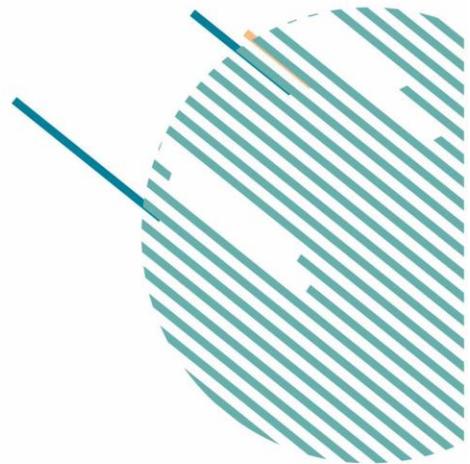


ELECTION DAY  
**REPORT**



# BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE 2024 OFF-CYCLE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION IN EDO STATE OF NIGERIA

21-23 SEP 2024 **REPORT**



Funded by  
the European Union



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**BROADCAST MEDIA COVERAGE OF  
THE 2024 OFF-CYCLE  
GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION IN EDO  
STATE OF NIGERIA**

*(21-23 September 2024 Report)*

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# FOREWORD

The role of the media in the electoral process is central and essential. In a diverse and dynamic country like Nigeria, it serves as a powerful force that informs, educates and mobilizes 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.

Hence, stakeholder institutions such as civil society conduct media monitoring, which entails collecting and analysing data from election-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, Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO), created a media monitoring initiative, with a well-trained and orientated team. The initiative focused on broadcasting platforms.

This report contains valuable insights and recommendations on the coverage provided by the broadcast media during the September 2024 off-cycle governorship election in Edo state. 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  
**FM** - Frequency Modulation  
**INEC** - Independent National Electoral Commission  
**iReV** - INEC Result Viewing portal  
**LG** - Local Government  
**LGA** - Local Government Area  
**MDA** - Ministries, Departments and Agencies  
**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 process who is mentioned or used as the source of a broadcast.

**Administrative issues:** Problems or challenges related to the management and organisation of an election, such as logistical issues, delays or inefficiencies.

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

**Ballot papers:** The official documents used by voters to cast their votes in an election.

**Ballot snatching:** The act of forcibly taking away ballot boxes during an election to prevent or disrupt voting or the counting of votes.

**Ballot stuffing:** The act of illegally adding extra ballot papers to a ballot box to manipulate the outcome of an election.

**Biased broadcast:** A broadcast that favours or supports a particular candidate, political party or perspective over others.

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

**Campaign-like broadcast:** A broadcast that resembles a political campaign, often promoting a particular candidate, political party or perspective.

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

**Collation of election results:** The process of gathering and adding up the results from different polling units and wards to determine the overall outcome of an election.

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

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

**Election administration:** The process of organising and overseeing elections to ensure they are conducted fairly and legally.

**Election integrity issues:** Problems or challenges related to the fairness, transparency and credibility of an election, such as fraud, manipulation or violence.

**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:** Election-related litigation.

**Election result speculation:** The act of making unofficial or premature predictions or assumptions about the outcome of an election before the results have been officially announced.

**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.

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

**Government agency:** An organisation in the machinery of government that is responsible for the oversight and administration of specific functions.

**Imbalanced broadcast:** A broadcast that does not provide equal coverage or representation to all candidates, political parties or perspectives.

**Important personalities:** Individuals who hold significant influence or power within a society, such as religious leaders, traditional rulers, business tycoons or former high-ranking elected officials.

**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 process.

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

**Interest group:** A group of actors that seeks to influence public policy based on a common concern.

**Interview programme:** A media content format where journalists or anchors ask questions of an actor or source to gather information or opinion.

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

**Misinformation:** False or inaccurate information that is spread regardless of the intent to mislead.

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

**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.

**Programme type:** 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.

**Security personnel:** Individuals responsible for maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety and security of people and property during an election.

**Security:** Reportage and discussions around the safety of the polity, and usually tied to the role of security agencies in elections.

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

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

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

**Vote buying:** The act of offering money or other forms of incentives to voters in exchange for their votes in an election.

**Vote counting:** The process of counting the number of votes cast for each candidate or political party in an election.

**Voter accreditation:** The process of verifying the identity and eligibility of voters before they are allowed to cast their ballots in an election.

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

**Voter intimidation:** The use of threats, coercion or other forms of pressure to influence or manipulate the voting behaviour of individuals in an election.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INEC held the Edo state off-cycle governorship election on September 21, even as Nigeria's broadcast media reported on and discussed the polls. CEMESO's media monitoring initiative assessed the performance of broadcast media on election day, aiming to gather credible data, promote professionalism and ensure issues-based, hate-free, fair, and peaceful elections.

Broadcast stations were selected based on their location relative to Edo state and other factors. A total of 427 contents from eight radio and eight television stations were sampled over three days, with the analysis focusing on program types, thematic emphasis, quality of broadcasts and the actors identified in the election-day reportage.

Most radio broadcasts were news reports (73%), with administrative issues like the conduct of INEC officials (28.4%), security personnel (13.5%) and voters (12.3%) being the most reported and discussed. The malfunctioning of INEC election technology (31.3%) and vote buying (25%) were the most featured integrity issues, with journalists/media workers (52.6%) and public affairs analysts (21.1%) being the most quoted sources. Non-state actors (71.4%) and party agents (28.6%) were perpetrators of violence, while INEC officials (50%), party chieftains (25%) and the media (25%) were the victims identified in the broadcasts. Radio stations maintained high ethical standards, with the only instance of fake news recorded involving discussions around the theme, and not its propagation.

Also, the television broadcasts were predominantly news reports (68.1%), with the conduct of INEC officials (27.4%), voters (17.4%) and security personnel (15.9%) being the most reported and discussed administrative issues. Chief among the featured integrity issues were vote buying (36.4%) and issues with INEC election technology (15.9%). Journalists/media workers (29.3%), public affairs analysts (12.7%) and voters (11.2%) were the most quoted sources. Non-state actors (58%), security personnel (37%) and party agents (5%) were the perpetrators of violence identified in the broadcasts, with voters (40%) and the media (20%) being the biggest victims. The television programmes also featured instances of election result speculation, fake news and campaign-like broadcasts.

# BACKGROUND

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), on September 21, conducted the Edo state off-cycle governorship election, declaring winners afterwards.

The Nigerian media covered the process and reported election-related happenings from relevant locations. Closely watched by stakeholders, the broadcast media faced the task of promoting issue-based, hate-free, free, fair and peaceful elections.

To gather and analyse credible data, as well as engage the broadcast media and other stakeholders to engender professionalism in the sector, the Centre for Media and Society set up a media monitoring initiative focused on the performance of the broadcast media on election day.

# METHODOLOGY

The broadcast stations were selected based on their location in Edo state where the off-cycle election was conducted. Reach, audience share, political programming, dedicated election-day reporting and online presence were key requirements for the selection of broadcast stations that were not located in the state.

The following radio stations were monitored:

- Bridge FM Asaba - Delta state
- B-Side FM Benin - Edo state
- Kapital FM (operated by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Abuja)
- KU FM Benin - Edo state
- Sapientia FM Onitsha - Anambra
- Speed FM Benin - Edo state
- Super FM Benin Edo state
- Urban Radio - Enugu state

The following TV stations were monitored:

- African Independent Television (AIT) - Network
- Arise Television (Arise TV) - Network
- Channels Television (Channels TV) - Network
- Independent Television (ITV) - Edo state
- Liberty Television (Liberty TV) - Abuja
- Nigerian Television Authority International (NTAi) - Network
- Silverbird Television (STV) - Lagos

- Television Continental (TVC News) - Network

Although the governorship elections were held on September 21, the broadcast media coverage of the event was monitored for three days (21-23 September 2024) to account for the time, typically the days after the polls were closed, it took INEC to declare the results.

A total of 427 contents, across eight radio stations and eight television stations selected for this study, were analysed. Out of this figure, 79 contents were from the selected radio stations while 348 of the contents were from the identified television stations.

Broadcasts were monitored and coded based on the following categories and subcategories:

- **Programme types** – These were the content formats in which the broadcasts were packaged, with a focus on news reports, discussion programmes and interviews.
- **Thematic focus or issues** - These were the topics that dominated election-day discourse in the context of this report. They are further categorised into administrative and integrity issues. Whereas administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion, integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the process.
- **Quality of broadcasts** - This concerned the adherence of broadcast stations to high ethical standards bordering the avoidance of election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalanced broadcasts, campaign-like content and biased broadcasts.
- **Sources** - This categorisation addressed the status of the actors that were cited or quoted as content sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.
- **Perpetrators of violence** - This section concerned the status of the perpetrators of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.
- **Victims of violence** - This concerned the status of the victims of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations.

The monitoring exercise sought to answer the following questions:

- What did the broadcast media talk about?
- Who were the actors the broadcast media gave coverage to?
- What was the quality of reporting in terms of adherence to ethical standards?
- Which perpetrators of election-day violence were visible in the broadcasts?
- Which victims of election-day violence were visible in the broadcasts?

# PRESENTATION

The findings are presented in three segments. While the first segment addresses the performance of radio stations in the coverage of election-day politics, the second focuses on a similar evaluation of television stations. The third part of the findings, a merger of the preceding segments, addresses the overall performance of the broadcast media on election day.

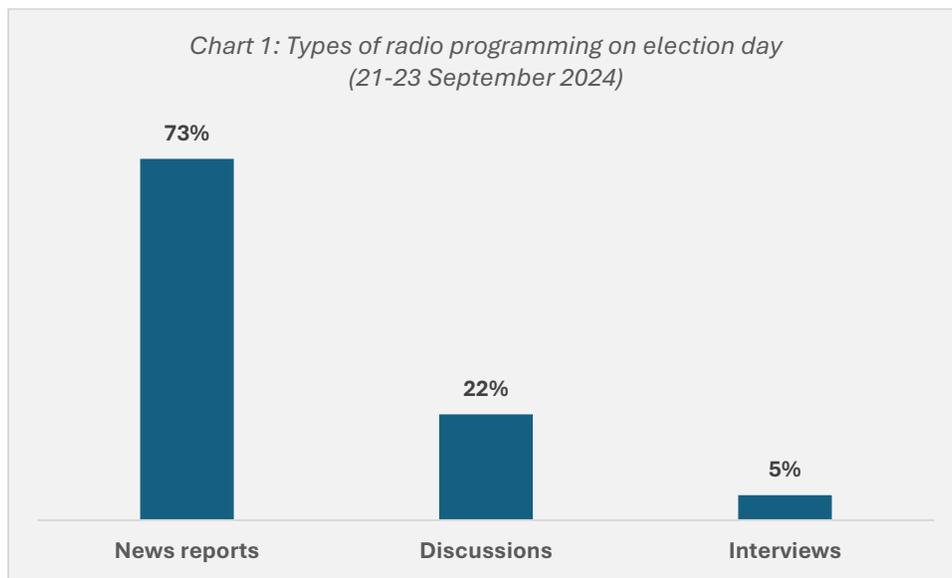
# PART I

## CONTENT OF ELECTION-DAY PROGRAMMES ON RADIO

Election-day contents were monitored on the selected radio stations from 21-23 September 2024. The findings are presented in this section under the following major headings: programme types, thematic focus, quality of programmes, sources, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.

### PROGRAMME TYPES

A total of 79 reports, discussions and interviews were monitored on the selected radio stations during the period in review.



Out of 79 contents analysed in this section, 58 were news reports. These, as shown in Chart 1, accounted for 73% of the contents analysed. Discussions and interviews represented 22% (17 stories) and 5% (4 stories) of the contents respectively.

### THEMATIC FOCUS

Thematic focus concerns identified topics or issues that dominated the monitored radio broadcasts. The themes are subdivided into administrative issues and integrity issues. Whereas administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion, integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the process.

## Administrative issues

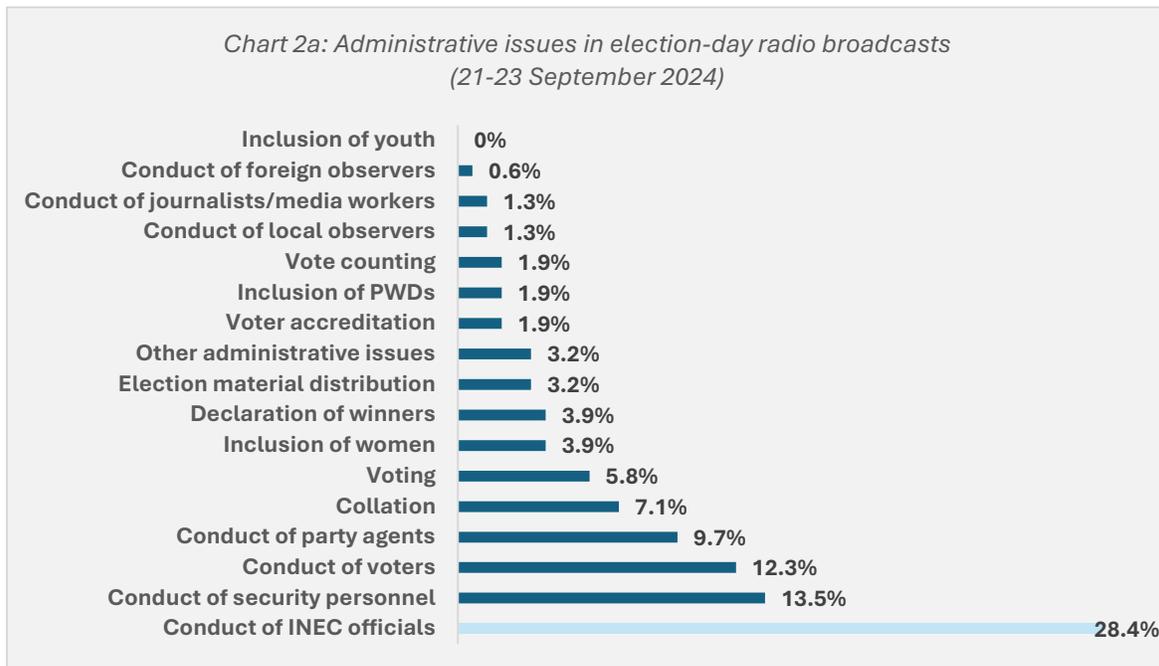


Chart 2a shows that the conduct of INEC officials received 28.4% (44 in 155 instances), the most, of the coverage while the distribution of election materials accounted for 3.2% (5 instances) of the coverage.

- Speed FM journalist Stephen Odinaka reported on September 21 that in the polling units he visited in Akoko Edo, Esako West and Esan Central local government areas, INEC officials arrived early, accreditation and voting went smoothly, and that security personnel and a few election observers were seen around polling units. The report partly focused on the conduct of INEC officials.
- In a similar instance, Comrade Osuiwo, speaking on KU FM on September 21, lamented what she described as INEC officials' careless handling of sensitive materials in some polling units, attributing their poor conduct on INEC's lack of proper sensitisation for its officials.
- "In Ward 1 Ewohimi, INEC materials arrived as at 10:25 am; INEC materials arrived very late at Ward 2 Oredo," KU FM reported on September 21, focusing on the distribution of election materials.

- In another instance focusing on the distribution of election materials, a B-Side FM reporter said on September 21 that due to a heavy downpour, voting materials had not yet arrived at the ward of APC governorship candidate Monday Okpebholo's.

Collation of results received 7.1% of the coverage. Whereas voting received 5.8% (9 instances) of the coverage, voter accreditation and vote counting each accounted for 1.9% (3 instances) of the attention.

- "INEC has started uploading results of Edo gubernatorial election to its portal," Bridge FM reported on September 21, presenting an instance where the collation of results was the focus of an election-day broadcast.
- In a related instance, "INEC is set to begin the collation of results from the eighteen local government areas of Benin to the final collation centre," Speed FM reported on September 22.
- A journalist called in to Kapital FM from Edo South in Owede local government area, saying that voting had just commenced at the location. She added that voter turnout was very low and that voting materials did not arrive at the location on time. The reporter also said that most of the voters at the polling unit were young people, and that provision was made for PWDs. The report was focused on voting and inclusion.
- Stephen Odinaka, a journalist with Speed FM, reported on September 21 that INEC officials arrived early and that the accreditation of voters and actual voting were going on smoothly at the polling units he visited in Akoko Edo, Esako West and Esan Central local government areas. The report was focused on voter accreditation and other administrative issues.

Declaration of winners received 3.9% (6 instances) of the coverage.

- "INEC declare APC candidate as the winner of Edo state election," KU FM reported on September 22, focusing on the declaration of winners.
- Also, "INEC declares APC guber candidate, Monday Okpobholo, as winner of the 2024 Edo governorship election," Bridge FM reported on September 23.

The conduct of security personnel was the second most reported and discussed theme, receiving 13.5% (21 instances) of the coverage.

- The police are doing their job in Edo Central, a Kapital FM journalist reported on September 21, focusing on the conduct of security personnel.

- In a related instance, “Nigeria Police Force arrest two political thugs during raids,” Bridge FM reported on September 21.
- Also, “The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Mr Frank Mbah, has advised voters in Edo state to vote and go back to their houses,” Speed FM reported on September 21.

The conduct of voters received 12.3% (19 instances) of the coverage while the conduct of party agents accounted for 9.7% (15 instances) of the coverage.

- “The atmosphere is good, and voters are coming out,” Kapital FM reported as the polls opened on September 21, focusing on the conduct of voters.
- “INEC officials arrived polling units in Esan East early, but voter turnout was low. PDP party agents are also on ground to monitor the process,” KU FM reported on September 21, focusing on the conduct of voters and party agents.
- “Voting commenced at 10 am in Western Base polling units, with all party agents on ground to monitor the process,” KU FM also reported on election day.

The conduct of journalists/media workers accounted for 1.3% (2 instances) of the coverage, matching the percentage observed for the conduct of local observers. The conduct of foreign observers accounted for 0.6% (1 instance) of the coverage.

- “NBC national director Mrs Gloria Makinde has urged the media and journalists in Edo state to ensure professionalism in their reportage,” Speed FM reported on election day, focusing on the conduct of journalists/media workers.
- In another instance, KU FM’s in-studio journalists educated voters on election day, advising them on how to cast their votes and encouraging them to turn out *en mass* to exercise their franchise.

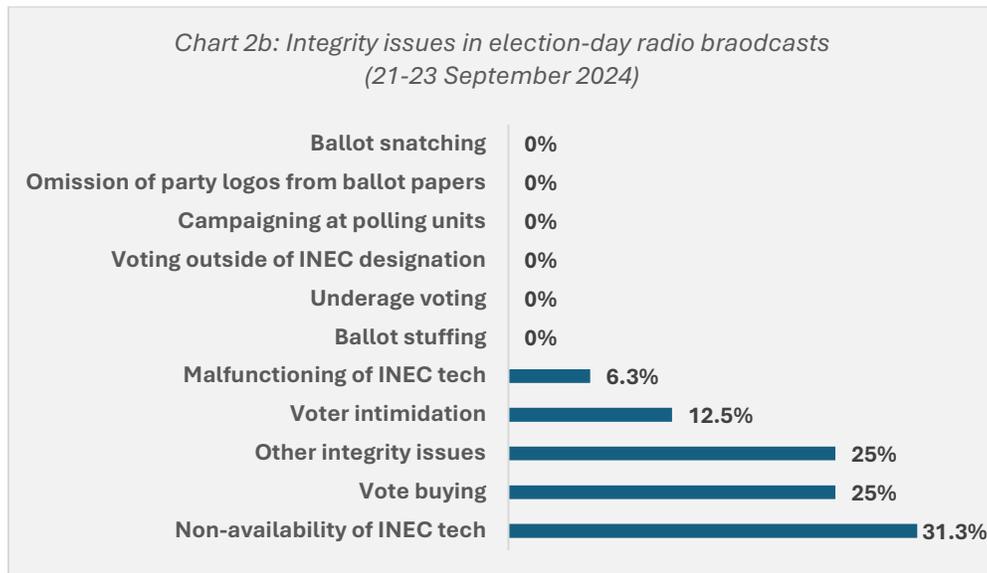
Whereas the inclusion of women received 3.9% (6 instances) of the coverage and the inclusion of persons living with disabilities (PWDs) received 1.9% (3 instances), the inclusion of youth was not featured.

- On September 21, KU FM broadcast the footage of a voter commending INEC for making adequate provisions for PWDs at the polling units. The broadcast was focused on the inclusion of PWDs.

- In another instance, “The voting process started at 9:44 am with special arrangements for PWDs and pregnant women,” KU FM reported on September 21.
- During the September 22 edition of Kapital FM programme ‘Edo Discussion,’ guests Mr Daniel and Mr Dre voiced their opinion on the inclusion of women in politics, saying that women should be encouraged to seek public office and supported during elections.

Other administrative issues received 3.2% (5 instances) of the coverage.

## Integrity issues



According to Chart 2b, the non-availability of INEC technology was the most reported and discussed integrity issue, accounting for 31.3% (5 in 16 instances) of the coverage. Malfunctioning of INEC technology received 6.3% (1 instance) of the attention.

- “PDP party agent from Ovia North East complained of no BVAS accreditation, overvoting,” KU FM reported on September 22, focusing on the non-availability of INEC technology.
- “Voting in Unit 5 Ward 2 in Estako local government area interrupted by BVAS issue,” KU FM also reported a day after the election, focusing on the malfunctioning of INEC technology.

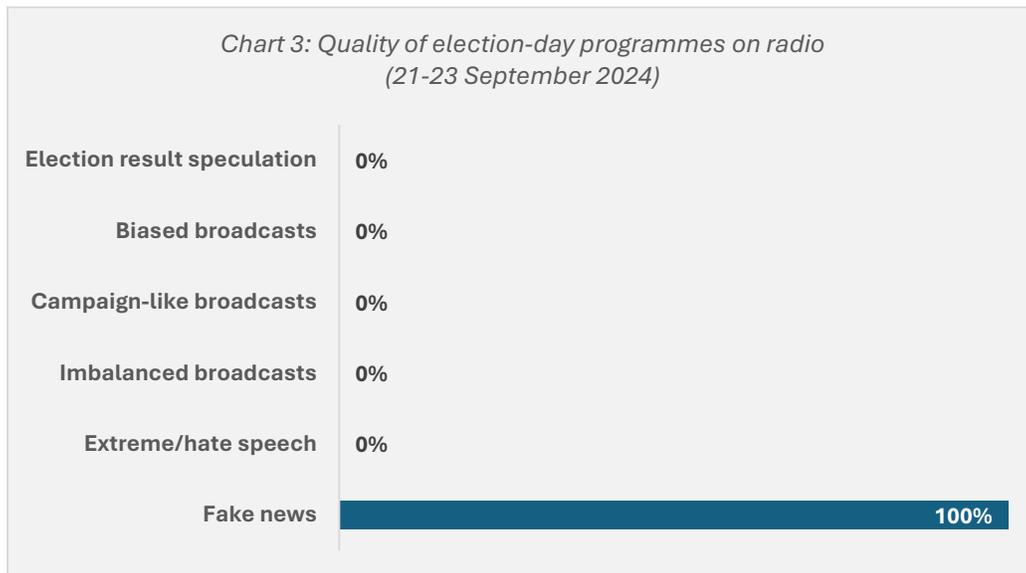
Whereas vote buying received 25% (4 instances) of the coverage, voter intimidation accounted for 12.5% (2 instances) of the coverage.

- During the September 21 edition of Kapital FM discussion programme ‘Election 2024,’ guest Mrs Arien spoke about the low voter turnout and decried reported instances of vote buying and selling in some polling units. She said that politicians weaponised poverty as a tool to corner the people’s votes. The discussion partly focused on vote buying as an election-related integrity issue.
- According to an election-day report by Kapital FM, PDP guber candidate Asue Ighodalo said that the arrest of a PDP member by an unidentified security operative led to the intimidation of PDP voters. The report presented an instance in which voter intimidation was featured on radio in the context of this section.

Other integrity issues received 25% (4 instances) of the attention. The other issues identified in the chart were not featured.

## QUALITY OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO

This section concerns the adherence of radio stations to high ethical standards bordering the avoidance of election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalanced broadcasts, campaign-like content and biased broadcasts.



The radio stations avoided most of the pitfalls identified in Chart 3. There was, however, one instance (100%) in which fake news was discussed but not propagated.

## SOURCES OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO

This section concerns the status of the actors that were used as sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.

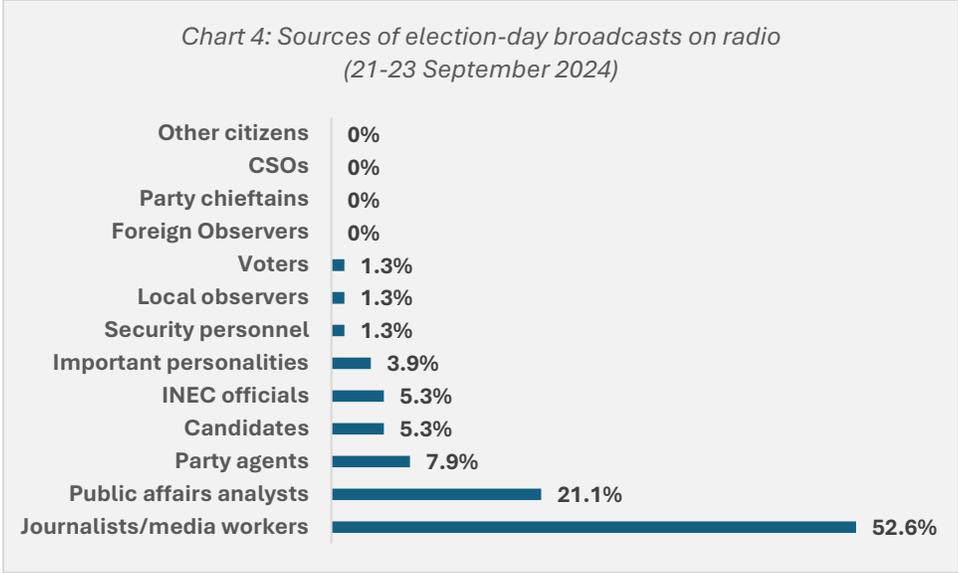


Chart 4 shows that journalists/media workers who reported live from various polling units and discussed election-related issues in-studio accounted for 52.6% (40 in 76 instances) of the sources analysed in this section.

Public affairs analysts and important personalities accounted for 21.1% (16 instances) and 3.9% (3 instances) of the sources respectively.

Whereas party agents received 7.9% (6 instances) of the attention, candidates accounted for 5.3% (4 instances) of the sources.

INEC officials and security personnel received 5.3% (4 instances) and 1.3% (1 instance) of the attention respectively.

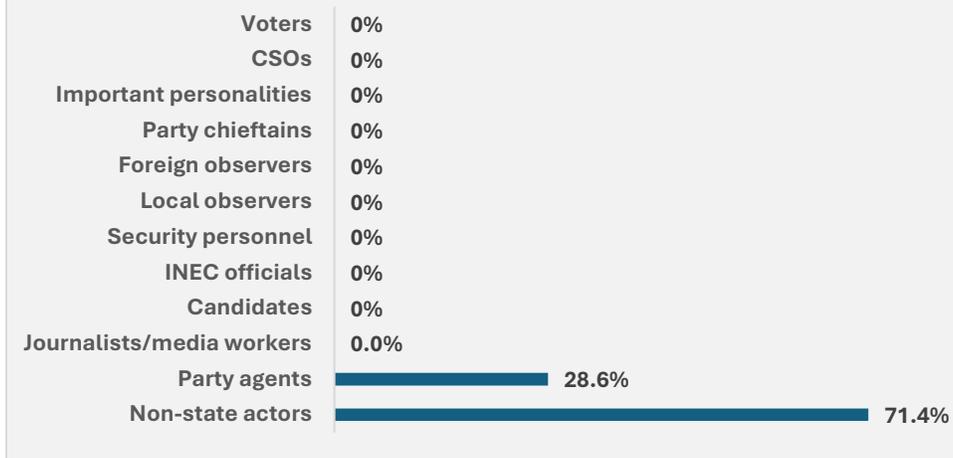
Voters and local observers each received 1.3% of the attention.

The other sources identified in the chart were not featured.

## **PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO**

This section concerns the status of the perpetrators of violence that were featured in the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations during the period in review.

Chart 5: Perpetrators of violence in election-day broadcasts on radio (21-23 September 2024)



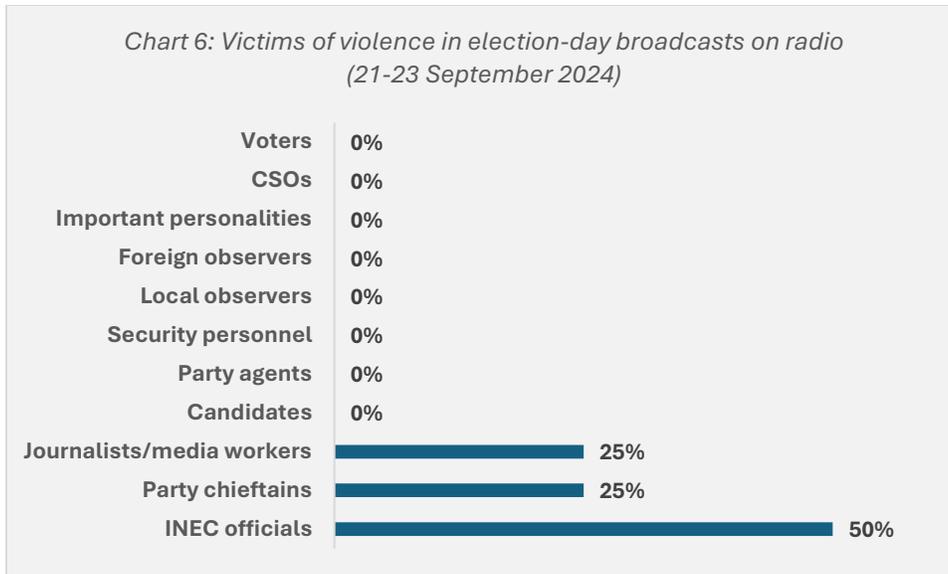
According to Chart 5, non-state actors were identified in 71.4% (5 in 7 instances) of the reports sampled for this section, while party agents were featured in 28.6% (2 instances) of the reports. The instances of violence concerned media reports, even if repeated, on the incidents, not specific election-day attacks.

- During the September 22 edition of Kapital FM programme 'Edo Election,' a guest identified as Mr Daniel spoke about the reported invasion of INEC collation centre by 'unknown gunmen,' blaming the security agency for failing to avert the incident. The discussion represented an instance in which non-state actors, that is, the gunmen, were identified as the perpetrators of an attack on election actors with everyone at the venue identified as victims.
- On September 22, Bridge FM reported INEC saying that one of its returning officers was threatened at a polling unit and another electoral official injured. The incidents were reportedly blamed on party agents.

The other potential perpetrators of violence of election-day attacks were not featured.

## **VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON RADIO**

This section concerns the status of the victims of violence that were featured in the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio stations.



According to Chart 6, INEC officials (50%; 2 in 4 instances) were the biggest victims of the election-day attacks reported on radio.

Party chieftains and journalists/media workers (25%; 1 instance each) were also reported to have fallen victim to election-day attacks.

The other potential victims of election-day attacks identified in the chart were not featured.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses of the radio coverage of the 2024 Edo off-cycle governorship election showed that most of the broadcasts were packaged as news reports (73%) with the rest taking the discussion and interview content formats.

The conduct of INEC officials (28.4%), security personnel (13.5%) and voters (12.3%) were the most reported administrative issues while the malfunctioning of INEC technology (31.3%), vote buying (25%) and voter intimidation (12.5%) were the most featured integrity issues.

Journalists/media workers (52.6%) and public affairs analysts (21.1%) were the most quoted actors, with INEC officials (5.3%), party agents (7.9%) and candidates (5.3%) also enjoying some attention.

Non-state actors (71.4%) and party agents (28.6%) were the perpetrators of violence featured in the radio broadcasts with INEC officials (50%), party chieftains (25%) and the media (25%) falling victim to election-day attacks.

The radio stations maintained high ethical standards with no instance of election result speculation, biased broadcasts and imbalanced broadcasts. The only instance of fake news recorded involved discussions around the theme but not its propagation.

# PART II

## CONTENT OF ELECTION-DAY PROGRAMMES ON TV

Election-day contents were monitored on selected television stations from 21-23 September 2024. The findings are presented in this section under the following main headings: programme types, thematic focus, quality of programmes, sources, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.

### PROGRAMME TYPES

A total of 348 stories were monitored on nine television stations during the period in review. The contents were grouped under news reports, discussions and interview programmes.

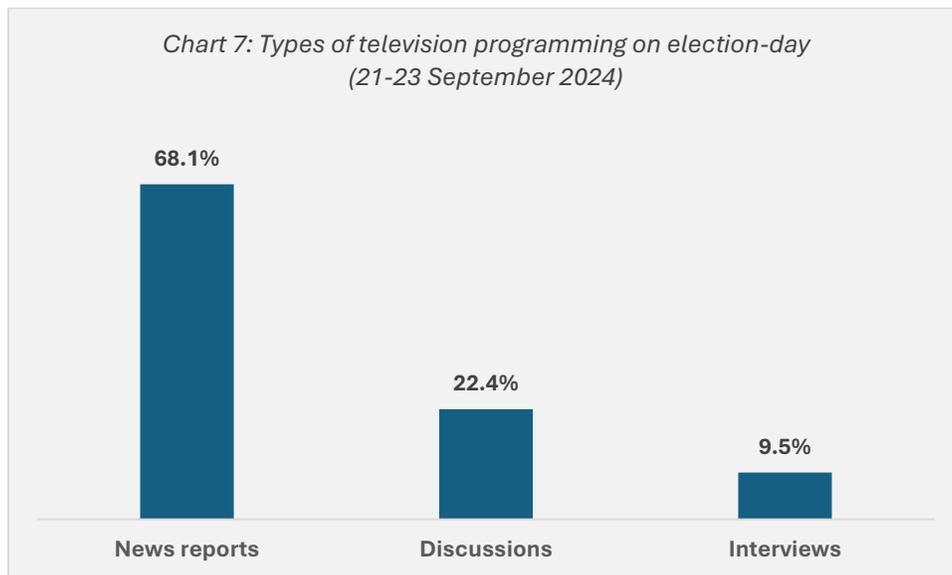
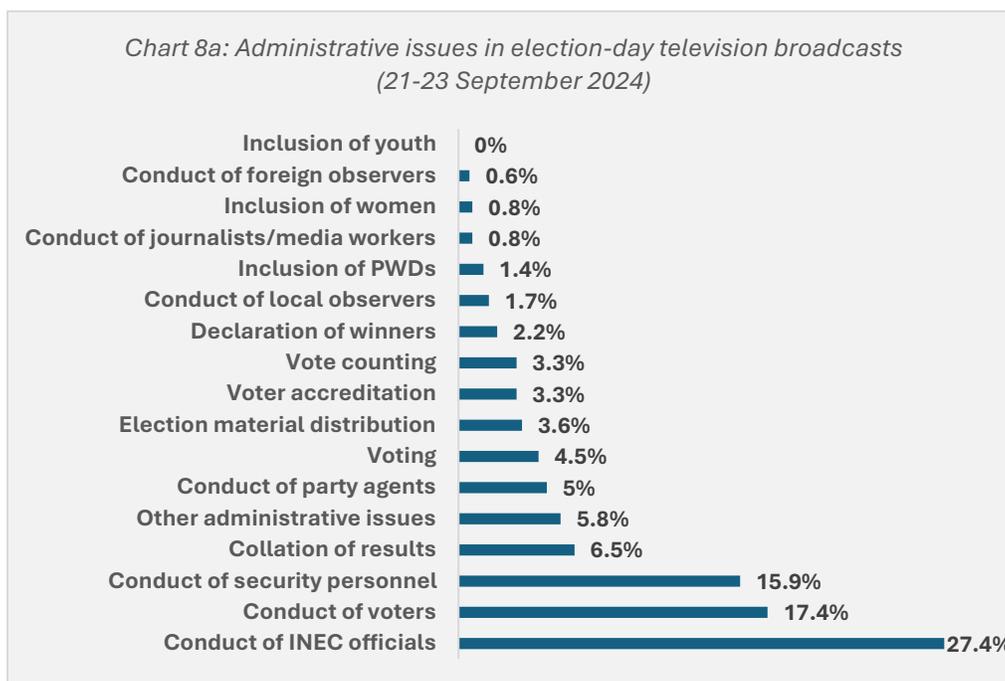


Chart 7 shows that 68.1% (237 in 348 programmes) of the television broadcasts were packaged as news reports, while 22.4% (78 programmes) and 9.5% (33 programmes) of the reports were respectively packaged as discussions and interviews.

### THEMATIC FOCUS

Thematic focus concerns the topics or issues that dominated the monitored television broadcasts. The topics are divided further into administrative issues and integrity issues. Administrative issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion while integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the electoral process.

## Administrative issues



According to Chart 8a, the conduct of INEC officials (27.4%; 176 in 643 instances) was the most discussed administrative issue on television, with the distribution of election materials receiving 3.6% (23 instances) of the coverage.

- During a September 21 interview on Arise TV programme 'Edo Decides 2024,' PDP candidate Asue Ighodalo commended INEC for being organised, excusing their reported delay in arriving at some polling units in the state. The interview presented an instance in which the conduct of INEC officials was discussed on television on election day.
- On September 21, an ITV reporter in Oredo interviewed voters who said that the election was peaceful and that more voters were expected to defy the heavy rains to exercise their franchise. The reporter also spoke with an INEC official in Oredo Ward 1 Unit 13 who said that the collation process had been concluded at the unit, adding that the process was seamless. Security personnel and party agents were also reported to have conducted themselves civilly and professionally. The report focused on the conduct of multiple stakeholders, including INEC officials, as identified in the chart.

- According to an election-day report by NTAi, INEC officials, despite heavy rains, arrived early to polling units in Edo Central. INEC, according to the report, “is doing a good job and voting materials arrived on time”.

The conduct of voters, the conduct of security personnel, the conduct of party agents and the conduct of journalists/media workers accounted for 17.4% (112 instances), 15.9% (102 instances), 5% (32 instances) and 0.8% (5 instances) of the coverage respectively.

- According to a September 21 report by ITV, a voter accused the security agencies of trying to arrest him, and his claim was corroborated by a woman who claimed to have witnessed the incident. The report was focused on the conduct of voters and security agencies.
- During his appearance on the September 21 edition of Arise TV programme ‘Edo Decides 2024,’ PDP candidate Asue Ighodalo claimed that the security agencies arrested some of his supporters who were waiting in line to be accredited. The interview presented an instance in which the conduct of security personnel was discussed on television during the period under review.
- An ITV correspondent identified as Efosa reported on September 21 that an elderly woman defied the rain to cast her vote at Ward 1 in Owa Northeast. The report was focused on the conduct of voters.
- APC members and agents interrupted journalists and barred them from speaking with their candidate Monday Okpebholo after he cast his vote, TVC News reported on September 21. The report was focused on the conduct of party agents.

The conduct of local observers received 1.7% of the coverage while the conduct of foreign observers accounted for 0.6% (4 instances) of the attention.

- During an election-day appearance on Arise TV programme ‘Edo Decides 2024,’ Centre for Democracy and Development researcher Dr Joseph Aire spoke about the conduct of INEC officials in the context of election logistics. He also spoke about the conduct of local and foreign election observers.
- In another instance, “Election observers commended the electoral umpire for remaining neutral during the process,” NTAi reported on September 21.
- Also, on September 21, an NTAi reporter identified as Anuri said that election observers “did a great job”.

Whereas collation of results and voting received 6.5% (42 instances) and 4.5% (29 instances) of the coverage respectively, voter accreditation and vote counting each received 3.3% (21 instances) of the attention. The declaration of winners accounted for 2.2% (14 instances) of the coverage.

- “INEC has declared APC candidate Monday Okphebolo as winner of Edo governorship election after collation and counting of the result by INEC officials in Benin City,” Liberty TV reported on September 23, focusing on the declaration of winners as an election administration theme.
- “INEC begins the collation of results of Saturday's governorship election in Edo state,” Liberty TV reported on September 22.
- In another instance focusing on the collation of results, “PDP chieftain accuses Edo INEC REC of manipulating election collation,” Channels TV reported on September 22.
- “PDP agent alleges that there was no BVAS accreditation in Ward 2 Unit 6 of Ovia Northeast, alleges overvoting in Ward 5 Unit 10,” Channels TV reported on September 22, focusing on voter accreditation.
- “Sorting and counting of votes begin,” AIT reported on September 22, focusing on the counting of votes.

While the inclusion of PWDs and the inclusion of women received 1.4% (9 instances) and 0.8% (5 instances) of the coverage respectively, the inclusion of youth was not featured.

- During a September 21 appearance on NTAi discussion programme ‘Edo Decides,’ an analyst noted that despite women’s enthusiasm, they were not being treated well and were often targeted as the soft spot for election-day violence. He also advocated for the inclusion of women in politics. The discussion presented an instance where women’s inclusion was featured on television.
- After casting her vote on September 21, an elderly woman told NTAi that the exercise was peaceful as people were allowed to vote the candidate of their choice. This was another instance of women’s inclusion as an election-day administrative theme.
- In a September 22 report, NTAi noted that “17 candidates are vying for the position of the governor in Edo state, with 16 men and a woman. However, only one winner will emerge.”

- During a September 21 appearance on Channels TV discussion programme ‘Sunrise Daily,’ TAF Africa election observer David Valentine said that PWDs were properly attended to at polling units in Egor LGA. The discussion was focused on the inclusion of PWDs.
- When TAF Africa CEO Jake Epelle was featured on the September 23 edition of AIT discussion programme ‘Edo Election 2024 Situation Room,’ he gave the election a grade of 40 to 45 per cent in terms of inclusion. Citing a lack of adequate provision for PWDs, Epelle said that the election was one of the worst he had seen.

Other administrative issues accounted for 5.8% (37 instances) of the coverage.

## Integrity issues

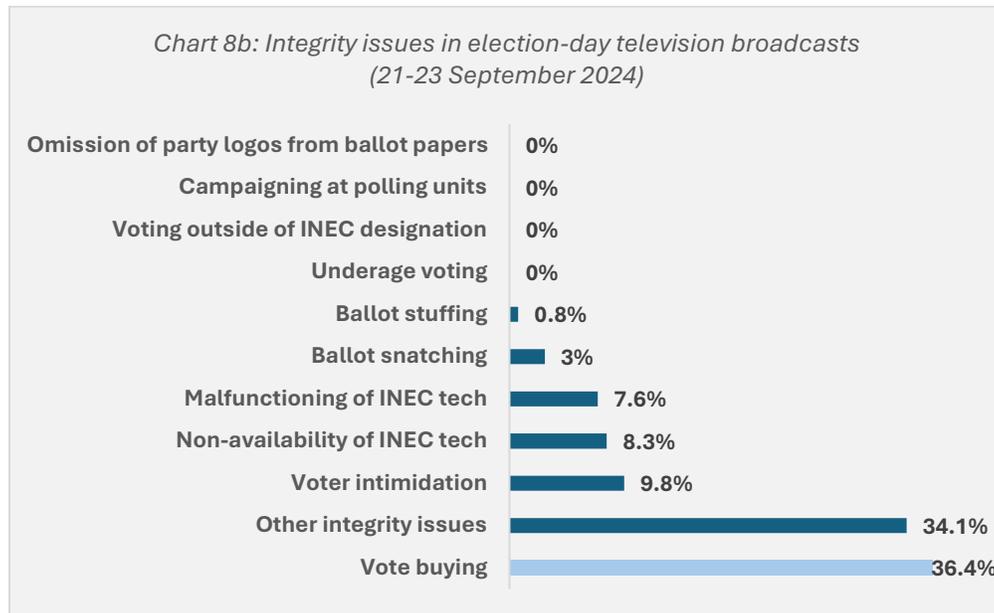


Chart 8b shows that vote buying (36.4%; 48 in 132 instances) was the most reported integrity issue on television during the electioneering period, with voter intimidation accounting for 9.8% (13 instances) of the reportage and discourse.

- During an appearance on the September 22 edition of Channels TV programme ‘Politics Today,’ Edo APC chairman Jaret Tenebe alleged that Edo INEC REC avoided Governor Godwin Obaseki of the PDP who reportedly went to the collation centre with a bag money to bribe the REC. The claim presented an instance in which vote buying was discussed on television as an election-day integrity issue. Channels TV, however, reported on the same day that “Governor Obaseki says he went to the collation centre because of reported cases of manipulative result collation and the prevention of PDP agents from collation centre.”

- During a September 22 report by Arise TV, security officials were urged to intervene as the major political parties, that is, APC and PDP, were “involved in vote buying”.
- “The election is relatively fair, but there are allegations of vote buying by APC and PDP,” Arise TV reported on September 22.
- Police spokesperson Muyiwa Adejobi said that “multiple people were arrested in multiple parts of Edo state for cash inducement, vote buying and political thuggery,” ITV reported on September 21, focusing on vote buying. “A fake journalist” was also arrested, and “they will all be prosecuted,” the report said.
- In a related instance, “Edo election: Police arrest nine suspects for vote buying, other offences,” STV reported on September 21.
- “Police DIG Frank Mba says there was no form of intimidation during the election,” Channels Television reported on September 23. This was despite several media reports of and discussions around voter intimidation.

Whereas the non-availability of INEC technology received 8.3% (11 instances) of coverage, the malfunctioning of INEC technology accounted for 7.6% (10 instances) of attention.

Ballot snatching and ballot stuffing received 3% (4 instances) and 0.8% (1 instance) of the coverage respectively.

- “Pockets of violence in Egor LGA as police arrest suspects for allegedly destroying ballot box,” ITV reported on September 21, focusing on ballot snatching.

Other integrity issues accounted for 34.1% (45 instances) of the coverage.

## **QUALITY OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION**

This section examines how television stations adhere to high ethical standards, particularly in avoiding election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalanced broadcasts, campaign-like content, and biased reporting.

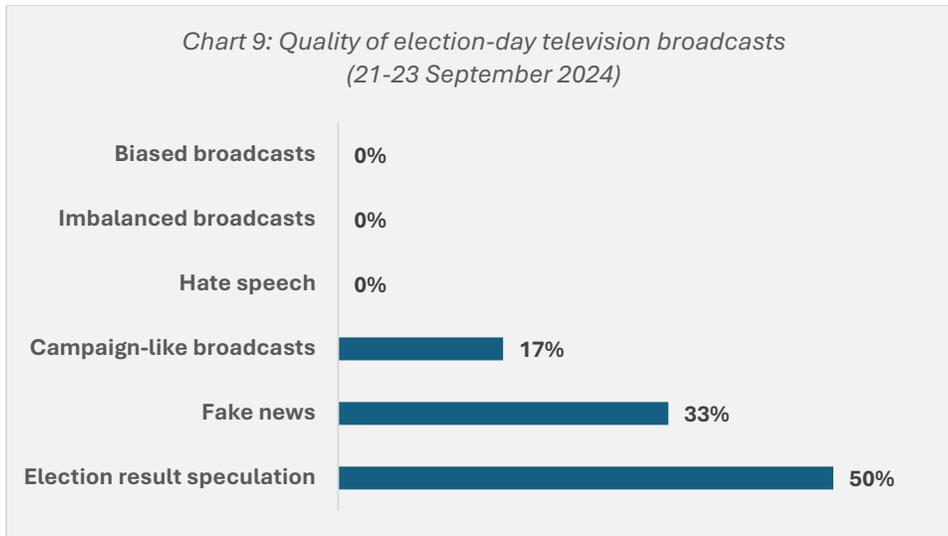


Chart 9 shows that 50% (3 in 6 instances) of applicable reports concerned election result speculation while 33% (2 instances) concerned fake news. Campaign-like broadcasts were featured 17% (1 instance) of the time. The television stations did not engage in these journalistic vices themselves but instead used their platforms to condemn them.

- For instance, on September 21, an ITV reporter spoke with an LP agent in Oredo local government area, specifically in Ward 12 Unit 3, who claimed that security agencies fired teargas following ‘a small argument’ in the area. The reporter also spoke to a voter who said that the claim was false. The voter, however, admitted that there was an argument between the security agencies and voters, adding that no one was teargassed. The report presented an instance in which fake news was featured on television on election day. The nature or purveyor of the misinformation could, however, not be immediately determined.
- During the September 22 edition of ITV programme ‘Edo Decides,’ guest analyst Barrister Emmanuel Obakpolor spoke about how certain actors use the online media to spread unofficial election results, calling the practice ‘a threat to our democracy’. This was an instance in which election result speculation was discussed on television.

## **SOURCES OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION**

This section concerns the status of the sources that were cited or quoted as content sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected television stations in this report.

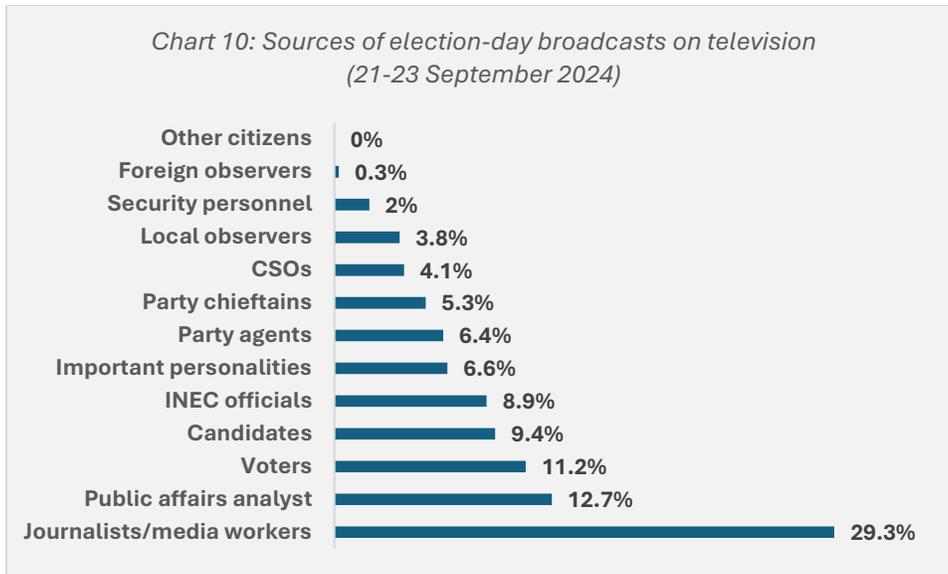


Chart 10 shows that journalists and other media workers, who reported live from various polling units and discussed election-related issues in-studio, represented 29.3% (115 in 398 instances) of the sources used in this section.

Public affairs analysts received 12.7% (50 instances) of the usage as sources while important personalities accounted for 6.6% (26 instances) of the sources.

Voters represented 11.2% (44 instances) of the sources while candidates and party agents accounted for 9.4% (37 instances) and 6.4% (25 instances) of the sources respectively. Party chieftains accounted for 5.3% (21 instances) of the sources.

INEC officials were used as sources 8.9% (35 instances) of the time while security personnel accounted for 2% (8 instances) of the sources.

Whereas CSOs accounted for 4.1% (16 instances) of the sources, local and foreign observers represented 3.8% (15 instances) and 0.3% (1 instance) of the sources respectively.

## **PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION**

This section concerns the status of the perpetrators of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected television stations in the context of this research.

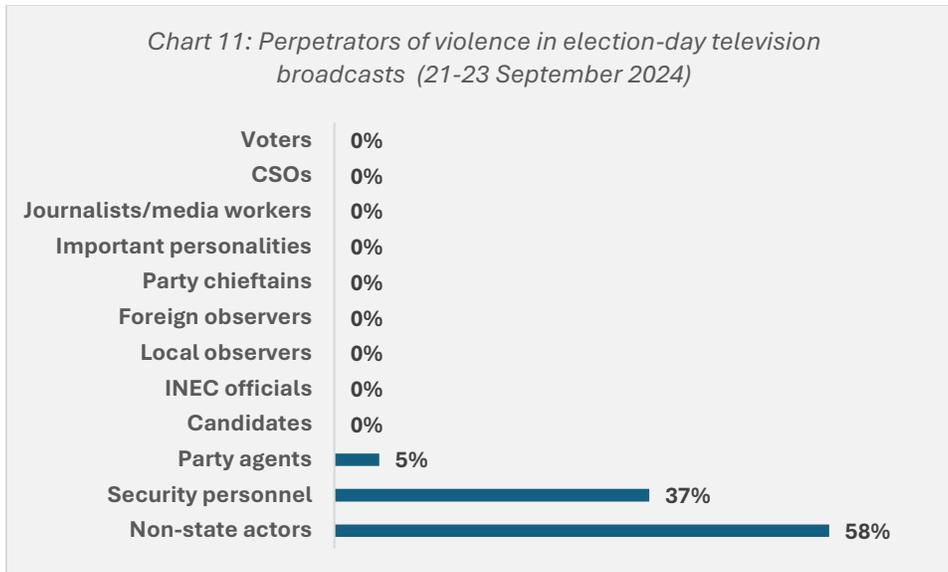


Chart 11 shows that most of the violence reported on election day was blamed on non-state actors who were featured in 58% (11 in 19 instances) of reports and discussions. Security personnel and party agents were the perpetrators identified in 37% (7 instances) and 5% (1 instance) of the election-related television content.

- During an appearance on Channels TV discussion programme ‘Sunrise Daily’, LP member Ralph Obasuege called the election ‘shambolic,’ adding that he was manhandled with no security personnel to avert the violence. He also alleged that LP agents were intimidated at the polling units. The discussion presented an instance in which election-day violence was featured on television, with a party agent falling victim. The violence was blamed on non-state actors.
- “Police arrest two political thugs, recover firearms in Akoko local government,” TVC News reported on September 21, with non-state actors being the perpetrators of violence identified in the television broadcast.
- STV reported on September 21 that there were “allegations of thugs trying to hijack the elections” and that there was an “assassination attempt” on Prince Odianosen Okojie, the husband of Nigerian movie star Mercy Johnson. The alleged violent plots were blamed on non-state actors.
- In another instance, “Political thugs attack voters at Edopolo Grammar School,” AIT reported on September 21.
- During an interview segment of the September 21 edition of Arise TV programme ‘Edo Decides 2024,’ Mr Lewis Ebudghe, a community leader in Ero, Esan Central, claimed

that some PDP members were kidnaped. The violence was blamed on non-state actors, with party agents identified as the victims.

- Commenting on the election, APC chieftain and former Edo governor Adams Oshiomhole, according to a September 21 report by AIT, said that he was not aware of any violent incident, advising anyone planning to perpetrate election-related attacks to desist from doing so.

## VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS ON TELEVISION

This section concerns the status of the victims of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected television stations.

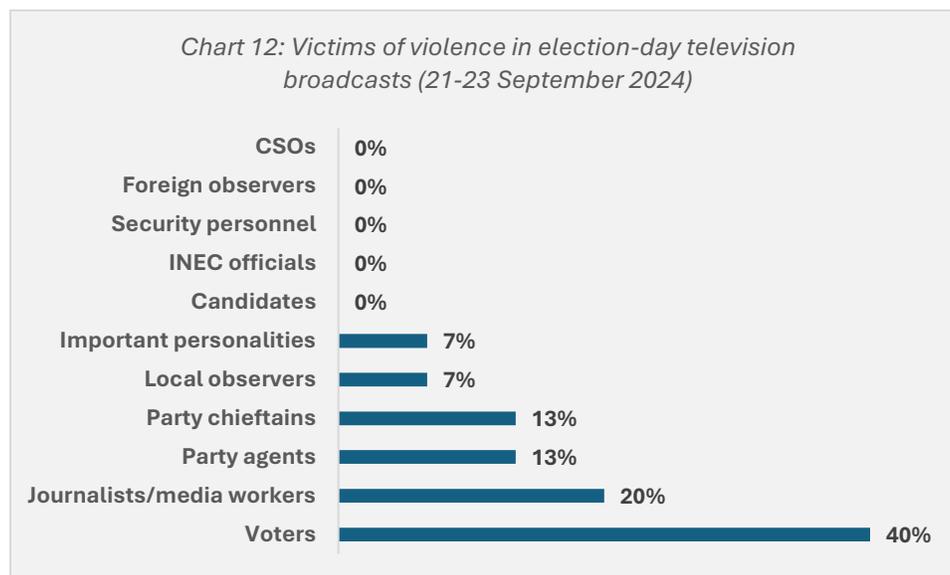


Chart 12 shows that voters were the primary victims of election-day attacks reported on television, appearing in 40% of the reports and discussions (6 out of 15 instances) Journalists/media workers (20%; 3 instances) were also reported to have been victims of election-day violence. So were party agents and party chieftains who were each featured in 13% (2 instances) of the reports.

Local observers and important personalities were each featured in 7% (1 instance) of the reports and discussions on election-day attacks.

The other potential victims of election-day attacks were not featured.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses in this section show that election-day television broadcasts were predominantly presented as news reports (68.1%), while the remainder followed the discussion and interview formats.

The conduct of INEC officials (27.4%), voters (17.4%) and security personnel (15.9%) were the most discussed administrative issues while vote buying (36.4%), voter intimidation (9.8%) and issues with INEC election technology (15.9%) were the most covered integrity issues.

Whereas journalists/media workers (29.3%), public affairs analysts (12.7%) and voters (11.2%) were the most quoted sources, security personnel (2%) and foreign observers (0.3%) were seldom featured. Candidates (9.4%), INEC officials (8.9%), important personalities (6.6%) and party representatives (11.7%) were moderately featured.

Non-state actors (58%), security personnel (37%) and party agents (5%) were the perpetrators of violence featured television reports, with voters (40%) and the media (20%) emerging as the biggest victims.

Election-day television programmes featured instances of election result speculation, fake news and campaign-like broadcasts.

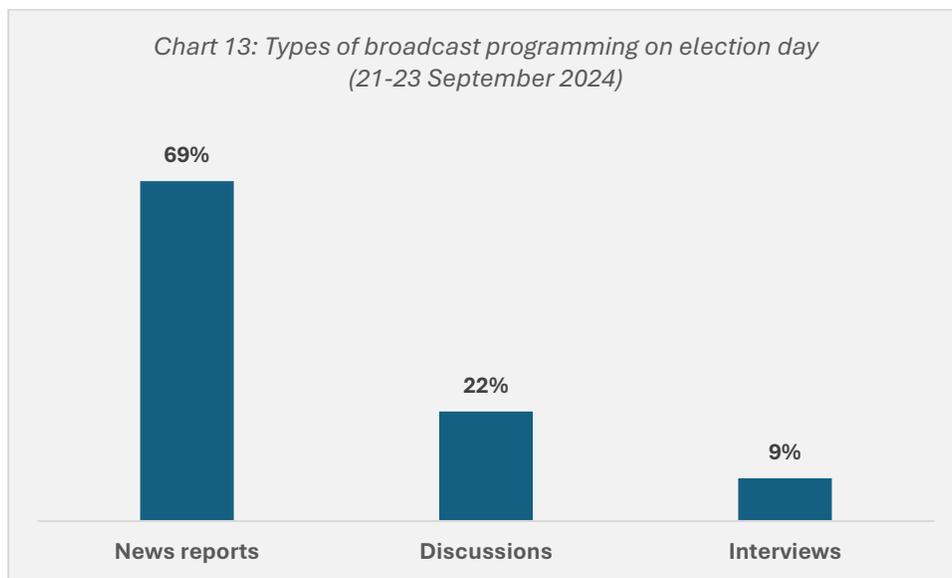
# PART III

## CONTENT OF ELECTION-DAY PROGRAMMES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

Election-day contents were monitored on selected radio and television stations from 21-23 September 2024. The findings are presented in this section under the following main headings: programme types, thematic focus, quality of programmes, sources, perpetrators of violence and victims of violence.

### PROGRAMME TYPES

A total of 427 stories were analysed across eight radio and eight television stations during the period in review. The contents were grouped under news reports, discussions and interview programmes.



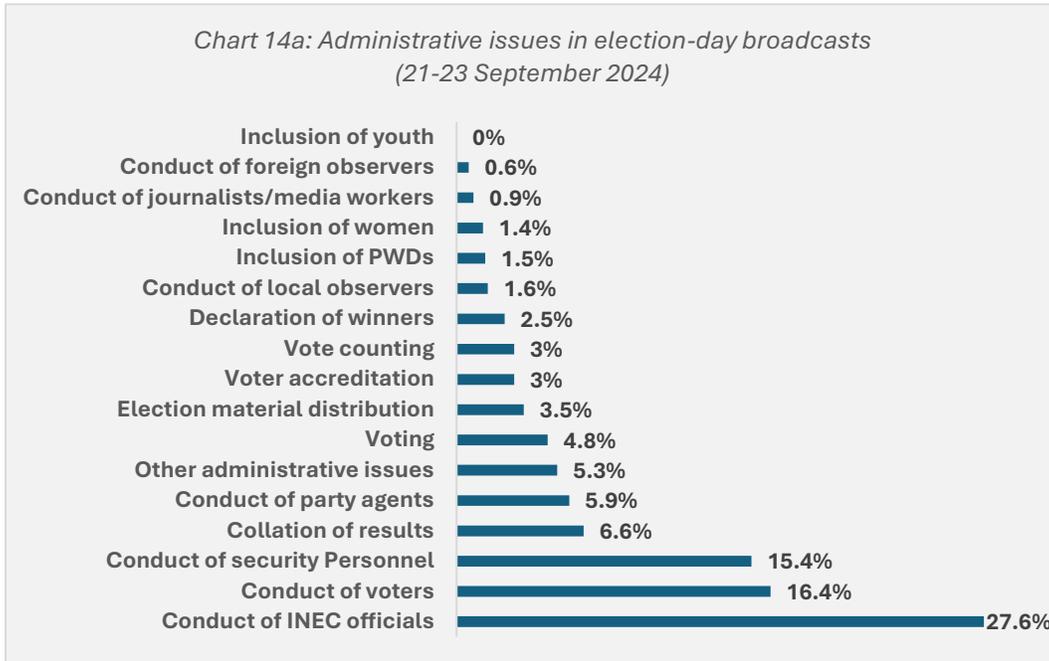
Out of the 427 contents analysed, 295 were news reports. As Chart 13 shows, these represented 69% of the programmes. The chart also indicates that 22% (95 stories) of these contents were discussion programmes while 9% (37 stories) of the contents were packaged as interviews.

### THEMATIC FOCUS

Thematic focus concerns the topics or issues that dominated the monitored broadcasts. The topics are divided further into administrative issues and integrity issues. Administrative

issues concern election governance, participation and inclusion while integrity issues refer to those capable of undermining the electoral process.

## Administrative issues



According to Chart 14a, the conduct of INEC officials (27.6%; 220 in 798 instances) was the most reported and discussed administrative issue on radio and television during the period under review, with the distribution of election materials receiving 3.5% (28 instances) of the coverage.

Whereas voting received 4.8% (38 instances) of the coverage, voter accreditation and vote counting each received 3% (24 instances) of the coverage. The declaration of winners was featured in 2.5% (20 instances) of the election-day broadcasts.

The conduct of voters received 16.4% (131 instances) of the coverage while the conduct of security personnel accounted for 15.4% (123 instances) of the attention.

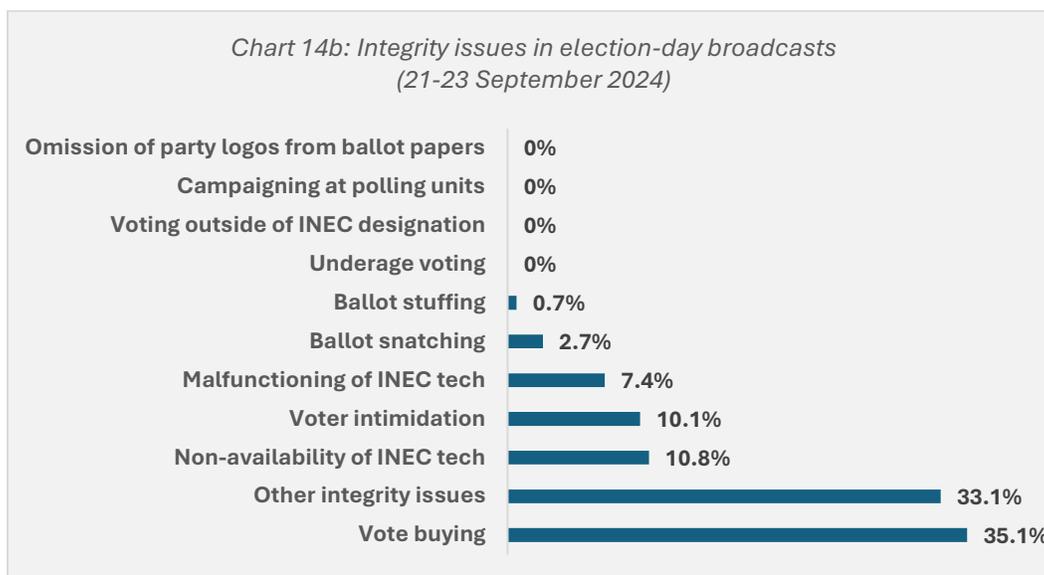
The conduct of party agents received 5.9% (47 instances) of the coverage while the conduct of local observers and the conduct of foreign observers accounted for 1.6% (13 instances) and 0.6% (5 instances) of the coverage respectively.

The conduct of journalists/media workers received 0.9% (7 instances) of the coverage.

Whereas the inclusion PWDs and the inclusion of women received 1.5% (12 instances) and 1.4% (11 instances) of the coverage respectively, the inclusion of youth was not featured.

Other administrative issues accounted for 5.3% (42 instances) of the coverage.

## Integrity issues



Vote buying, as shown in Chart 14b, was the most reported and discussed integrity issue, accounting for 35.1% (52 in 148 instances) of the coverage. Voter intimidation received 10.1% (15 instances) of the coverage while ballot snatching accounted for 2.7% (4 instances) of the coverage.

Non-availability of INEC technology and malfunctioning of INEC technology received 10.8% (16 instances) and 7.4% (11 instances) of the coverage respectively.

Whereas 2.7% (4 instances) of the reports and discussions were focused on ballot snatching, 0.7% (1 instance) of the contents were focused on ballot stuffing.

Other integrity issues received 33.1% (49 instances) of the coverage. The other issues identified in the chart were not featured.

## QUALITY OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section examines how radio and television stations adhere to high ethical standards, particularly in avoiding election result speculation, fake news, hate speech, imbalanced broadcasts, campaign-like content and biased reporting.

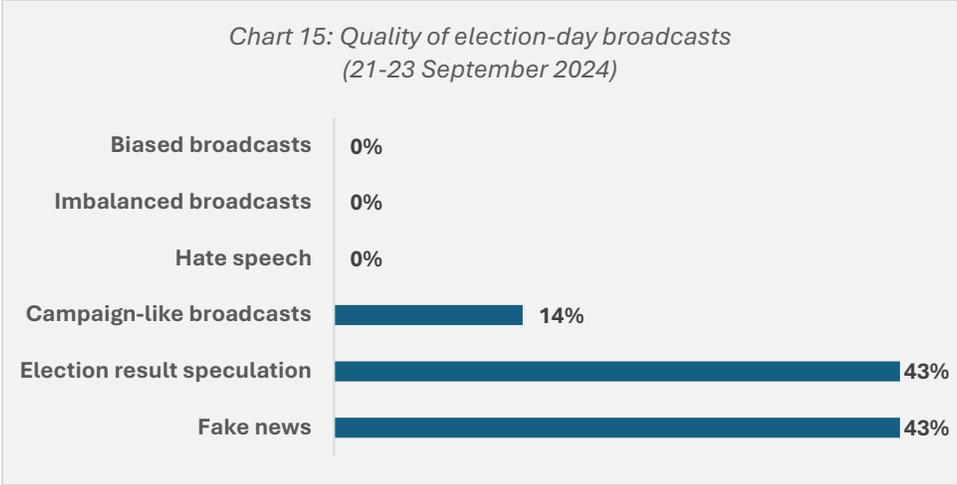
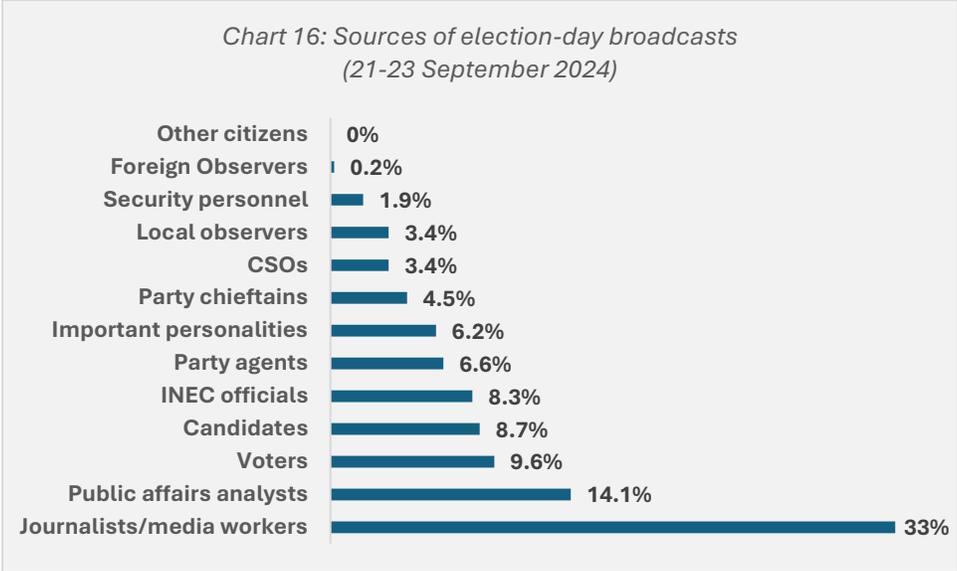


Chart 15 shows that 43% (3 in 7 instances) of applicable reports contained fake news, matching the percentage for election result speculation. The chart also shows that 30% (1 instance) of the reports contained campaign-like content.

## SOURCES OF ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section examines the status of the individuals used as content sources for the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio and television stations in the context of this research.



Journalists/media, as shown in Chart 16, received the most attention in this category as they accounted for 33% (155 in 469 instances) of the sources. Public affairs analysts received 14.1% (66 instances) of the sources.

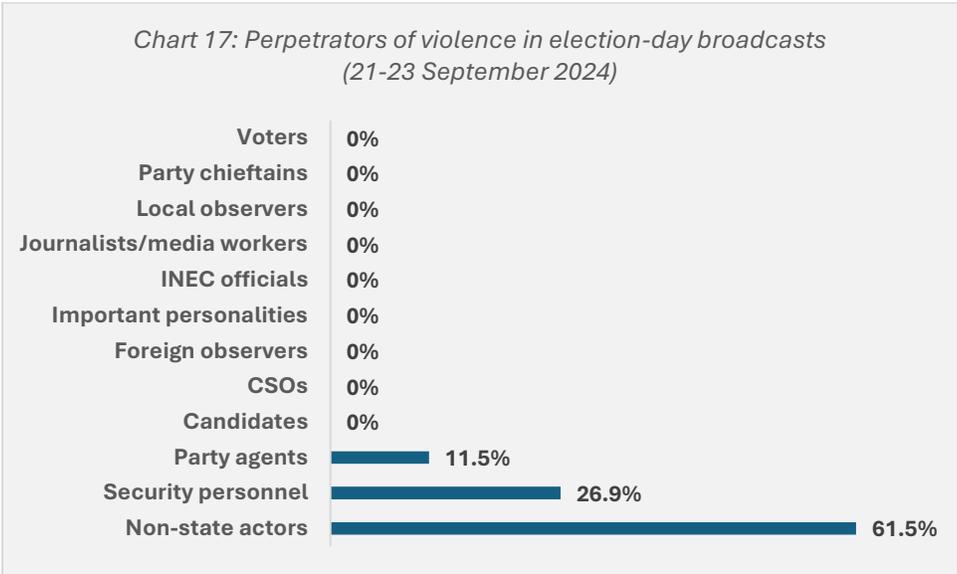
Whereas voters and important personalities accounted for 9.6% (45 instances) and 6.2% (29 instances) of the sources, INEC officials and security personnel represented 8.3% (39 instances) and 1.9% (9 instances) of the sources respectively.

CSOs and local observers each accounted for 3.4% (16 instances) of the sources while foreign observers represented 0.2% (1 instance) of the sources.

Candidates, party agents and party chieftains accounted for 8.7% (41 instances), 6.6% (31 instances) and 4.5% (21 instances) of the sources respectively.

## PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section concerns the status of the perpetrators of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio and television stations in the context of this research.



According to Chart 17, non-state actors (61.5%; 16 in 26 instances), security personnel (26.9%; 7 instances) and party agents (11.5%; 3 instances) were the perpetrators of violence featured in the election-day broadcasts.

## VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FEATURED IN ELECTION-DAY BROADCASTS

This section concerns the status of the victims of violence that were featured on the analysed election-day broadcasts on the selected radio and television stations during the period in review.

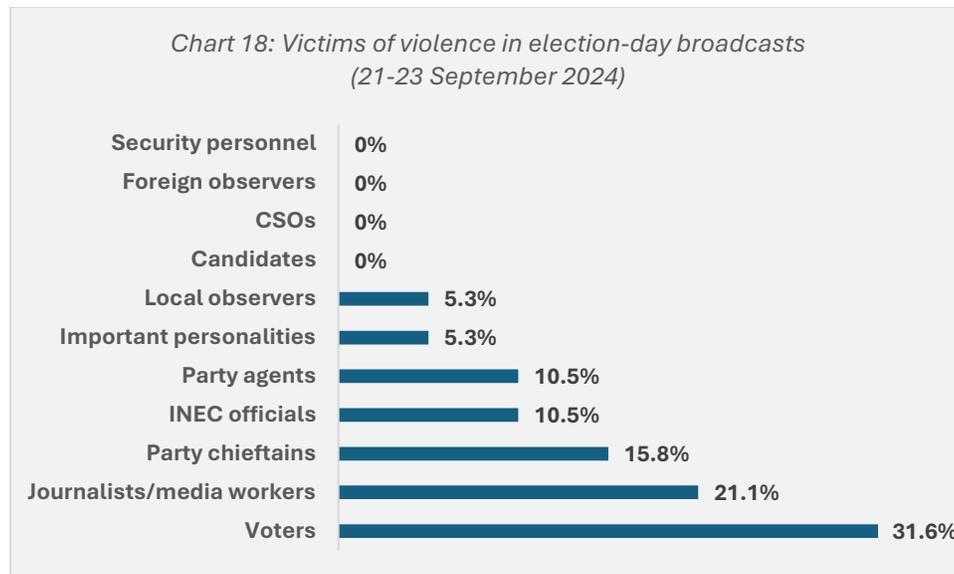


Chart 18 shows that voters were the biggest victims of the election-day attacks reported and discussed on radio and television, as they appeared in six instances, representing 31.6% of the 19 sampled contents. Journalists/media workers were the victims in 21.1% (4 instances) of the contents.

Whereas INEC officials and party agents were each featured in 10.5% (2 instances) of the contents, important personalities and local observers were each in 5.3% (1 instance).

The other potential victims identified in the chart were not featured.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

As the analyses in this section indicate, election-day broadcasts were predominantly packaged as news reports (69%), while the remainder followed the discussion (22%) and interview (9%) formats.

The conduct of INEC officials (27.6%), voters (16.4%) and security personnel (15.4%) were the most covered administrative issues while vote buying (35.1%), voter intimidation (10.1%) and challenges with INEC technology (18.2%) were the most reported and discussed integrity issues.

Journalists/media workers (33%), public affairs analysts (14.1%), voters (9.6%), candidates (8.7%) and INEC officials (8.3%) received more usage as the sources of election-day broadcasts than the other actors in their category combined.

Election-day attacks were blamed on non-state actors (61.5%), security personnel (26.9%) and party agents (11.5%), with voters (31.6%) and the media (21.1%) emerging as the biggest victims.

Instances of fake news, election result speculation and campaign-like broadcasts were observed.

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