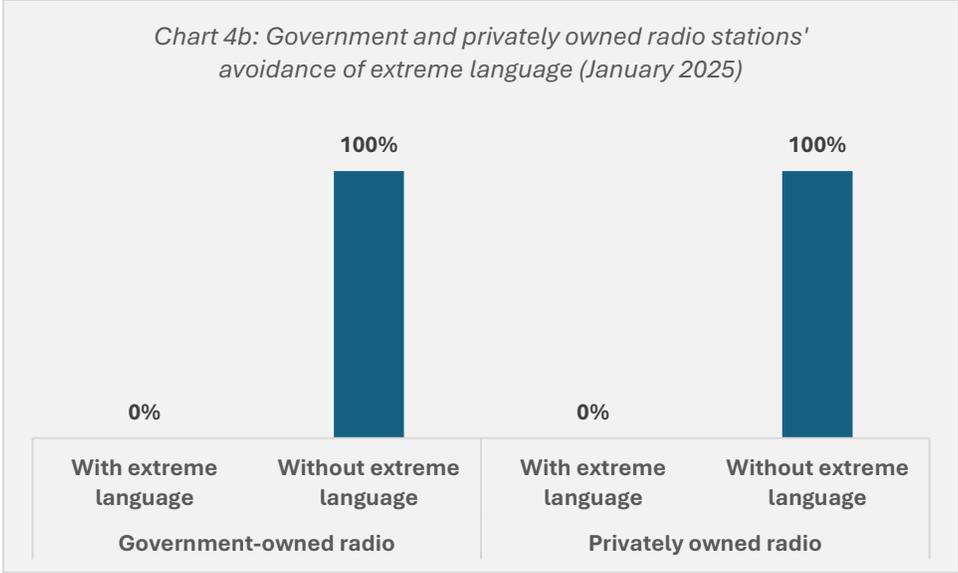


Chart 4b reveals that none of the 18 (100%) contents from government-owned radio stations and the 121 (100%) contents from privately owned radio stations contained extreme language.

**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**

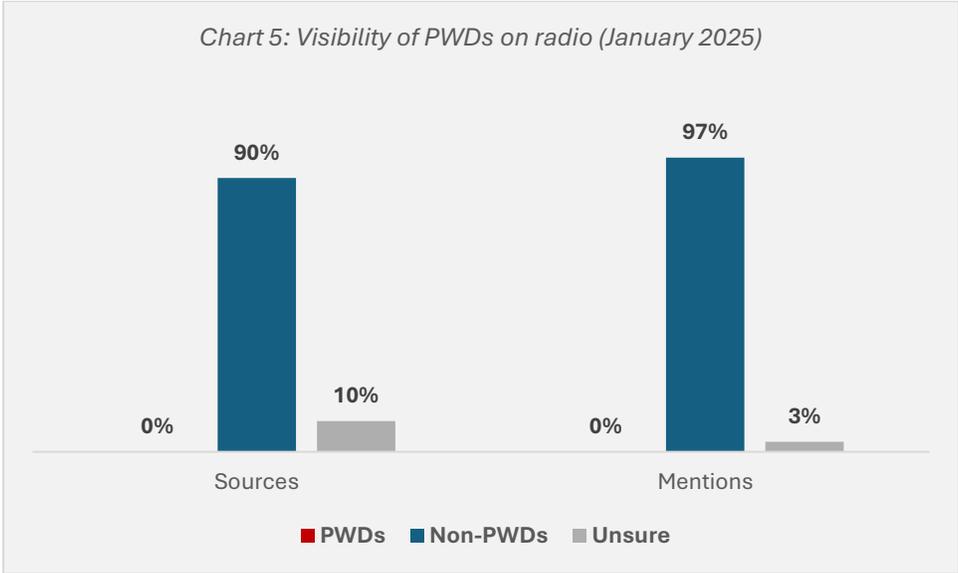


Chart 5 shows that PWD actors were not featured on radio during the period under review. Non-PWD actors, on their part, made up 90% (116 in 129 instances) of the sources and 97% (87 in 90 instances) of the mentions. There were instances in which the PWD status of the sources (10%; 13 instances) and the mentions (3%; 3 instances) could not be determined. The data reflects the previously noted lack of coverage of PWD issues as shown in Chart 2.

**Women**

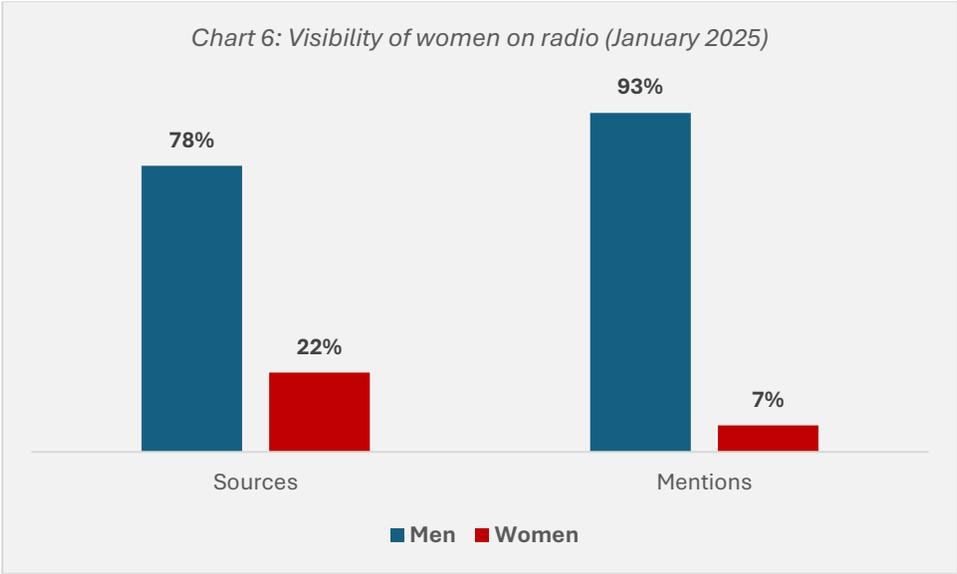


Chart 6 shows that women made up 22% (31 in 143 instances) of the sources and 7% (7 in 97 instances) of the mentions while men accounted for 78% (112 instances) of the sources and 93% (90 instances) of the mentions. The data indicates that women were less visible than their male counterparts, echoing the previously noted low level of coverage (1.2%; 2 in 163 instances) 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.

- “INEC has announced that it is still awaiting a formal request from the Senate to conduct a by-election in the Anambra South Senatorial District to replace the late Sen. Ifeanyi Ubah. Dr. Elizabeth Agu, the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Anambra, made this statement during a stakeholders’ dialogue organised by the International Press Centre (IPC) in Awka on Thursday,” Boss Radio reported on January 24. She was quoted as saying “INEC is ready for the Anambra South Senatorial District by-election, but we need the Senate to formally request the replacement of the vacant seat before we can proceed with the election.” The report presented an instance in which a woman was the source of a radio broadcast during the period under review.

## Youth

The African Youth Charter<sup>1</sup> 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.

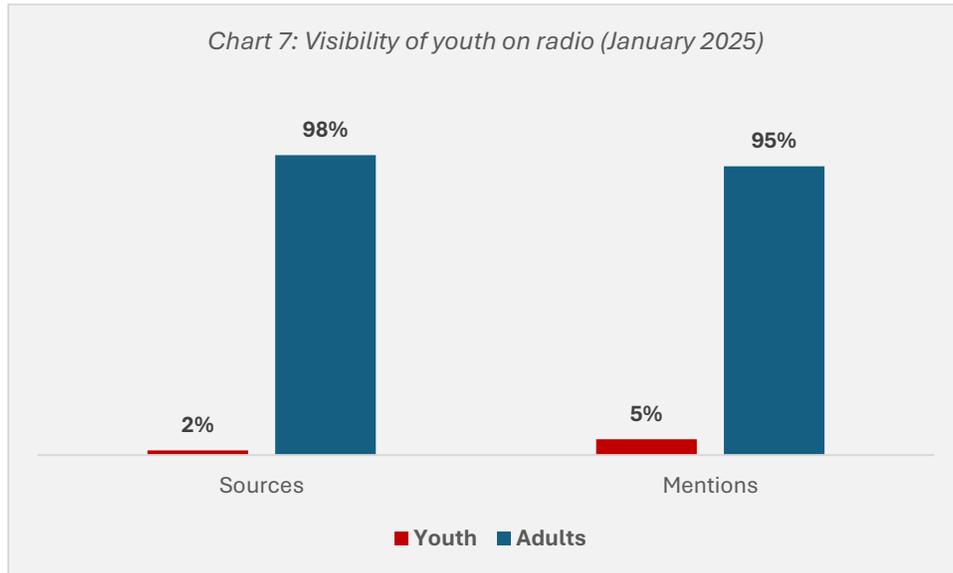


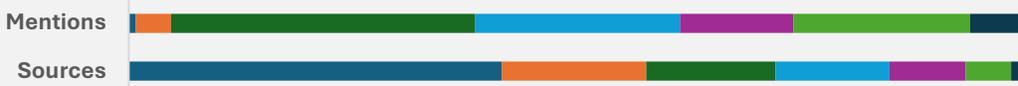
Chart 7 shows that youth made up 2% (2 in 132 instances) of the sources and 5% (5 in 97 instances) of the mentions. Older adults constituted 98% (130 instances) of the sources and 95% (92 instances) of the mentions. The data highlights the low visibility of youth actors, reflecting the previously noted low level of coverage of youth issues (0.6%; 1 in 163 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 (January 2025)



	Sources	Mentions
Journalists/OAPs	41.5%	0.8%
Public intellectuals/commentators	16.1%	3.9%
Other politicians	14.4%	33.9%
Party chieftains	12.7%	22.8%
Other citizens	8.5%	12.6%
Aspirants/candidates	5.1%	19.7%
Political officeholders	1.7%	5.5%
Traditional rulers	0%	0.8%
Religious leaders	0%	0%
Spouses of political officeholders	0%	0%
Spouses of aspirants/candidates	0%	0%

Chart 8a shows that journalists/OAPs constituted 41.5% (49 in 118 instances) of the sources and 0.8% (1 in 127 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators accounted for 16.1% (19 instances) of the sources and 3.9% (5 instances) of the mentions.

Party chieftains made up 12.7% (15 instances) of the sources and 22.8% (29 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates represented 5.1% (6 instances) of the sources and 19.7% (25 instances) of the mentions. Political officeholders made up 1.7% (2 instances) of the sources and 5.5% (7 instances) of the mentions while other politicians constituted 14.4% (17 instances) of the sources and 33.9% (43 instances) of the mentions.

The spouses of politicians were not featured. The same was true for religious leaders. Traditional rulers received 0.8% (1 instance) of the mentions. They were, however, not used as sources.

Other citizens accounted for 8.5% (10 instances) of the sources and 12.6% (16 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.

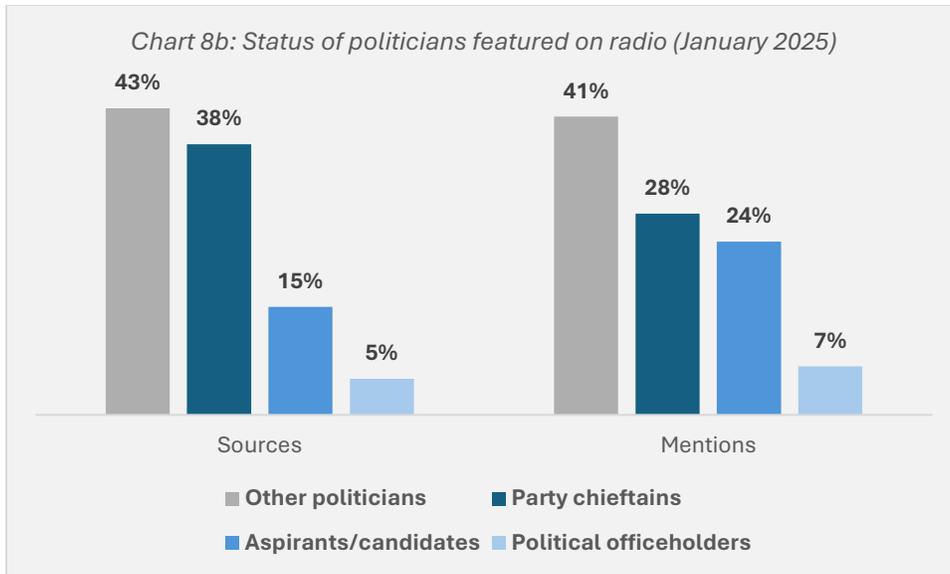


Chart 8b shows that party chieftains made up 38% (15 in 40 instances) of the sources and 28% (29 in 104 instances) of the mentions. Aspirants/candidates accounted for 15% (6 instances) of the sources and 24% (25 instances) of the mentions while political officeholders constituted 5% (2 instances) of the sources and 7% (7 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians represented 43% (17 instances) of the sources and 41% (43 instances) of the mentions.

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

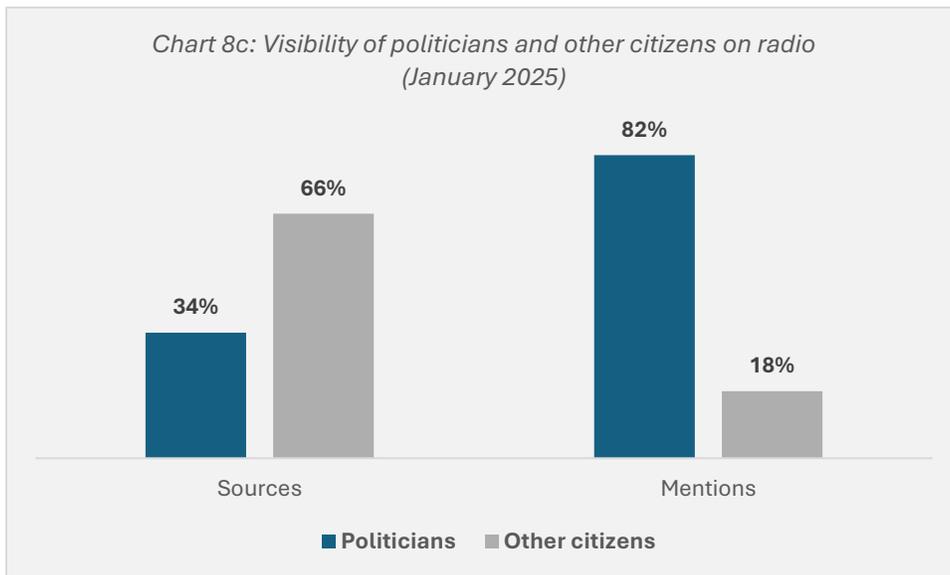
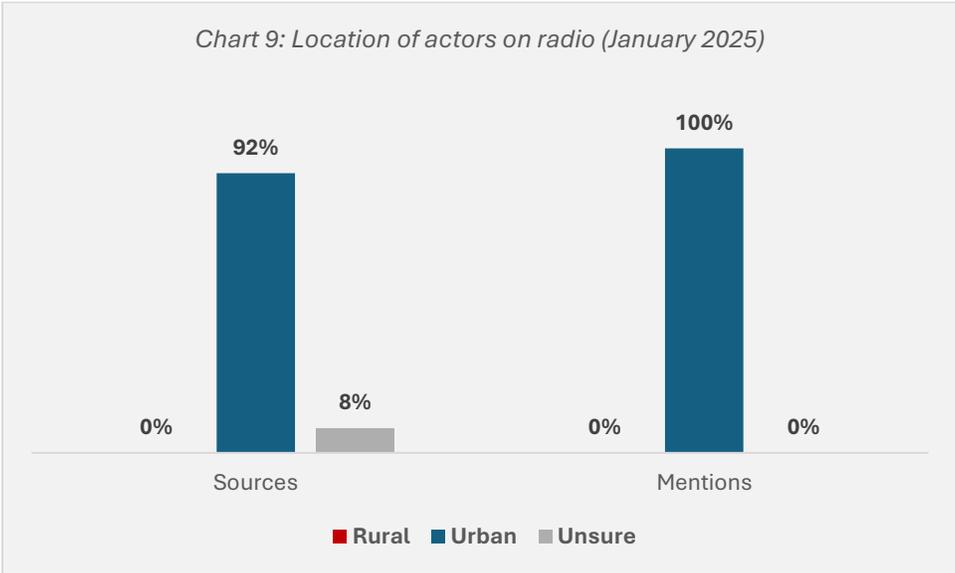


Chart 8c shows that politicians constituted 34% (40 in 118 instances) of the sources and 82% (104 in 127 instances) of the mentions while other citizens represented 66% (78 instances) of the sources and 18% (23 instances) of the mentions.

# LOCATION OF ACTORS ON RADIO



According to Chart 9, actors from urban areas dominated radio coverage during the reviewed period, accounting for 92% (125 in 136 instances) of the sources and 100% (67 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors were not featured. There were 11 instances (8%) in which the location of the mentions could not be determined.

# VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON RADIO

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

## POLITICAL PARTIES

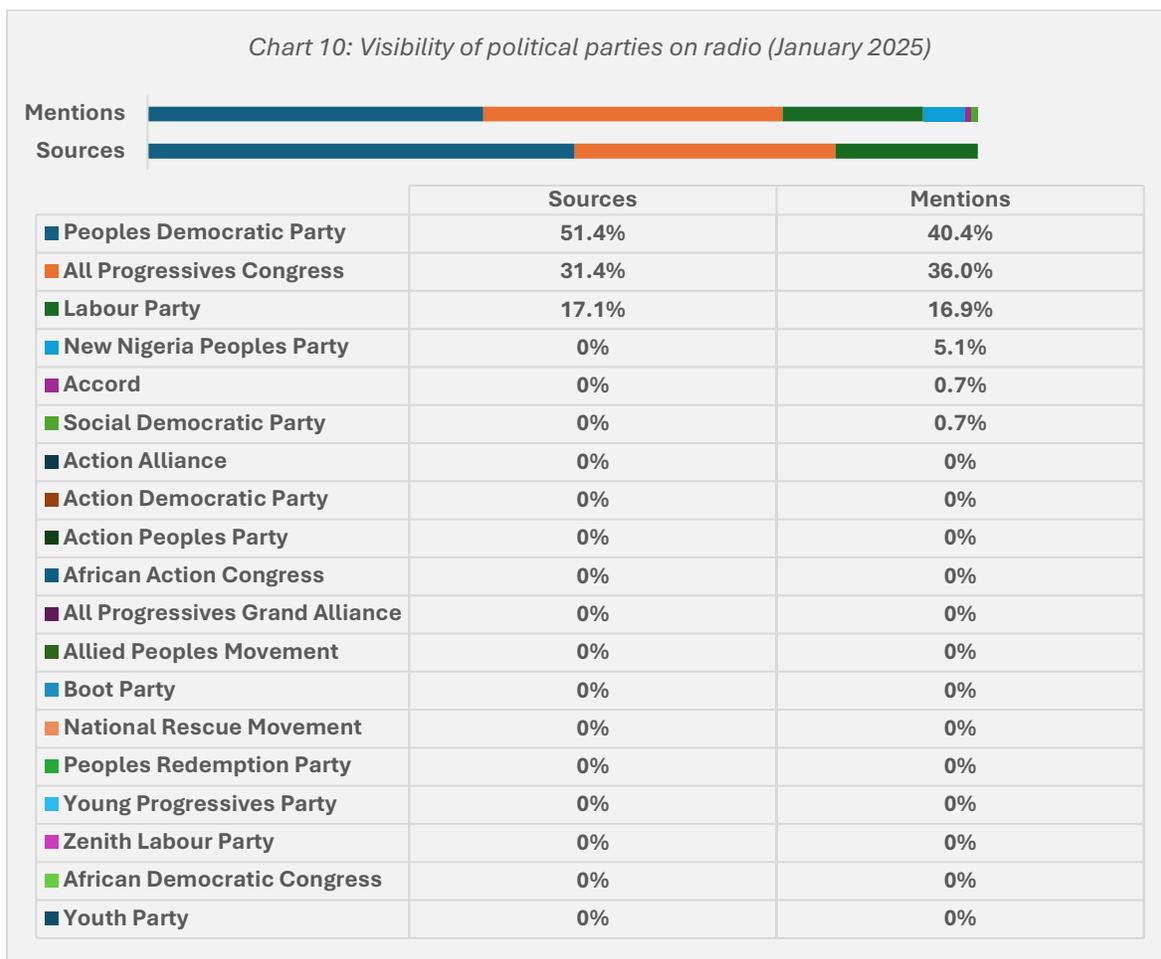


Chart 10 shows that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) made up 51.4% (18 in 35 instances) of the sources and 40.4% (55 in 136 instances) of the mentions, making it the most visible political party on radio during the period under review. All Progressives Congress (APC) constituted 31.4% (11 instances) of the sources and 36% (49 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) represented 17.1% (6 instances) of the sources and 16.9% (23 instances) of the mentions.

- In an instance featuring APC and PDP, “The Chairman of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) in Rivers State, Oswema Osaro, has stated that the recognised state chairmen of the APC and PDP by the council are Emeka Beke and Robinson Ewo, respectively,” Nigeria Info reported on January 23.
- “The PDP in Enugu has asked the LP governorship candidate in the 2023 general elections, Chijioke Edeoga, to come back to the PDP,” Breeze FM reported on January 31, featuring PDP and LP.

New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) accounted for 5.1% (7 instances) of the mentions. They were, however, not used as sources. The same was true for Accord and Social Democratic Party (SDP) each of which constituted 0.7% (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) compared with that of the higher levels of government.

#### Federal government

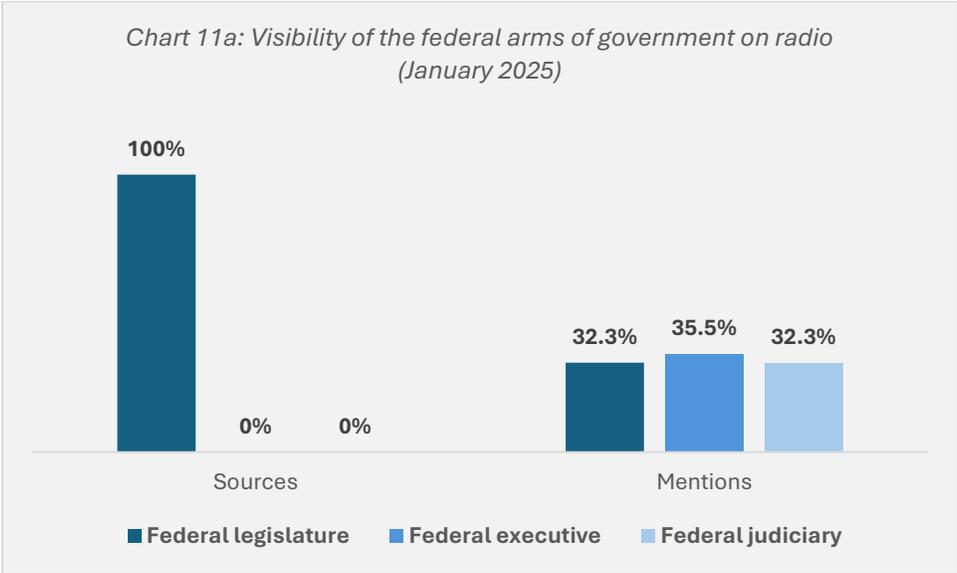


Chart 11a shows that the federal legislature made up 100% (1 instance) of the sources and 32% (10 in 31 instances) of the mentions. The federal executive and the federal judiciary accounted for 35.5% (11 instances) and 32.3% (10 instances) of the mentions respectively. They were, however, not used as sources.

## State governments

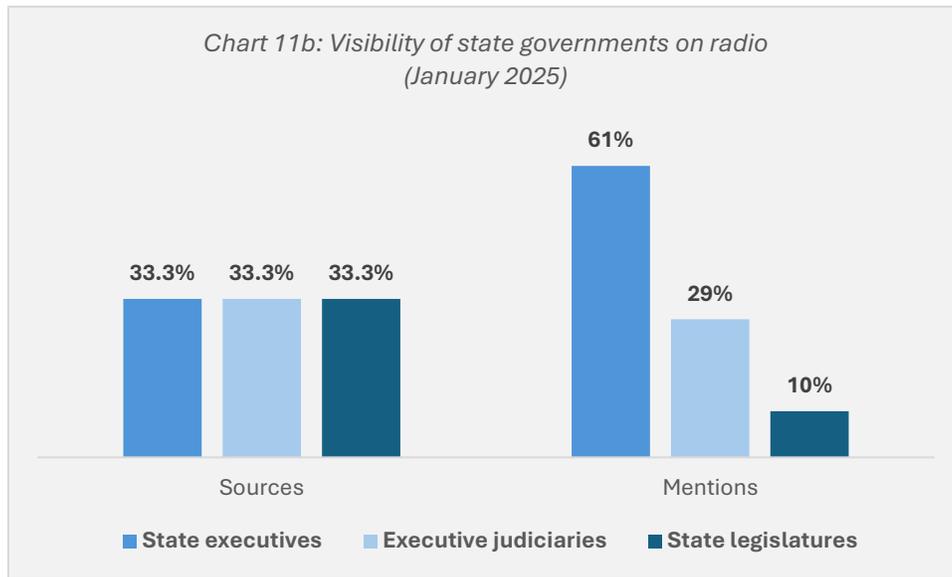


Chart 11b shows that state executives, state judiciaries and state legislatures each constituted 33.3% (3 instances) of the sources, as well as 61% (38 instances), 29% (18 instances) and 10% (6 instances) of the mentions respectively.

## 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).

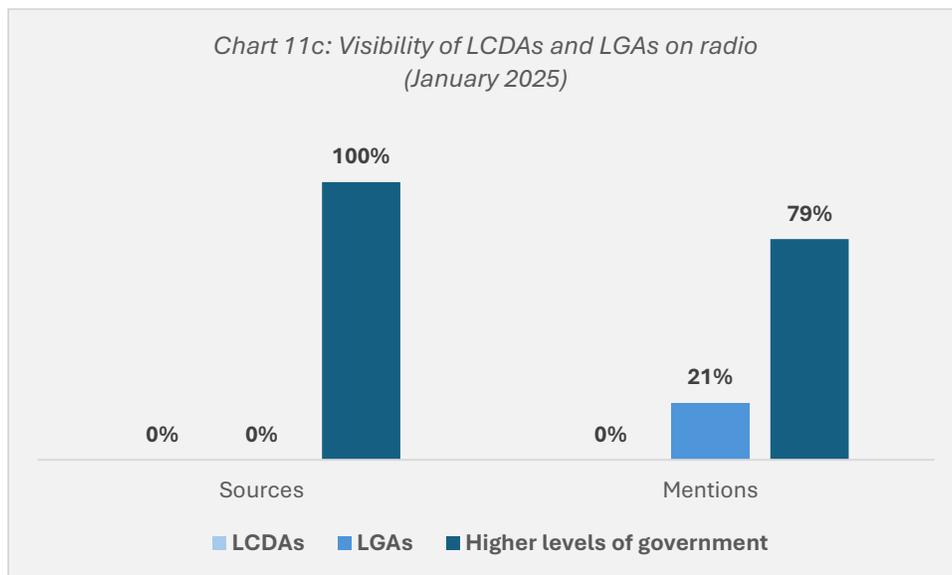


Chart 11c shows that the higher levels of government accounted for 100% (10 instances) of the sources and 79% (93 in 117 instances) of the mentions in this category. LGAs made up 21% (24 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. LCDAs were not featured.

## 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.

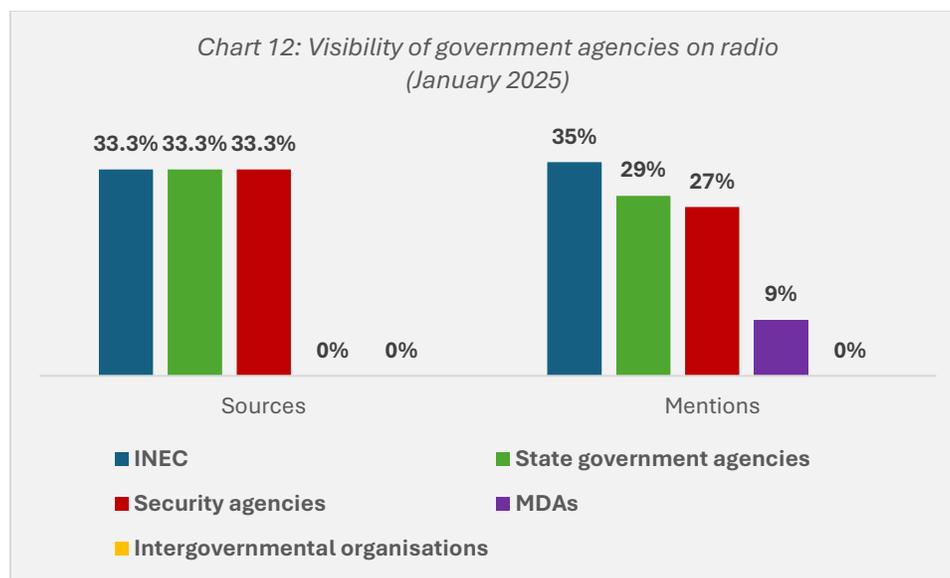
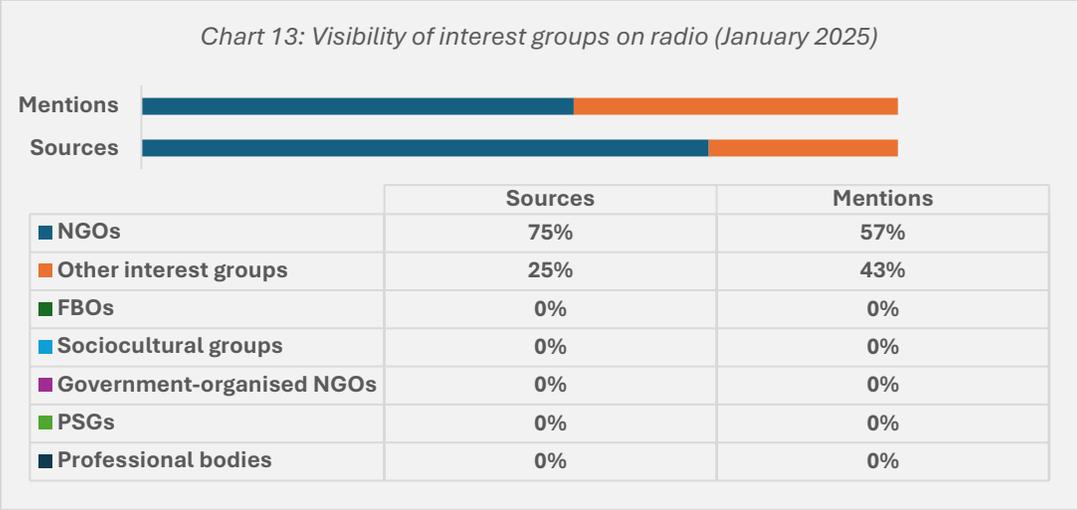


Chart 12 shows that INEC, state government agencies and security agencies each accounted for 33.3% (3 instances) of the sources, as well as for 35% (19 instances), 29% (16 instances) and 27% (15 instances) of the mentions respectively. MDAs received 9% (5 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

- “INEC chairman hosts EU ambassador, expresses willingness to collaborate, acknowledges reception of technical assistance, consultancy services and capacity-building programmes from the EU,” Kapital FM reported on January 29. INEC was featured in the report.

## 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 made up 75% (3 in 4 instances) of the sources and 57% (4 in 7 instances) of the mentions, making them the most featured interest group in this section. FBOs, PSGs, sociocultural groups and professional bodies were not featured. Other interest groups constituted 25% (1 instance) of the sources and 43% (3 instances) of the mentions.

**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.

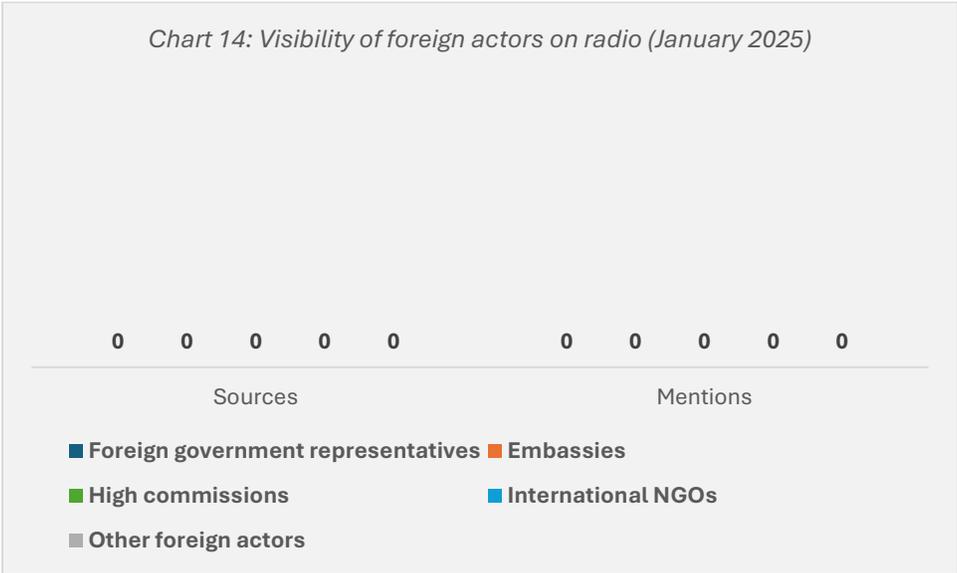


Chart 14 shows that foreign actors were not featured in the radio broadcasts analysed during the period in review.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analysis of the content for January 2025 revealed that 83% of the radio broadcasts were packaged as news reports while the others were packaged as interviews (9%) and discussions (8%). 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 (23.9%), election administration (12.3%), transparency and accountability (8.6%), and election petitions (8%) were the most reported and discussed topics. Women's (1.2%) and youth (0.6%) issues were seldom covered. PWD issues were not featured at all. Also, female actors accounted for 22% of the sources and 7% of the mentions in the gender category while youth actors constituted only 2% of the sources and 5% of the mentions in the age category. PWD actors were not featured.

PDP (51.4% sources; 40.4% mentions) was the most featured political party and was followed by APC (31.4% sources; 36% mentions) and LP (17.1% sources; 16.9% mentions).

INEC, state government agencies and security agencies each represented 33.3% of the sources, although the number of mentions varied among them.

The higher levels of government (100% sources; 79% mentions) were more visible than LGAs in the government category. LCDAs were not featured. NGOs (75% sources; 57% mentions) were more visible than other interest groups. Foreign actors were not featured.

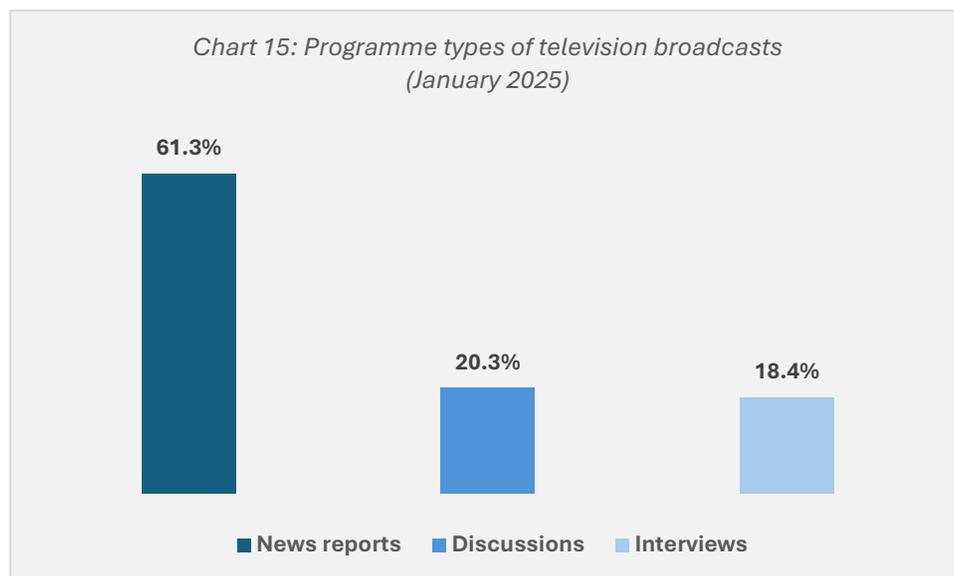
# PART II

## CONTENT OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

Relevant broadcasts were monitored on selected television stations in January 2025. The findings are presented below.

### PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY ON TELEVISION

A total of 217 news reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected television stations.



Out of the contents analysed during the period under review, 133 were packaged as news reports. These, according to Chart 15, made up 61.3% of the contents. The remaining television broadcasts were aired in the discussion (20.3%; 44 contents) and interview (18.4%; 40 contents) 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 (January 2025)

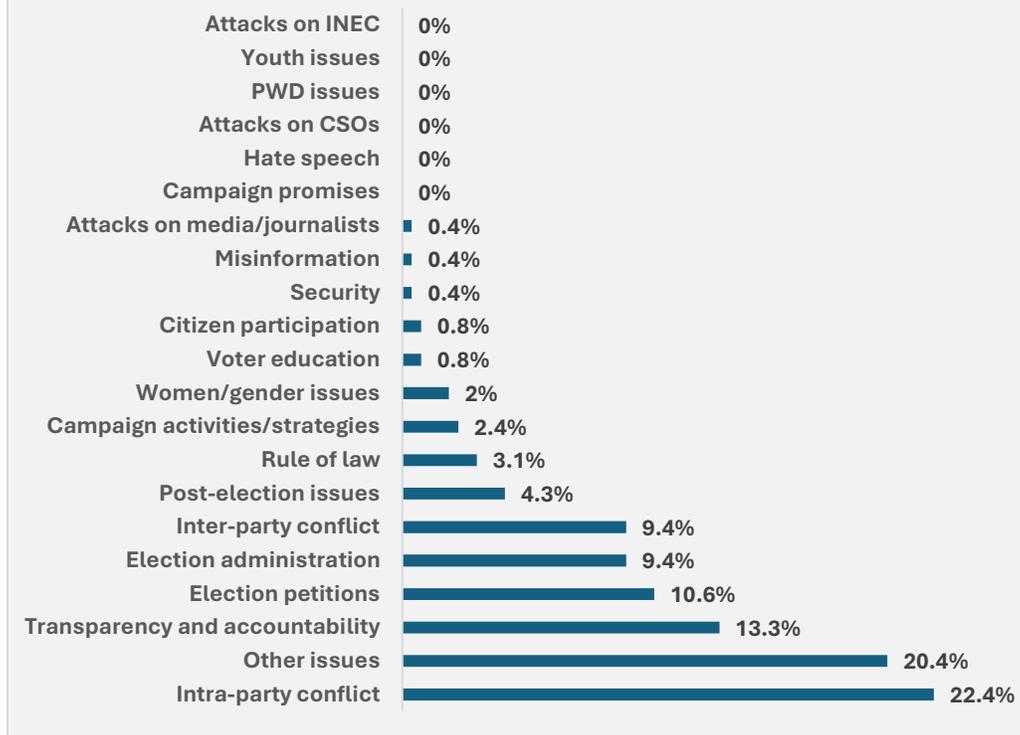


Chart 16 shows that intra-party conflict received 22.4% (57 in 255 instances) of the coverage, making it the most featured issues on television during the period under review. Inter-party conflict enjoyed 9.4% (24 instances) of the attention while election petitions received 10.6% (27 instances) of the attention.

- During a January 26 interview on Channels TV's 'Politics Today', Liborous Oshoma, a lawyer and political commentator, analysed the implications of Honourable Mudashiru Obasa's removal as the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly by lawmakers who were members of his own party, the All Progressives Congress (APC). Oshoma concluded that, according to the law, the removal of Obasa was definitive. The interview was focused on intra-party conflict.
- In a related instance, Kenny Ogungbemi, during a January 27 discussion on ITV's 'This Morning on ITV', said that the 1999 Constitution did not provide for the impeachment but rather for removal of a speaker. He emphasised that the Lagos assembly held the authority to remove principal officers. He noted that while Obasa was not elected as Speaker but as a member of the Lagos House of Assembly, he violated rights and acted against statutory orders, which justified his removal.

- In another instance, “PDP crisis: security operatives take over party secretariat,” OSRC TV reported on January 29.
- “The Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the party's headquarters on Wednesday escalated into a physical altercation, leading to an exchange of punches,” ITV reported on January 29. “The conflict,” the report said, “arose over the position of National Secretary, with Senator Samuel Anyanwu and former PDP Youth Leader Sunday Ude-Okoye competing for the role”.
- Also, “Ned Nwoko, the senator representing the Delta North senatorial district, has defected from the PDP due to the party's ongoing internal crisis,” Arise TV reported on January 31.
- In an instance focused on inter-party crisis, “APC dismisses Atiku Abubakar’s claim that the President of the federation is sowing discord in opposition parties,” Arise TV reported on January 28.
- “The PDP in Edo state has begun presenting its witnesses at the Edo election tribunal regarding the results of the state governorship election,” Channels TV reported on January 21, focusing on election petitions.
- “PDP, APC and INEC to call 149 witnesses in Ondo guber election,” AIT reported on January 31.

Transparency and accountability accounted for 13.3% (34 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law received 3.1% (8 instances) of the coverage. Citizen participation was reported and discussed 0.8% (2 instances) of the time.

- “A major opposition party in the country has urged the APC-led government to be transparent in the distribution of the vulnerable household funds,” Arise TV reported on January 24, focusing on transparency and accountability.
- During a January 24 discussion on TVC’s ‘This Morning’, former chairman of Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos, Ayodele Adewale, discussed the process of allocating funds from the local government to the local council development areas in the state. He emphasized the need to revise the distribution framework to better accommodate the development areas and enhance their internally generated revenue (IGR). Adewale urged local governments in the state to elect competent leaders who can effectively manage local affairs, responsibly oversee IGR, and handle projects and infrastructure development. He also stressed the importance of

transparency in local government activities and the need to boost revenue generation to supplement federal allocations. A caller named Ali from Abuja expressed concerns about the lack of local government elections since 1999, stating that governors have taken control of local government elections, misappropriated funds, and are now managing the processes themselves.

- In an instance focused on the rule of law, “Rivers state crisis: The Federal High Court has issued a restraining order preventing the National Assembly from assuming control over the affairs of the Rivers State Assembly, as outlined in the Constitution,” Arise TV reported on January 24.

Whereas election administration received 9.4% (24 instances) of the coverage, voter education received 0.8% (2 instances) of the coverage.

- “INEC boss decries rising cost of by-elections, calls for reforms,” OGTV reported on January 22, focusing on election administration.
- On January 22, Channels TV reported that “IPAC Chairman Yusuf Dantale is urging federal lawmakers to expedite the amendment process for the country’s electoral laws in preparation for the 2027 general elections. Meanwhile, INEC and political parties are strategising for the conduct of over 30 by-elections resulting from the deaths and resignations of lawmakers.”
- “Off-cycle poll: Dialogue on combating disinformation is essential to prevent misleading citizens and escalating political tension,” Arise TV reported on January 30, focusing on voter education.

Campaign activities/strategies constituted 2.4% (6 instances) of the coverage. Campaign promises were not featured.

- “Party mobilisation: APC members in Alimosho area of Lagos are gearing up for the upcoming polls while also rallying their support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the 2027 general election,” LTV reported on January 27, focusing on campaign activities/strategies.
- Women’s issues received 2% (5 instances) of the coverage. PWD issues and youth issues were not featured.
- “To promote the inclusiveness of women in the electoral process, the European Union, under the EUSDGN programme, has organised a training program for INEC

officials. This initiative aims to ensure that everyone, particularly women, is included in Nigeria's electoral process," ABS TV reported on January 24.

Security issues and attacks on media/journalists each received 04% (1 instance) of the coverage. Attacks on INEC and CSOs were not featured.

- "The Nigeria Police have been blamed for the invasion of court premises by thugs and party supporters at the Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal," ITV reported on January 21, focusing on election-related security issues.

Misinformation received 0.4% (1 instance) of the coverage. Hate speech was not featured.

- "Off-cycle poll: Dialogue on combating disinformation is essential to prevent misleading citizens and escalating political tension," Arise TV reported on January 30, focusing on misinformation.

Post-election and other issues received 4.3% (11 instances) and 20.4% (52 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.

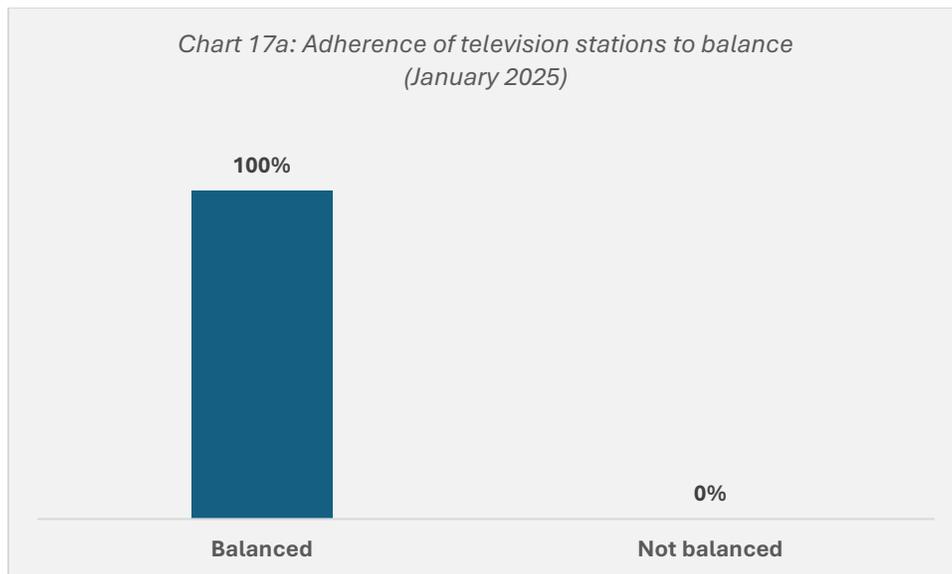


Chart 17a shows that 100% (27 applicable contents) of sampled television broadcasts were balanced.

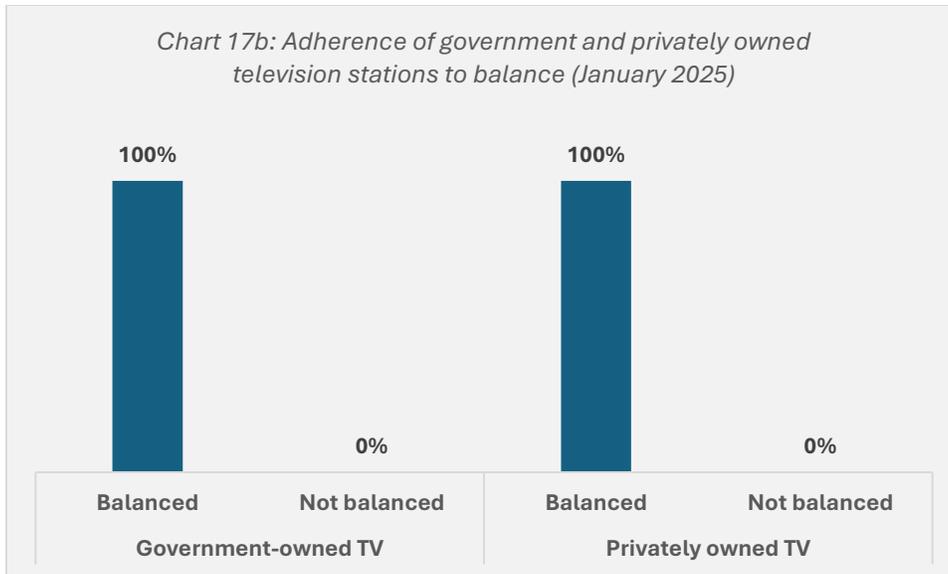


Chart 17b shows that 100% (6 contents) of the broadcasts from government-owned television stations and 100% (21 contents) of the broadcasts from privately owned stations were balanced.

## **QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION — LANGUAGE**

The selected television stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language in their programmes. The recorded incidents did not solely involve the media or its sources employing provocative language; they also documented the actions of those actively decrying inflammatory rhetoric.

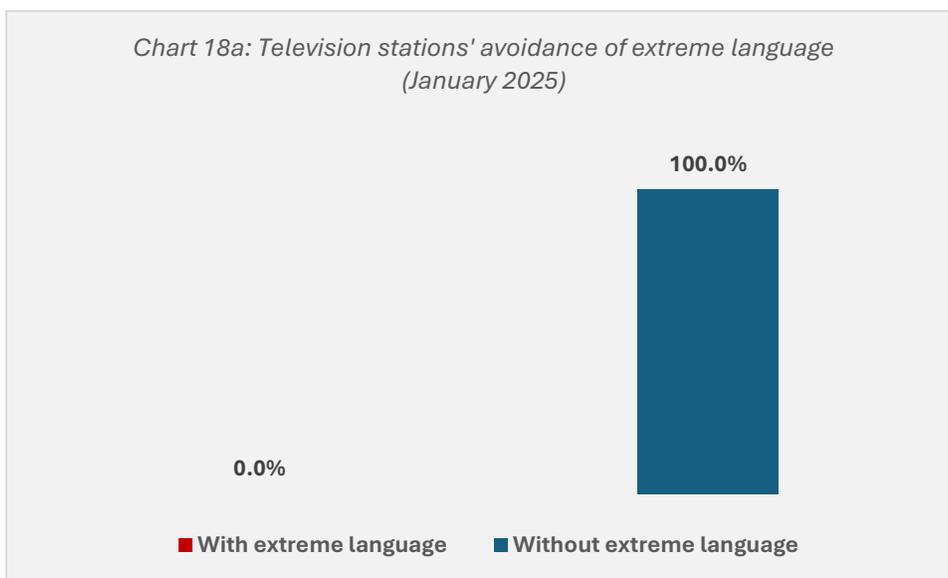


Chart 18a shows that the television stations avoided extreme language in 100% (217 contents) of their programmes.

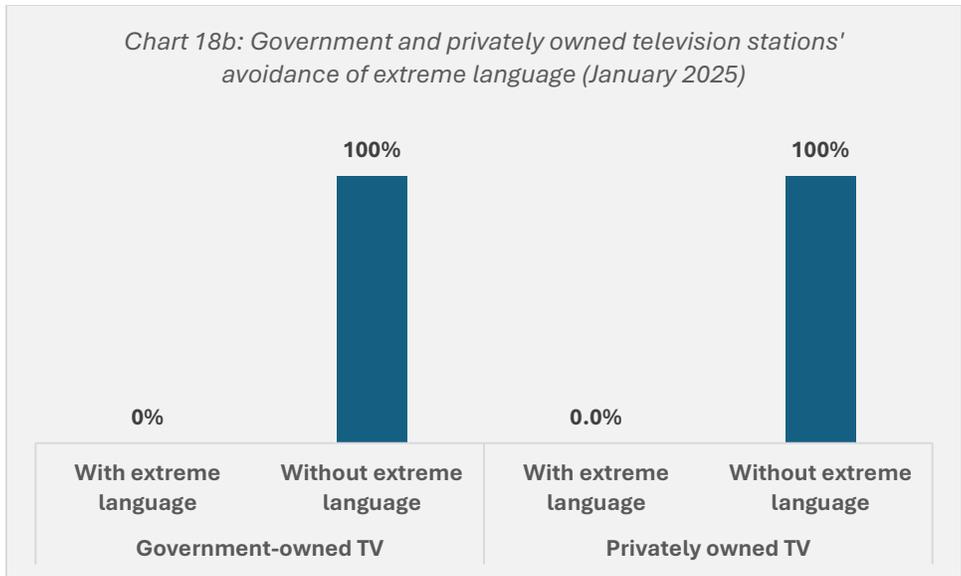


Chart 18b shows that 100% (60 contents) of the broadcasts from government-owned television stations and 100% (157 contents) of the broadcasts from privately owned television stations were free of extreme language.

**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**

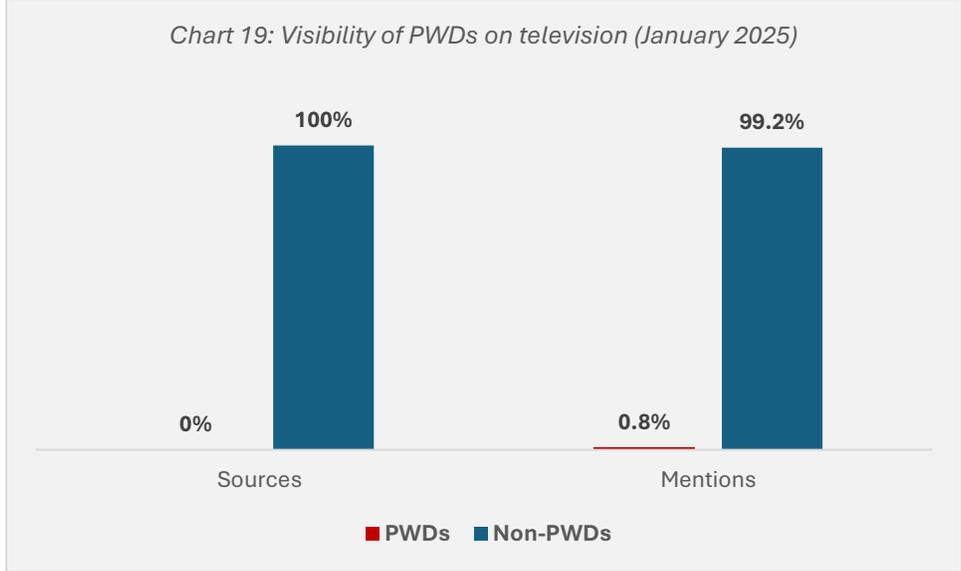
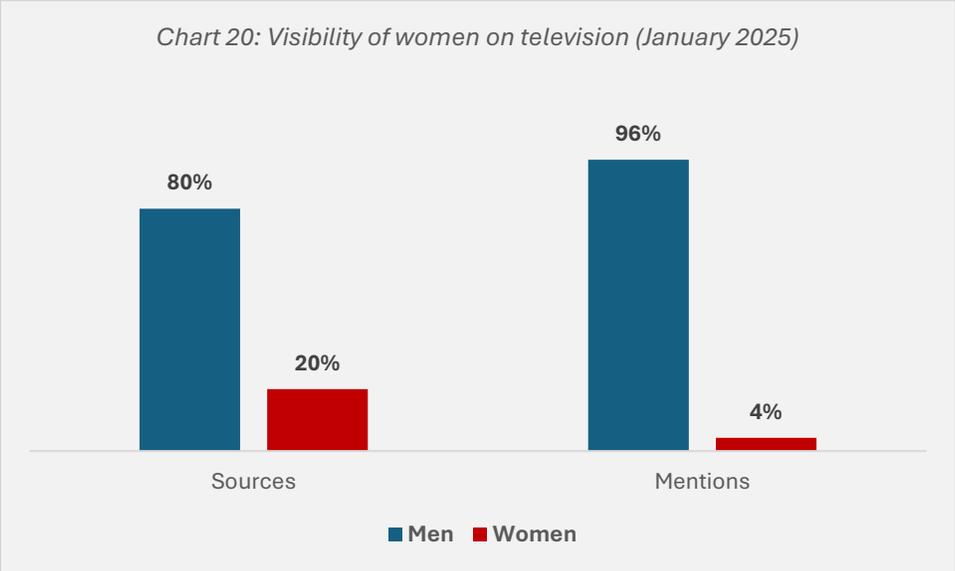


Chart 19 shows that PWD actors made up 0.8% (1 in 123 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Non-PWD actors, on the other hand, accounted for 100% (217 instances) of the sources and 99.2% (122 instances) of the mentions. The data reflects the previously lack of coverage of PWD issues as shown in Chart 16.

**Women**



According to Chart 20, women constituted 20% (45 in 221 instances) of the sources and 4% (5 in 115 instances) of the mentions while men accounted for 80% (176 instances) of the sources and 96% (110 instances) of the mentions. The data reflects the previously noted low level of coverage (2%; 5 in 255 instances) dedicated to women's issues as shown in Chart 16.

**Youth**

The African Youth Charter<sup>1</sup> 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.

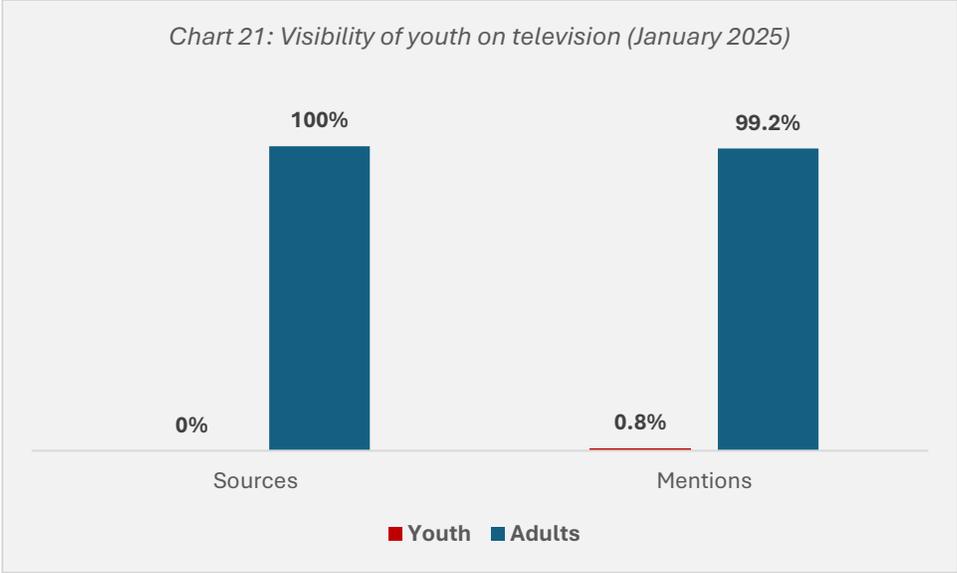


Chart 21 shows that youth made up 0.8% (1 in 129 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Adults, on the other hand, constituted 100% (216 instances) of the sources and 99.2% (128 instances) of the mentions. The data highlights the limited visibility of youth actors, reflecting the previously noted lack of coverage of youth issues as illustrated in Chart 16.

**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 (January 2025)

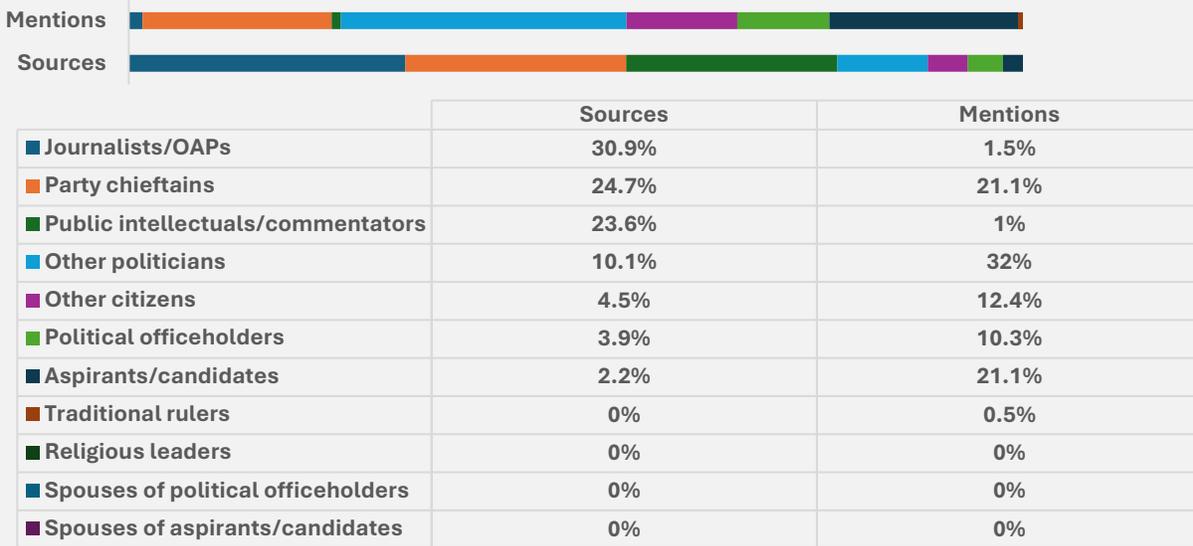


Chart 22a shows that journalists/OAPs made up 30.9% (55 in 178 instances) of the sources and 1.5% (3 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators represented 23.6% (42 instances) and 1% (2 instances) of the mentions.

Party chieftains and aspirants/candidates each constituted 21.1% (41 instances) of the mentions, as well as 24.7% (44 instances) and 2.2% (4 instances) of the sources respectively. Political officeholders made up 3.9% (7 instances) of the sources and 10.3% (20 instances) of the mentions while other politicians accounted for 10.1% (18 instances) of the sources and 32% (62 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of politicians were not featured.

Traditional rulers received 0.5% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Religious leaders were not featured.

Other citizens made up 4.5% (8 instances) of the sources and 12.4% (24 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.

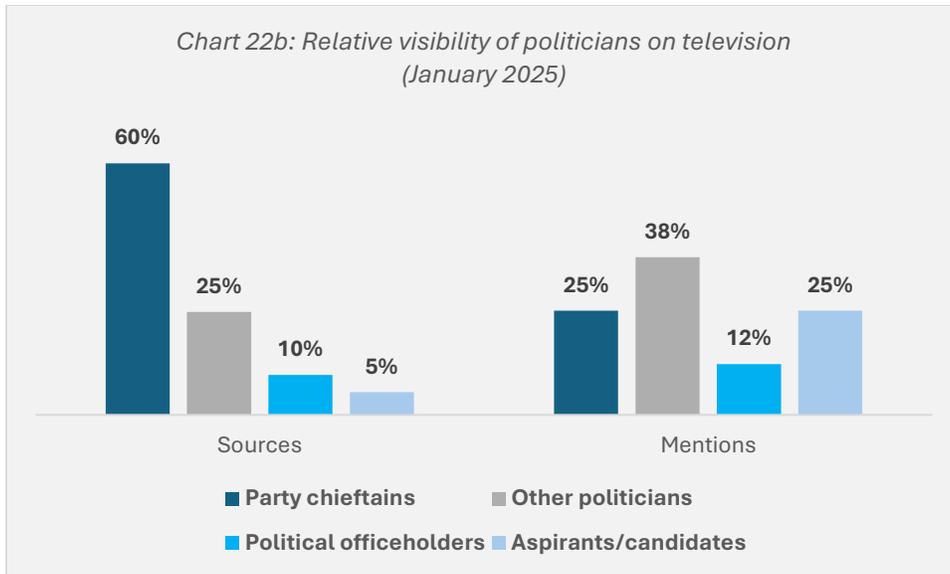


Chart 22b shows that party chieftains and aspirants/candidates each made up 25% (41 instances) of the mentions, as well as 60% (44 instances) and 5% (4 instances) of the sources respectively. Political officeholders accounted for 10% (7 instances) of the sources and 12% (20 instances) of the mentions while other politicians made up 25% (18 instances) of the mentions and 38% (62 instances) of the mentions.

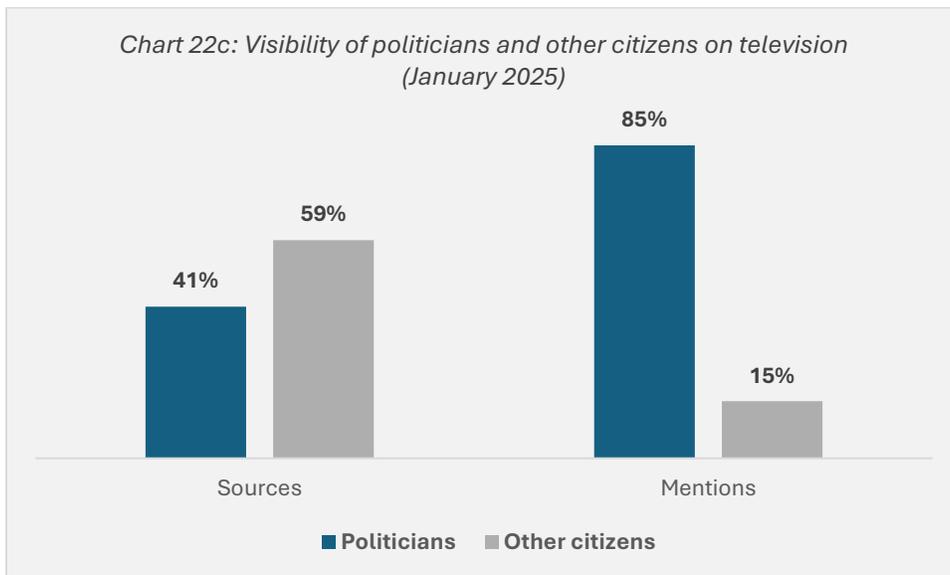


Chart 22c shows that politicians represented 41% (73 in 178 instances) of the sources and 85% (164 in 194 instances) of the mentions while other citizens accounted for 59% (105 instances) of the sources and 15% (30 instances) of the mentions.

# LOCATION OF ACTORS ON TELEVISION

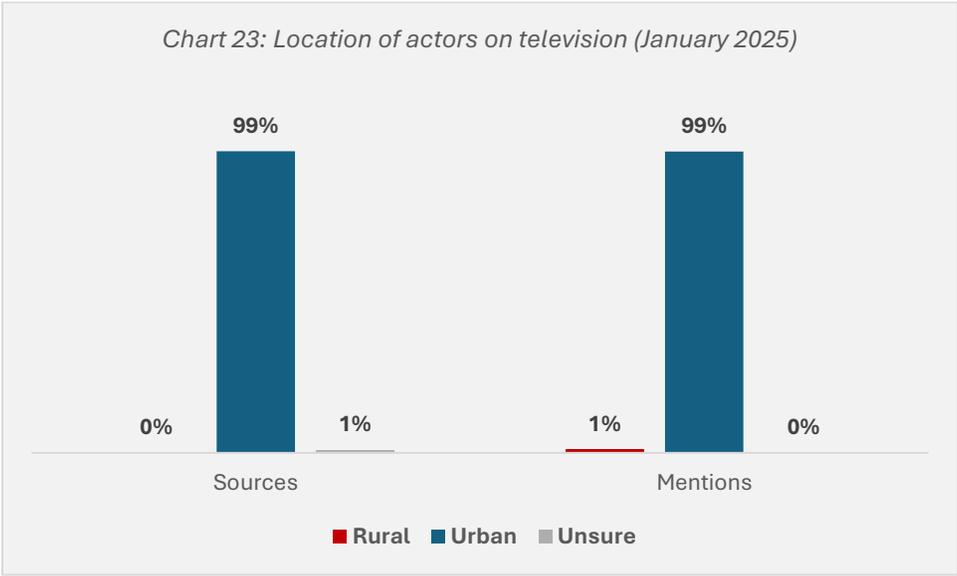


Chart 23 shows that actors from urban locations made up 99% (213 in 215 instances) of the sources and 99% (93 in 94 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors received 1% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources. There were two instances (1%) in which the location of the sources could not be determined.

# VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON TELEVISION

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

## POLITICAL PARTIES

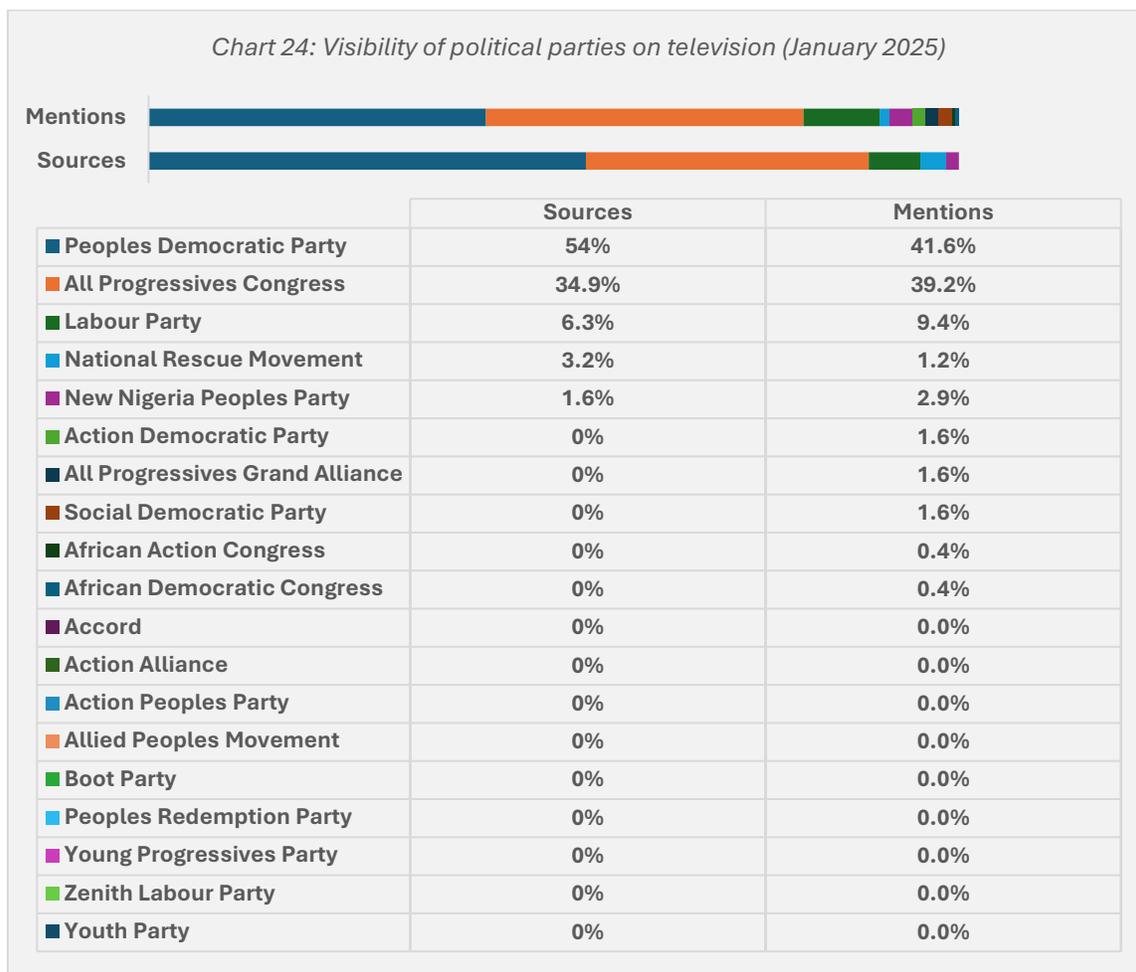


Chart 24 shows that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) constituted 54% (34 in 63 instances) of the sources and 41.6% (102 in 245 instances) of the mentions, making it the most visible political party on television during the period under review. All Progressives Congress (APC) accounted for 34.9% (22 instances) of the sources and 39.2% (96 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) made up 6.3% (4 instances) of the sources and 9.4% (23 instances) of the mentions.

National Rescue Movement (NRM) constituted 3.2% (2 instances) of the sources and 1.2% (3 instances) of the mentions while New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) accounted for 1.6% (1 instance) of the sources and 2.9% (7 instances) of the mentions.

Action Democratic Party (ADP), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) each accounted for 1.6% (4 instances) of the mentions. They were, however, not used as sources. The same was true for African Action Congress (AAC) and African Democratic Party (ADP), each of which received 0.4% (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 relevant television programmes during the period under review. It also concerns the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government.

## Federal government

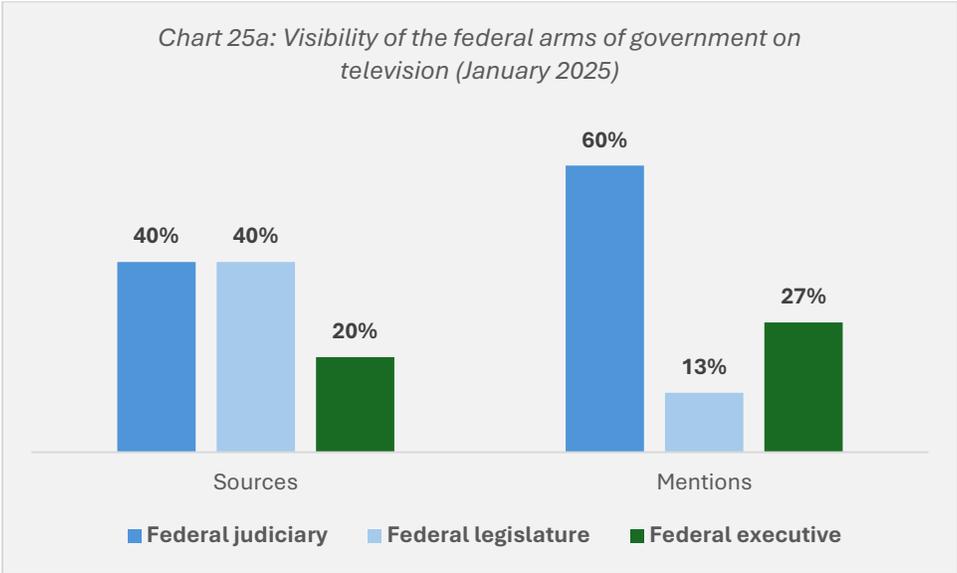


Chart 25a shows that the federal judiciary and the federal legislature each made up 40% (4 in 10 instances) of the sources, as well as 60% (53 in 88 instances) and 13% (11 instances) of the mentions respectively. The federal executive accounted for 20% (2 instances) of the sources and 27% (24 instances) of the mentions.

## State governments

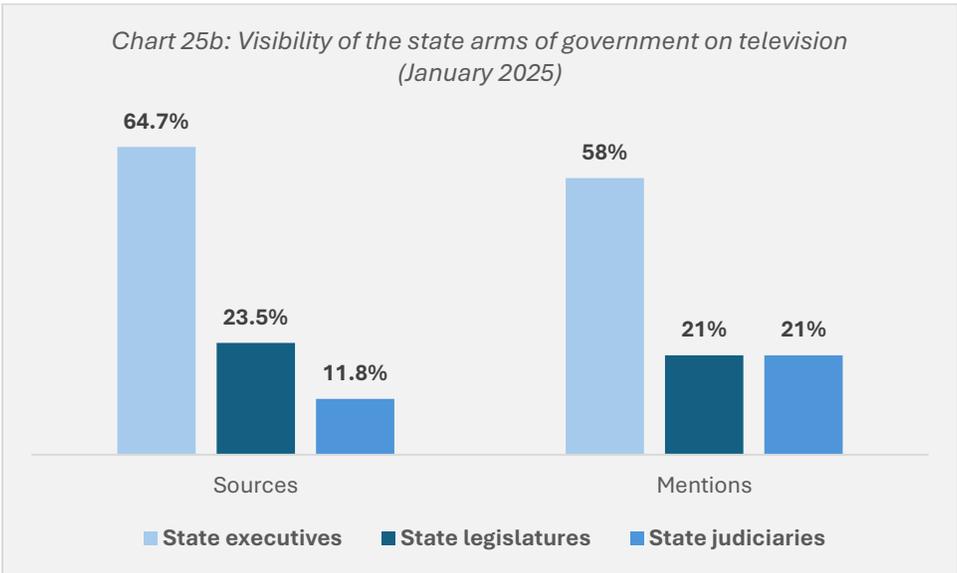
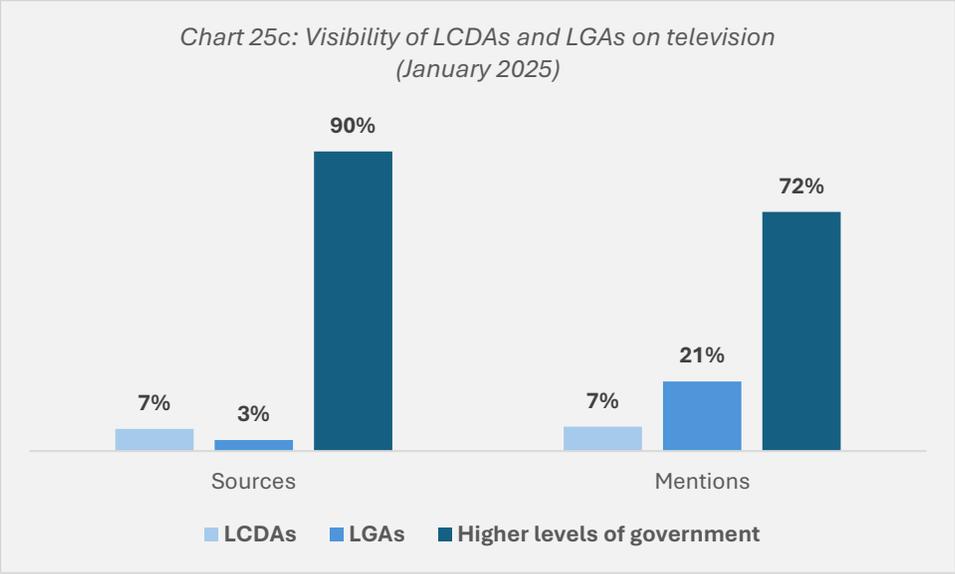


Chart 25b shows that state executives made up 64.7% (11 in 17 instances) of the sources and 58% (75 in 129 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures and state judiciaries each constituted 21% (27 instances) of the mentions, as well as 23.5% (4 instances) and 11.8% (2 instances) of the sources.

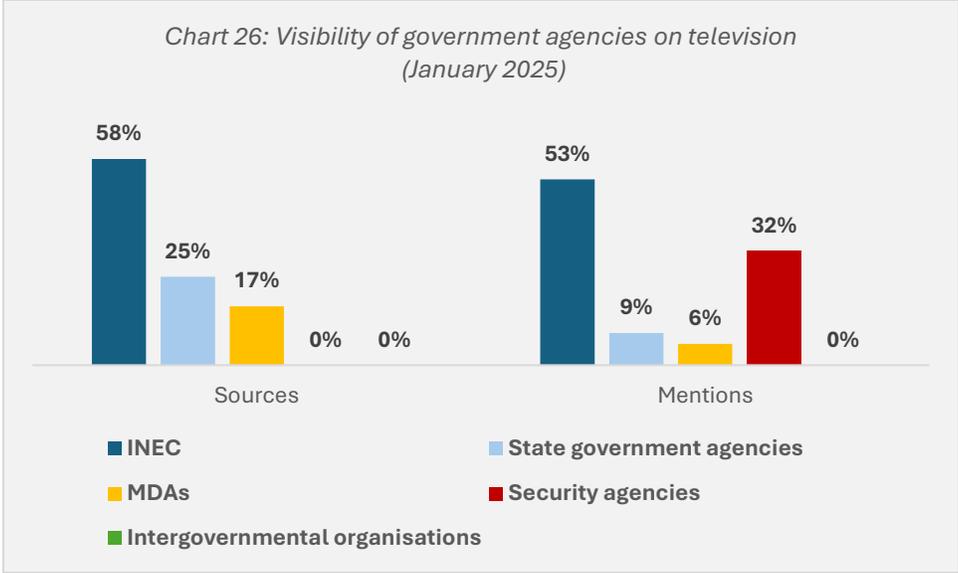
**LCDAs and LGAs**



According to Chart 25c, the higher levels of government made up 90% (27 in 30 instances) of the sources and 72% (217 in 302 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs constituted 7% (2 instances) of the sources and 7% (22 instances) of the mentions while LGAs accounted for 3% (1 instance) of the sources and 21% (63 instances) of the mentions.

**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

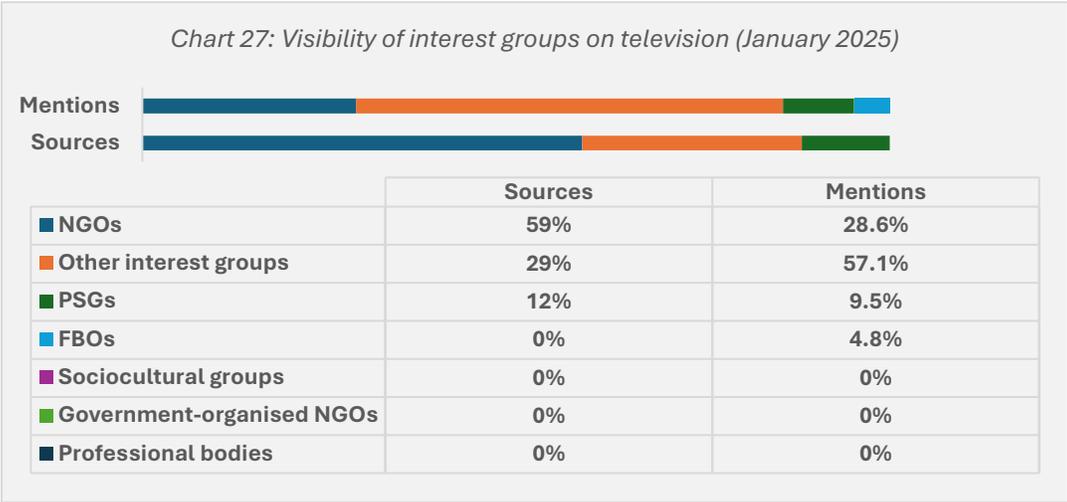
This section assesses the visibility of government agencies such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and security agencies which conduct and safeguard the elections, state government agencies, and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies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



According to Chart 26, INEC made up 58% (7 in 12 instances) of the sources and 53% (52 in 99 instances) of the mentions, making it the most visible government agency on television during the period under review. State government agencies accounted for 25% (3 instances) of the sources and 9% (9 instances) of the mentions while MDAs made up 17% (2 instances) of the sources and 6% (6 instances) of the mentions. Security agencies received 32% (32 instances) of the mentions but were 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 represented 59% (10 in 17 instances) of the sources and 28.6% (6 in 21 instances) of the mentions in this category while PSGs accounted for 12% (2 instances) of the sources and 9.5% (2 instances) of the mentions. FBOs received 4.8% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Sociocultural groups and professional bodies were not featured. Other interest groups made up 29% (5 instances) of the sources and 57.1% (12 instances) of the mentions.

**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.

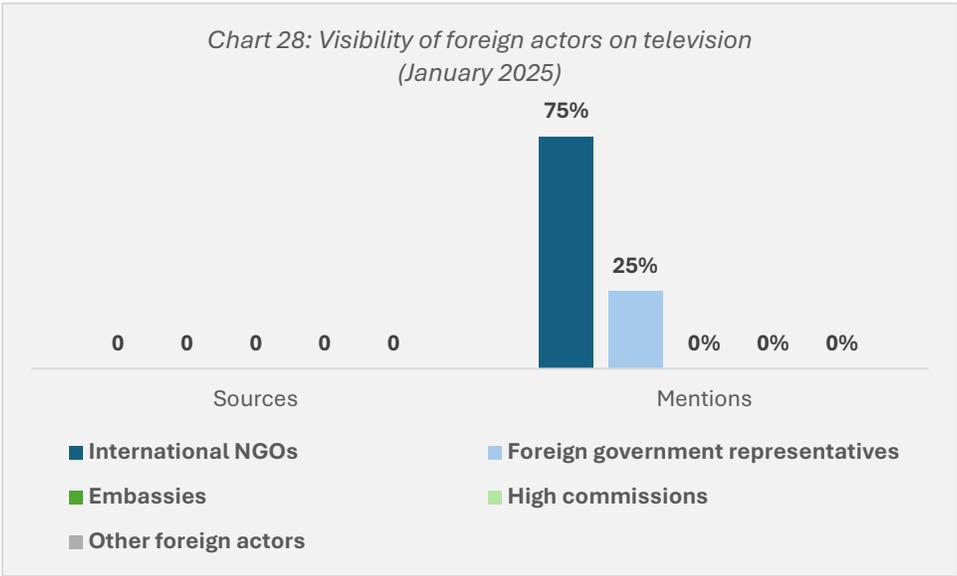


Chart 28 shows that international NGOs and foreign government representatives received 75% (3 in 4 instances) and 25% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively. They were, however, not used as sources. Embassies and high commissions were not featured.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Most (61.3%) of the television programmes analysed during the period under review were packaged as news reports, with the rest taking the discussion (20.3%) and interview (18.4%) formats. The television stations adhered to the principle of balance 100% of the time and recorded no instance of extreme language.

Women’s issues constituted 2% of the themes. Youth and PWD issues were, however, not featured. Intra-party conflict (22.4%), transparency and accountability (13.3%), election petitions (10.6%), election administration (9.4%) and inter-party conflict (9.4%) were the most reported and discussed issues. Women (20% sources; 4% mentions), youth (0.8% mentions) and PWDs (0.8% mentions) were not as visible as non-PWD adult males.

PDP (54% sources; 41.6% mentions), APC (34.9% sources; 39.2% mentions) and LP (6.3% sources; 9.4% mentions) received more attention than the other political parties combined.

INEC accounted for 58% of the sources and 53% of the mentions in the government agency category where it was more visible than state government agencies (25% sources; 9% mentions), MDAs (17% sources; 6% mentions) and security agencies (32% mentions).

LCDAs (7% sources; 7% mentions) and LGAs (3% sources; 21% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government (90% sources; 72% mentions) in the government category, while NGOs (59% sources; 57.1% mentions) dominated the visibility in the interest groups category.

International NGOs (75% mentions) and foreign government representatives (25% mentions) were the only foreign actors featured on television during the period under review.

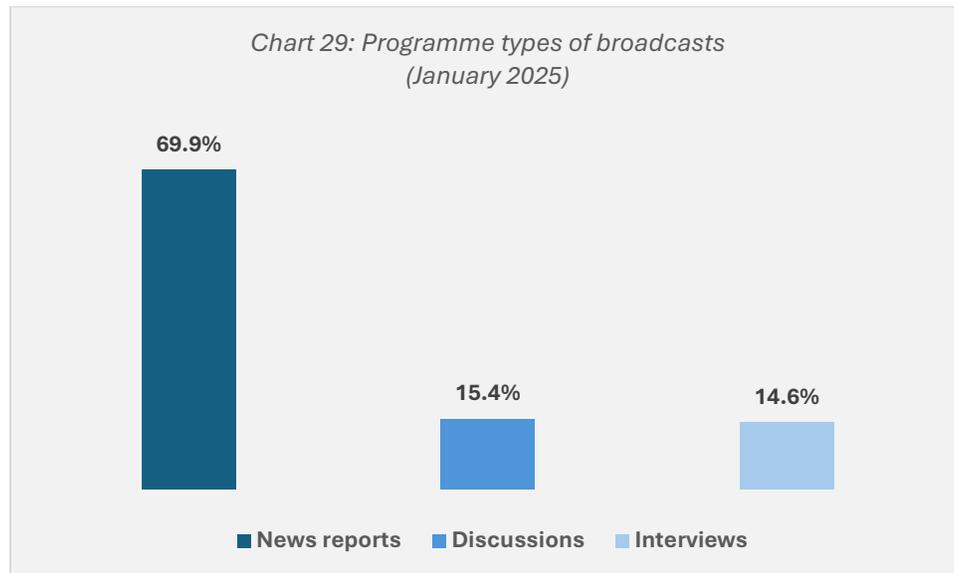
# PART III

## COMBINED REPORT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS

A total of 356 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 139 contents from the radio stations and 217 contents from the television stations.

### PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY

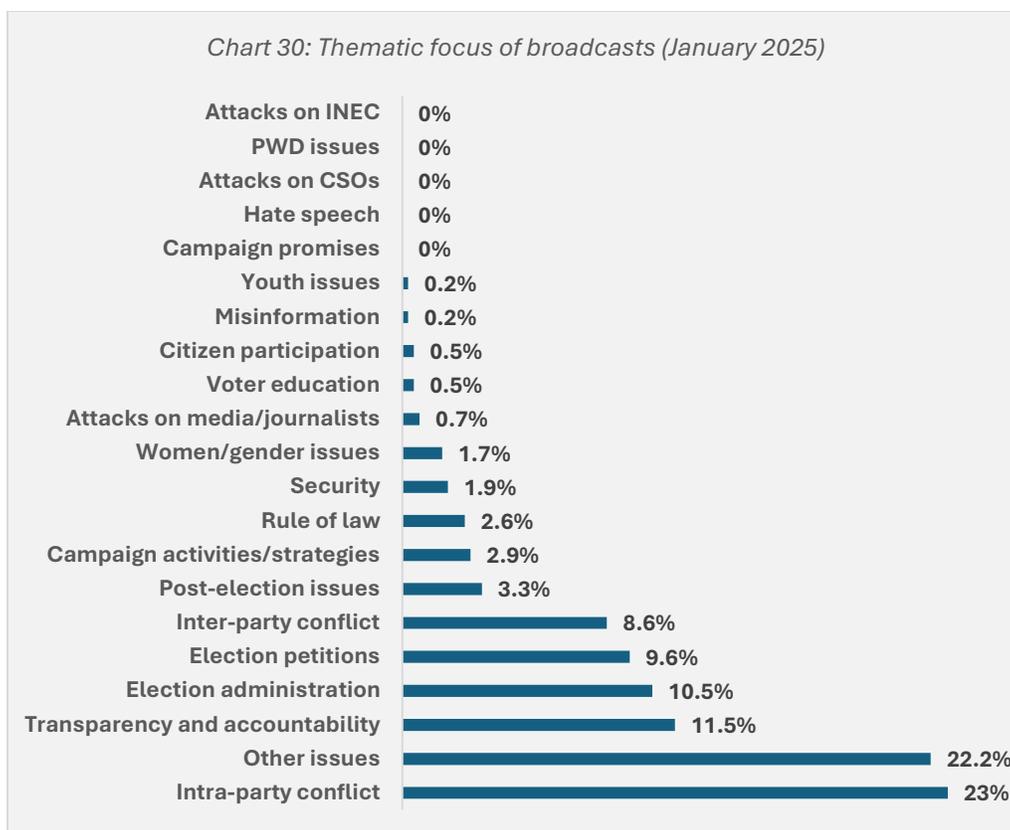
News reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected radio and television stations.



Out of the contents analysed during the period in review, 249 were packaged as news reports, representing, as Chart 29 shows, 69.9% of the contents. The remaining radio and television broadcasts were packaged as discussions (15.4%; 55 contents) and interviews (14.6%; 52 stories).

### THEMATIC EMPHASIS

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



According to Chart 30, intra-party conflict constituted 23% (96 in 418 instances) of the coverage while inter-party conflict made up 8.6% (36 instances) of the coverage. Election petitions accounted for 9.6% (40 instances) of the attention.

Transparency and accountability made up 11.5% (48 instances) of the thematic focus areas reported and discussed in the broadcast media during the period under review. Rule of law and citizen participation constituted 2.6% (11 instances) and 0.5% (2 instances) of the coverage respectively.

Whereas election administration accounted for 10.5% (44 instances) of the coverage, voter education made up 0.5% (2 instances) of the coverage.

Campaign activities/strategies received 2.9% (12 instances) of the coverage. Campaign promises were, however, not featured.

Security issues accounted for 1.9% (8 instances) of the coverage. Attacks on media/journalists made up 0.7% (3 instances) of the coverage. Attacks on INEC and CSOs were not featured.

Women’s and youth issues made up 1.7% (7 instances) and 0.2% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively. PWD issues were not featured.

Misinformation represented 0.2% (1 instance) of the coverage. Hate speech was not featured.

Post-election issues and other issues accounted for 3.3% (14 instances) and 22.2% (93 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.

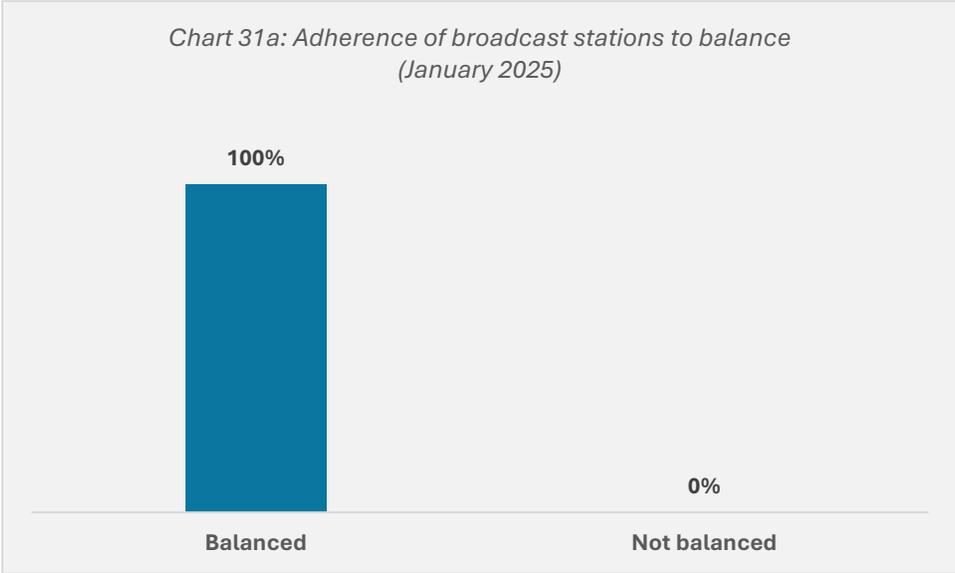


Chart 31a shows that 100% (34 applicable contents) of the sampled broadcasts were balanced.

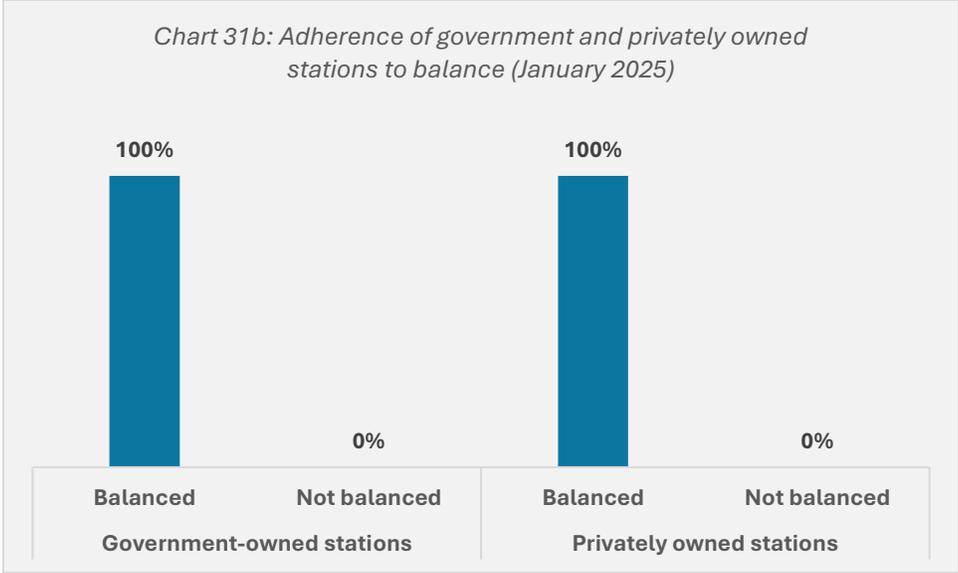


Chart 31b shows that 100% (9 contents) of the broadcasts from government-owned stations and 100% (25 contents) of the broadcasts from privately owned stations were balanced.

**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 both provocative media coverage and counteractions against inflammatory rhetoric.

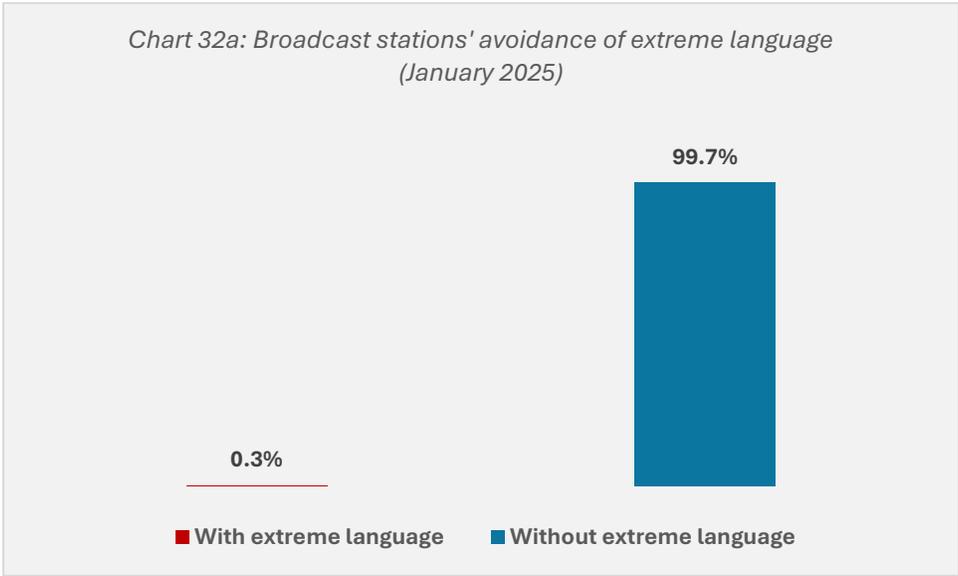


Chart 32a shows that the broadcast stations avoided extreme language in 99.7% (355 in 356 contents) of their programmes but fell short in 0.3% (1 content) of their programmes.

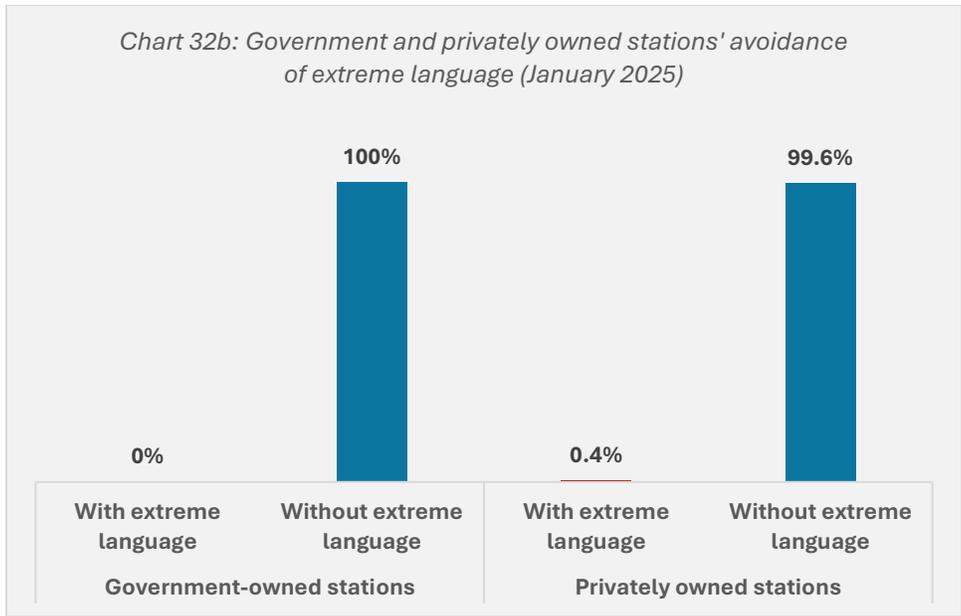


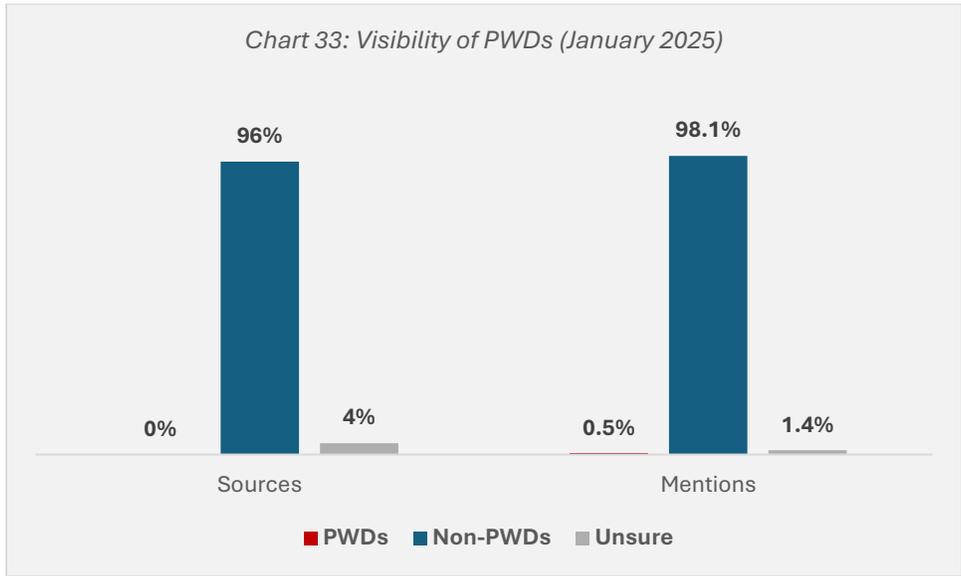
Chart 32b shows that 100% (78 contents) of the programmes from government-owned stations were free of extreme language. In contrast, 99.6% (277 in 278 contents) of the programmes from privately owned stations were free of extreme language while 0.4% (1 content) were not.

**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% (1 in 213 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Non-PWDs, in contrast, accounted for 96% (333 instances) of the sources and 98.1% (209 in 213 instances) of the mentions in this category. There were instances in which the PWD status of the sources (4%; 13 instances) and the mentions (1.4%; 3 instances) could not be determined. The data reflects the lack of coverage of PWD issues as previously noted in Chart 30.

**Women**

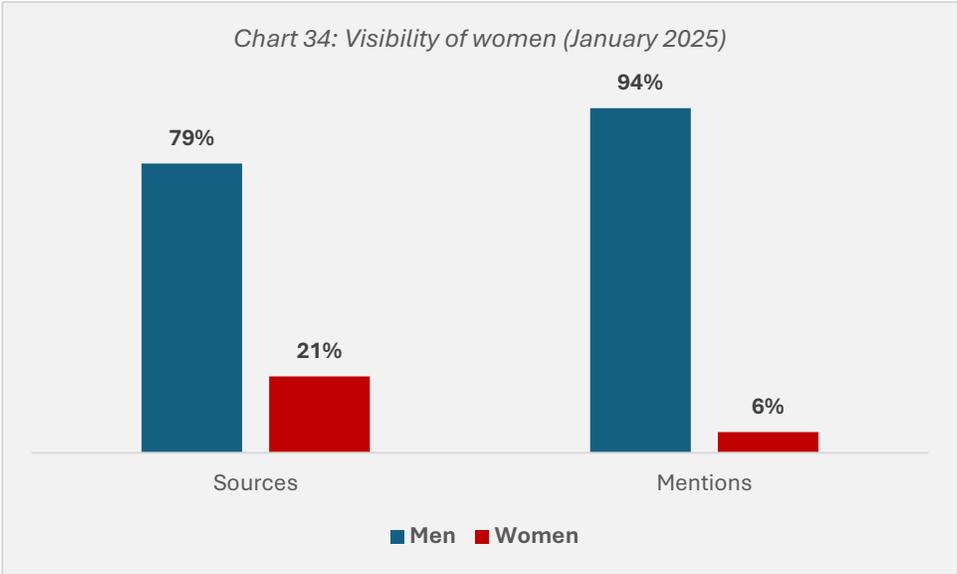


Chart 34 shows that women made up 21% (76 in 364 instances) of the sources and 6% (12 in 212 instances) of the mentions while men constituted 79% (288 instances) of the sources and 94% (200 instances) of the mentions. The data indicates that women were not as visible as men, reflecting the limited coverage (1.7%; 7 in 418 instances) dedicated to women's issues as previously revealed in Chart 30.

**Youth**

The African Youth Charter<sup>1</sup> 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.

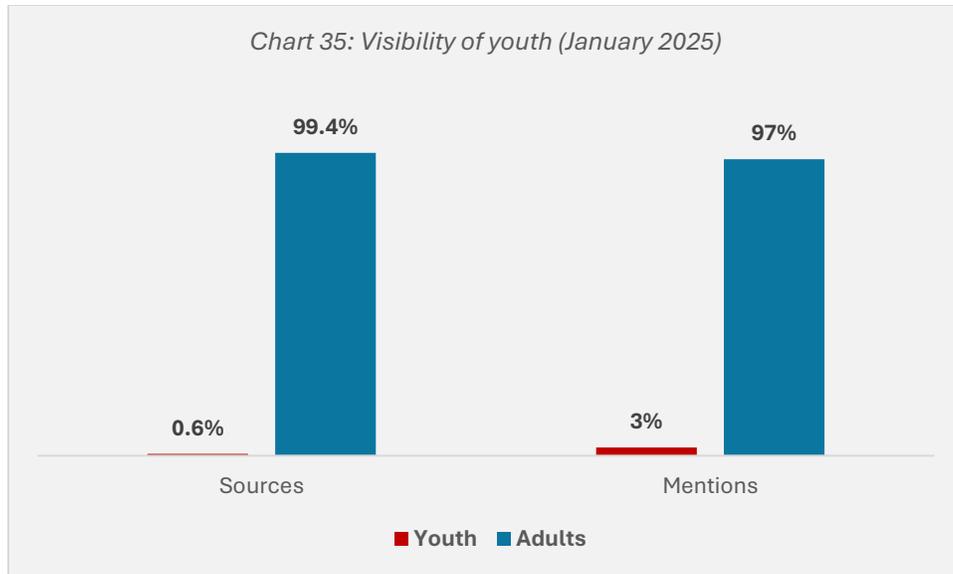


Chart 35 shows that youth constituted 0.6% (2 in 348 instances) of the sources and 3% (6 in 226 instances) of the mentions in this category. Older adults, on the other hand, made up 99.4% (346 instances) of the sources and 97% (220 instances) of the mentions. The low visibility of youth actors reflects the overall minimal coverage (0.2%; 1 in 418 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 (January 2025)

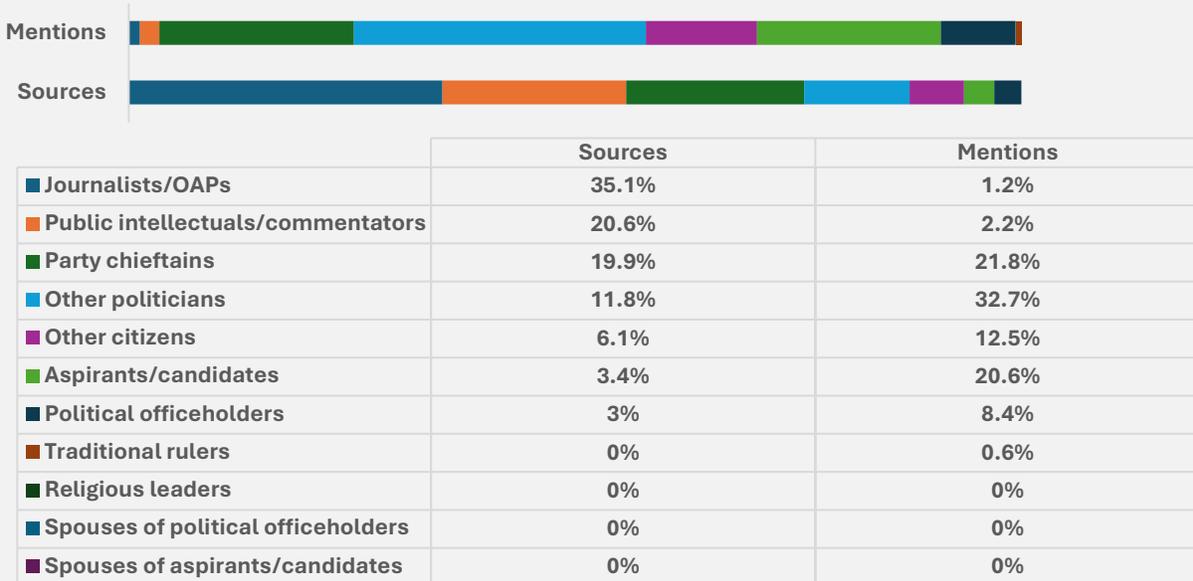
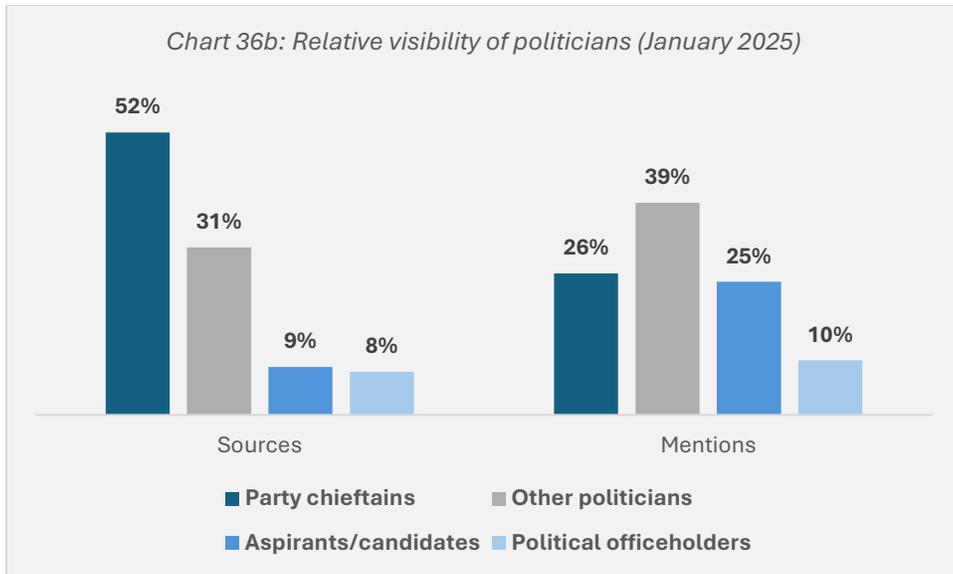


Chart 36a shows that journalists/OAPs constituted 35.1% (104 in 296 instances) of the sources and 1.2% (4 in 321 instances) of the mentions while public intellectuals/commentators accounted for 20.6% (61 instances) of the sources and 2.2% (7 instances) of the mentions.

Party chieftains made up 19.9% (59 instances) of the sources and 21.8% (70 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates accounted for 3.4% (10 instances) of the sources and 20.6% (66 instances) of the mentions. Political officeholders constituted 3% (9 instances) of the sources and 8.4% (27 instances) of the mentions while other politicians made up 11.8% (35 instances) of the sources and 32.7% (105 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of politicians were not featured.

Traditional rulers received 0.6% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Religious leaders were not featured.

Other citizens made up 6.1% (18 instances) of the sources and 12.5% (40 instances) of the mentions.



According to Chart 36b, party chieftains constituted 52% (59 in 113 instances) of the sources and 26% (70 in 268 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates accounted for 9% (10 instances) of the sources and 25% (66 instances) of the mentions. Political officeholders made up 8% (9 instances) of the sources and 10% (27 instances) of the mentions while other politicians represented 31% (35 instances) of the sources and 39% (105 instances) of the mentions.

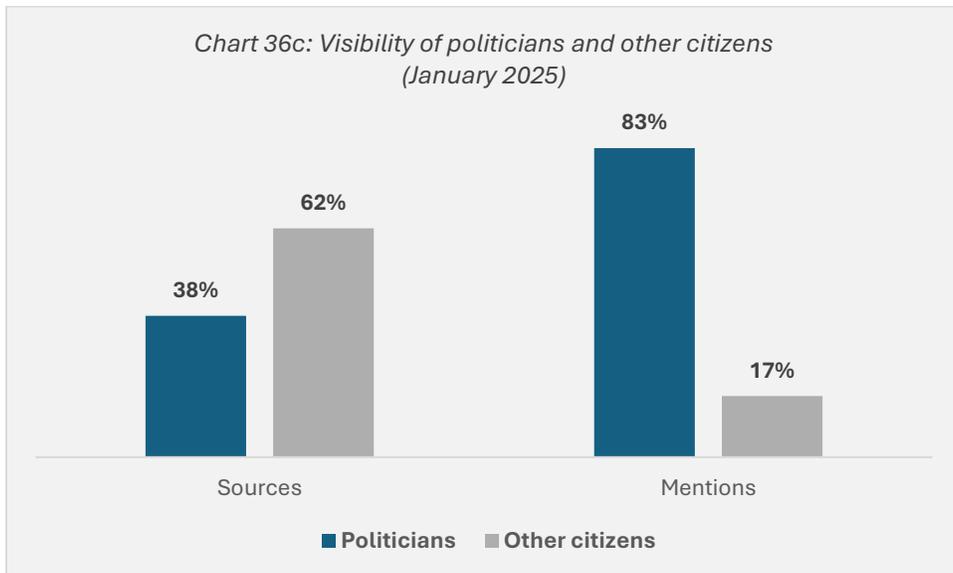


Chart 36c shows that politicians constituted 38% (113 in 296 instances) of the sources and 83% (268 in 321 instances) of the mentions while other citizens accounted for 62% (183 instances) of the sources and 17% (53 instances) of the mentions. The data shows that other citizens were more visible than politicians in terms of sources, with the reverse being the case in the context of mentions.

# LOCATION OF ACTORS

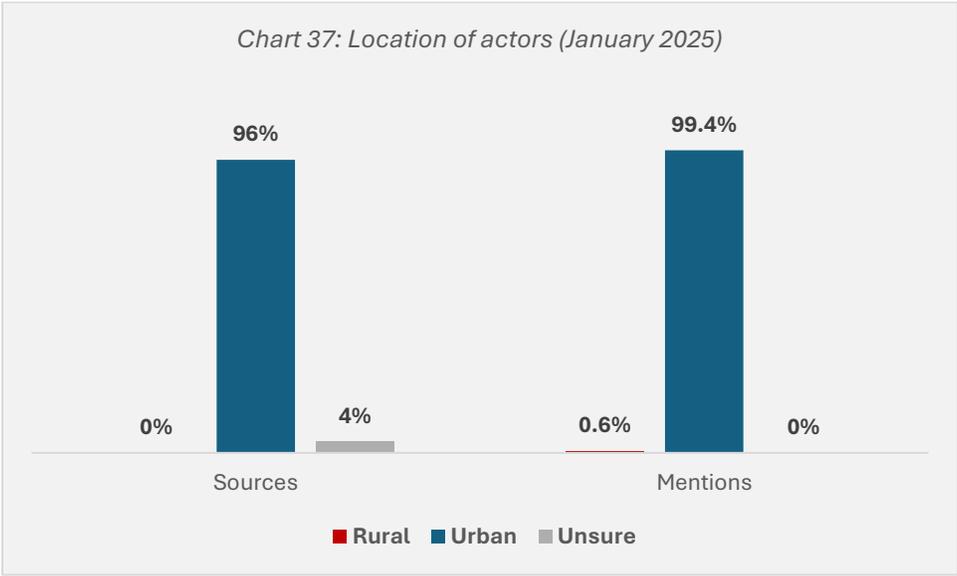


Chart 37 shows that actors from urban areas made up 96% (338 in 352 instances) of the sources and 99.4% (160 in 161 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors received 0.6% of the mentions but were not featured as sources. There were 13 instances (4%) in which the location of the sources could not be determined.

## VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS

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

## POLITICAL PARTIES

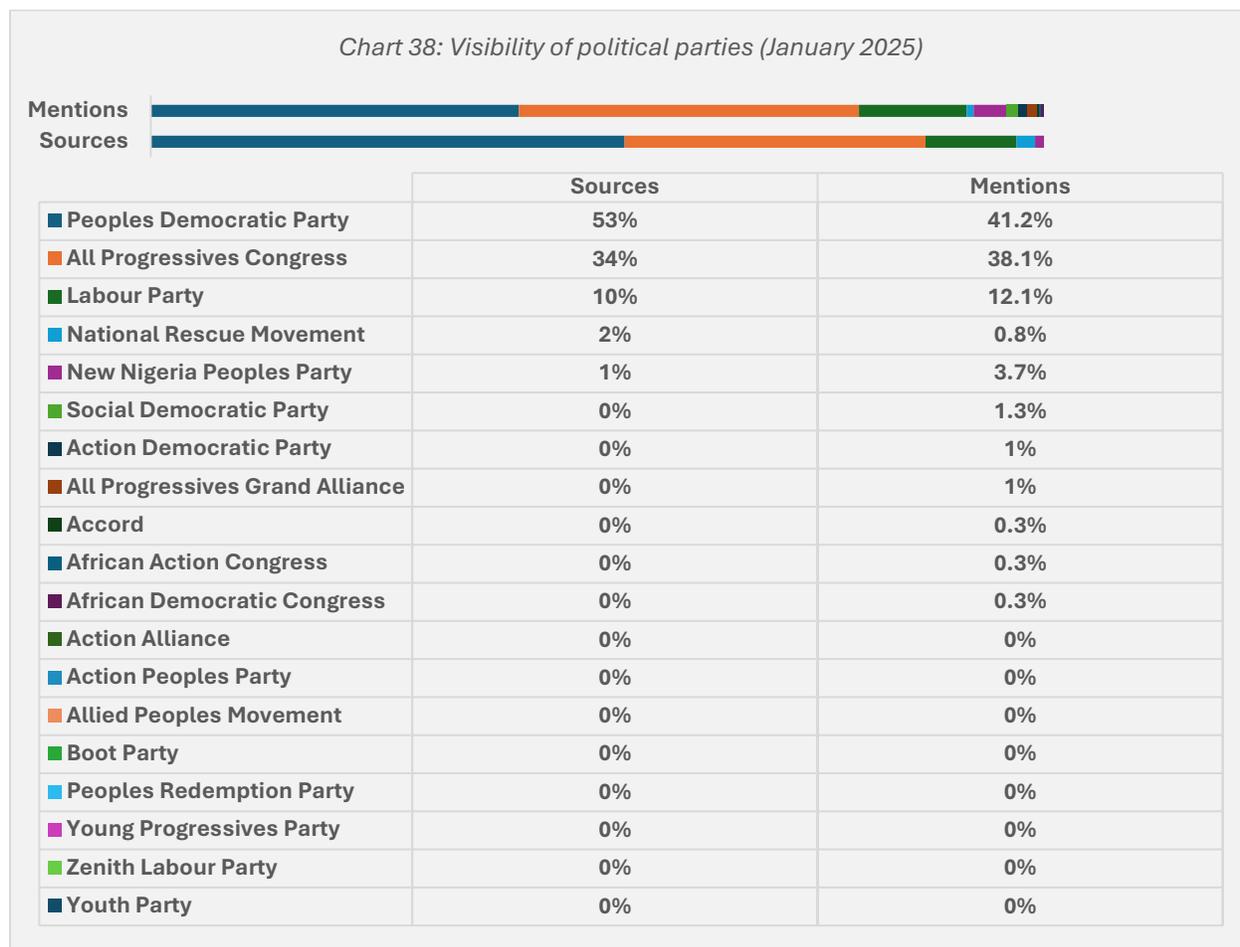


Chart 38 shows that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) made up 53% (52 in 98 instances) of the sources and 41.2% (157 in 381 instances) of the mentions, making it the most featured political party during the period under review. All Progressives Congress (APC) accounted for 34% (33 instances) of the sources and 38.1% (145 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) made up 10% (10 instances) of the sources and 12.1% (46 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas National Rescue Movement (NRM) made up 2% (2 instances) of the sources and 0.8% (3 instances) of the mentions, New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) accounted for 1% (1 instance) of the sources and 3.7% (14 instances) of the mentions.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) received 1.3% (5 instances) of the mentions but was not featured as a source. The same was true for Action Democratic Party (ADP) and All Progressives Congress Alliance (APGA) each of which represented 1% (4 instances) of the mentions.

Also, Accord, African Action Congress (AAC) and African Democratic Congress (ADC) each accounted for 0.3% (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 concerns the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government.

#### Federal government

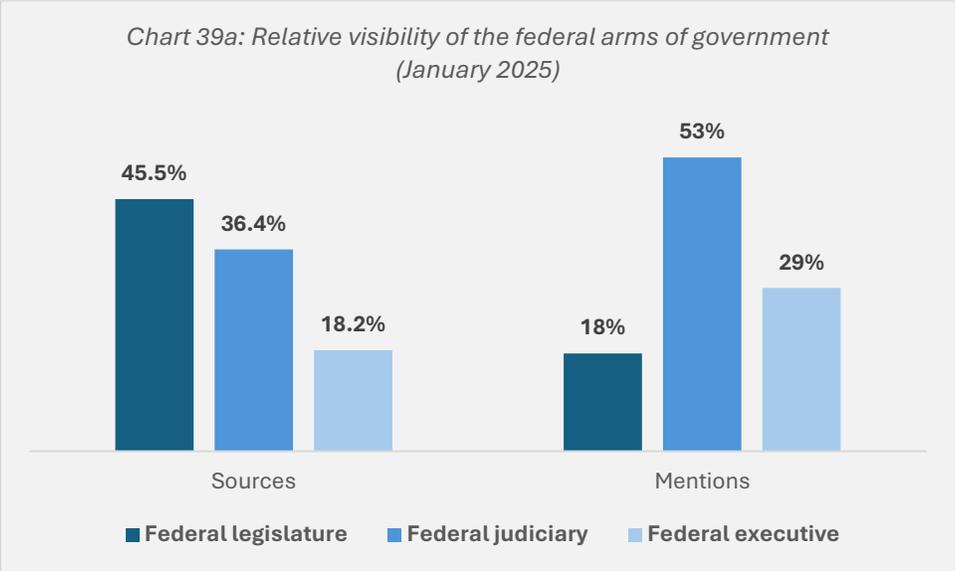


Chart 39a shows that the federal legislature made up 45.5% (5 in 11 instances) of the sources and 18% (21 in 119 instances) of the mentions. The federal judiciary constituted 36.4% (4 instances) of the sources and 53% (63 instances) of the mentions while the federal executive represented 18.2% (2 instances) of the sources and 29% (35 instances) of the mentions.

## State governments

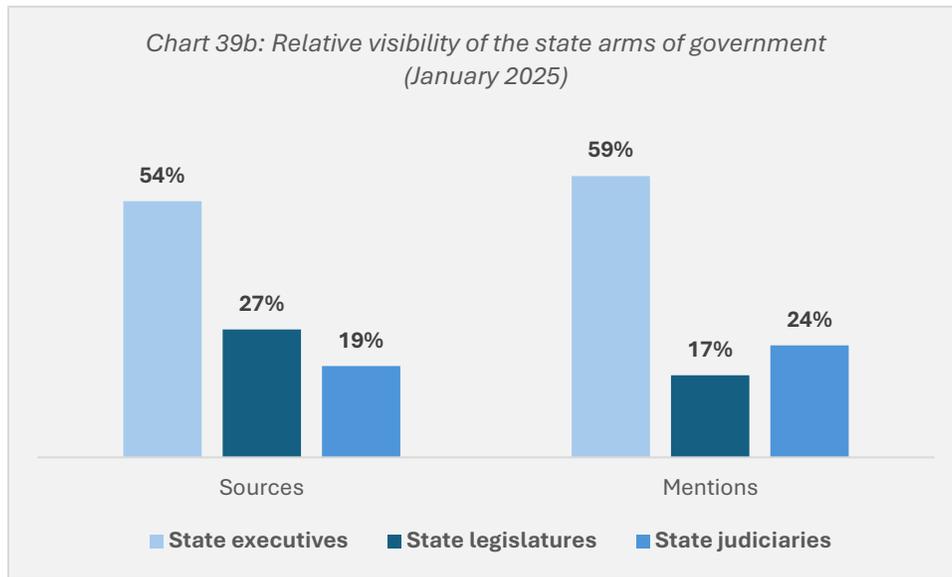
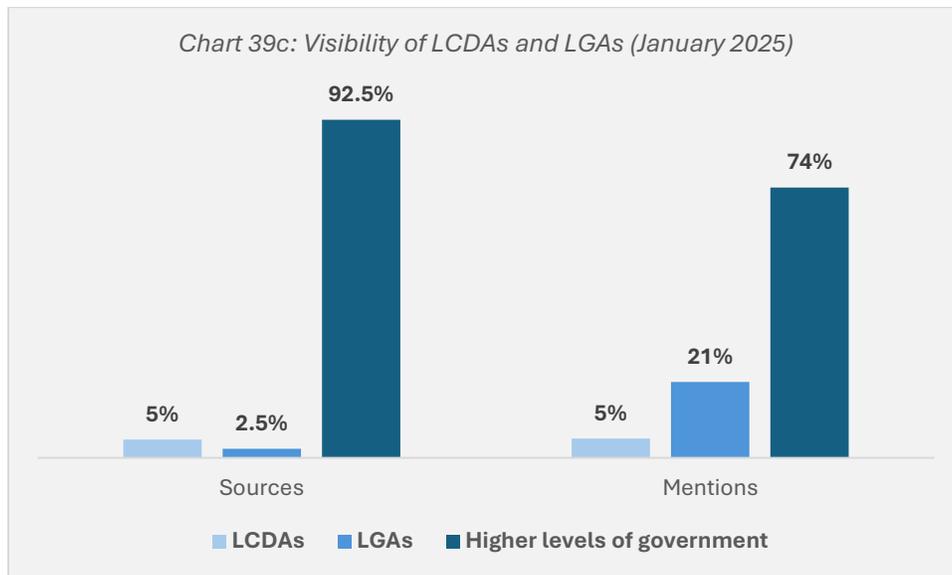


Chart 39b shows that state executives accounted for 54% (14 in 26 instances) of the sources and 59% (113 in 191 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures made up 27% (7 instances) of the sources and 17% (33 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries accounted for 19% (5 instances) of the sources and 24% (45 instances) of the mentions.

## LCDAs and LGAs



According to Chart 39c, the higher levels of government made up 92.5% (37 in 40 instances) of the sources and 74% (310 in 419 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs constituted 5% (2 instances) of the sources and 5% (22 instances) of the mentions while LGAs represented 2.5% (1 instance) of the sources and 21% (87 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.

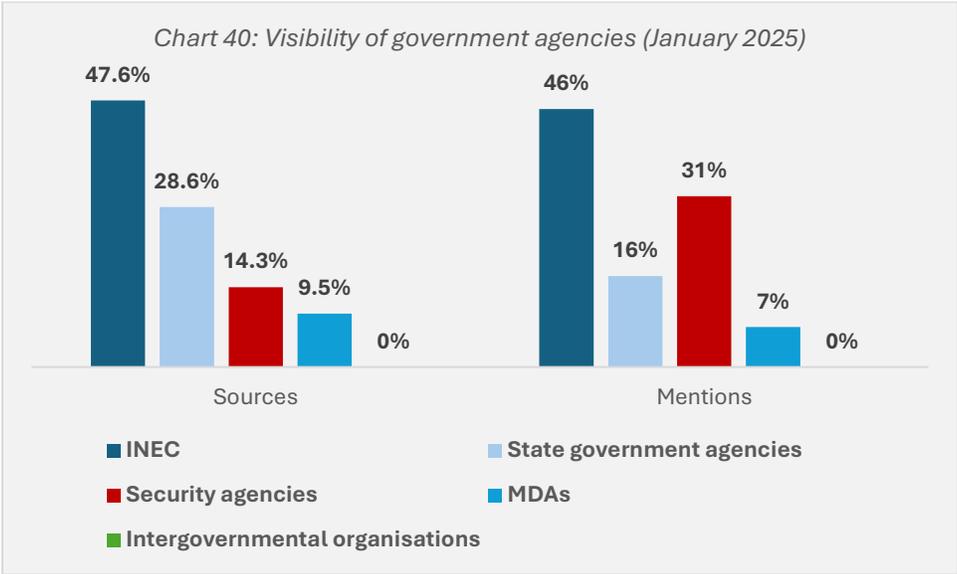
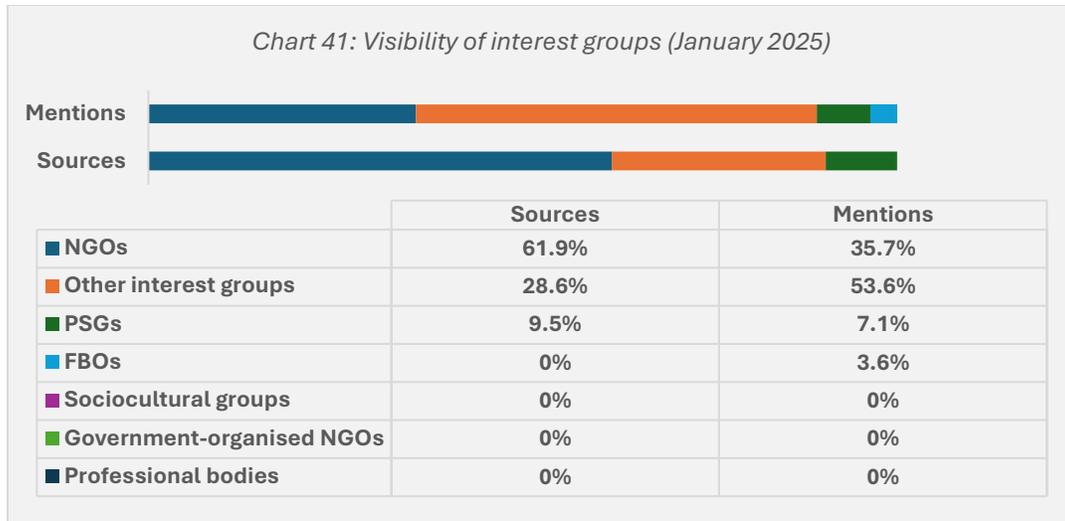


Chart 40 shows that INEC accounted for 47.6% (10 in 21 instances) of the sources and 46% (71 in 154 instances) of the mentions, making the electoral body the most featured government agency during the period under review. State government agencies constituted 28.6% (6 instances) of the sources and 16% (25 instances) of the mentions while security agencies constituted 14.3% (3 instances) of the sources and 31% (47 instances) of the mentions. MDAs represented 9.5% (2 instances) of the sources and 7% (11 instances) of the mentions. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

## INTEREST GROUPS

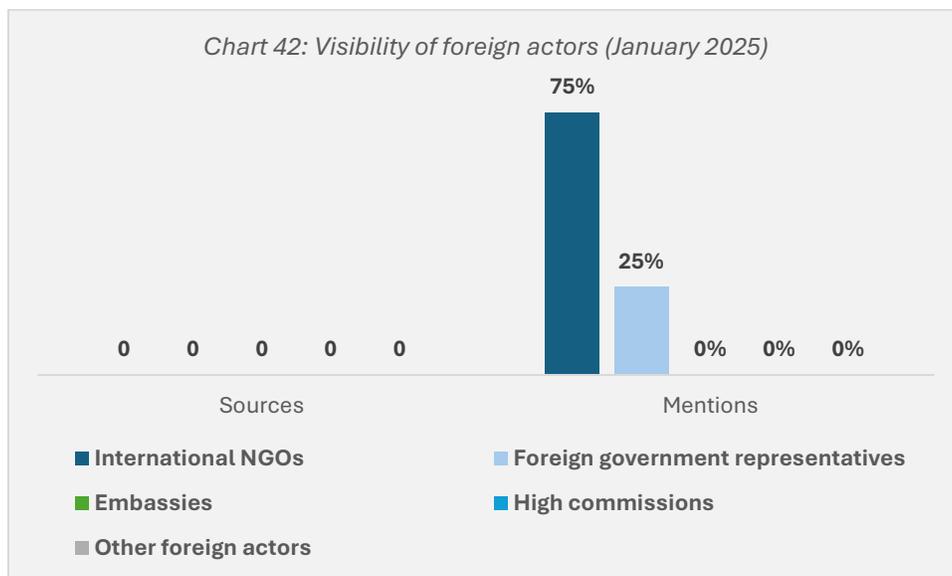
This section addresses the visibility of corporate actors such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that play critical roles in the election process. It also addresses the visibility of faith-based organisations (FBOs), sociocultural groups, government-organised NGOs and political support groups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



According to Chart 41, NGOs accounted for 61.9% (13 in 21 instances) of the sources and 35.7% (10 in 28 instances) of the mentions. PSGs constituted 9.5% (2 instances) of the sources and 7.1% (2 instances) of the mentions. FBOs received 3.6% (1 instance) of the mentions but were not featured as sources. Sociocultural groups and professional bodies were not featured. Other interest groups made up 28.6% (6 instances) of the sources and 53.6% (15 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.



According to Chart 42, international NGOs made up 75% (3 in 4 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for foreign government representatives

who accounted for 25% (1 instance) of the mentions. The other foreign actors identified in the chart were not featured.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The analysis of the content during the review period showed that most (69.9%) of the sampled broadcasts were packaged as news reports, 15.4% as discussion programmes and 14.6% as interviews. The stations maintained the principle of balance 100% of the time and recorded no instance of the use of extreme rhetoric.

Intra-party conflict (23%), transparency and accountability (11.5%) and election administration (10.5%) were the most reported and discussed topics. Women's and youth issues received 1.7% and 0.2% of the attention respectively. PWD issues were not featured.

Furthermore, women actors constituted 21% of the sources and 6% of the mentions in the gender category while youth accounted for 0.6% of the sources and 3% of the mentions in the age category. PWD actors made up 0.5% of the mentions in their category but were not featured as sources.

PDP (53% sources; 41.2% mentions) was the most visible political party and was followed by APC (34% sources; 38.1% mentions) and LP (10% sources; 12.1% mentions).

LCDAs (5% sources; 5% mentions) and LGAs (2.5% sources; 21% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government which accounted for 92.5% of the sources and 74% of the mentions.

In the government agencies category, INEC (47.6% sources; 46% mentions) was more visible than state government agencies (28.6% sources; 16% mentions), security agencies (14.3% sources; 31% mentions) and MDAs (9.5% sources; 7% mentions).

NGOs (61.9% sources; 35.7% mentions) were more visible than other interest groups combined. International NGOs (75% mentions) and foreign government representatives (25% 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](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7789-treaty-0033_-_african_youth_charter_e.pdf)

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