

MONTHLY
REPORT



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

JULY 2024 REPORT



Funded by
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OF ELECTION-RELATED POLITICS
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(July 2024 Report)

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FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Dr Akin Akingbulu,
Executive Director*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

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

MANAGEMENT

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

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

Broadcast: Radio or television content.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: An actor quoted or interviewed in a broadcast.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

In July 2024, news reports constituted 71% of television programs, while radio broadcasts showed a similar trend with 68.3% of content being news reports. Discussion programs accounted for 20% of television content and 28% of radio broadcasts, while interviews made up 9% and 7%, respectively.

Both radio and television stations maintained a balance in 97-98% of their broadcasts, with minimal instances of extreme language recorded (0.2% for television and 0.3% for radio).

The primary themes covered included citizen participation (25% for radio; 30% for television), campaign activities/strategies (14.8% for radio; 12.2% for television), and intra-party conflict (11.7% for radio; 9.1% for television). However, issues concerning women (2.5% for radio; 2.9% for television), youth (0.8% for radio; 0.9% for television) and PWDs (0.8% for both) received limited attention.

Most sources quoted in broadcasts were adult males from urban areas. Women were cited as sources 15.8% of the time in radio broadcasts and 16.6% in television, while youth actors and PWDs were significantly less visible. The PDP was the most featured political party, accounting for 41.3% of sources and 39.9% of mentions, followed by the APC and LP.

Security agencies were more prominently featured than INEC, with 55.4% of sources and 48% of mentions for security agencies compared to the electoral umpire's 35.1% sources and 42% mentions. Higher levels of government received more attention than local government areas (LGAs) and local council development areas (LCDAs).

Unclassified interest groups received more coverage than NGOs, faith-based organisations, political support groups and sociocultural groups combined. Foreign government representatives were the only foreign actors cited, with international NGOs dominating their category.

BACKGROUND

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

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

METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

839 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 385 radio and 454 television broadcasts.

The following radio stations were monitored:

- Adaba FM Akure - Ondo state [Privately owned]
- Arewa Radio - Kano state [Privately owned]
- Boss Radio Owerri - Imo state [Privately owned]
- Breeze FM Akure - Ondo state [Privately owned]
- Bridge FM Asaba - Delta state [Privately owned]
- Crest FM Akure - Ondo state [Privately owned]
- Gotel Radio Yola - Adamawa state [Privately owned]
- Grace FM Lokoja - Kogi state [Privately owned]

- Independent Television Radio (ITV Radio) Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Inform Me Radio Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Invicta FM - Kaduna state [Privately owned]
- Jay FM Jos - Plateau state [Privately owned]
- Kapital FM (Operated by Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Abuja) - Abuja [Government-owned]
- KU FM Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- NAS FM Yola - Adamawa state [Privately owned]
- New Cruse FM Ikere-Ekiti - Ekiti state [Privately owned]
- Nigeria Info Port Harcourt - Rivers state [Privately owned]
- Osun State Broadcasting Corporation (OSBC Radio) - Osun state [Government-owned]
- Peoples' FM Yenagoa - Bayelsa state [Privately owned]
- Positive FM (Operated by Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Akure) - Ondo state [Government-owned]
- Radio Rivers - Rivers state [Government-owned]
- Sapienta FM Onitsha - Anambra state [Privately owned]
- Splash FM Ibadan - Oyo state [Privately owned]
- Super FM Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Urban Radio - Enugu state [Privately owned]

The following television stations were monitored:

- Adamawa Television (ATV) Yola - Adamawa [Privately owned]
- Africa Independent Television (AIT) - Network [Privately owned]
- Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC TV) - Akwa Ibom [Government owned]
- Anambra Broadcasting Service Television (ABS TV) - Anambra state [Government owned]
- Arise Television (Arise TV) - Network [Privately owned]
- Channels Television (Channels TV) - Network [Privately owned]
- Gotel Television (Gotel TV) Yola - Adamawa [Privately owned]
- Independent Television (ITV) Benin - Edo state [Privately owned]
- Kwara State Television (KSTV) - Kwara state [Government-owned]
- Lagos Television (LTV) - Lagos state [Government-owned]
- Liberty Television (Liberty TV) - Abuja [Privately owned]
- Nigerian Television Authority International (NTAi) - Network [Government owned]
- Ogun Television (OGTV) - Ogun state [Government owned]
- Ondo State Radiovision Corporation (OSRC TV) - Ondo [Government owned]
- Silverbird Television (STV) - Lagos state [Privately owned]
- Television Continental (TVC News) - Network [Privately owned]

The monitoring endeavour sought to answer the following questions:

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

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

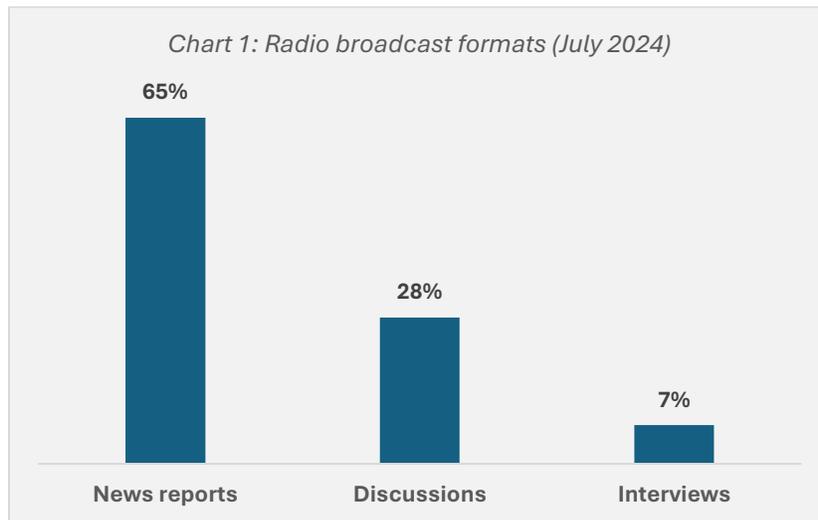
PART I

CONTENT OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON RADIO

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

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY ON RADIO

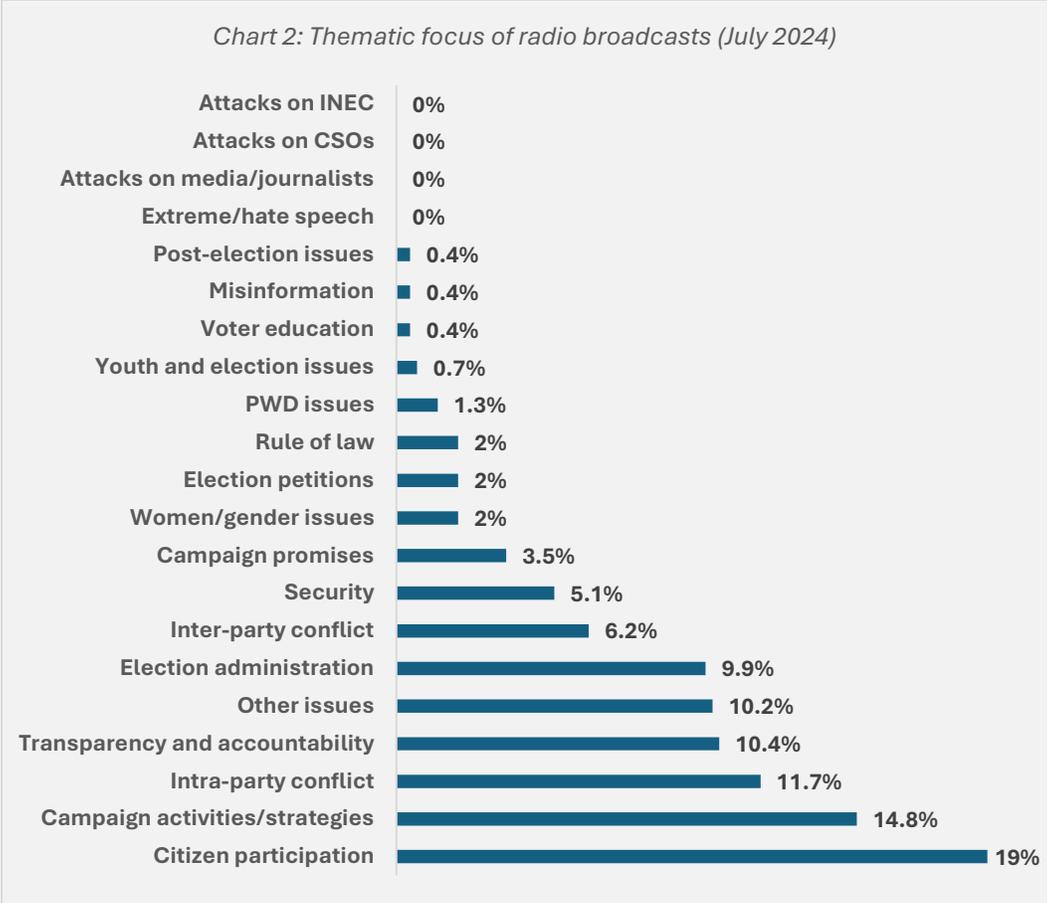
A total of 385 news reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected radio stations.



Out of the contents analysed during the period under review, 251, as Chart 1 shows, were packaged as news reports, accounting for 65% of the contents. The other radio broadcasts were packaged as discussions (28%; 106 stories) and interviews (7%; 28 stories).

THEMATIC EMPHASIS ON RADIO

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



According to the data in Chart 2, citizen participation, a general democratic governance issue largely driven by anti-government protests, accounted for 19% (89 in 453 instances) of the radio coverage during the period in review.

- “Senator Anyin enjoins Nigerians to shun protest,” ITV Radio reported on July 24, focusing on an impending citizen participation in an anti-government protest many say was necessary because the government was failing at fulfilling its campaign promises.
- In another instance focusing on citizen participation, information minister Muhammed Eedris “has today explained why the federal government has kicked against the nationwide protest slated to begin on the 29th of July 2024,” Sapiaenta FM reported on July 24.

- “A senior advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana, said the government should call the organisers of the protest and address their demands before August 1st instead of making mere promises, and cautioned young people to be strategic in their planned protest,” Crest FM reported on July 24.
- The presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 general elections, Peter Obi, “expressed his support for the constitutional right of Nigerians to protest,” Invicta FM reported on July 30.
- Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) Senator George Akume “has expressed his concerns about the nationwide protest, saying that it may be hijacked by hoodlums to cause mayhem; the National Assembly has today called on Nigerians and supporters of the nationwide protest to shelve the protest for the peace of the country,” Sapienta FM reported on July 31.
- “Court restricts nationwide protest in Lagos,” ITV Radio reported on July 31.

Another democratic governance theme, transparency and accountability, received 10.4% (47 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law received 2% (9 instances) of the coverage.

- “The Supreme Court has affirmed the financial autonomy of Nigeria’s 774 local governments. In the unanimous judgement of its seven-member panel on Thursday, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the suit brought by the federal government to strengthen the independence of local governments in the country,” Grace FM reported on July 11, focusing on transparency and accountability.
- In a similar instance, human rights activist Femi Falana has “called on Nigerians to be prepared to monitor the activities of local government officials in the wake of the Supreme Court judgement,” Super FM reported on July 12.
- In an instance focusing on the rule of law, “A state high court in Port Harcourt has issued an ex-parte order restricting the Chief Judge of Rivers state, Chibuzor Amadi, from dealing with Martins Amaewhule and 24 others as members of the Rivers State House of Assembly pending the hearing and determination of a motion,” Nigeria Info reported on July 7.
- “Amid the political crisis in Rivers state, Femi Falana faulted Monday’s sitting of the Martin Amaewhule-led assembly, adding that the Court of Appeal ruled on the jurisdiction of the state high court and not on the status of Martin Amaewhule and the others,” Nigeria Info also reported on July 7. The lawmakers stirred controversy

after defecting from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

- In another instance focusing on the rule of law, the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) Lateef Fagbemi “cautions security agencies against detaining suspects beyond stipulated periods,” Kapital FM reported on July 26.

Campaign activities/strategies received 14.8% (67 instances) of the radio coverage while campaign promises, a related theme, received 3.5% (16 instances) of the coverage.

- “Edo deputy governor, Godwin Omobayo, canvasses support for PDP in Igara, Edo state,” ITV Radio reported on July 5, focusing on campaign activities/strategies ahead of the September 21 off-cycle governorship election in the state.
- In another instance, “The All Progressives Congress (APC) has inaugurated a 362-member national campaign council for the Edo governorship election,” NAS FM reported on July 19.
- “Edo YPP guber candidate, Paul Okungbowa, canvasses for support, hints on plan for aged people and PWDs,” ITV Radio reported on July 5, focusing on campaign promises.
- “Candidate of the PDP for Edo state governorship election Asue Ighodalo has said that his administration would deploy modern technology to tackle the issue of insecurity in the state if given the mandate,” Arewa Radio reported on July 14, also focusing on campaign promises.
- During the discussion segment of the July 30 edition of Super FM’s programme, ‘What The Honourable Has To Say,’ analysts discussed the governorship candidate of the National Rescue Movement Dr Dennis Akeroghe’s plans to address insecurity, public safety and combat crime in the light of a reportedly growing rate of kidnapping in some parts of Edo state. The session was focused on campaign promises.

Whereas intra-party conflict received 11.7% (53 instances) of the coverage, inter-party conflict accounted for 6.2% (28 instances) of the attention. Election petitions received 2% (9 instances) of the coverage.

- “The New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) in Kano state has rejected the call for the suspension of Governor Abba Yusuf by the National Executive Committee, saying that it is against the party’s constitution; it also struck out the dismissal of the presidential candidate of the party in the 2023 presidential election, Sen. Rabiw Kwankwaso,” Sapia FM reported on July 8, focusing on intra-party conflict.

- During the discussion segment of the July 9 edition of Nigeria Info programme 'Morning Crossfire,' former PDP spokesperson Kola Ologbodiyan spoke on Governor Siminalayi Fubara's comment on zero support from PDP members. Kola said that the party had not related with Governor Fubara over his issue with his predecessor and FCT minister Nyesom Wike. The session was focused on intra-party conflict.
- PDP national working committee "has suspended the National Vice Chairman South-South, Dan Obi," Urban Radio reported on July 10, also focusing on intra-party conflict.
- In a related instance, Super FM reported on July 11 that Dan Obi dismissed a group called 'Edo State PDP Youth League' that demanded penalties for his alleged anti-party activities, saying they were unknown to the party."
- Also, on July 28, Splash FM reported that Kenneth Okonkwo, a former spokesperson for the Labour Party Presidential Campaign Council, had announced his departure from the party.
- In an instance focusing on inter-party conflict, "Defected Rivers lawmaker shut down Rivers Consolidated Revenue Account," ITV Radio reported on July 15. The lawmakers defected from the ruling PDP to the APC.
- In another instance, "Governors elected on the platform of the PDP rose from their meeting in Enugu on Wednesday warning against any presidential interference in the forthcoming off-season governorship elections in Edo and Ondo states, denouncing what they described as an abysmal and lacklustre performance of the APC-led federal government," Adaba FM reported on July 18.
- Also, Radio Rivers reported on July 22 that the APC-led presidency claimed that supporters of Peter Obi, a prominent member of the Labour Party, were the masterminds behind the planned nationwide protests against the Bola Ahmed Tinubu government.
- In an instance focused on election petitions, "Court of Appeal in Abuja has affirmed Usman Ododo as the elected governor for Kogi state, dismissing the petition filed by Social Democratic Party (SDP) and its candidate Muritala Ajaka," New Cruse reported on July 11.
- "Bayelsa election petition: Court affirms the election of Governor Duoye Diri," ITV Radio reported on July 18.

Election administration received 9.9% (45 instances) of the coverage while voter education received 0.4% (2 instances) of the coverage.

- In an instance focusing on election administration, “Off-cycle elections: INEC chairman urges newly inducted RECs to discharge their duties duly for a seamless electoral process,” OSBC Radio reported on July 1.
- “INEC begins accreditation of observers for Edo and Ondo governorship elections, says 153 applications received from interested organisations,” Arewa Radio reported on July 16, also focusing on election administration.
- In addition, “INEC expresses capability to conduct local government elections if the law allows, promises improved conduct during Edo and Ondo guber polls,” ITV Radio reported on July 25.
- In an instance focused on voter education, “Ahead of the September 21 governorship election in Edo state, INEC has urged young female voters to vote for a candidate who will brighten their future with people-orientated programmes and policies,” Splash FM reported on July 23.

Whereas security issues received 5.1% (23 instances) of the coverage, attacks on media/journalists, INEC and CSOs were not featured.

- “Ahead of the Edo governorship election, Edo state police public relations officer SP Chidi Nwabuzor has advised parents to caution their children, especially the youths, to desist from involving in any criminal activities during and after the election,” KU FM reported on July 19, focusing on election-related security issues. “They should stay away from political thuggery because security officers will not spare anyone caught with illegal weapons,” the police spokesperson was reported to have said. The report was aired as part of a discussion segment on the radio programme ‘Dialogue’.
- In another instance, “The Edo state commissioner of police Funsho Adeboye has vowed to arrest and bring to book the hoodlums suspected to be political thugs involved in a reported shooting incident along Airport Road, Benin City,” Super FM reported on July 19.

Women/gender and PWD issues received 2% (9 instances) and 1.3% (6 instances) of the coverage respectively while youth issues received 0.7% (3 instances) of the coverage.

- During an interview segment of the July 1 edition of Grace FM programme ‘The Perspective,’ the first female deputy speaker of Kogi state, Comfort Nwochiola, and

leading civil society activist Idris Miliki spoke on the activities and participation of women in parliament, providing an instance in which women's issues were discussed on radio during the period under review.

- In another instance, "Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu, 12 others propose a bill, which passed its second reading, seeking to increase the number of seats for women in the House of Representatives to promote gender balance and encourage more female participation," New Cruse reported on July 9.
- "First Lady Oluremi Tinubu has challenged political officeholders across various political parties in Nigeria to walk the talk on gender equity," Splash FM reported on July 23, also focusing on women's issues.
- Similarly, Kapital FM reported on July 23 that "ECOWAS female parliamentarian calls on Nigerian women to be active in sociopolitical administration."
- In an instance focusing on youth issues, APC chieftain Mr Olowookere Oluwadamilare "says the party will win in the forthcoming governorship election in Ondo state, adding that Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa has not neglected the youth but has appointed many of them into his cabinet," Crest FM reported on July 2.
- Also, "The chairman of Ovie Northeast Local Government Area, Collins Ogbewe, has urged the youth to queue behind PDP governorship candidate Barrister Asue Ighodalo, and his running mate Barrister Osarodion Ogie," Super FM reported on July 25.
- Ekiti state's Commissioner for Special Education and Social Inclusion Mrs Adetoun Agboola was featured on the discussion segment of the July 4 edition of Adaba FM programme 'Ekiti Today'. She spoke on the challenges facing PWDs and the efforts of the government to address the challenges. The session was focused on PWD issues.
- "As part of his campaign promise for inclusive governance, Governor Adeleke has started a free health insurance enrolment programme for PWDs in Osun state," OSBC Radio reported on July 25.

Misinformation received 0.4% (2 instances) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech was not featured.

- During the discussion segment of the July 17 edition of Super FM programme 'What The Honourable Has To Say,' Dr Bright Onovokoko, the convener of Rally for Peaceful

Elections, described the level of misinformation embarked on by political parties on social media as alarming. He was referring to the Edo governorship race.

Post-election issues and other issues received 0.4% (2 instances) and 10.2% (46 instances) of the coverage respectively.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON RADIO — BALANCE

Balanced reporting presents varying perspectives and sources on significant 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.

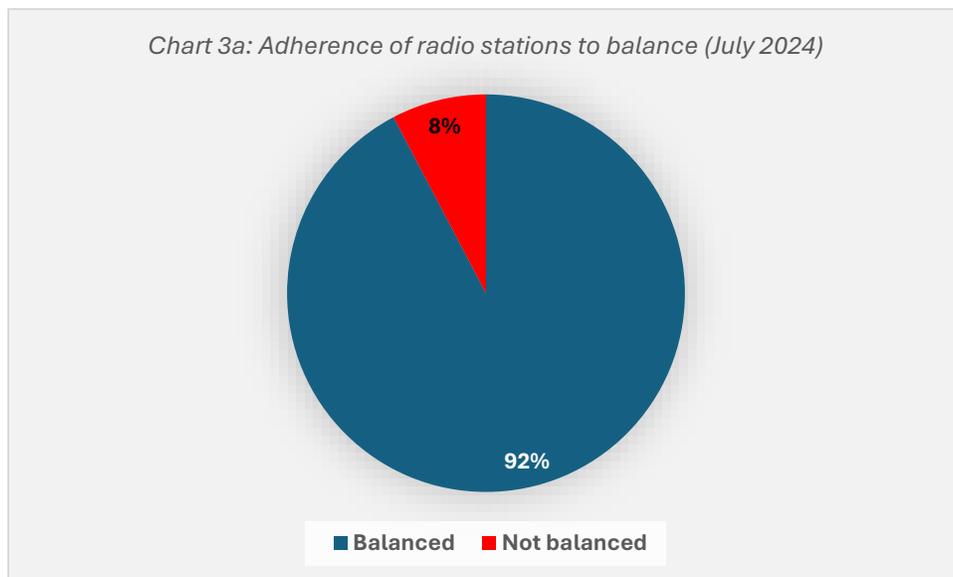


Chart 3a shows that 92% (24 in 26 applicable stories) of the radio broadcasts were balanced while 8% (2 stories) were not.

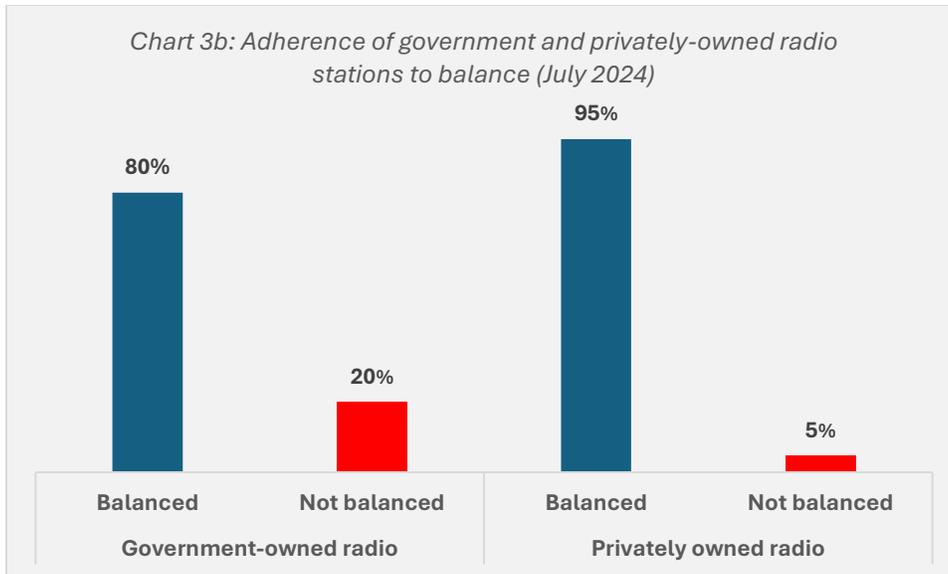


Chart 3b shows that 80% (4 in 5 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned radio stations were balanced while 20% (1 story) were not. In contrast, 95% (20 in 21 stories) of the broadcasts from privately-owned radio stations were balanced while 5% (1 story) were not.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON RADIO— LANGUAGE

Extreme language can incite hatred, prejudice and/or violence towards specific individuals or groups within society. The selected radio stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language and avoidance of inflammatory rhetoric in their programmes. The noted incidents involved not only the media and its sources using provocative language but also those who actively condemned inflammatory rhetoric.

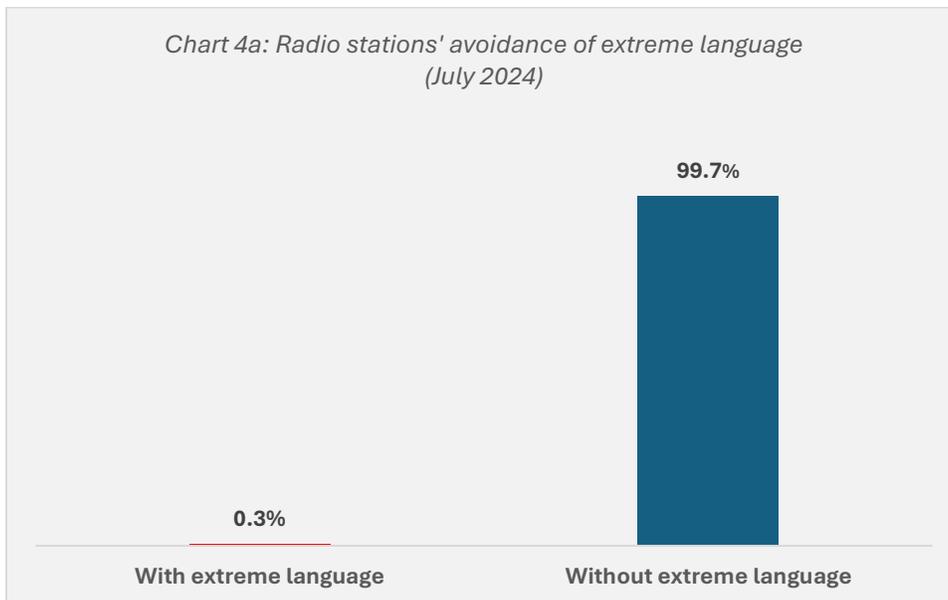


Chart 4a shows that the radio stations avoided extreme language in 99.7% (384 in 385 stories) of their programmes and fell short in 0.3% (1 story) of the programmes.

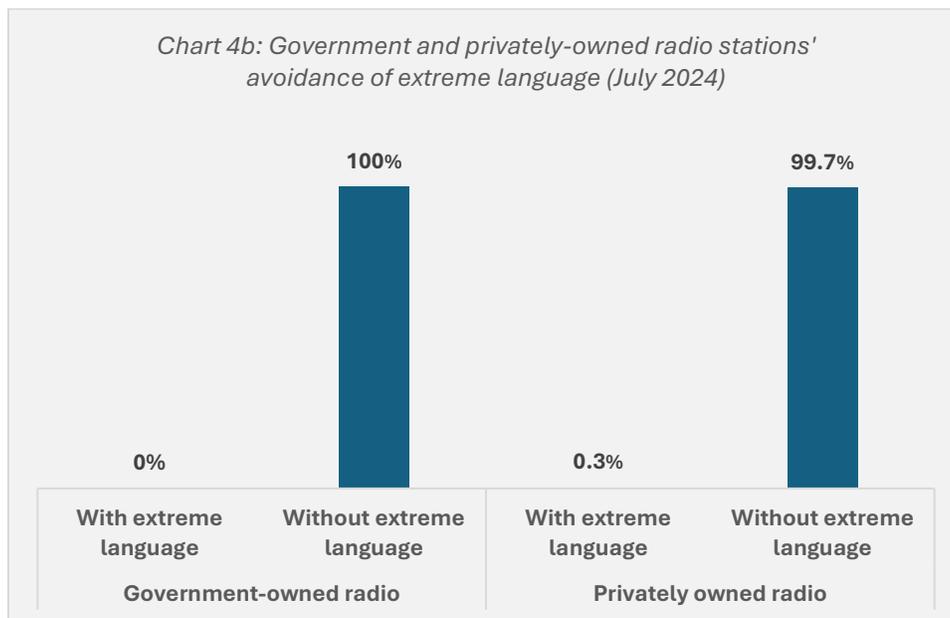


Chart 4b reveals that all 42 stories from government-owned stations were free of extreme language. The privately-owned stations, on the other hand, accounted for all instances of extreme language. Only 0.3% (1 story) of privately-owned stations' content, however, featured extreme language, with an overwhelming 99.7% (342 stories) of their programmes avoiding it altogether.

- The deployment of extreme language was noted during a July 22 news report by Sapienta FM. Edo APC, the report said, “called on the state assembly to remove Governor Godwin Obaseki from his seat following his threat that Nigeria will be on fire if what happened on Thursday, that is, the reinstatement of Deputy Governor Philip Shaibu and an APC governorship aspirant who allegedly took the life of a police officer, repeated itself”. Obaseki’s reported threat that Nigeria could be on “fire” was deemed extreme, as such unwholesome language should not be deployed in the political arena.

VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS ON RADIO

INCLUSION: VISIBILITY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS ON RADIO

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

PWDs

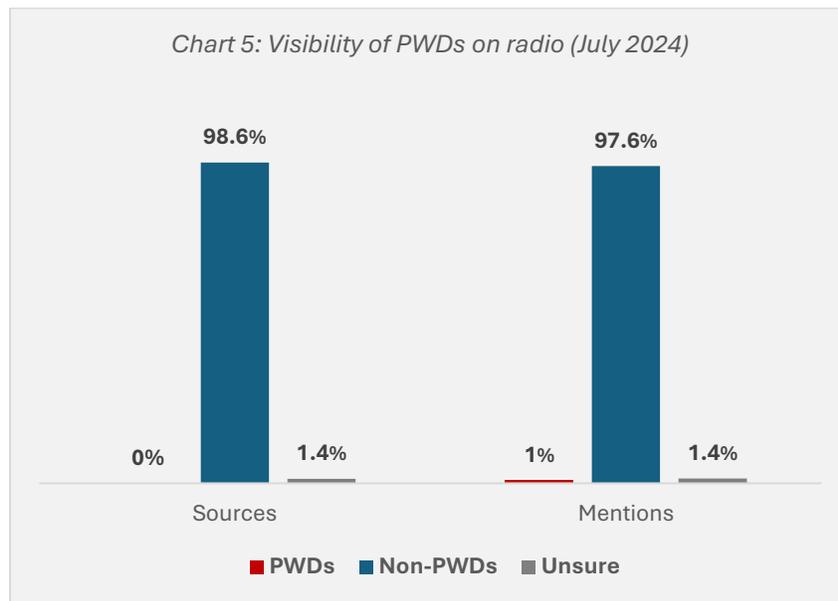


Chart 5 shows that PWD actors received 1% (2 in 208 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Non-PWD actors, on the other hand, received 98.6% (365 in 370 instances) of the usage as sources and 97.6% (203 instances) of the mentions. The PWD status of 1.4% of the usage (5 instances) and mentions (3 instances) was indeterminate. The data echoes the low level of coverage (1.3%; 6 in 453 instances) devoted to PWD issues as previously shown in Chart 2.

- Ekiti state’s Commissioner for Special Education and Social Inclusion Mrs Adetoun Agboola was featured on the discussion segment of the July 4 edition of Adaba FM programme ‘Ekiti Today’. She spoke on the challenges facing PWDs and government’s efforts to address the challenges. PWDs were mentioned during the programme.
- “As part of his campaign promise for inclusive governance, Governor Adeleke has started a free health insurance enrolment programme for PWDs in Osun state,” OSBC Radio reported on July 25, mentioning PWDs.

Women

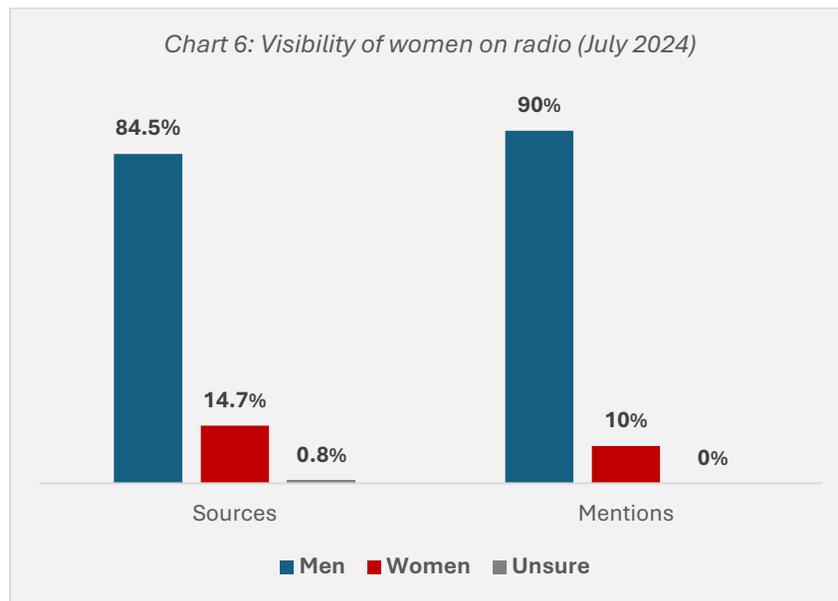


Chart 6 shows that women received 14.7% (56 in 380 instances) of the usage as sources and 10% (22 in 230 instances) of the mentions. Men, on their part, received 84.5% (321 instances) of the usage and 90% (208 instances) of the mentions. The usage could not be determined in 0.8% (3 instances) of the cases. The data showed that women were not as visible as their male counterparts and echoed the low level of coverage (2%; 9 in 453 instances) devoted to women's issues as previously shown in Chart 2. The visibility of women as sources was largely driven by the categorisation of sources as female journalists/OAPs (news readers and anchors) whenever the broadcast lacked actuality or soundbite. To measure this visibility more accurately, such categorisation will not apply to subsequent reports.

- Ekiti state's Commissioner for Special Education and Social Inclusion Mrs Adetoun Agboola was featured on the discussion segment of the July 4 edition of Adaba FM programme 'Ekiti Today'. She spoke on the challenges facing PWDs and the government's efforts to address the challenges, presenting another instance of using a woman as the source of an election-related radio broadcast.
- During a discussion session of the July 15 edition of Super FM programme 'What The Honourable Has To Say,' Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) governorship candidate in Edo state Patience Ndidi Key, a woman, talked about her political agenda. The session represented an instance of using a woman as the source of an election-related programme on radio during the period under review. At least seven of the instances of women being mentioned involved the PRP candidate. She was the only female politician running for office in the 2024 off-cycle governorship election in Nigeria.

- In an instance in which women were mentioned, “an amendment bill to improve women’s representation in parliament through the introduction of special seat has scaled second reading in the House of Representatives,” Urban Radio reported on July 9.

Youth

The African Youth Charter¹ defines youth as individuals aged between 15 and 35. This report adopted the same age bracket. However, individuals older than 35 were also considered youth if they represented a youth group or initiative. Those younger than 15 are categorised as children.

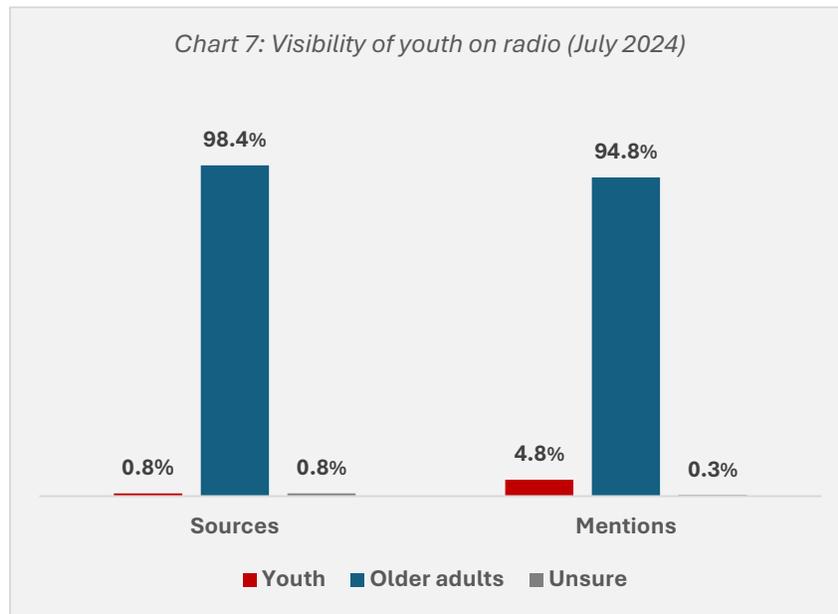


Chart 7 shows that youth received 0.8% (3 in 370 instances) of the usage as sources and 4.8% (14 in 289 instances) of the mentions. Older adults, on the other hand, received 98.4% (364 instances) of the usage and 94.8% (274 instances) of the mentions. Children were not featured. In some cases, the usage (0.8%, 3 instances) and mentions (0.3%, 1 instance) of vulnerable groups in the radio broadcasts could not be determined. The low visibility of youth actors echoes the low level of coverage (0.7%; 3 in 453 instances) devoted to youth issues as previously shown in Chart 2.

- On July 19, a PDP youth leader, Victor Oguntoyinbo, was interviewed on the Crest FM programme ‘Oro Oselu’. The interviewee insisted that the party was united despite news that some stalwarts had decamped to other parties. The interview presented an instance of a youth serving as the source of a radio broadcast during the period under review.

- Most mentions of youth centred on the anti-government protests planned for August. There was, however, one instance related to the September 21 off-cycle governorship election in Edo state. In that instance, “APC has inaugurated a 362-member national campaign council for the Edo state governorship election,” NAS FM reported on July 19. Youth were mentioned in the report.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS FEATURED ON RADIO

This section examines the social status of the individuals used as sources and mentioned in relevant 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.

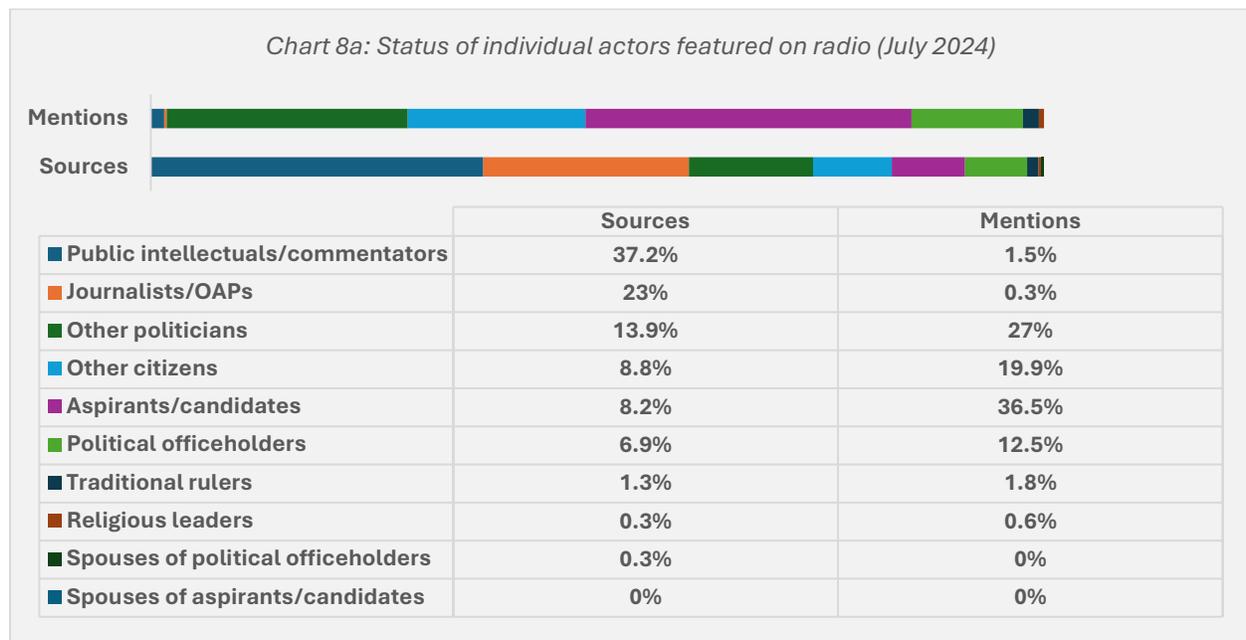


Chart 8a shows that public intellectuals/commentators received the most usage as sources (37.2%; 118 in 317 instances) and 1.5% (5 in 337 instances) of the mentions. Journalists/OAPs received 23% (73 instances) of the usage and 0.3% (1 instance) mentions. Journalists/OAPs (news readers and anchors) were categorised as sources whenever the broadcast lacked actuality or soundbite.

Aspirants/candidates received 8.2% (26 instances) of the usage and most of the mentions (36.5%; 123 instances). Political office holders received 6.9% (22 instances) of the usage and 12.5% (42 instances) of the mentions while other politicians received 13.9% (44 instances) of the usage and 27% (91 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of political officeholders

received 0.3% (1 instance) of the usage but received no mention. The spouses of aspirants/candidates were not featured.

Whereas traditional rulers received 1.3% (4 instances) of the usage and 1.8% (6 instances) of the mentions, religious leaders received 0.3% (1 instance) of the usage and 0.6% (2 instances) of the mentions.

Other citizens accounted for 8.8% (28 instances) of the usage and 19.9% (67 instances) of the mentions.

Since politicians are major players in elections, the visibility of political office holders, aspirants/candidates and other politicians was analysed. The findings are presented in Chart 8b.

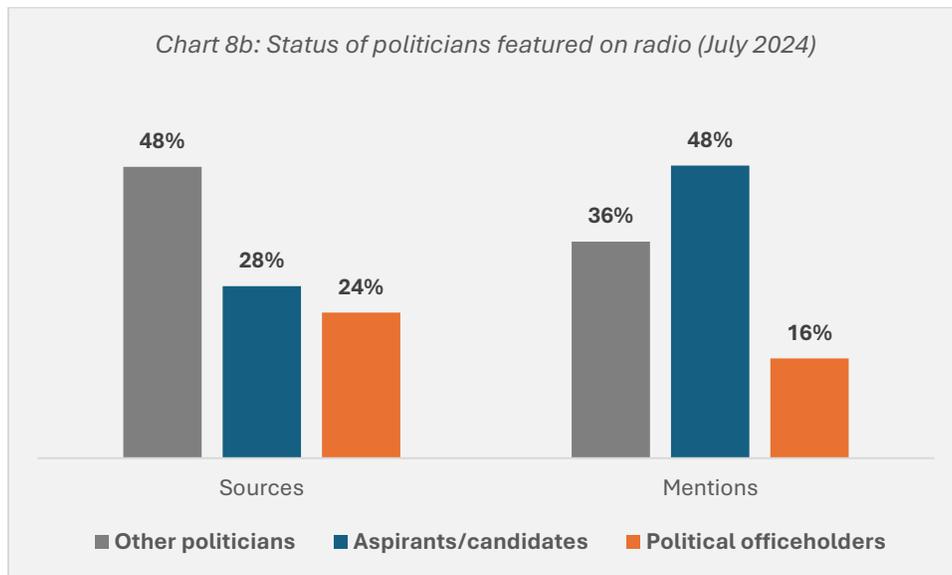
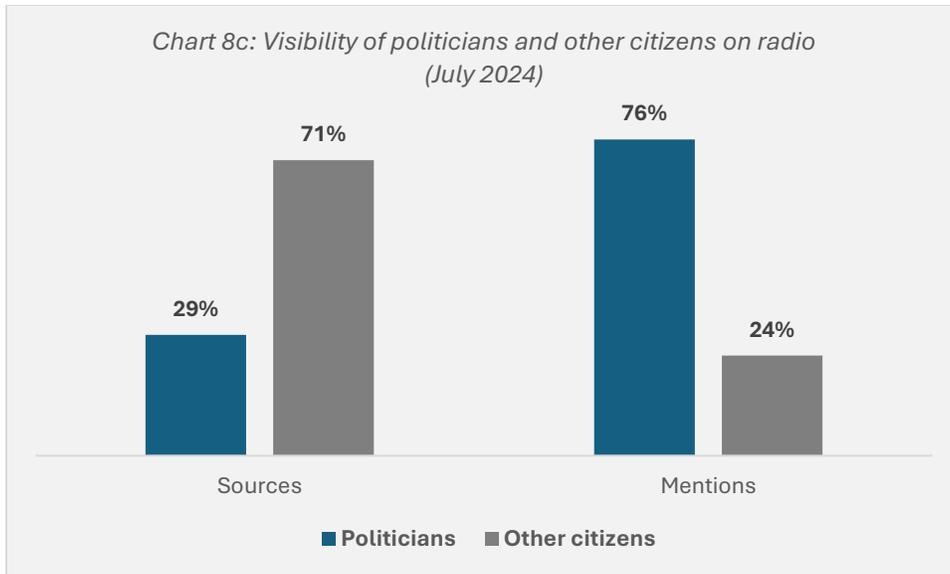


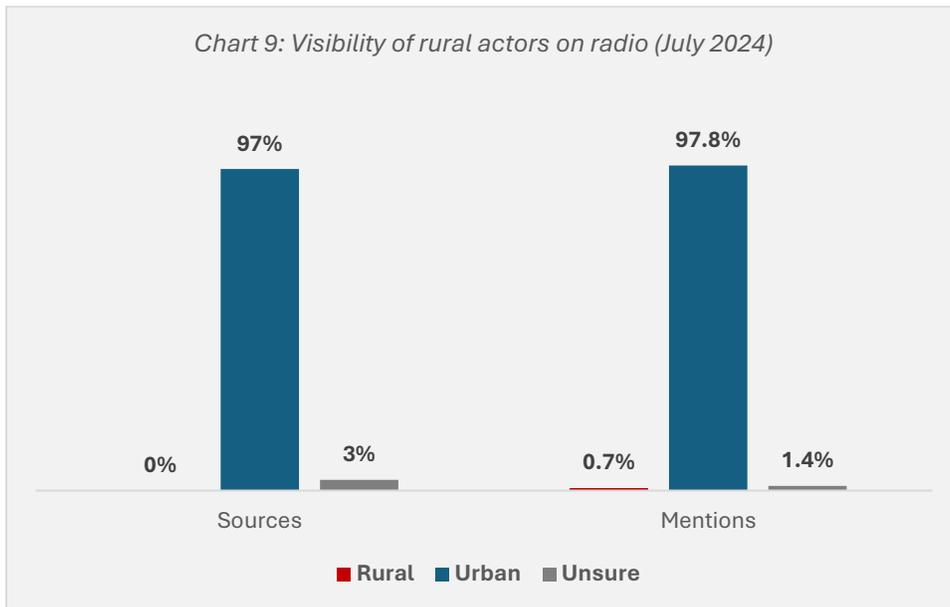
Chart 8b shows that aspirants/candidates received 28% (26 in 92 instances) of the usage and 48% (123 in 256 instances) of the mentions. Political officeholders received 24% (22 instances) of the usage and 16% (42 instances) of the mentions while other politicians received 48% (44 instances) of the usage and 36% (91 instances) of the mentions.

The visibility of politicians compared to that of non-politicians will now be analysed.



According to the data in Chart 8c, politicians received 29% (92 in 317 instances) of the usage and 76% (256 in 337 instances) of the mentions while other citizens received 71% (225 instances) of the usage and 24% (81 instances) of the mentions. The chart indicates that the individuals on the ‘public side’ were more prominent than those on the ‘political’ side in terms of usage as sources, the reverse being the case in terms of mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS ON RADIO



According to Chart 9, actors from urban locations dominated radio coverage for the period under review, serving as sources in 97% (357 in 369 instances) of the cases and accounting for 97.8% (273 in 279 instances) of the mentions. Rural actors received 0.7% (2 instances) of

the mentions but were not used as sources. Location could not be determine in 3% of the usage (12 instances) and 1.4% of the mentions (4 instances).

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON RADIO

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

POLITICAL PARTIES

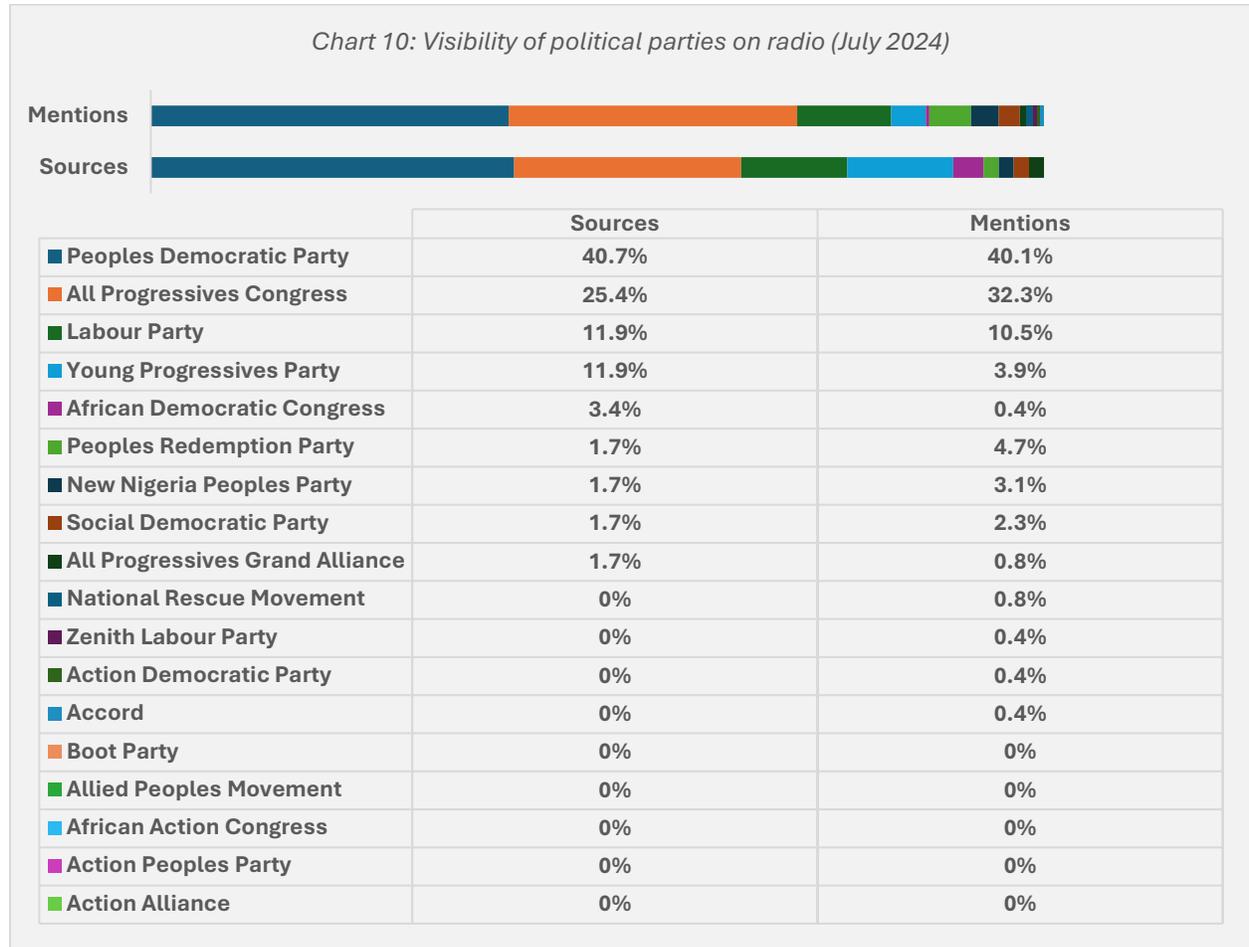


Chart 10 shows that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was the most visible political party, receiving 40.7% (24 in 59 instances) of the usage as sources and 40.1% (103 in 257 instances) of the mentions.

- “Edo PDP chairman Tony Azegbemi says court judgment does not affect the candidature of Asue Ighodalo, adds that plaintiffs were not party delegates and hints on appeal,” Kapital FM reported on July 7, presenting an instance in which an actor spoke for the PDP and was used as the source of a radio broadcast.

- In another instance, “PDP governors warn against presidential interference in forthcoming off-cycle elections, admonish candidates to shun violence and focus on issue-based campaigns,” ITV Radio reported on July 18.
- In an instance in which PDP was mentioned, “A Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja has accepted Dr Asue Ighodalo as the governorship candidate of the PDP in Edo state, stating that the suit filed by Philip Shaibu lacked merit,” Sapienta FM reported on July 23.
- In another instance, “Court issues injunction restraining disruption of Rivers PDP congresses,” Kapital FM reported on July 24.

All Progressives Congress (APC) received 25.4% (15 instances) of the usage and 32.3% (83 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) received 11.9% (7 instances) of the usage and 10.5% (27 instances) of the mentions. Young Progressives Party (YPP) also received 11.9% of the usage and 3.9% (10 instances) of the mentions.

- “Edo APC demands investigation of alleged assassination attempt on its political candidate Monday Okpebolo in Benin, alleges shooter is PDP supporter,” ITV Radio reported on July 19, providing an instance in which APC was the source of an election-related radio broadcast.
- During a discussion segment of the July 5 edition of Super FM programme ‘What The Honourable Has To Say,’ analysts discussed Edo LP governorship candidate Barrister Olumide Akpata, pointing out that he visited almost 192 wards in the state to solicit votes. LP was mentioned in the discussion.
- “Edo YPP guber candidate Paul Okungbowa canvasses for support, hints on plan for digital economy and financial education in schools,” ITV Radio reported on July 8, presenting an instance in which YPP was mentioned.

African Democratic Congress (ADC) received 3.4% (2 instances) of the usage and 04% (1 instance) of the mentions.

Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Social Democratic Party (SDP) and All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) each received 1.7% (1 instance) of the usage, as well as 4.7% (12 instances), 3.1% (8 instances), 2.3% (6 instances) and 0.8% (2 instances) of the mentions respectively.

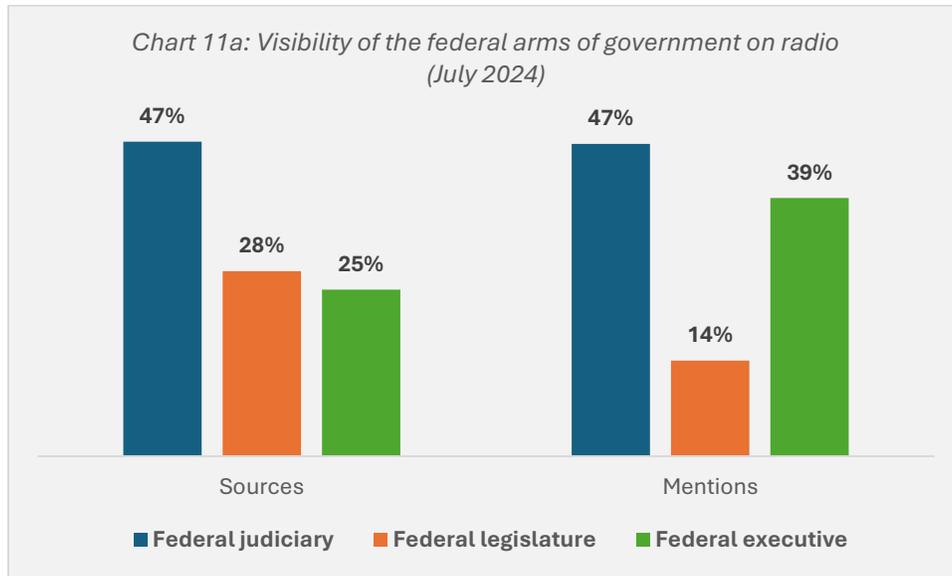
National Rescue Movement (NRM) received 0.8% (2 instances) of the mentions. It was, however, not used as a source. The same was true for Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Action Democratic Party (ADP) and Accord each of which received 0.4% (1 instance) of the mentions.

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

GOVERNMENT

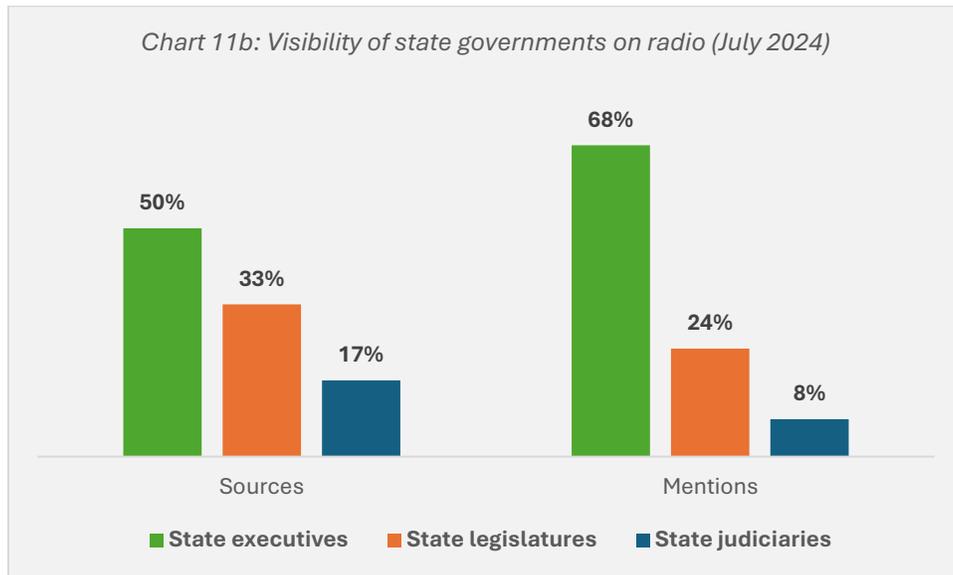
This section examines the visibility of the federal and state arms of government – the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature. It also assesses the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) compared with that of the higher levels of government.

Federal government



The federal judiciary, as Chart 11a shows, received 47% (17 in 36 instances) of the usage as sources and 47% (75 in 160 instances) of the mentions, making it the most featured actor in this subsection. The federal legislature received 28% (10 instances) of the usage and 14% (23 instances) of the mentions while the federal executive received 25% (9 instances) of the usage and 39% (62 instances) of the mentions.

State governments



State executives, as Chart 11b shows, accounted for 50% (12 in 24 instances) of the usage and 68% (75 in 110 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures received 33% (8 instances) of the usage and 24% (26 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries received 17% (4 instances) of the usage and 8% (9 instances) of the mentions.

Local governments

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

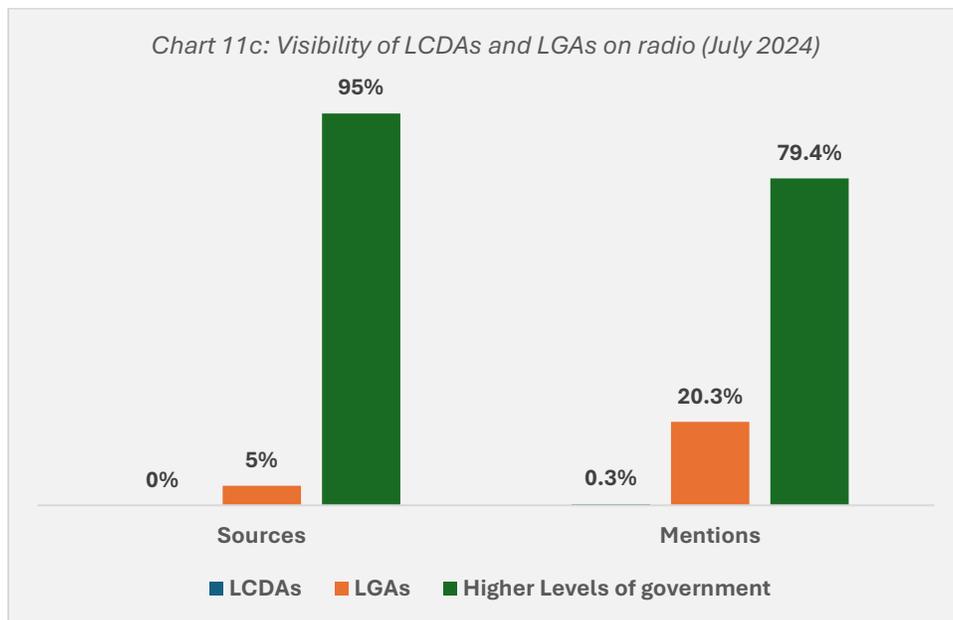


Chart 11c shows that LGAs accounted for 5% (3 in 63 instances) of the usage and 20.3% (69 in 340 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs received 0.3% (1 instance) of the mentions. They were, however, not used as sources. The higher levels of government received 95% (60 instances) of the usage and 79.4% (270 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 polity, state government agencies, and intergovernmental organisations. The visibility of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) is also analysed.

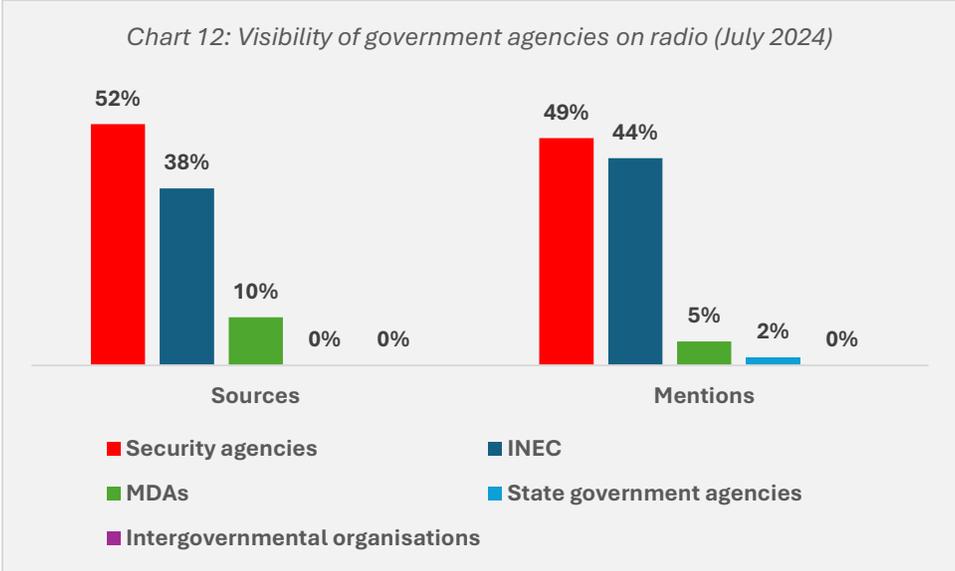


Chart 12 shows that security agencies received 52% (15 in 29 instances) of the usage as sources and 49% (57 in 117 instances) of the mentions. INEC received 38% (11 instances) of the usage and 44% (52 instances) of the mentions. MDAs accounted for 10% (3 instances) of the usage and 5% (6 instances) of the mentions. State government agencies received 2% (2 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

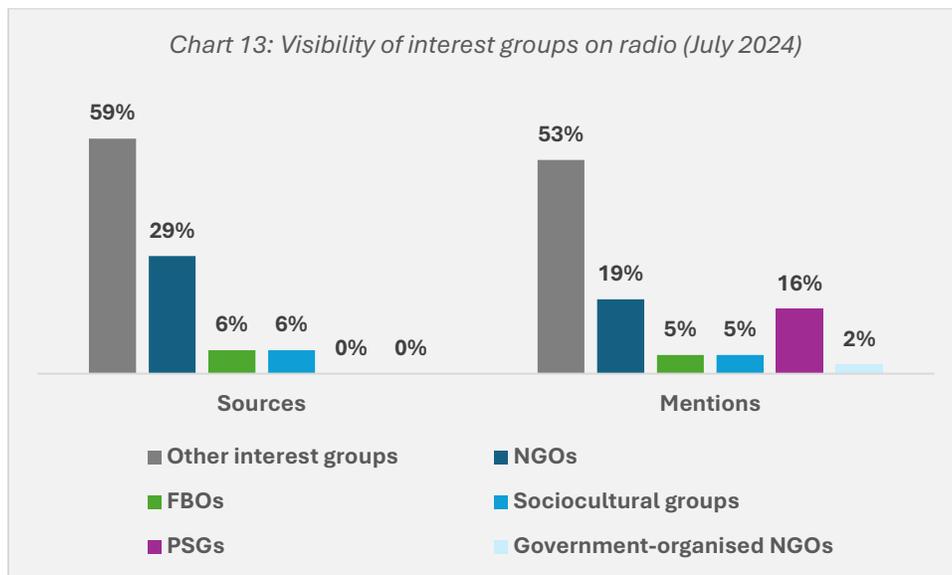
- Fourteen of the 15 instances in which security agencies were used as sources involved comments from the agencies regarding the anti-government protests planned for early August. For instance, “Edo police commissioner expresses readiness to ensure law and order during protest,” ITV Radio reported on July 26.
- During a discussion segment of the July 9 edition of Super FM programme ‘What The Honourable Has To Say,’ analysts talked about Edo police’s claim to have mapped out trouble spots in over 4000 polling units to prevent violence during the polls. The

discussion presented an instance in which security agencies were mentioned in relation to the elections.

- In an instance in which INEC was used as a source, “INEC has asked for the support of all stakeholders to ensure that the governorship election slated for September 21, 2024 is seamless,” Sapienta FM reported on July 10.
- In another instance, “INEC to attend to 246 applicants having issues with continuous voter accreditation,” Kapital FM reported on July 19.

INTEREST GROUPS

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



According to the data in Chart 13, NGOs received 29% (5 in 17 instances) of the usage as sources and 19% (8 in 43 instances) of the mentions. FBOs and sociocultural groups each received 6% (1 instance) of the usage and 5% (2 instances) of the mentions. PSGs and government-organised NGOs accounted for 16% (7 instances) and 2% (1 instance) of the mentions respectively but were not used as sources. Other interest groups received 59% (10 instances) of the usage and 53% (23 instances) of the mentions.

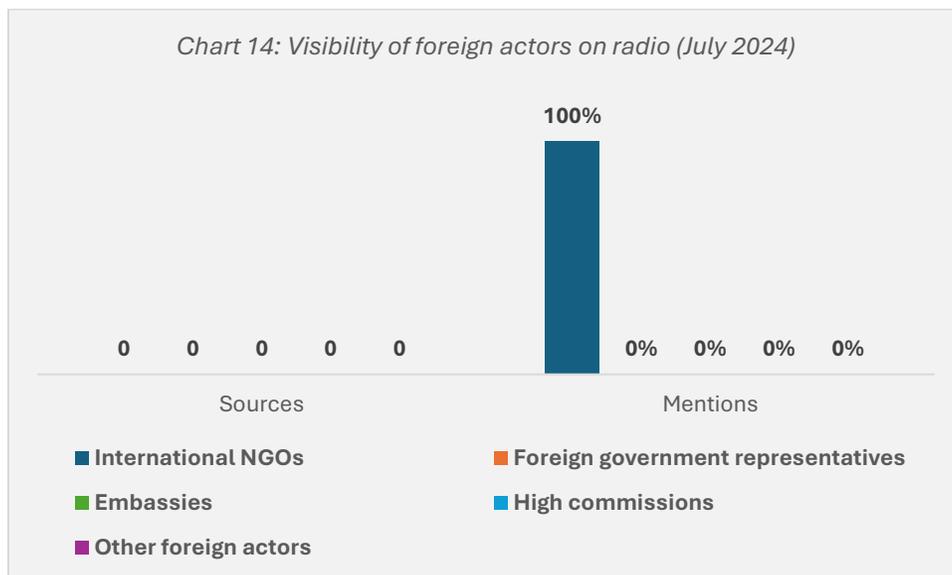
- During a discussion session of the July 16 edition of Nigeria Info programme, ‘Morning Crossfire,’ Harrison Nwosu, the Rivers state spokesperson of the United Community Development Committee, spoke on how local government autonomy could benefit

Nigerian communities. The session represented an instance in which an NGO was the source of a radio broadcast during the period in review.

- “Ahead of the national protest slated for August 1, 2024, the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has asked Nigerians to consider alternative means of expressing their grievances. In a statement on Friday, signed by its president, Rev Daniel Oko, CAN stated that it deeply empathises with the pains and frustration that many Nigerians are experiencing,” Boss Radio reported on July 26, using CAN, an FBO, as the source.
- During a discussion segment of the July 30 edition of Super FM programme ‘What The Honourable Has To Say,’ analysts pointed out that Edo APC governorship candidate Senator Monday Okphebolo and members of his campaign had met with Christian leaders under the aegis of Christians in Leadership for Societal Development to solicit their support in the September 21 poll. An FBO was mentioned in the discussion.
- During a discussion session of the July 9 edition of the same programme, analysts talked about a PDP group named Edo State PDP Youth League that called for sanctions against Dan Obi, the party’s national vice chairman, South-South. A PSG was mentioned in the discussion.

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.



According to the data in Chart 14, international NGOs accounted for 100% (3 instances) of the mentions in this category. They were, however, not used as sources. The other foreign actors identified in the chart were not featured.

- “ECOWAS female parliamentarian calls on Nigerian women to be active in sociopolitical administration,” Kapital FM reported on July 23. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a foreign actor, was mentioned in the news report.
- “The chairman of Amnesty International in Nigeria, Hawa Johanny, has warned against stopping protesters as doing so does not go well with democracy,” Splash FM reported on July 28, mentioning an international NGO, Amnesty International.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses of the content for July 2024 showed that news reports (65%) were the predominant format used in the radio broadcasts, followed by discussion programmes (28%) and interviews (7%).

The radio stations adhered to the principle of balance in 92% of the applicable broadcasts, with the deployment of extreme language recorded in 0.3% of the total broadcasts.

Citizen participation (19%) and campaign activities/strategies (14.8%) were the most featured themes, with intra-party conflict (11.7%), transparency and accountability (10.4%) and election administration (9.9%) also getting significant attention as the media prepared for the coverage of the off-cycle governorship elections coming up in Edo and Ondo states.

Most of the individual actors quoted and mentioned in the radio broadcasts were adult males acting from urban areas, with women (14.7% sources; 10% mentions) and youth (0.8% sources; 4.8% mentions) actors receiving minimal attention. PWD (1%) actors were only mentioned and not used as sources. Also, the usage of women as sources was driven by the categorisation of female journalists/OAPs as the sources of content that lacked actuality or soundbite. Women’s (2%), PWD (1.3%) and youth (0.7%) issues were seldom featured.

PDP was the most visible political party, as it accounted for 40.7% of the usage as sources and 40.1% of the mentions in its category. APC (25.4% sources; 32.3% mentions), LP (11.9% sources; 10.5% mentions) and YPP (11.9% sources; 3.9% mentions) also received significant coverage.

Security agencies (52% sources; 49% mentions) were more visible than INEC (38% sources; 44% mentions), and both actors received more coverage than other government agencies in their category combined.

The higher levels of government (95% sources; 79.4% mentions) were more visible than LGAs (5% sources; 20.3% mentions) and LCDAs (0.3% mentions) in the government section. Uncategorised interest groups received more attention than the ones identified in their category, and international NGOs (mentioned three times) were the only foreign actors featured in their category.

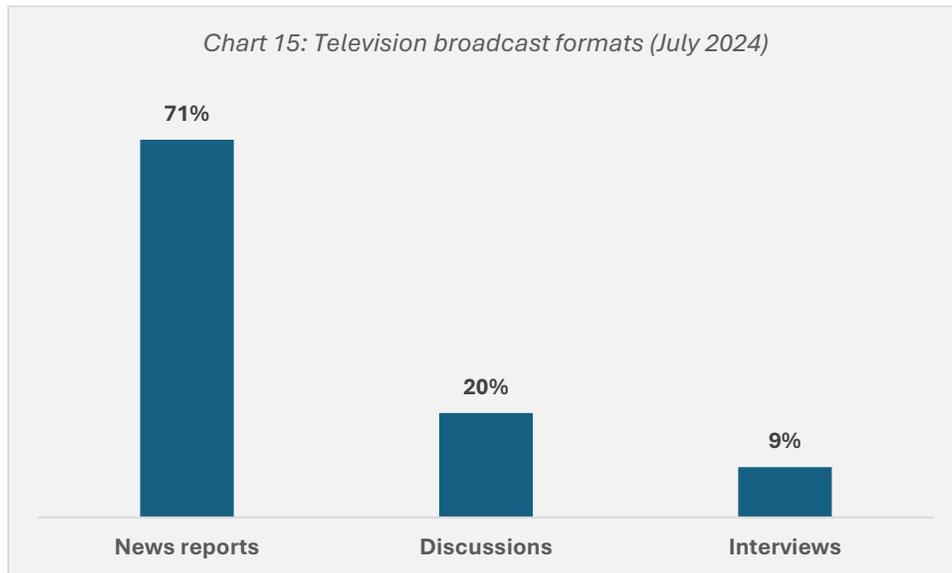
PART II

CONTENT OF POLITICAL PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION

Broadcasts were monitored on selected television stations in July 2024. The findings are presented below.

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY ON TELEVISION

A total of 454 news reports, discussion programmes and interviews were monitored on the selected television stations.

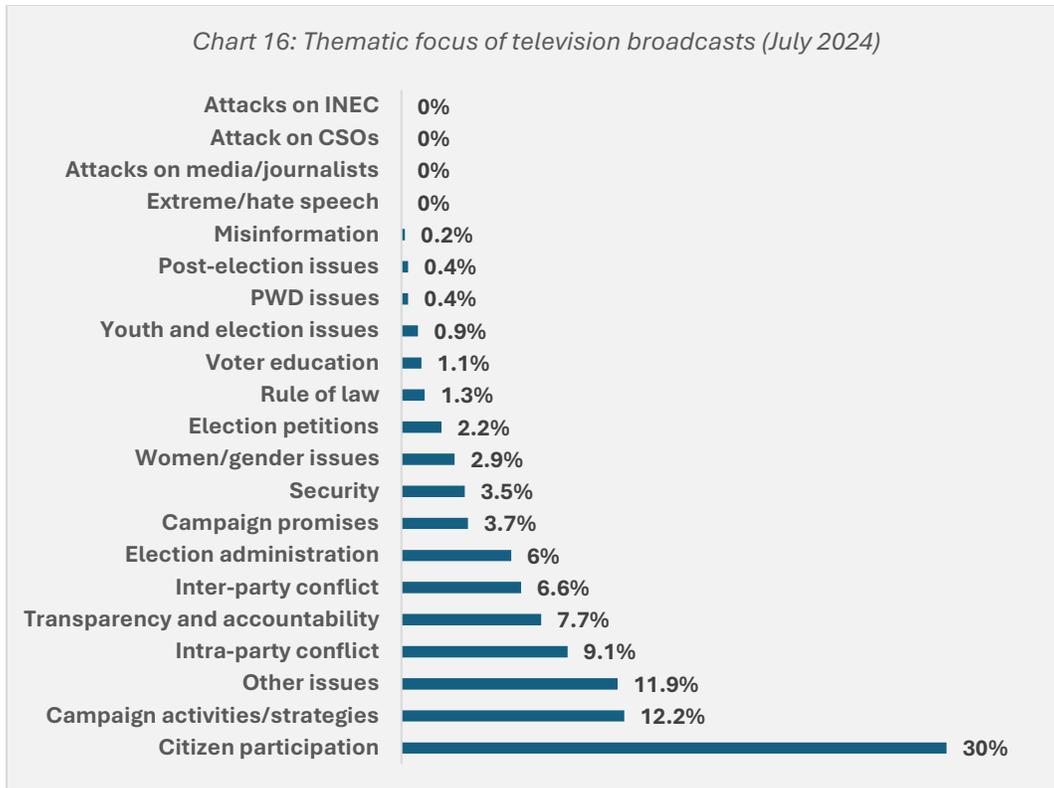


Out of the contents analysed during the period under review, 322 were packaged as news reports. These, according to Chart 15, accounted for 71% of the contents. The remaining television broadcasts were packaged as discussions (20%; 89 stories) and interviews (9%; 43 stories).

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 (July 2024)



Citizen participation, as Chart 16 shows, was the most reported and discussed topic on television during the period in review, accounting for 30% (164 in 547 instances) of the thematic focus areas. Transparency and accountability received 7.7% (42 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law received 1.3% (7 instances) of the attention.

- “SDP national chairman Shehu Gabam shows support for peaceful protest, adds that the government should be diplomatic and not threaten the protesters,” Channels TV reported on July 25, focusing on citizen participation.
- In a related instance, “Economic hardship: League of Imams and Alfas in Ogun state condemns planned protest,” OGTV reported on July 25.
- Also, “CAN Youth Wing, Arewa Youth Movement dissociate selves from planned protest as United National Youth Congress vows to join the protest,” Channels TV reported on July 26.
- “Supreme Court bars states from handling local government funds,” AIT reported on July 11, focusing on transparency and accountability, and adding that President Tinubu was “happy” with the judgement.

- During a discussion segment of the July 8 edition of AIT programme 'Democracy Today,' Political analyst Okazhu Powers discussed the Court of Appeal judgement on the Rivers State House of Assembly, saying that Justice Eluwale's recognition of Victor Okoh Jombo as Speaker was null and void. Martins Amawhule, the analyst said, remained Speaker. During the segment, local government caretaker committee chairman and ALGON spokesperson Marvin Yobana argued that Amawhule was an impostor who should be arrested. The discussion segment, titled 'Rivers Political Logjam and Fresh Matters Arising,' centred around the rule of law.

Campaign activities/strategies received 12.2% (67 instances) of the coverage while campaign promises received 3.7% (20 instances) of the coverage.

- During the July 1 edition of AIT programme 'Democracy Today,' the Deputy Director-General of the Asue/Ogie Campaign Council, Olu Martins, analyst Orobosa Omo-Ojo, and the chairman of the media team for LP Governorship Council Edo State, Idris Zekeri, discussed the game of wits and the batter for votes in the forthcoming Edo governorship election. The discussion represented an instance in which campaign activities/strategies were the focus of an election-related television broadcast during the period under review.
- In a related instance, "Edo guber election: APC Ikpoba Okha Campaign Council inaugurates directorates, ward coordinators," ITV reported on July 1.
- Also, "Mathew Iduoyekawen, the DG, Campaign Management Council of the PDP governorship candidate, led others in a rally in Benin City in support of candidate Asue Ighodalo and his running mate," Gotel TV reported on July 10.
- In an instance centred on campaign promises, "PRP guber candidate in Edo state Patience Ndidi Key restates commitment to human capital and infrastructural development," ITV reported on July 1.
- In another instance, LP governorship candidate Ayodele Olorunfemi "has vowed to pay N120,000 minimum wage if elected to office in the off-cycle election on November 16," Liberty TV reported on July 16.

Whereas intra-party and inter-party conflict received 9.1% (50 instances) and 6.6% (36 instances) of the coverage respectively, election petitions accounted for 2.2% (12 instances) of the attention.

- Edo PDP deputy chairman Harrison Omagbon was interviewed on the July 9 edition of Channels TV programme 'Politics Today', during which he opined that the party's

primary election was conducted according to the law. He, however, railed at those behind the conflict in the party, adding that Asue Ighodalo, who won the primary election, had the competence to govern the state. The interview represented an instance in which intra-party conflict was discussed on television.

- APC Senator Ali Ndume was removed as chief whip and vice chairman of the Appropriation Committee because he angrily claimed that the APC government was run by thieves, AIT reported on July 17, highlighting an intra-party conflict in the ruling party. The report added that the APC national chairman and secretary signed a letter asking Ndume to resign from the party and join any other party he preferred.
- In another instance, “The crisis in LP seems to be far from over as former spokesperson for the Obi Presidential Campaign Organisation Kenneth Okonkwo has left the party,” TVC News reported on July 28.
- On July 1, LP national youth leader Kennedy Ahanotu went on Channels TV programme ‘Politics Today’ to claim that the ruling APC was trying to make opposition parties ineffective. YPP national chairman Bishop Amakri agreed with Ahanotu on the programme, adding that the APC had not been fair to the opposition. The television broadcasts focused on inter-party conflict.
- In another instance, “Edo state government says APC orchestrated violence to get PDP leaders arrested ahead of guber election,” Channels TV reported on July 19. Deputy governor Philip Shaibu, who was at loggerheads with the PDP following his failure to win the party’s governorship ticket, “debunks the statement, says Edo vigilante group was responsible for the violence,” the report added.
- Also, “Defected Rivers lawmakers issue seven-day ultimatum to Governor Siminalayi Fubara to represent appropriation bill,” LTV reported on July 8. The lawmakers had decamped from Fubara’s PDP to the APC. The report added that “the Victor Okojombo faction” of the assembly leadership “has screened and approved” the governor’s new commissioners.
- “Court affirms the election of Governor Uzodimma in Imo state,” Channels TV reported on July 16, focusing on election petitions.
- In another instance, “Appeal Court affirms the election of Governor Duoye Diri” of Bayelsa state, LTV reported on July 18.

While election administration received 6% (33 instances) of the coverage, voter education received 1.1% (6 instances).

- “INEC inducts new RECs, assures commitment to transparency,” Channels TV reported on July 1, focusing on election administration.
- In another instance, INEC meets with election observers, monitors ahead of Edo and Ondo guber elections, emphasises adherence to electoral rules,” Channels TV reported on July 17.
- Also, “Off-cycle election: INEC expresses fear over insecurity in Edo state, urges National Assembly to implement electoral act,” ITV reported on July 25.
- During a discussion segment of the July 2 edition of Channels TV programme ‘Sunrise Daily,’ Executive Director of Alliance for Inclusive Development James Ugochukwu harped on the role of the media, political parties and civil society in mobilising the electorate to mitigate voter apathy. Voter education was the focus of the discussion.
- In another instance, “NNPP will now have a new logo on the ballot papers in the November 2024 off-season governorship election in Ondo state,” NTAi reported on July 13.

Security issues received 3.5% (19 instances) of the coverage. Attacks on INEC, media/journalists and CSOs were, however, not featured.

- “Edo government calls for investigation into the shooting incident during the arrival of Philip Shaibu to Benin,” Channels TV reported on July 18, focusing on security issues.
- In another instance, “INEC has disclosed the security concern that cropped up over the upcoming governorship election in Edo state,” ATV reported on July 25.

Women/gender issues received 2.9% (16 instances) of the coverage while youth issues received 0.9% (5 instances). PWD issues accounted for 0.4% (2 instances) of the coverage.

- Akwa Ibom governor’s wife Patience Umo Eno, others advocate for women to occupy various posts in the state,” AKBC TV reported on July 4, focusing on women’s issues.
- “Governor Umo Eno announces 40% participation for women, says forms for local government elections will be free for female aspirants,” AKBC TV also reported on July 4.

- In another instance, “Women leaders in political parties call for more women representation in administration,” LTV reported on July 22.
- In an instance focused on youth issues, “Edo guber election: Ovia North-East LG boss advises youth to shun political thuggery in forthcoming governorship election, says youth can hold political posts,” ITV reported on July 26.
- During a July 17 discussion on AIT programme ‘Democracy Today,’ the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on PWDs, Bashiru Dawodu, and the Chairman of the National Association of PWDs FCT Chapter, Christian Agbor, highlighted their expectations from the government on budgeting for PWDs in the country. The discussion represented an instance in which PWD issues were featured on television during the period in review.

Whereas misinformation received 0.2% (1 instance) of the coverage, extreme/hate speech was neither reported nor discussed.

- “Social media fake news: Prospective voters in Benin City condemn rising trend of fake news” blamed on political operatives, ITV reported on July 24, focusing on misinformation.

Post-election issues and other issues received 0.4% (2 instances) and 11.9% (65 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.

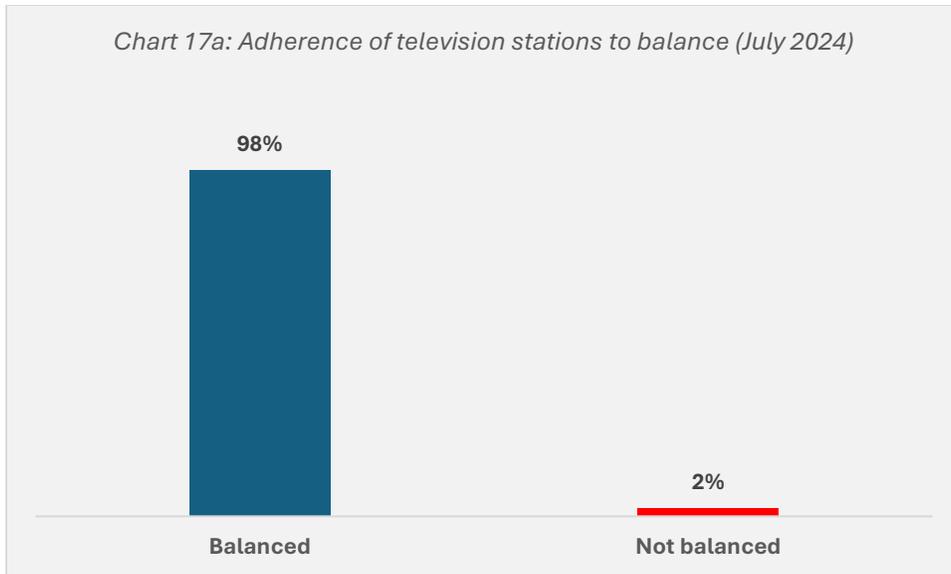


Chart 17a shows that 98% (121 in 124 applicable stories) of the television broadcasts were balanced while 2% (3 stories) were not.

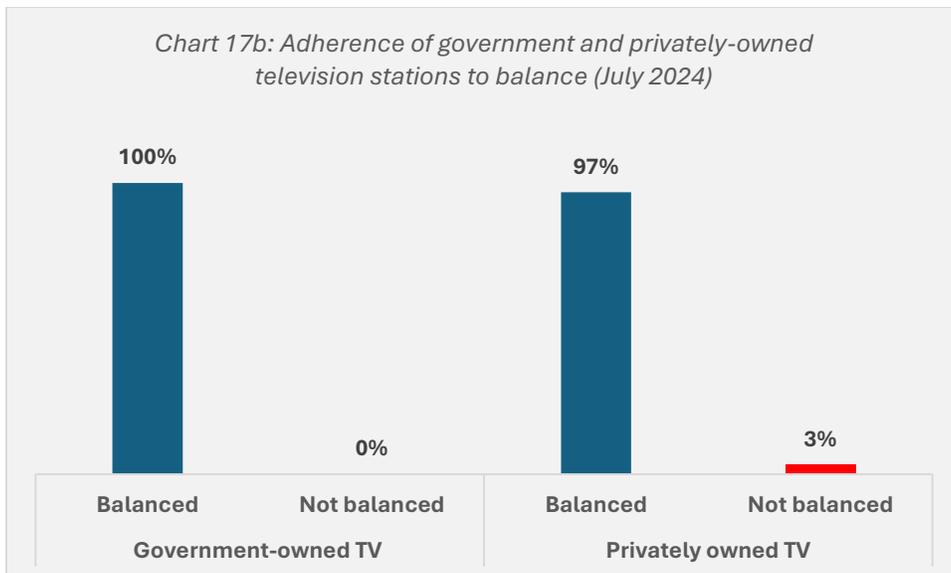


Chart 17b shows that 100% (30 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned television stations were balanced. In contrast, 97% (91 in 94 stories) of the broadcasts from privately-owned television stations were balanced while 3% (3 stories) were not. The data showed that all unbalanced reports featured in this category were from privately owned stations.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES ON TELEVISION — LANGUAGE

The selected television stations were examined for adherence to wholesome language in their programmes. The recorded incidents involved not only the media and its sources using provocative language but also those who actively condemned inflammatory rhetoric.

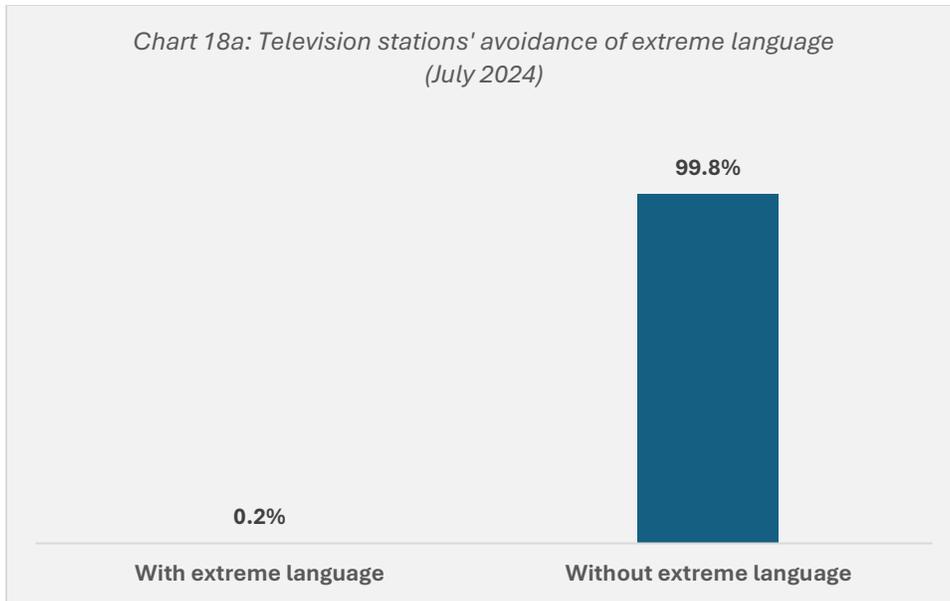


Chart 18a shows that the television stations avoided extreme language in 99.8% (453 in 454 stories) of their programmes and fell short in 0.2% (1 story) of the programmes.

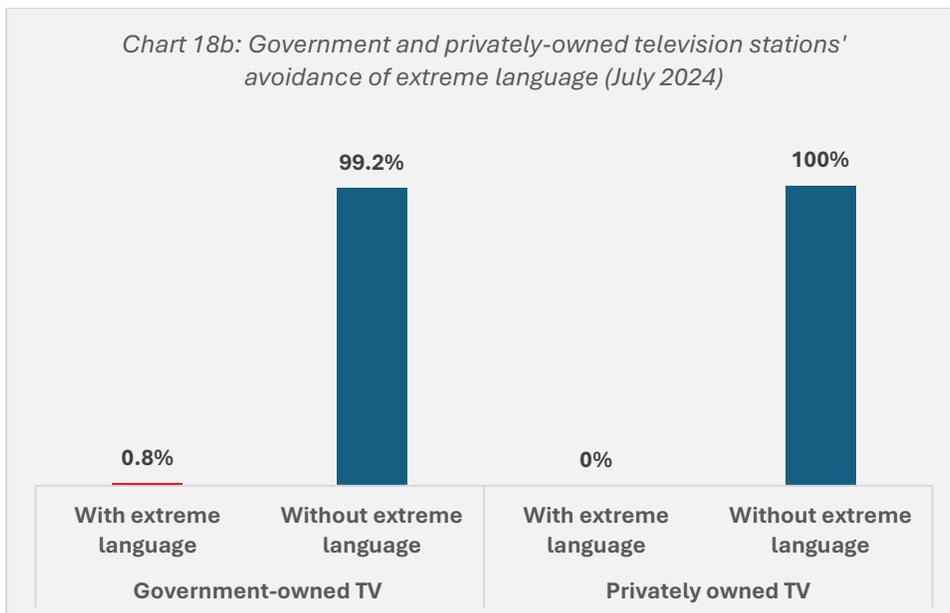


Chart 18b reveals that 99.2% of stories from government-owned stations were free of extreme language. This means that a government-owned station accounted for the only instance of extreme language recorded during the period in review. This instance accounted for 0.8% of the programmes on government-owned stations, which avoided the vice in 99.2% (126 in 127 stories) of their programmes.

- While being interviewed on OSRC TV programme ‘State of The State’ on July 4, Ondo NNPP governorship candidate Gbenga Edema said the PDP “is a vomit”. The language was deemed extreme.

VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS ON TELEVISION

INCLUSION: VISIBILITY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS ON TELEVISION

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

PWDs

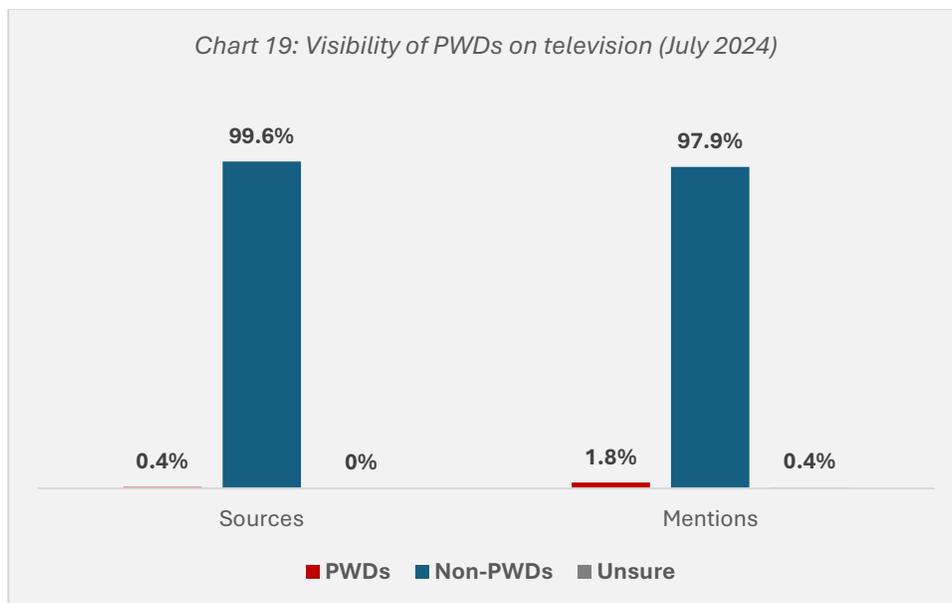


Chart 19 shows that PWD actors received 0.4% (2 in 456 instances) of the usage as sources and 1.8% (5 in 281 instances) of the mentions. Non-PWD actors, on the other hand, received 99.6% (454 instances) of the usage and 97.9% (275 instances) of the mentions. The mention in one instance (0.4%) remained indeterminate. The data echoes the low level of coverage (0.4%; 2 in 547 instances) devoted to PWD issues as previously shown in Chart 16.

- The July 14 edition of AIT discussion programme ‘Democracy Today’ featured the Founder of The Albino Foundation, Jake Ekpele, who discussed local government autonomy with other analysts. The discussion represented an instance in which a member of the PWD community was the source of a television broadcast.
- Another instance was presented during a July 17 discussion on the programme when the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on PWDs, Bashiru Dawodu, and the Chairman of the National Association of PWDs FCT Chapter, Christian Agbor,

highlighted their expectations from the government on budgeting for PWDs in the country.

Women

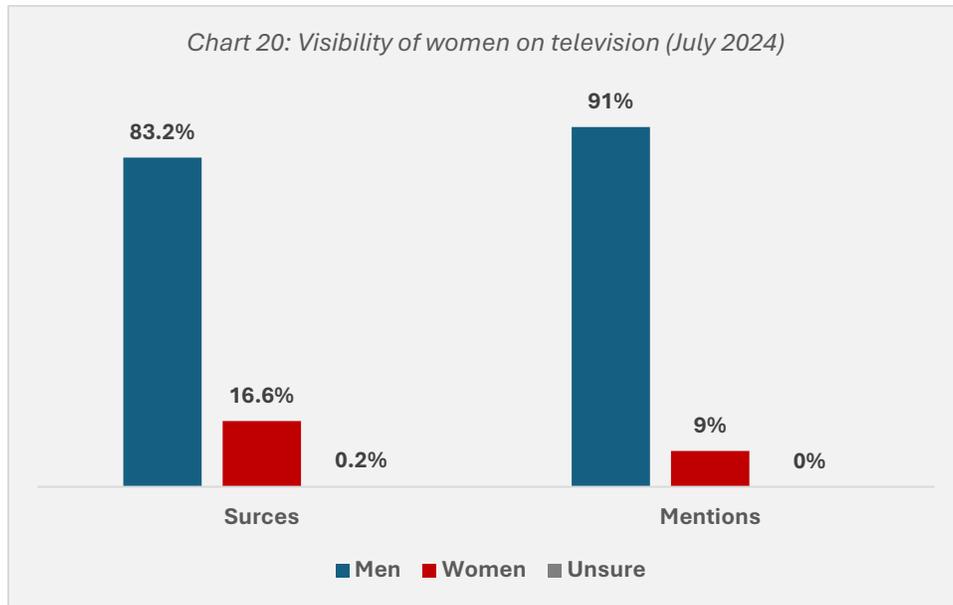


Chart 20 shows that women received 16.6% (78 in 470 instances) of the usage as sources and 9% (27 in 299 instances) of the mentions. Men, on the other hand, received 83.2% (391 instances) of the usage and 91% (272 instances) of the mentions. One instance (0.2%) remained indeterminate. The data shows that female actors were not as visible as their male counterparts and echoes the low level of coverage (2.9%; 16 in 547 instances) devoted to women's issues as previously shown in Chart 16. Also, the usage of women as sources was largely driven by the categorisation of female journalists/OAPs (news readers and anchors) as female sources whenever a broadcast lacked actuality or soundbite. The categorisation will not be used in subsequent reports.

- On July 5, OSRC TV reported that Ondo governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa was committed to the welfare of the women of the state. The comment was credited to Mrs Osameye, a senior special adviser-designate to the governor, and presented an instance in which a woman was the source of a television broadcast.
- In another instance, "As the campaign for the Edo state governorship election gathers momentum, some political groups under the aegis of Edo Girls and Edo Choice have assured victory for PDP candidate Asue Ighodalo and his running mate Barrister Osarodion Ogie," NTAi reported on July 12.
- Also, "South-South women sue for peace on Rivers political crisis," AIT reported on July 22, using women as the source.

- In an instance in which women were mentioned, “Ondo 2024: The Progressive Nation Women for Aiyedatiwa/Adelami 2024 have shown their support for the governor,” OSRC TV reported on July 9.
- In another instance, “Edo 2024 election: APC intensifies campaign, empowers students, market women,” ITV reported on July 17.

Youth

The African Youth Charter¹ categorises individuals aged between 15 and 35 as youth. This report adopted the same age bracket. However, individuals older than 35 were also considered youth if they represented a youth group or initiative. Those younger than 15 were categorised as children.

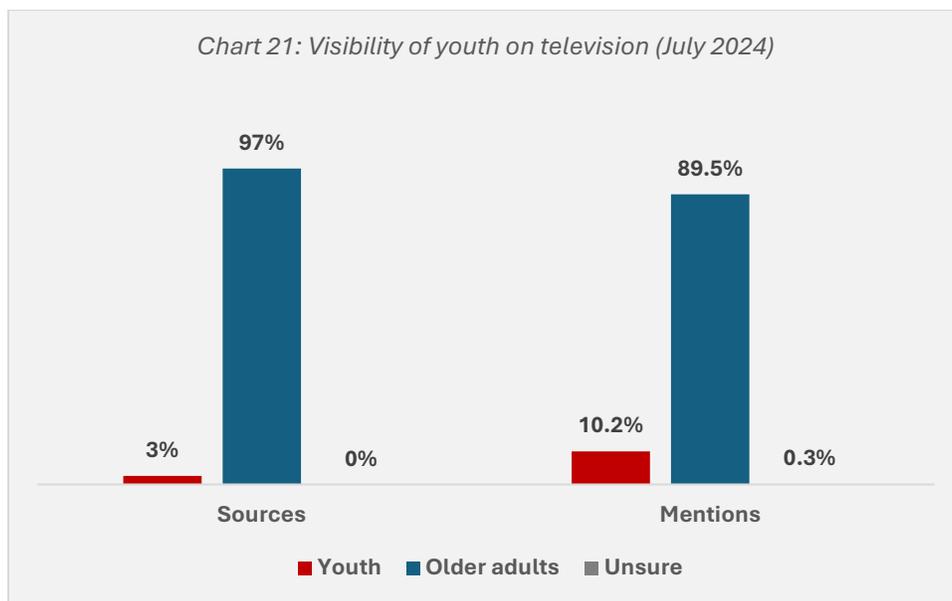


Chart 21 shows that youth received 3% (12 in 457 instances) of the usage as sources and 10.2% (33 in 323 instances) of the mentions. Older adults, on the other hand, received 97% (445 instances) of the usage and 89.5% (289 instances) of the mentions. Children were not featured. The mention in one instance (0.3%) was indeterminate. The low visibility of youth actors echoes the low level of coverage (0.9%; 5 in 547 instances) devoted to youth and election issues as previously shown in Chart 16.

- During a discussion session on the July 16 edition of the ITV programme ‘This Morning on ITV,’ Shadrack Udugbai, the special adviser on youth affairs to Edo governor Godwin Obaseki, and other analysts discussed the Supreme Court ruling on local government autonomy and how it could be implemented. A youth was used as a source of the television broadcast.

- In another instance, “National Association of Nigerian Students threatens to join protest over high cost of living,” Channels TV reported on July 24.
- During a discussion segment on the July 23 edition of ITV programme ‘This Morning on ITV,’ legal practitioner Itote Damisa talked about the role of youth in curbing violence ahead of the guber race in Edo state. Youth were mentioned during the discussion.
- In another instance, during the July 24 edition of ‘ITV This Morning,’ the head of the Edo state chapter of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Moses Agunede, talked about the role and responsibility of Edo youth in the electoral process.

STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS FEATURED ON TELEVISION

This section focuses on the social status of the individual actors given attention in 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.

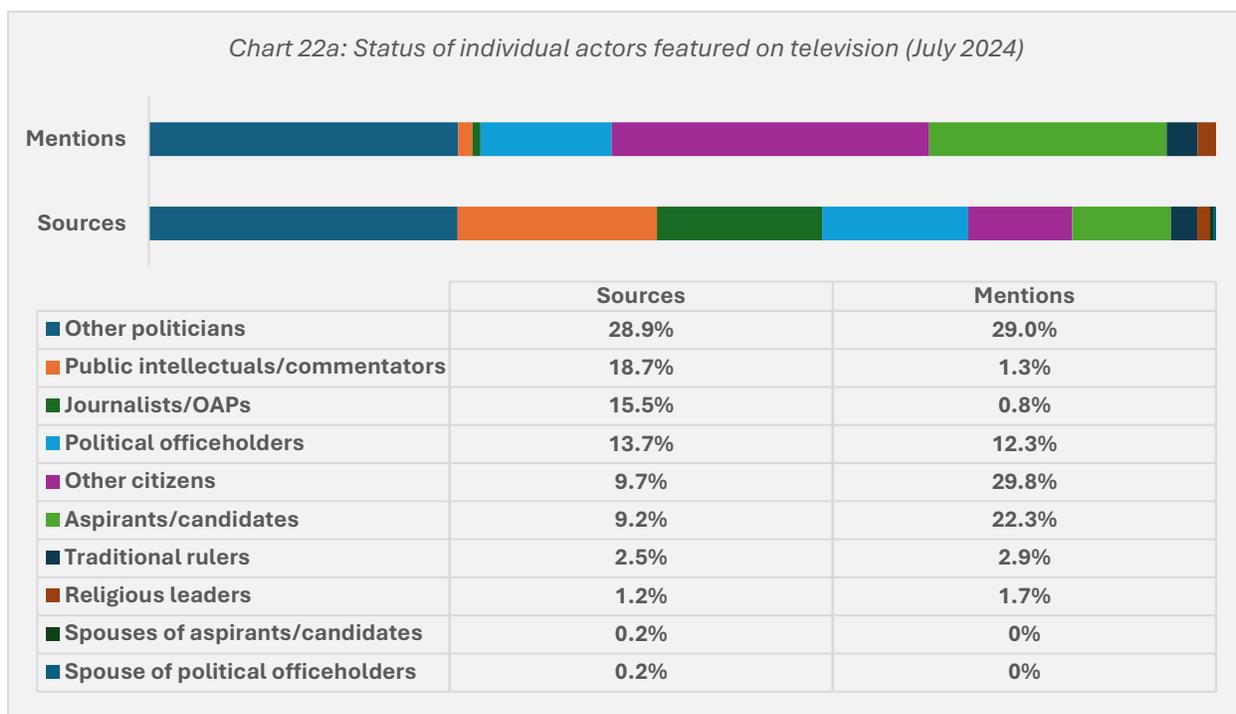


Chart 22a shows that political officeholders received 13.7% (55 in 401 instances) of the usage as sources and 12.3% (64 in 521 instances) of the mentions. Aspirants/candidates received 9.2% (37 instances) of the usage and 22.3% (116 instances) of the mentions while other politicians received 28.9% (116 instances) of the usage and 29% (151 instances) of the mentions. The spouses of aspirants/candidates and the spouses of political officeholders each received 0.2% (1 instance) of the usage but received no mention.

Public intellectuals/commentators received 18.7% (75 instances) of the usage and 1.3% (7 instances) of the mentions. Journalists/OAPs received 15.5% (62 instances) of the usage and 0.8% (4 instances) of the mentions. Journalists/OAPs (news readers and anchors) were categorised as sources whenever a broadcast lacked actuality or soundbite.

Whereas traditional rulers received 2.5% (10 instances) of the usage and 2.9% (15 instances) of the mentions, religious leaders accounted for 1.2% (5 instances) of the usage and 1.7% (9 instances) of the mentions.

Other citizens received 9.7% (39 instances) of the usage and 29.8% (155 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.

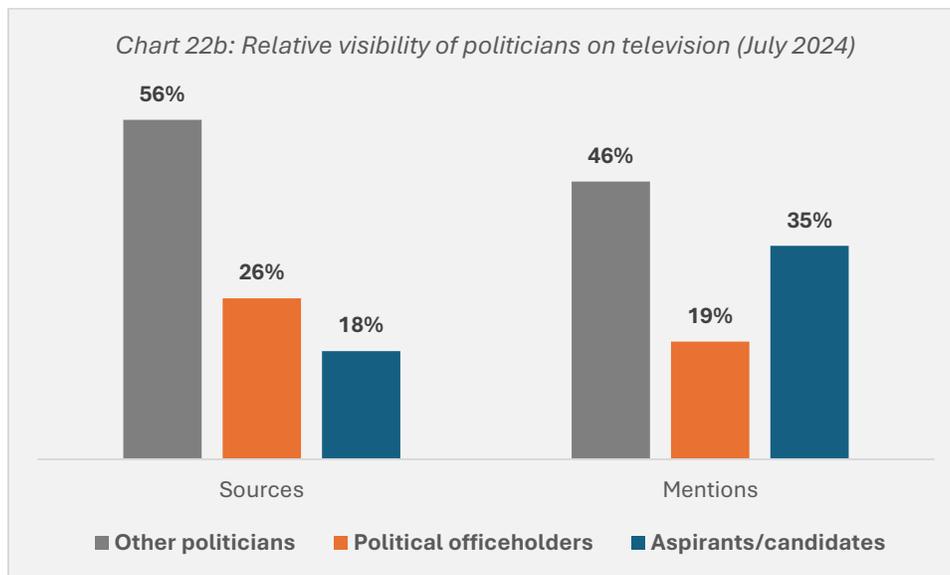
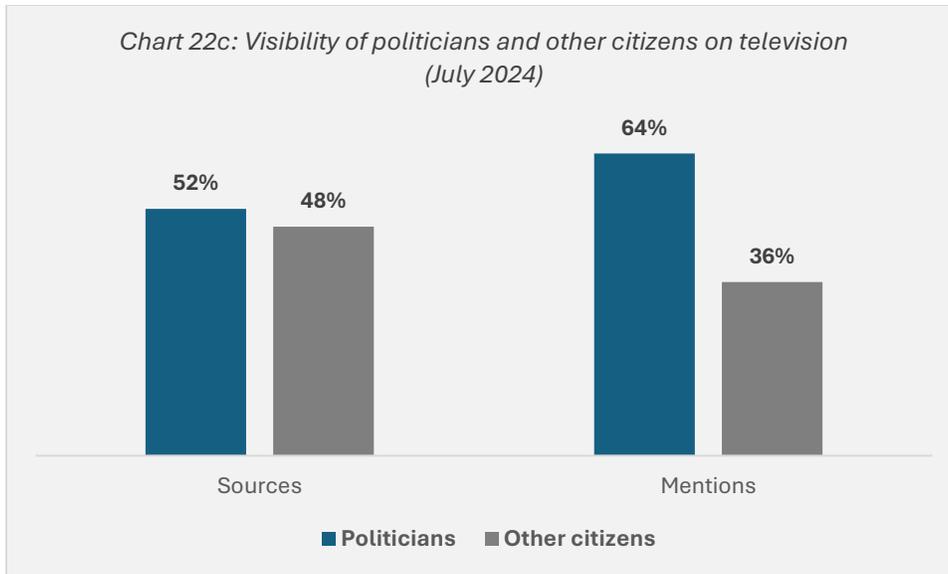
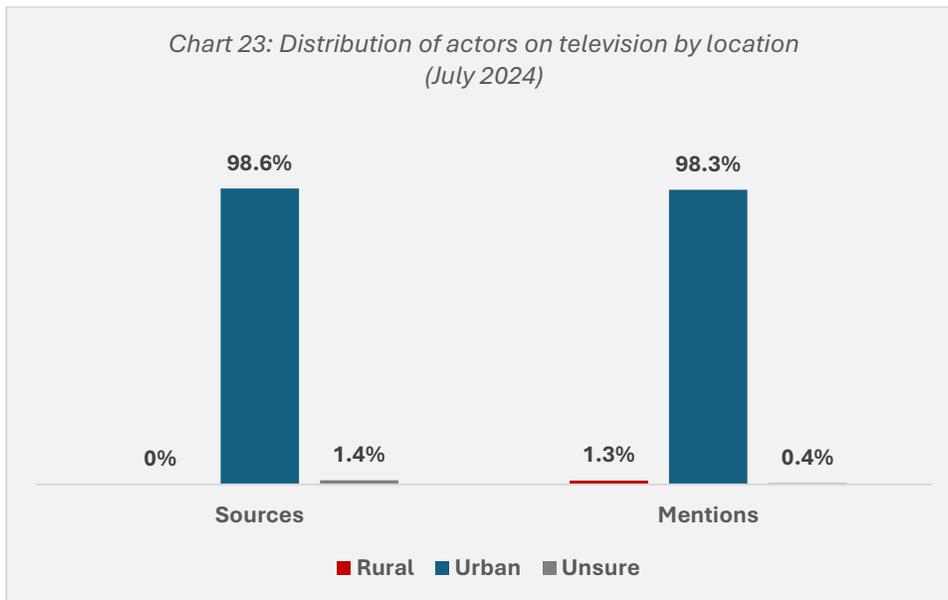


Chart 22b shows that political officeholders received 26% (55 in 208 instances) of the usage as sources and 19% (64 in 331 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates received 18% (37 instances) of the usage and 35% (116 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians received 56% (116 instances) of the usage and 46% (151 instances) of the mentions.



According to Chart 22c, politicians received 52% (208 in 401 instances) of the usage and 64% (331 in 521 instances) of the mentions, making them more visible than other citizens who received 48% (193 instances) of the usage and 36% (190 instances) of the mentions.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS ON TELEVISION



According to Chart 23, actors from urban locations received 98.6% (435 in 441 instances) of the usage as sources and 98.3% (225 in 229 instances) of the mentions. Actors from rural areas received 1.3% (3 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. A total of 6 instances (1.4%) of usage and 1 instance (0.4%) of mention remained indeterminate.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS ON TELEVISION

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

POLITICAL PARTIES

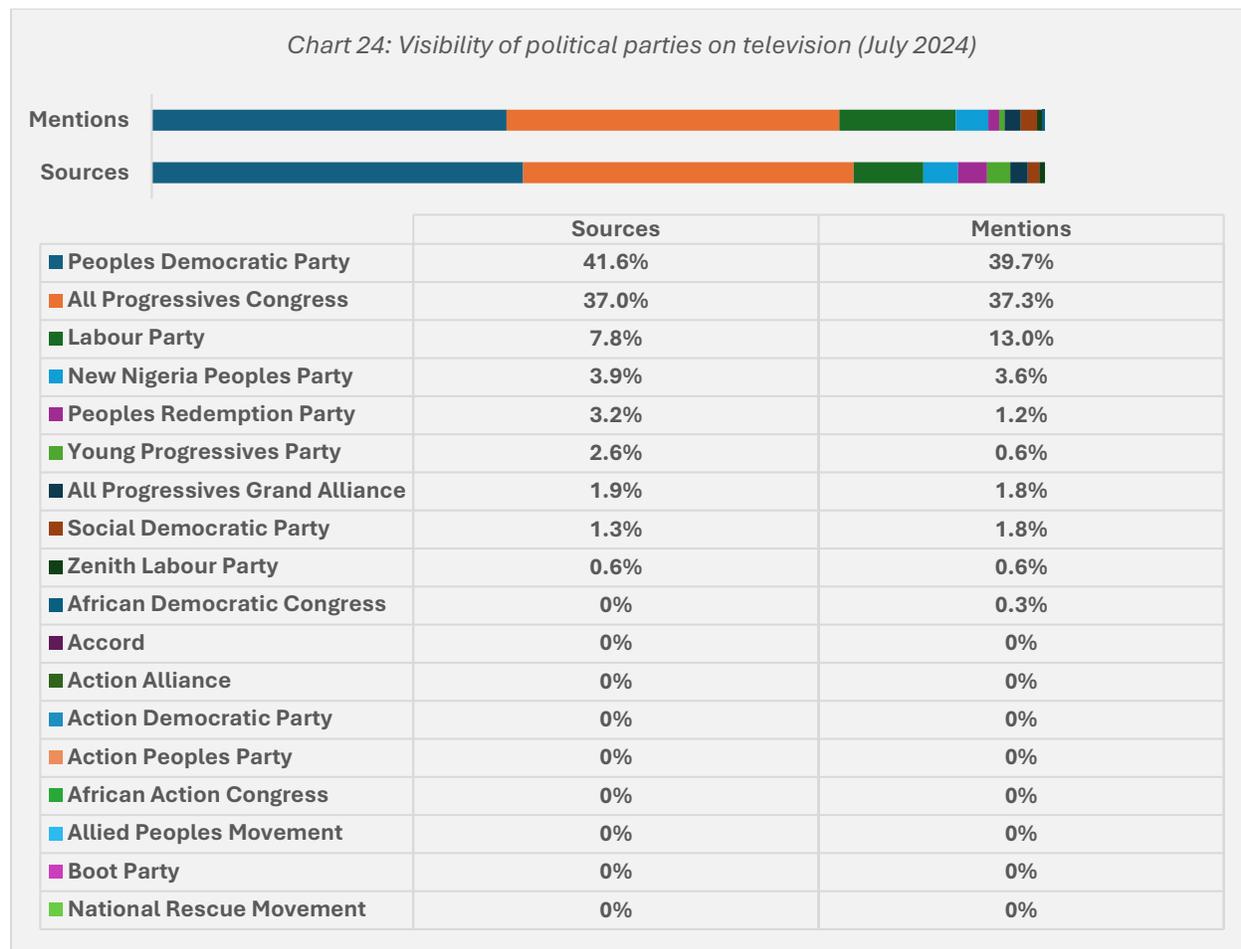


Chart 24 shows that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was the most featured political party in this category, accounting for 41.6% (64 in 154 instances) of the usage as sources and 39.7% (131 in 330 instances) of the mentions.

- “Edo PDP says court verdict does not nullify the candidature of Asue Ighodalo,” Channels TV reported on July 4, presenting an instance in which PDP was used as the source of a television broadcast during the period in review.
- In another instance, “Edo PDP accuses APC of alleged planned attacks on government infrastructure to cause mayhem during planned protest,” ITV reported on July 26.

- “Edo 2024 election: APC chieftain Ernest Osifo, ex-publicity secretary Bright Ehimwenma, Silas Ituayor, others defect to PDP in Orhionmwon LGA,” ITV reported on July 1, presenting an instance in which APC and PDP were mentioned on television during the period in review.

All Progressives Congress (APC) received 37% (57 instances) of the usage and 37.3% (123 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) received 7.8% (12 instances) of the usage and 13% (43 instances) of the mentions.

- “Edo 2024 election: Reaction trails President Tinubu’s comment to return Edo to APC,” ITV reported on July 2, presenting an instance in which APC was mentioned on television.
- In an instance in which LP was mentioned, “Court affirms Olumide Akpata as Edo LP guber candidate,” Channels TV reported on July 17.

New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) received 3.9% (6 instances) of the usage and 3.6% (12 instances) of the mentions while Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) received 3.2% (5 instances) of the usage and 1.2% (4 instances) of the mentions. Young Progressives Party (YPP) received 2.6% (4 instances) of the usage and 0.6% (2 instances) of the mentions.

All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and Social Democratic Party (SDP) each received 1.8% (6 instances) of the mentions, as well as 1.9% (3 instances) and 1.3% (2 instances) of the usage respectively.

Whereas Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) received 0.6% (1 instance) of the usage and 0.6% (2 instances) of the mentions, African Democratic Congress (ADC) received only 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 television programmes during the period under review. It also compares the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government.

Federal government

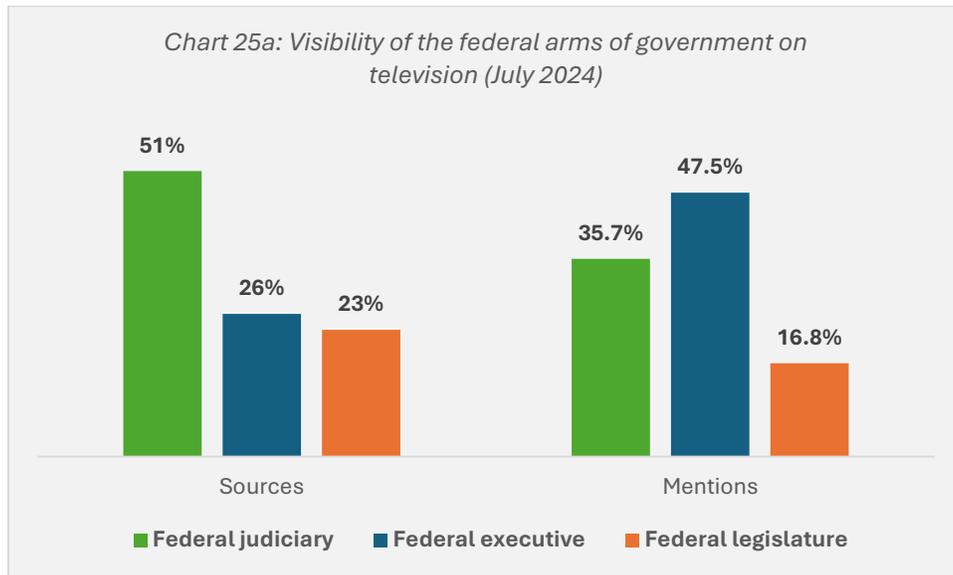
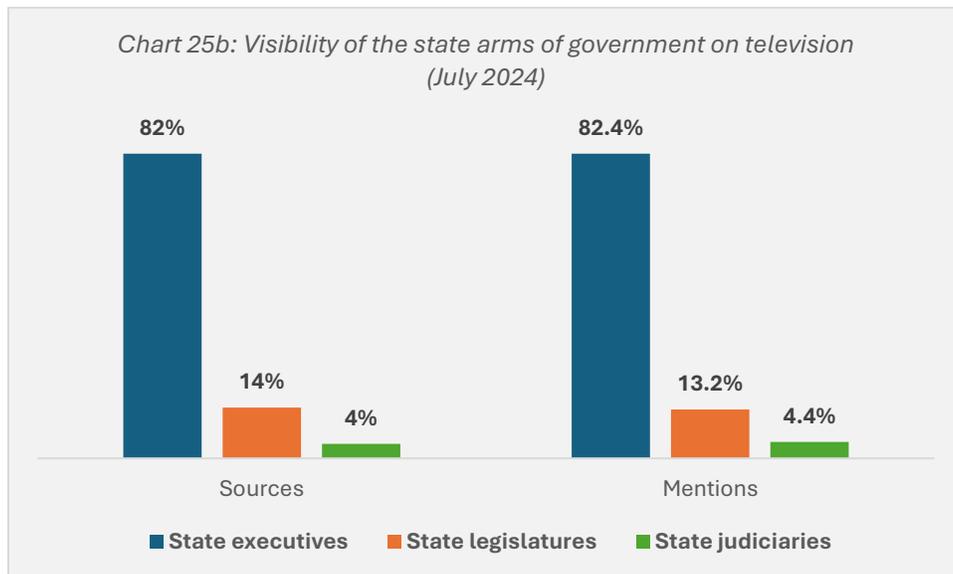


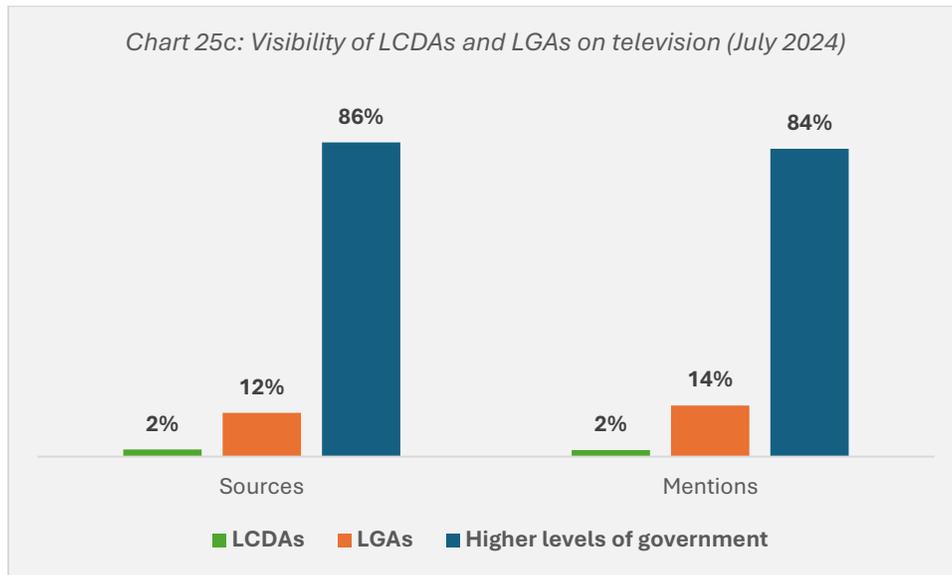
Chart 25a shows that the federal judiciary received 51% (18 in 35 instances) of the usage as sources and 35.7% (87 in 244 instances) of the mentions. The federal executive received 26% (9 instances) of the usage and 47.5% (116 instances) of the mentions while the federal legislature received 23% (8 instances) of the usage and 16.8% (41 instances) of the mentions.

State governments



According to Chart 25b, state executives accounted for 82% (42 in 51 instances) of the usage and 82.4% (112 in 136 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures received 14% (7 instances) of the usage and 13.2% (18 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries received 4% (2 instances) of the usage and 4.4% (6 instances) of the mentions.

LCDAs and LGAs



According to Chart 25c, LCDAs received 2% (2 in 100 instances) of the usage and 2% (8 in 451 instances) of the mentions while LGAs received 12% (12 instances) of the usage and 14% (63 instances) of the mentions. The higher levels of government received the most attention, accounting for 86% (86 instances) of the usage and 84% (380 instances) of the mentions.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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

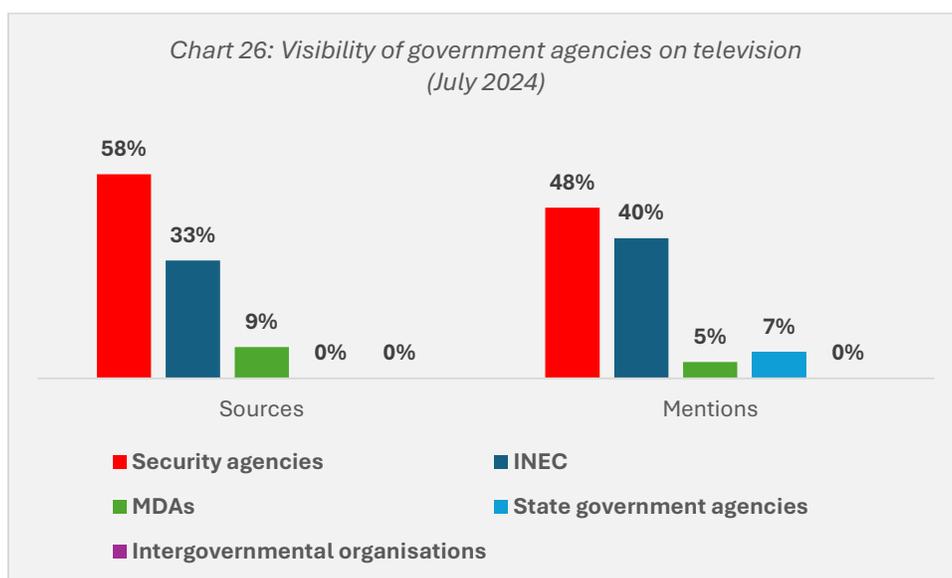


Chart 26 shows that security agencies received the most attention in this category, accounting for 58% (26 in 45 instances) of the usage as sources and 48% (84 in 174 instances) of the mentions. INEC received 33% (15 instances) of the usage and 40% (69 instances) of the mentions. Whereas MDAs accounted for 9% (4 instances) of usage and 5% (8 instances) of the mentions, state government agencies received only 7% (13 instances) of the mentions. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

- During his appearance on the July 3 edition of Channels TV interview programme, 'Politics Today,' INEC deputy director Lawrence Bayode said that the electoral body was preparing for the 2024 off-cycle governorship elections. The interview represented an instance in which INEC was the source of a television broadcast during the period under review.
- In a related instance, "Edo guber: INEC calls on political parties to submit list of agents," ITV reported on July 29.
- In an instance in which a security agency was used as a source, "IGP reiterates police commitment to protect protesters, meets with other security agencies," Channels TV reported on July 30.

INTEREST GROUPS

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

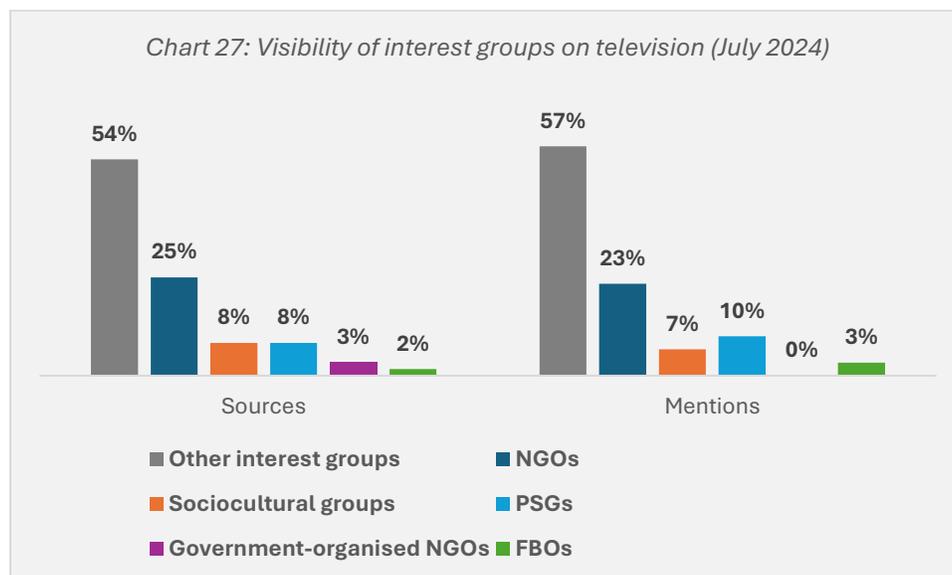


Chart 27 shows that NGOs received 25% (15 in 61 instances) of the usage as sources and 23% (14 in 61 instances) of the mentions. PSGs and sociocultural groups each received 8% (5 instances) of the usage, as well as 10% (6 instances) and 7% (4 instances) of the mentions respectively. FBOs accounted for 2% (1 instance) of the usage and 3% (2 instances) of the mentions while Government-organised NGOs received only 3% (2 instances) of the usage. Other interest groups received 54% (35 instances) of the usage and 57% (35 instances) of the mentions.

- “The executive director of Kukah Centre, Rev Atta Barkindo, seeks collaboration with EU to enhance structures of emerging political parties ahead of the 2027 general election,” AIT reported on July 4, presenting an instance in which an NGO was the source of an election-related television broadcast during the period under review.
- During a July 2 appearance on Channels TV interview programme ‘Politics Today,’ YIAGA Africa programme director Cynthia Mbamalu condemned what she described as intimidation tactics among political parties, adding that INEC and security agencies have roles to play in ensuring peaceful elections. The interview presented an instance in which an NGO was the source of an election-related television broadcast.
- “Nationwide protest: Fellowship of General Overseers of Churches in Nigeria urges dialogue,” ITV reported on July 31, presenting an instance in which an FBO was featured on television.
- “Edo 2024 election: Iyabo Sunshine Group drums up support for Okpebholo, Team Campaign Unusual drums up support for APC candidate,” ITV reported on July 29, representing an instance in which PSGs were mentioned.

FOREIGN ACTORS

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

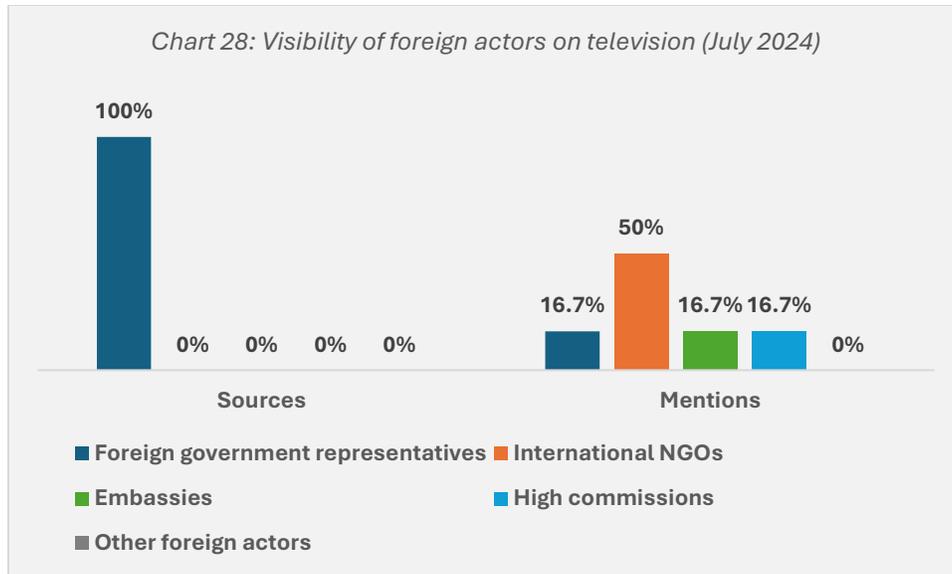


Chart 28 shows foreign government representatives received 100% (1 instance) of the usage as sources and 16.7% (1 in 6 instances) of the mentions. International NGOs received 50% (3 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for embassies and high commissions each of which accounted for 16.7% (1 instance) of the mentions.

- “The UK, US and Canada have issued security alerts to their nationals in Nigeria, warning of potential violence during the planned ‘EndBadGovernance’ protest on August 1, 2024,” Liberty TV reported on July 9, featuring foreign actors.
- “The Kukah Centre in collaboration with the European Union has met with the national executives of political parties to engage them on how to strengthen the parties and have stronger institutions that can foster true democracy in Nigeria,” TVC News reported on July 16. The European Union, a foreign actor, was mentioned in the report.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

News reports accounted for 71% of the sampled television programmes analysed in July 2024, while discussions and interviews represented 20% and 9% of the programme types respectively.

The television stations adhered to the principle of balance 98% of the time. They, however, recorded one instance of the use of extreme language, with the affected content, which was noted on government-owned OSRC TV, accounting for only 0.2% of all the television programmes and 0.8% of programmes from government-owned television stations.

The stations also fell short of inclusiveness as women’s, youth and PWD issues received 2.9%, 0.9% and 0.4% of the coverage respectively. The thematic focus areas were dominated by

citizen participation (30%), campaign activities/strategies (12.2%) and intra-party conflict (9.1%). Furthermore, women (16.6% sources; 9% mentions), youth (3% sources; 10.2% mentions) and PWD (0.4% sources; 1.8% mentions) actors were not as visible as males, older adults and non-PWD actors.

PDP (41.6% sources; 39.7% mentions), APC (37% sources; 37.3% mentions) and LP (7.8% sources; 13% mentions) were the most featured political parties, with politicians enjoying more attention than other citizens.

Security agencies (58% sources; 48% mentions) were more visible than INEC (33% sources; 40% mentions), and both actors enjoyed more attention than MDAs (9% sources; 5% mentions) and the other government agencies combined.

LCDAs (2% sources; 2% mentions) and LGAs (12% sources; 14% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government (86% sources; 84% mentions), and uncategorised interest groups were more visible than NGOs, sociocultural groups, PSGs and FBOs. Foreign government representatives received all the usage of foreign actors as sources, with international NGOs receiving half of the mentions.

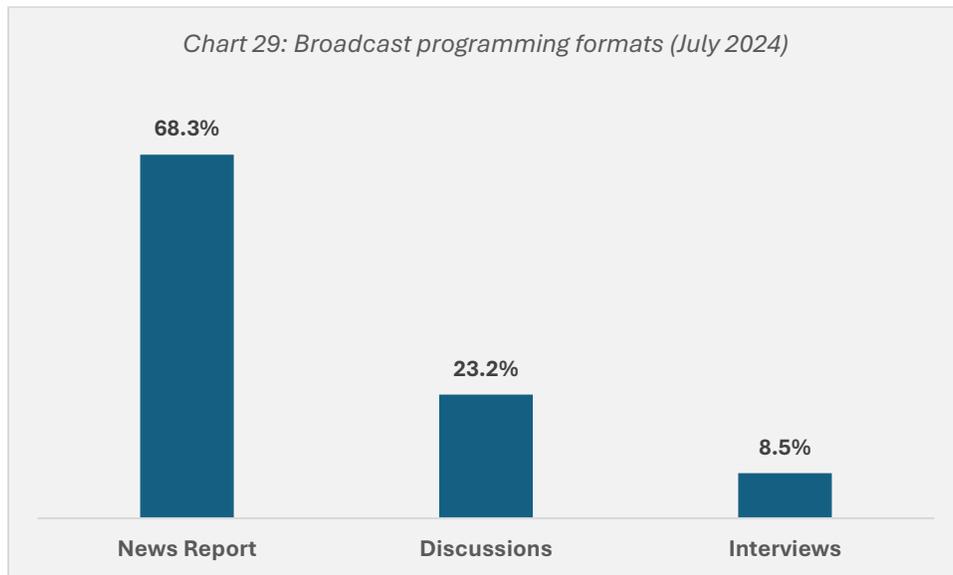
PART III

COMBINED REPORT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS

A total of 839 contents from 25 radio and 16 television stations were analysed. The dataset for the period under review comprised 385 contents from the radio stations and 454 contents from the television stations.

PROGRAMME TYPOLOGY

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

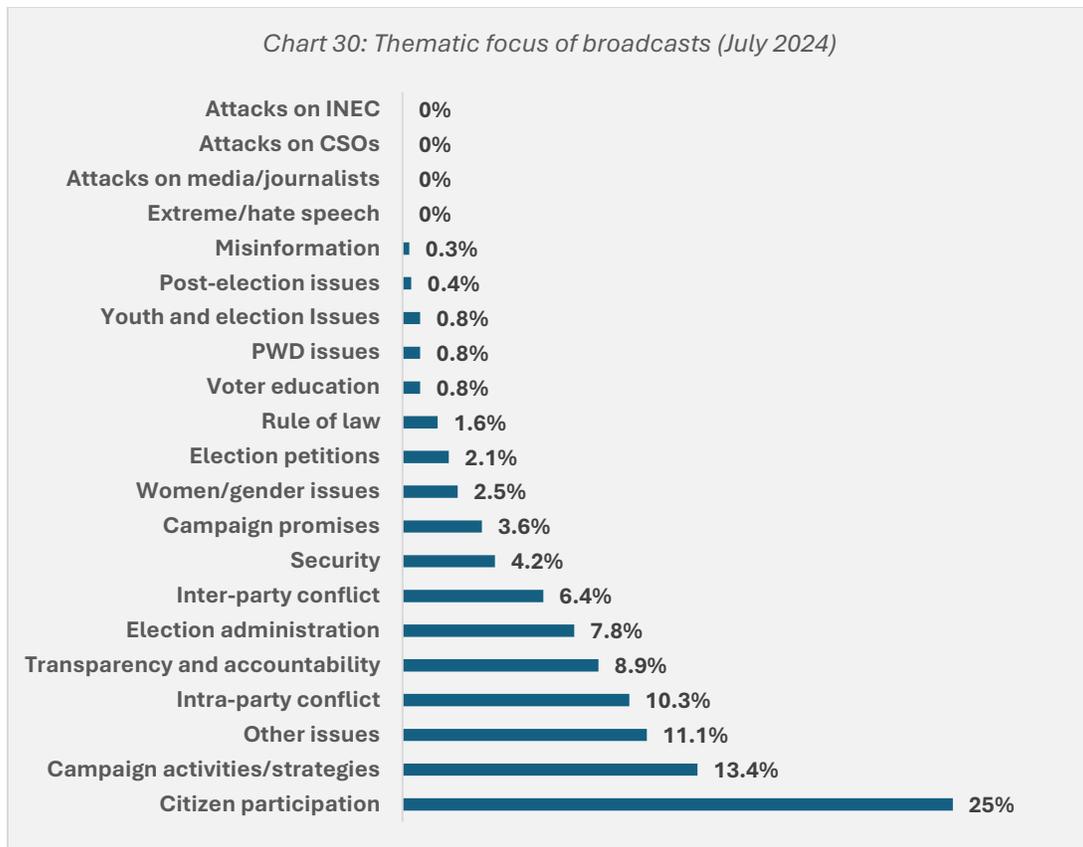


Out of the contents analysed during the period in review, 573 were packaged as news reports, representing, as Chart 29 shows, 68.3% of the contents. The remaining radio and television broadcasts were packaged as discussions (23.2%; 195 stories) and interviews (8.5%; 71 stories).

THEMATIC EMPHASIS

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

Chart 30: Thematic focus of broadcasts (July 2024)



According to Chart 30, citizen participation was the most reported and discussed issue, accounting for a fourth (25%; 250 in 1000 instances) of the thematic focus areas. Transparency and accountability received 8.9% (89 instances) of the coverage while the rule of law received 1.6% (16 instances) of the attention.

Whereas campaign activities/strategies and campaign promises received 13.4% (134 instances) and 3.6% (36 instances) of the coverage respectively, election administration and voter education accounted for 7.8% (78 instances) and 0.8% (8 instances) of the attention.

Intra-party conflict and inter-party conflict received 10.3% (103 instances) and 6.4% (64 instances) of the coverage respectively while election petitions accounted for 2.1% (21 instances) of the coverage.

Security issues accounted for 4.2% (42 instances) of the coverage. Attacks on INEC, CSOs and media/journalists were not featured.

Whereas women/gender issues received 2.5% (25 instances) of the coverage, youth and PWD issues each accounted for 0.8% (8 instances) of the attention.

Misinformation received 0.3% (3 instances) of the coverage. Extreme/hate speech received no coverage. Post-election issues and other issues received 0.4% (4 instances) and 11.1% (111 instances) of the coverage respectively.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES — BALANCE

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

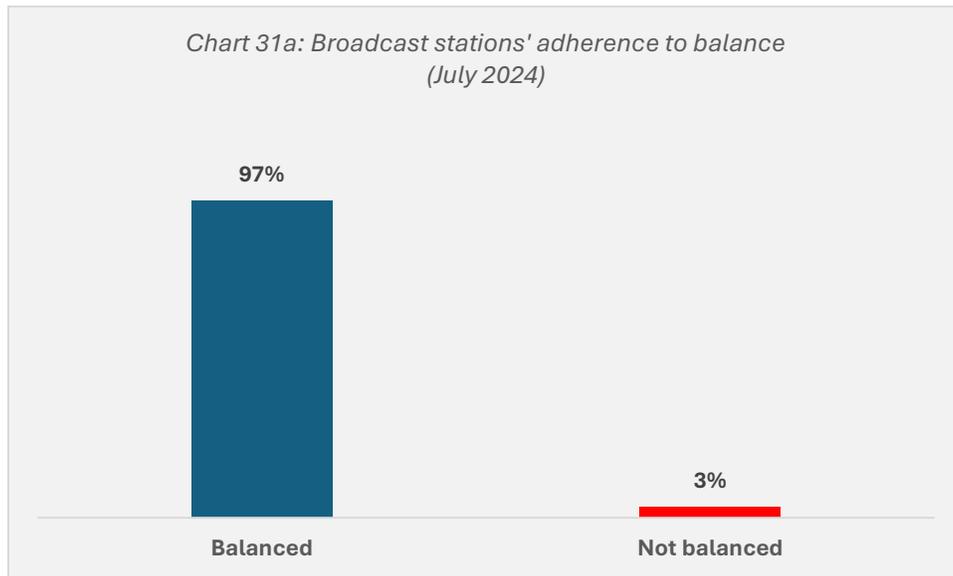


Chart 31a shows that 97% (145 in 150 stories) of the applicable broadcasts were balanced while 3% (5 stories) were not.

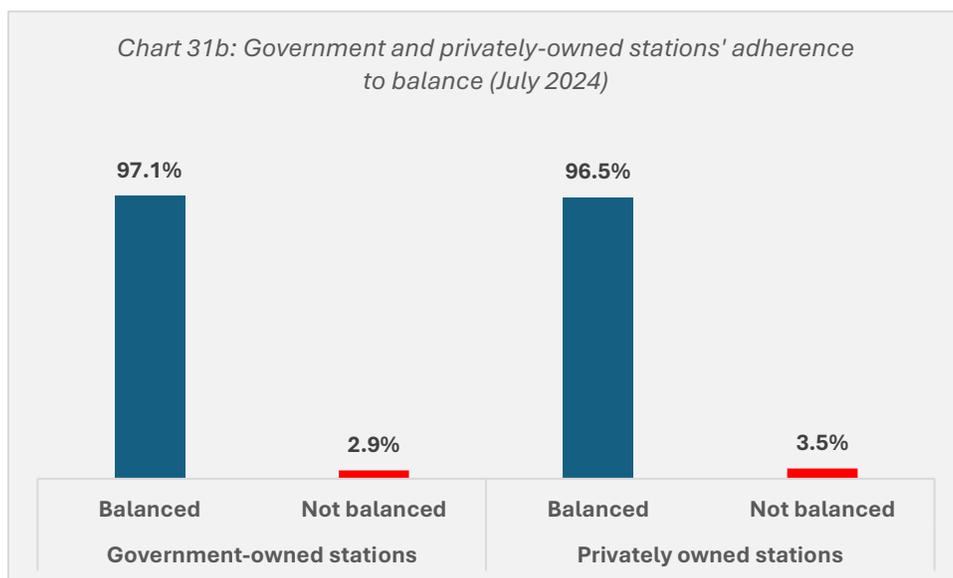


Chart 31b shows that 97.1% (34 in 35 stories) of the broadcasts from government-owned stations were balanced while 2.9% (1 story) were not. In contrast, 96.5% (111 in 115 stories) of the broadcasts from privately-owned stations were balanced while 3.5% (4 stories) were not.

QUALITY OF PROGRAMMES — LANGUAGE

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

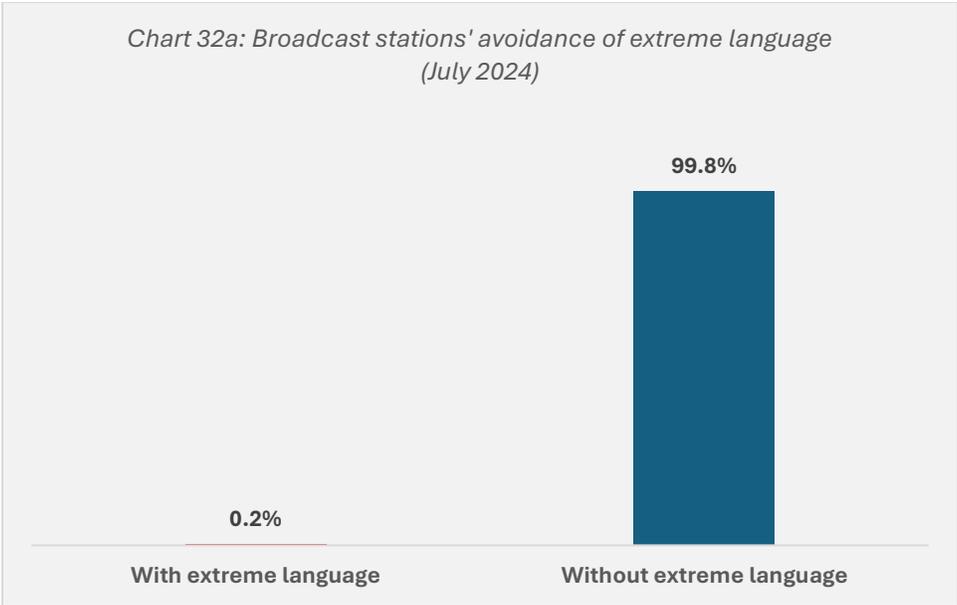


Chart 32a shows that the broadcast stations avoided extreme language usage in 99.8% (837 in 839 stories) of their programmes and fell short in 0.2% (2 stories) of the programmes.

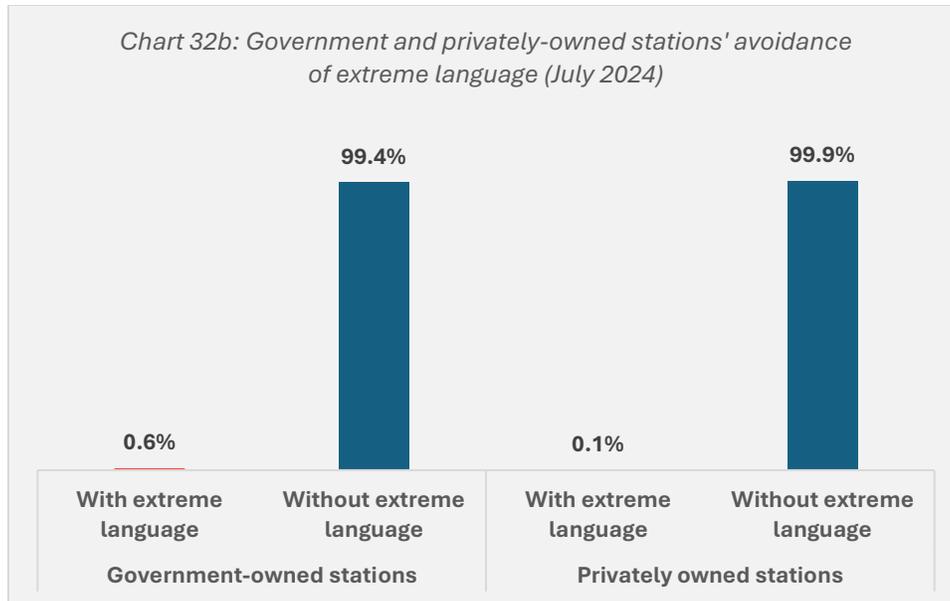


Chart 32b reveals that 0.6% (1 in 169 stories) of the programmes from government-owned stations contained extreme language while 99.4% (168 stories) of the programmes did not. In contrast, 0.1% (1 in 670 stories) of the programmes from privately-owned stations contained extreme language while 99.9% (669 stories) of the programmes did not.

VISIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL ACTORS

INCLUSION: VISIBILITY OF UNDER-REPRESENTED DEMOGRAPHICS

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

PWDs

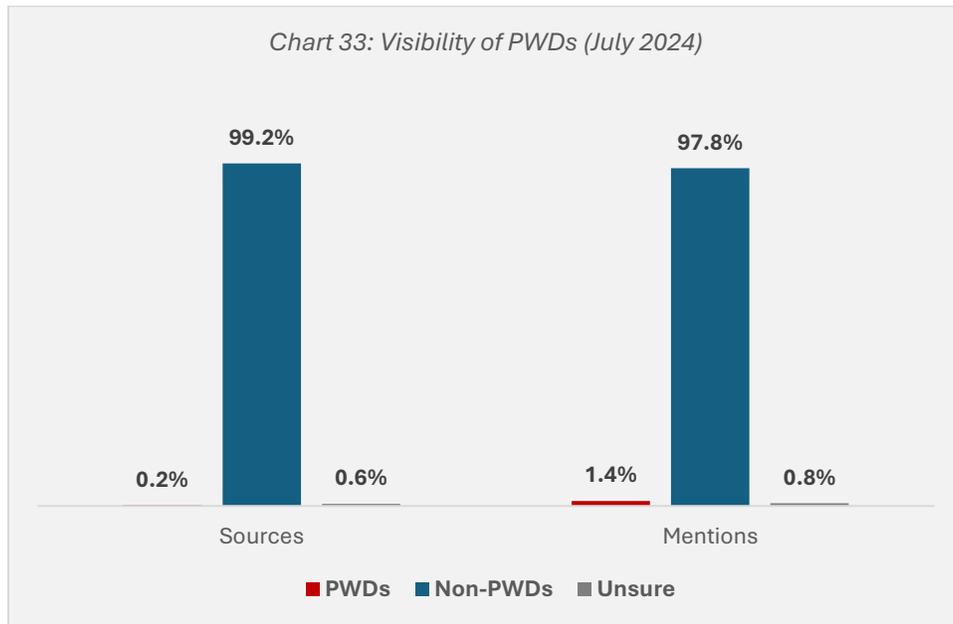


Chart 33 shows that PWD actors received 0.2% (2 in 826 instances) of the usage as sources and 1.4% (7 in 489 instances) of the mentions. Non-PWD actors, on the other hand, received 99.2% (819 instances) of the usage and 97.8% (478 instances) of the mentions. The sources in 5 instances (0.6%) and mentions in 4 instances (0.8%) were indeterminate. The data echoes the low level of coverage (0.8%; 8 in 1000 instances) devoted to PWD issues as previously shown in Chart 30.

Women

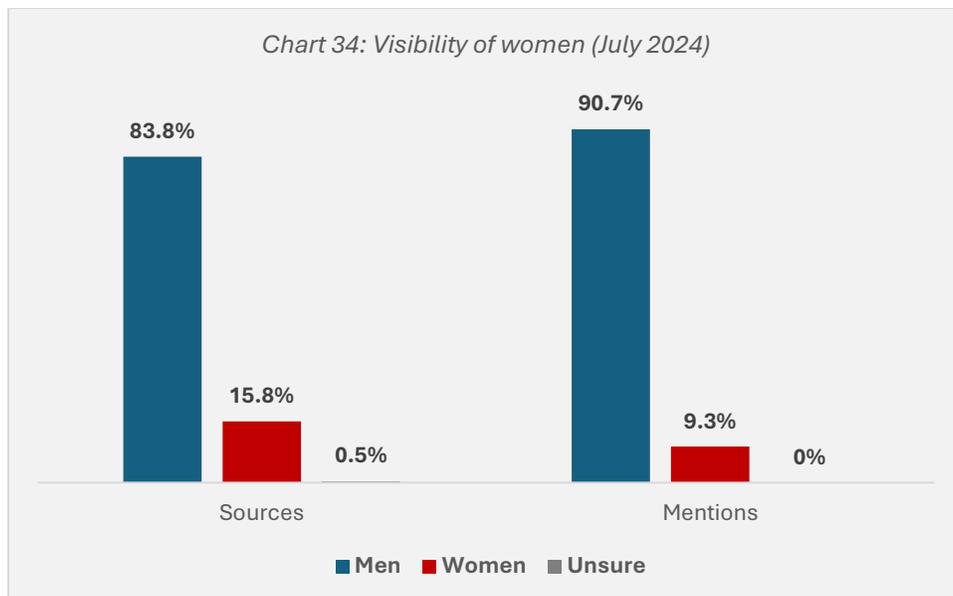


Chart 34 shows that women received 15.8% (134 in 850 instances) of the usage as sources and 9.3% (49 in 529 instances) of the mentions. Men, on the other hand, received 83.8% (712 instances) of the usage and 90.7% (480 instances) of the mentions. The usage in four instances (0.5%) remained indeterminate. The data shows that women were not as visible as their male counterparts and echoes the low level of coverage (2.5%; 25 in 1000 instances) devoted to women's issues as previously shown in Chart 30.

Youth

The African Youth Charter¹ categorises individuals aged between 15 and 35 as youth. This report adopted the same age bracket. However, individuals older than 35 were also considered youth if they represented a youth group or initiative. Those younger than 15 are categorised as children.

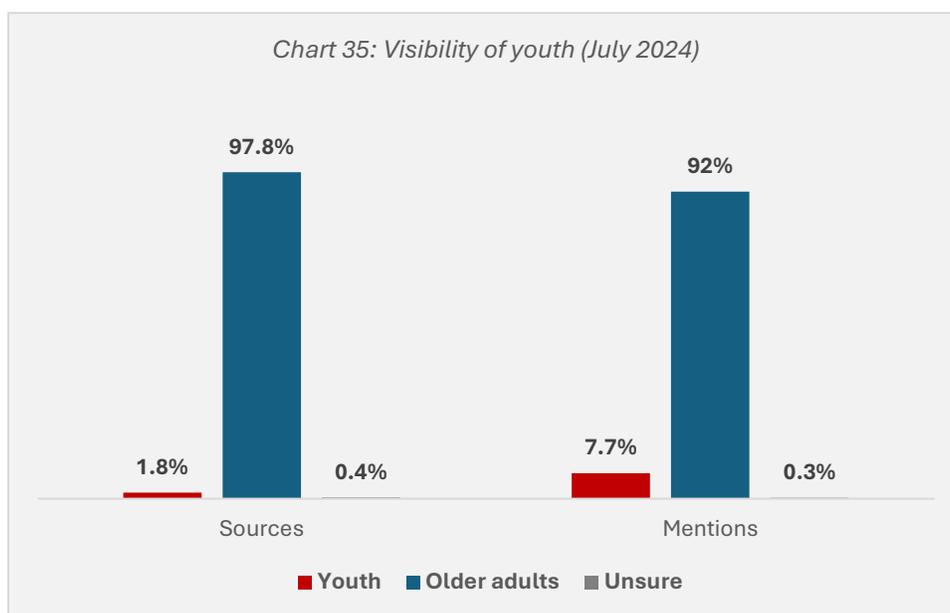
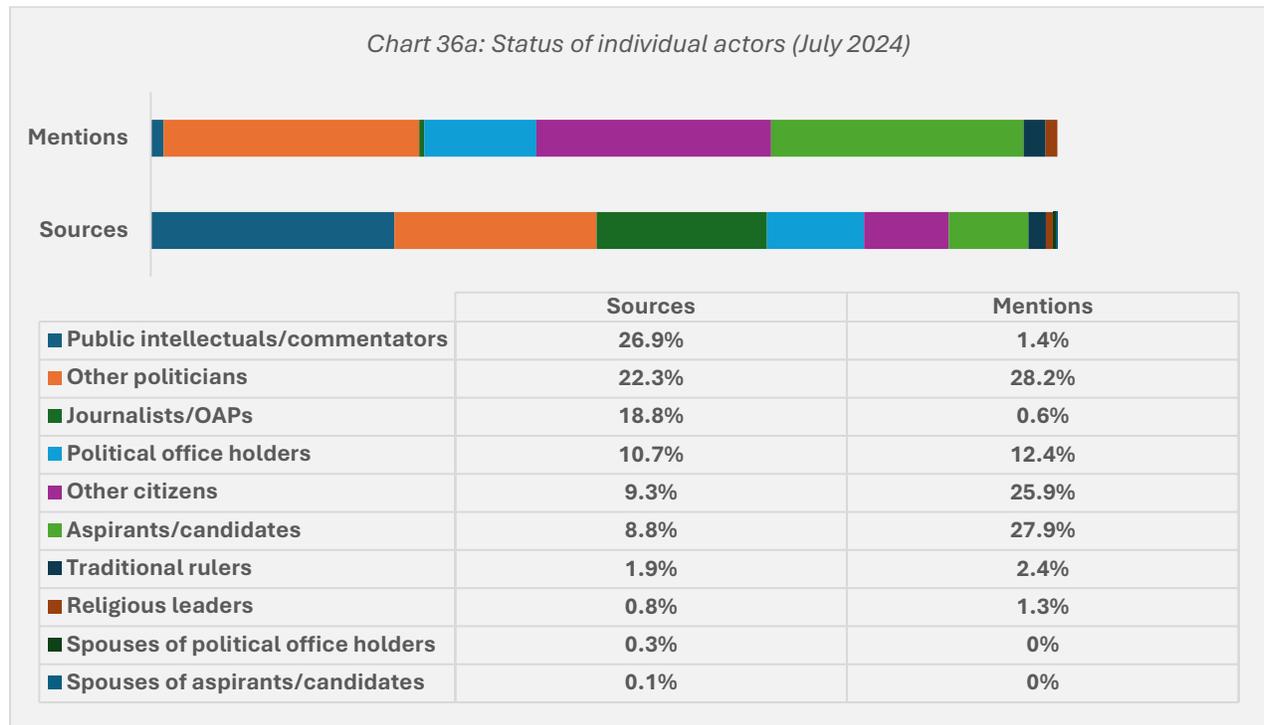


Chart 35 shows that youth accounted for 1.8% (15 in 827 instances) of the usage as sources and 7.7% (47 in 612 instances) of the mentions in this category. Older adults, on the other hand, received 97.8% (809 instances) of the usage and 92% (563 instances) of the mentions. The usage in three instances (0.4%) and mentions in two instances (0.3%) were indeterminate. The low visibility of youth actors echoes the low level of coverage (0.8%; 8 in 1000 instances) devoted to youth issues 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 sampled and analysed 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 is also analysed.



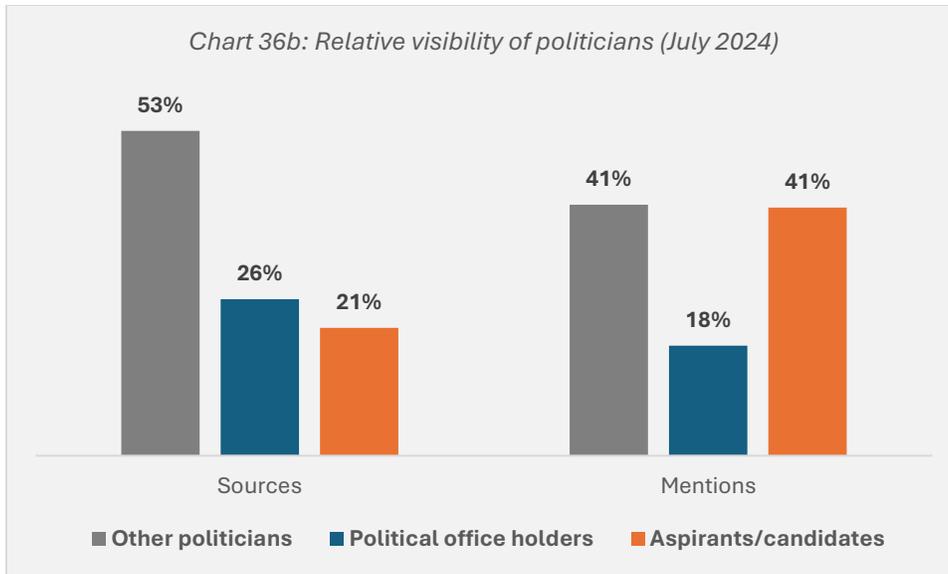
According to Chart 36a, public intellectuals/commentators received 26.9% (193 in 718 instances) of usage as sources, making them the most featured actors in that context. They, however, received a meagre 1.4% (12 in 858 instances) of the mentions.

Journalists/OAPs accounted for 18.8% (135 instances) of the usage and 0.6% (5 instances) of the mentions. Journalists/OAPs (news readers and anchors) were categorised as sources whenever there was no actuality or soundbite.

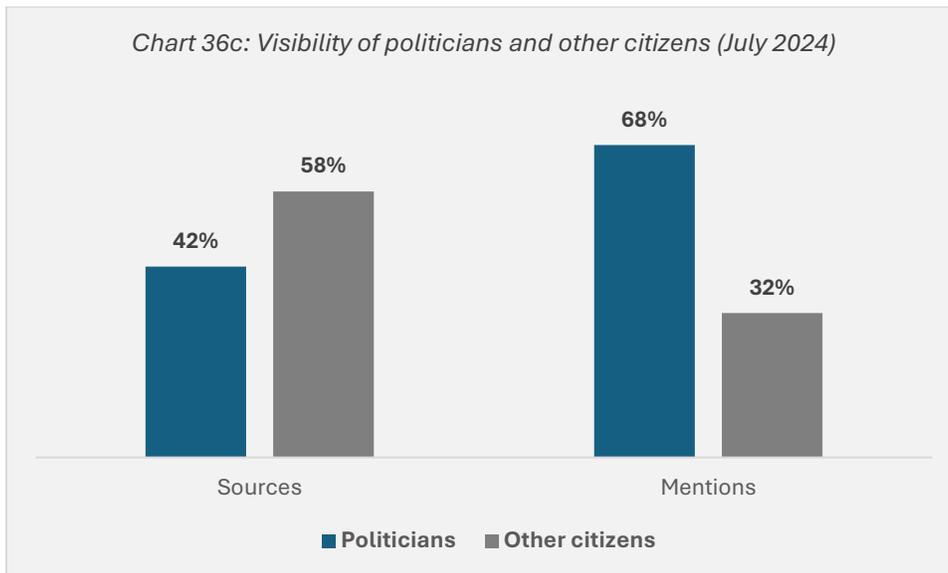
Political officeholders received 10.7% (77 instances) of the usage and 12.4% (106 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates received 8.8% (68 instances) of the usage and 27.9% (239 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians received 22.3% (160 instances) of the usage and 28.2% (242 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas traditional rulers received 1.9% (14 instances) of the usage and 2.4% (21 instances) of the mentions, religious leaders received 0.8% (14 instances) of the usage and 1.3% (11 instances) of the mentions.

Other citizens received 9.3% (67 instances) of the usage and 25.9% (222 instances) of the mentions.



According to Chart 36b, political officeholders received 26% (77 in 300 instances) of the usage and 18% (106 in 587 instances) of the mentions while aspirants/candidates received 21% (63 instances) of the usage and 41% (239 instances) of the mentions. Other politicians received 53% (160 instances) of the usage and 41% (242 instances) of the mentions.



Politicians, Chart 36c shows, accounted for 42% (300 in 718 instances) of the usage and 68% (587 in 858 instances) of the mentions while other citizens received 58% (418 instances) of the usage and 32% (271 instances) of the mentions. The data implies that other citizens were more visible as sources than politicians.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ACTORS

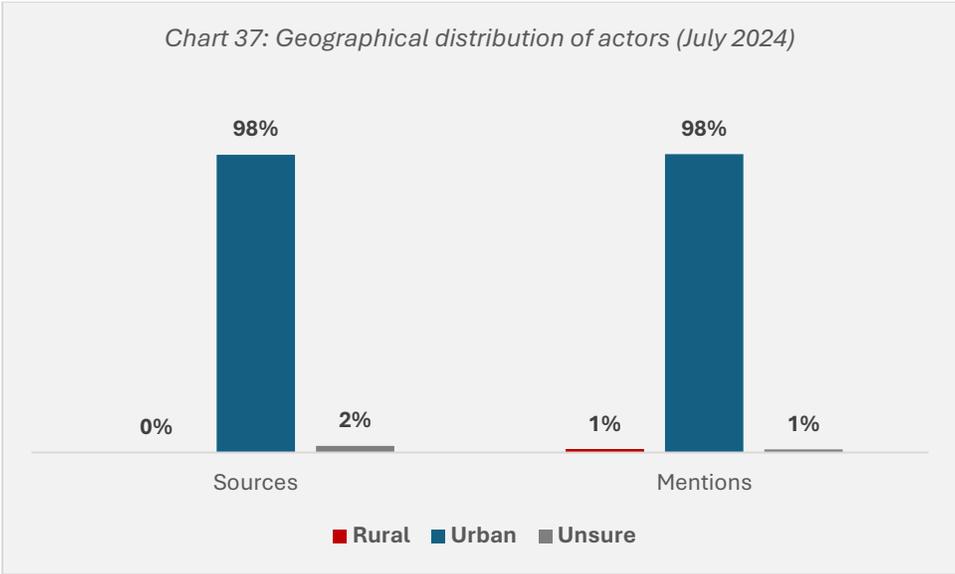


Chart 37 shows that actors from urban areas received 98% (792 in 810 instances) of the usage as sources and 98% (498 in 508 instances) of the mentions. Those acting from rural areas received 1% (5 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The usage in 18 instances (2%) and the mentions in five instances (1%) were indeterminate.

VISIBILITY OF CORPORATE ACTORS

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

POLITICAL PARTIES

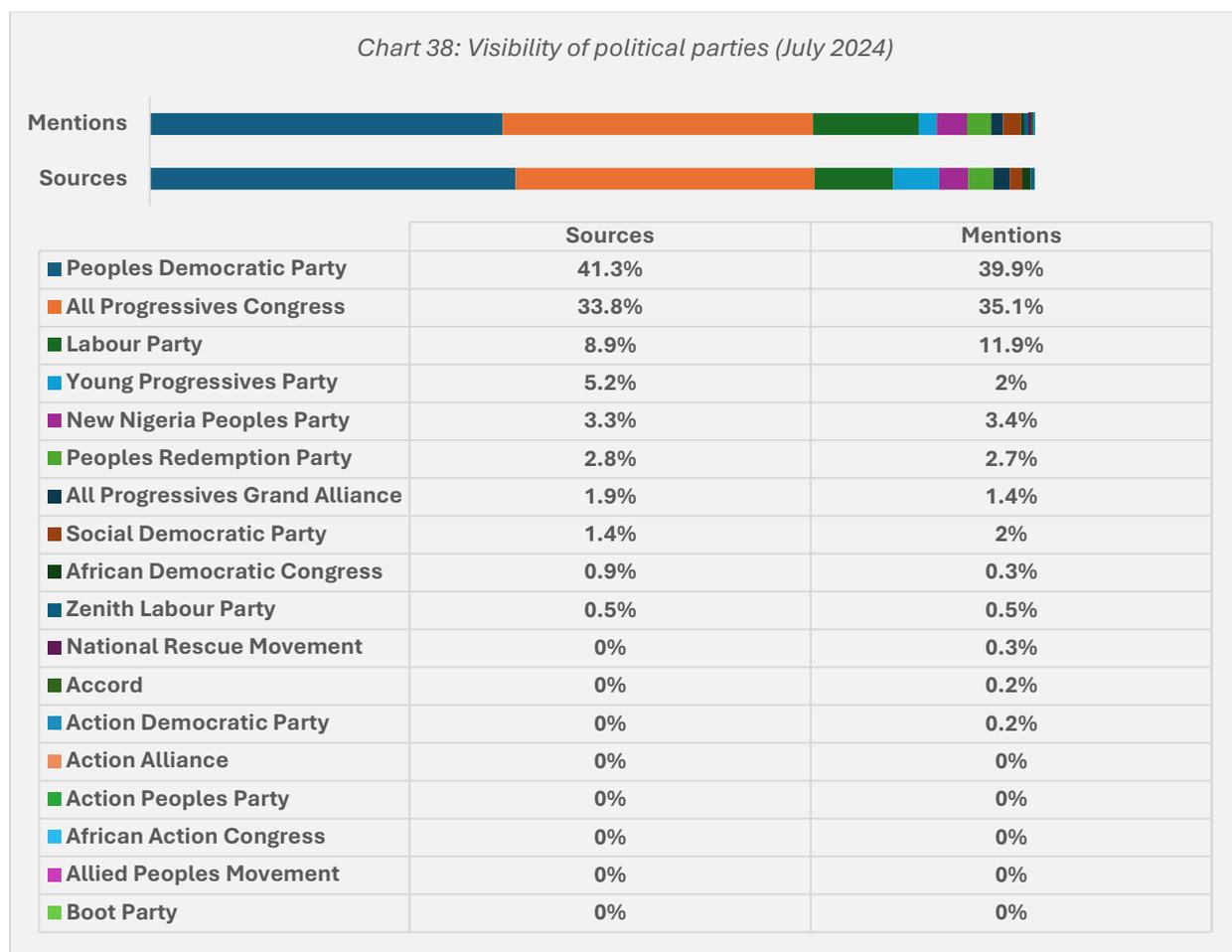


Chart 38 shows that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was the most featured actor in this category, accounting for 41.3% (88 in 213 instances) of the usage as sources and 39.9% (234 in 587 instances) of the mentions.

All Progressives Congress (APC) received 33.8% (72 instances) of the usage and 35.1% (206 instances) of the mentions while Labour Party (LP) received 8.9% (19 instances) of the usage and 11.9% (70 instances) of the mentions.

Young Peoples Party (YPP) received 5.2% (11 instances) of the usage and 3.4% (2% 12 instances) of the mentions while New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) received 3.3% (7 instances) of the usage and 3.4% (20 instances) of the mentions.

Whereas Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) received 2.8% (6 instances) of the usage and 2.7% (16 instances) of the mentions, All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) received 1.9% (4 instances) of the usage and 1.4% (8 instances) of mentions. Social Democratic Party (SDP) received 1.4% (3 instances) of usage and 2% (12 instances) of the mentions.

African Democratic Congress (ADC) accounted for 0.9% (2 instances) of the usage and 0.3% (2 instances) of the mentions while Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) received 0.5% (1 instance) of the usage and 0.5% (3 instances) of the mentions.

National Rescue Movement (NRM) received 0.3% (2 instances) of the mentions but was not used as a source. The same was true for Accord and Action Democratic Party (ADP) each of which received 0.2% (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 sampled and analysed during the period under review. It also compares the visibility of local council development areas (LCDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) with that of the higher levels of government.

Federal government

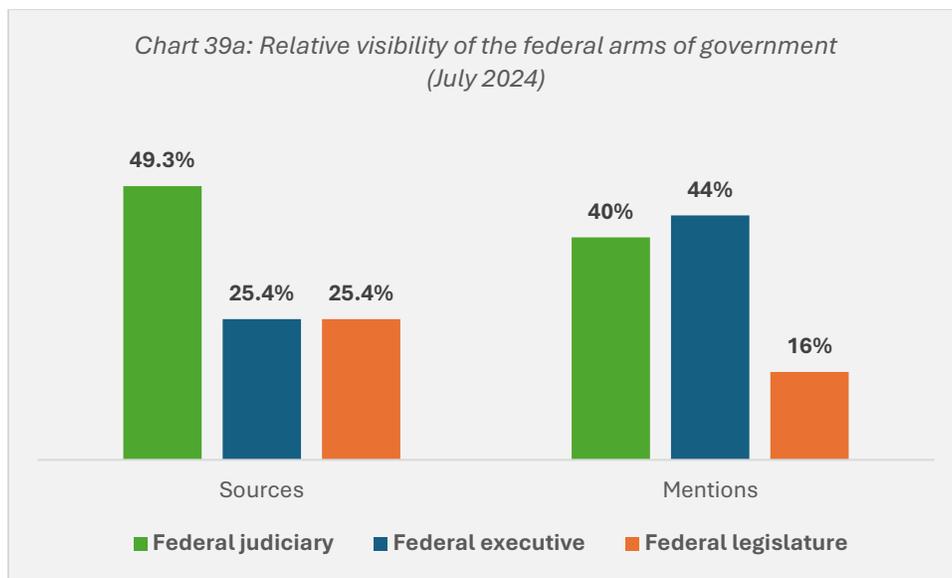


Chart 39a shows that the federal judiciary received 49.3% (35 in 71 instances) of the usage as sources and 40% (162 in 404 instances) of the mentions in this subsection. The federal executive and the federal legislature each received 25.4% (18 instances) of the usage, as well as 44% (178 instances) and 16% (64 instances) of the mentions respectively.

State governments

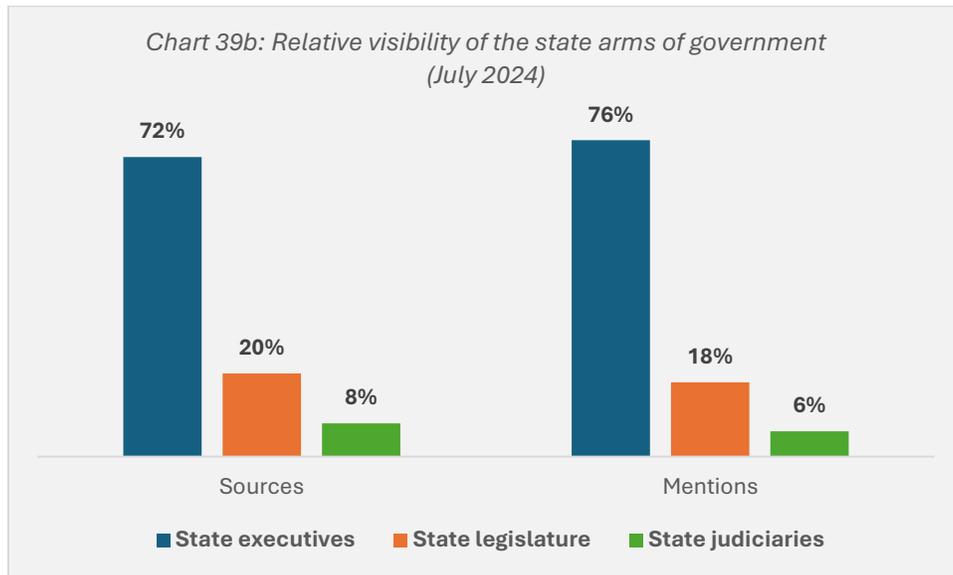


Chart 39b shows that state executives accounted for 72% (54 in 75 instances) of the usage and 76% (187 in 246 instances) of the mentions. State legislatures received 20% (15 instances) of the usage and 18% (44 instances) of the mentions while state judiciaries received 8% (6 instances) of the usage and 6% (15 instances) of the mentions.

LCDAs and LGAs

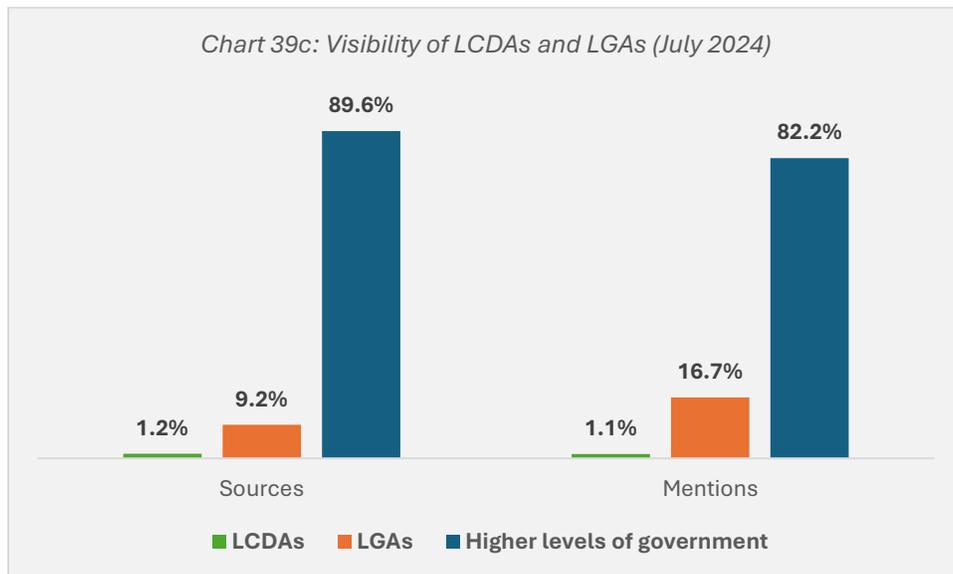


Chart 39c shows that the higher levels of government received 89.6% (146 in 163 instances) of the usage as sources and 82.2% (650 in 791 instances) of the mentions. LCDAs accounted for 1.2% (2 instances) of the usage and 1.1% (9 instances) of the mentions while LGAs received 9.2% (15 instances) of the usage and 16.7% (132 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.

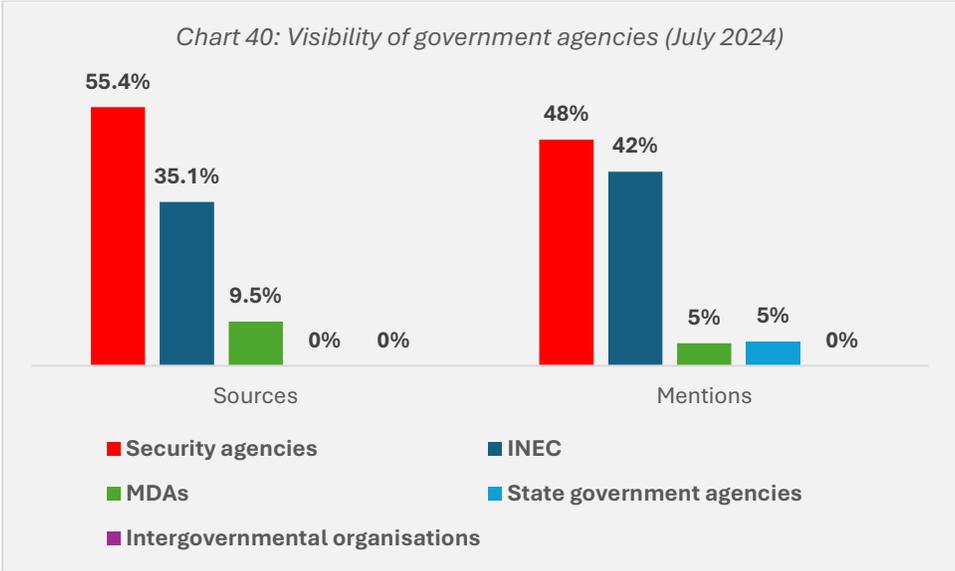
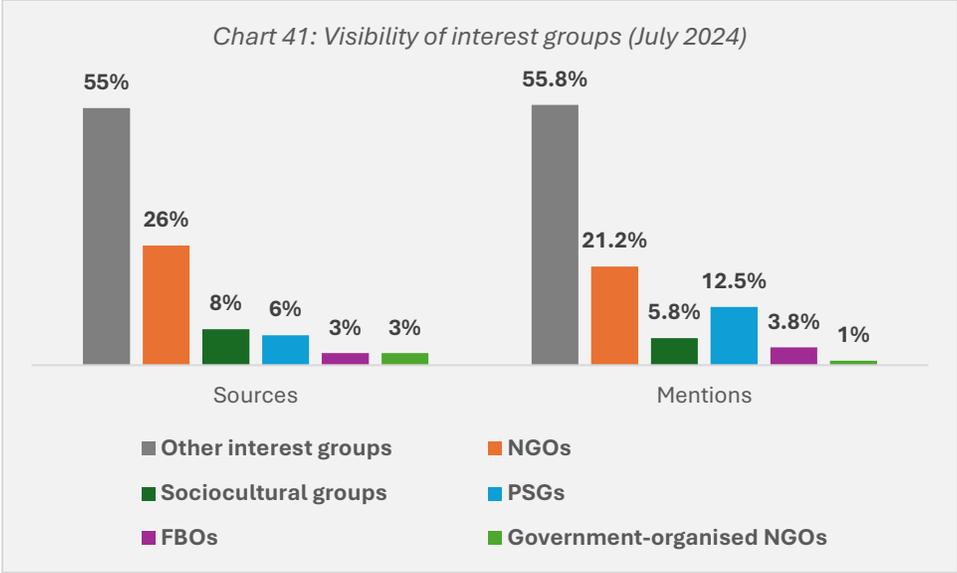


Chart 40 shows that security agencies received 55.4% (41 in 74 instances) of the usage as sources and 48% (141 in 291 instances) of the mentions, making them the most featured actors in this section. INEC accounted for 35.1% (26 instances) of the usage and 42% (121 instances) of the mentions. MDAs received 9.5% (7 instances) of the usage and 5% (15 instances) of the mentions. State government agencies received 5% of the mentions but were not used as sources. Intergovernmental organisations were not featured.

INTEREST GROUPS

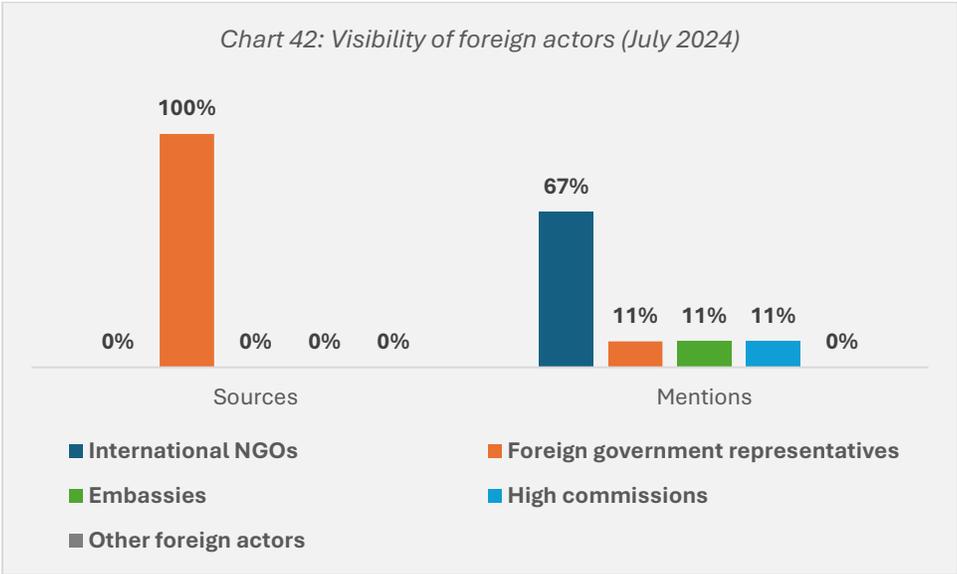
This section addresses the visibility of corporate actors such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that play critical roles in the election process and democratic governance. It also addresses the visibility of faith-based organisations (FBOs), sociocultural groups, government-organised NGOs and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



According to Chart 41, NGOs received 26% (20 in 78 instances) of the usage as sources and 21.2% (22 in 104 instances) of the mentions. Sociocultural groups accounted for 8% (6 instances) of the usage and 5.8% (6 instances) of the mentions while PSGs received 6% (5 instances) of the usage and 12.5% (13 instances) of the mentions. FBOs and government-organised NGOs each received 3% (2 instances) of the usage, as well as 3.8% (4 instances) of the usage and 1% (1 instance) 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, foreign government representatives accounted for 100% (1 instance) of the usage as sources and 11% (1 in 9 instances) of the mentions. International NGOs received 67% (6 instances) of the mentions but were not used as sources. The same was true for embassies and high commissions each of which received 11% (1 instance) of the mentions.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses of content sampled during the period under review showed the dominance of news reports (68.3%) over discussion programmes (23.2%) and interviews (8.5%) as the main content format used in the sampled broadcasts.

The radio and television stations adhered to the principle of balance in 97% of the broadcasts, with 0.2% of the programmes containing the deployment of or discussions on the use of extreme language. The recorded incidents did not solely involve the media or its sources employing provocative language; they also documented the actions of those actively opposing such rhetoric.

Citizen participation (25%), campaign activities/strategies (13.4%) and intra-party conflict (10.3%) were the most reported and discussed themes, indicating the direction of coverage devoted to election-related and other democratic governance issues during the period under review.

Women's (2.5%), youth (0.8%) and PWD (0.8%) issues were not as widely reported and discussed as the themes mentioned above. Also, women received 15.8% of the usage as sources and 9.3% of the mentions in comparison to men who received more attention in the context of gender. Youth actors (1.8% sources; 7.7% mentions) and PWDs (0.2% sources; 1.4% mentions) were not as visible as older adults and non-PWD actors.

PDP (41.3% sources; 39.9% mentions), APC (33.8% sources; 35.1% mentions) and LP (8.9% sources; 11.9% mentions) received more coverage than the other 15 political parties combined.

LCDAs (1.2% sources; 1.1% mentions) and LGAs (9.2% sources; 16.7% mentions) were not as visible as the higher levels of government (89.6% sources; 82.2% mentions).

Security agencies (55.4% sources; 48% mentions) were more visible than INEC (35.1% sources; 42% mentions), with both actors receiving more attention than other government agencies combined.

Uncategorised interest groups (55% sources; 55.8% mentions) received more attention than NGOs, FBOs, PSGs and sociocultural groups combined. Foreign government representatives received all the attention in the context of sources and 11% of the mentions, a context dominated by international NGOs (67%).

REFERENCE

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

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

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