

Digital Electioneering In COVID-19 Era: Stakeholders Canvass Non-violent Election in Edo, Ondo 2020



The need to reduce the risk of electoral violence in the coming elections in Edo and Ondo states following the ongoing campaign and mobilization in the social media space due to COVID-19 restrictions, engaged the attention of stakeholders at a webinar organized by CLEEN Foundation on July 30, 2020.

CLEEN Foundation, a European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria project, EU-SDGN, implementing partner, said, there was need to sensitize stakeholders on non-violent campaign on social media, because the mobilization, “on the uncensored digital space (is) leading to increase in character assassination and inflammatory comments.”

“This situation is strengthening existing drivers of electoral violence like religion, ethnicity, class, gender, political ideology and sexual orientation. This is so because many social media active politicians, especially grassroots campaigners, are unfamiliar with the relevant political communication skills for conducting peaceful digital electioneering without driving electoral violence that could lead to ruthless subversion of Nigeria’s nascent democracy,” the body said.

The event attracted facilitators, namely, Mohammed Kuna, Professor of Politics and Society, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Nigeria and special adviser to the INEC chairman, Prof Mahmud Yakubu, Dr Sharon Omotoso, Coordinator at Women’s Research and Documentation Center, Lagos and Ms. Cynthia Mbamalu, of YIAGA Africa.

In her opening remarks, Assistant Programme Manager of Public Safety and Security, Chigozirim Odinkalu – Okoro, said political insecurity was trending in Edo state for example, because politicians see violence as a way to get to power and urged facilitators to avail participants of their experience in the following areas: *Trend and Patterns of Electoral Violence in Edo and Ondo states; Preventing and Managing Election Violence Using Digital Forum; Dos and Don’ts in the Use of Digital Platforms and Global Best Practices in Digital Communication and Branding.*

In his keynote address, Professor Kuna said that though social media is very important as a platform to organize and reach out to people with information, almost at the finger tips, “it has conversely created avenues for hate speech, campaigns of calumny,” adding, “we need to look at the ways these polar opposites in the use of social media is being deployed in the days ahead.”

He argued that COVID-19 pandemic imposed

restrictions have curtailed traditional forms of mobilization including the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC, in its capacity to push regulations on campaign but wondered if political mobilization “as we know it would be displaced by WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube.”

He however concluded by saying; “Generally what we have seen in other parts of the world such as in the USA, Israel, India where mass gathering during social mobilization still take place, we cannot dismiss traditional forms of mobilization yet.”

In her contribution, Mbamalu, who dwelt on preventing and managing election violence using social media and dos and don’ts in the use of digital space, drew on her experiences on election monitoring and data on past elections. .

According to her, 580 cases on arms stockpiling was recorded during the 2019 presidential election in the country, while 125 such critical incidents, which is about a quarter of what happened during the presidential poll, took place in the November 18, 2019 governorship poll in Bayelsa state and in Kogi state, where recruitment of thugs was prevalent.

“These forms of violence have spilled into political conversation on WhatsApp where there are really no views being expressed.” she said.

On the dos and don’ts, she said COVID-19 restrictions had increased hunger in the land and opened the electorate to influence of politicians of rival political parties in Edo and Ondo states. The ongoing “battle for and against god-fatherism in the Edo state,” she added, is also, “informing participation and conversation of young persons on social media. For most of the youths in the state, the conversation is on personality and not issues, particularly with the dominance of two major political parties, a trend set in the 2016 governorship with the same major players.”

She said the trend in media reportage in both state shows a lot more focus on party members who are aggrieved and have defected to rival parties as well as on identity than on issues, both of which are influencing youths in their ongoing conversations on social media. Facebook and WhatsApp, according to her, are very popular in

Edo and Ondo states, “thought traditional media, like radio, is still there as well.”

She called on stakeholders to collaborate in the areas of information and law enforcement to identify and track violence as well as enforce COVID-19 protocols, which has negatively impacted electioneering to the extent that voter education has not be sufficiently done even by INEC whose regulation on ‘no facemask no voting,’ “ can be a source of violence on election day because voters may only get to know about the regulation on voting day.”

In looking at the topic, digital electioneering and best global practices, Kuna listed four areas of interest. Firstly, he said it should be realized that though the impact of social media is still low in the country, it is gradually taking the place of traditional media as main platform for communication. Secondly, political communication is one aspect that is gradually getting traction as a means to mobilize voters and with time, as currently happens in the developed world, it would be used to engage voters and tailor messages that meet their needs. Thirdly, is what he called logical targeting whereby data from research would be used to target particular community or interest with a bid to capturing their vote.

He said; “this means that once contest are data driven, historical analyses are used to understand trends on voters and voting and messages are targeted at identified and segmented electorate, there would be no hate speeches. As COVID-19 restrictions make parties move from using traditional forms of mobilization to online, regulations on broadcast of political campaign would be have to be implemented. These can be done easily with traditional means of campaign. But with the movement to online, it may be difficult to monitor infractions, so regulatory bodies like the INEC and NBC would have to be on the watch out for the kind of messages that may escape regulation.”

In the same vein, Dr Omotoso urged social media influencers to be wary of sharing information or opinions because many followers believe what they say without questioning. She said while it may be hard to locate branding, people should look out for what is verifiable.

NUJ Condemns Attack on Journalist By Governors' Security Officers

The Ondo State council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, has condemned the attack on the reporter with The Nation newspaper, Osagie Otabor, by security details attached to the Kogi State Governor Yahaya Bello in Akure penultimate week.

Apart from condemnation, NUJ also demanded investigation and punishment for the culprits and the payment of compensation to Otabor for his medical expenditure as a result of the attack by the governor's security aides.

A media NGO, The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) has also joined in condemning the attack on journalist Otabor.

It was reported earlier that on July 20, 2020, Otabor, went to the International Culture and Event Centre in Akure to cover the on-going primary elections. On arrival, he spotted Governor Yahaya Bello at the centre, and decided to approach him for an interview, only to be denied entry.

When he tried to reason with the security guards, they flared up and subjected him to severe beating.

"I've already introduced myself as a journalist but they wouldn't listen to me and before I knew it, they began to beat me. I was thrown up and slammed on the concrete floor as if I am a criminal by the officers," Otabor recounted his ordeal.

It was also reported that both the Kogi State and Ondo State Commissioners for Information as well as top security personnel at the venue apologized to Otabor.

"Media coverage form part of a credible and transparent election process. Therefore, parties and security agents must ensure that journalists are protected while playing their role as mandated by the constitution. It is unacceptable that security personnel resort to violence and brutalities on journalists performing their legitimate duties," said, The Media Foundation for West Africa, which called on the authorities to take disciplinary measures against the police officers involved and urged security agencies to educate their officers on the essential role of journalists and to ensure the safety of journalists.

PUNCH Reporter Attacked by Neighbourhood Watch Officer in Ebonyi

Mr. Edward Nnachi, a reporter with the PUNCH Newspapers in Ebonyi State, was on Thursday attacked by a suspected official of the Neighbourhood Security Watch.

The reporter had after his daily news gathering activities last Thursday went to the Government House for some enquiries when the suspect accosted him.

He followed the reporter to the Udensi Roundabout, where he was to board a tricycle home.

On boarding the tricycle, the official blocked the way and ordered the reporter to alight and follow him or face his anger.

Nnachi asked that he identify himself and who sent him. While refusing to disclose his name, he claimed to be working for the Neighbourhood Security Watch.

An argument ensued between them from 6.30pm till 7.30pm, when the suspect eventually claimed that the Commissioner for Internal Security and Border Peace, Stanley Emegha, directed him to bring the reporter to his office in the Government House.

At this point, Nnachi accepted to follow him to the commissioner's office, while also calling the state Police

Public Relations Officer, DSP Loveth Odah, on the phone.

The suspect, who appeared to be in a hurry, however, started dragging the reporter to the Government House, while intermittently talking to an unknown person on the phone.

He said, "I am with him now. We are at Udensi Roundabout now. Drive the open Hilux van to Udensi Roundabout now."

It took the intervention of some policemen on patrol, who arrived at the scene, to save the journalist.

While being queried by the cops, he affirmed that he worked for the Ebonyi State Neighbourhood Security Watch and that he was under instruction to bring the reporter to the Government House.

Asked to tender an ID card, he said he lost it many months ago; he also refused to disclose his name to the policemen.

The officers then threw him into the van. The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Youth Mobilisation and President, Akubaraoha Youth Assembly, Mr Mark Onu, later intervened and Nnachi was released.

This reporter said he has been under pressure from some appointees of the state government over a report he did on Ezzagu community, in the Ishielu Local Government Area of the state, where he brought to public knowledge the plights of the people of the area.

The Commissioner for Internal Security and Border Peace, Emegha, denied asking anyone to bring the reporter.

According to him, the state Governor, Dave Umahi, loves the media and has a good working relationship with journalists in the state, wondering why anyone will use his office to lie.

"I can never harass or attack any journalist in the state and beyond, because journalists play important roles in the society and in this state, Governor Dave Umahi holds journalists in high esteem and nobody can undermine them," he said.

#RevolutionNow: Court Fixes August 10 For Ruling On Trial Of Journalists

Chief Magistrates Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State and presided over by Mrs. Rita Marshall, has fixed August 10, 2020 to rule on the no case to answer submission filed by the defendants in case number MC/428C/19.

The defendants, Jonathan Ugbal and Jeremiah Archibong, are the News Editor and Managing Editor of CrossRiverWatch, an online newspaper based in Cross River State.

They were arrested on August 5, 2020 and after spending two nights in detention, three counts charges bordering on conspiracy, unlawful assembly and conduct causing breach of public peace were preferred against them when they were arraigned on August 7, 2020.

Mr Jonathan is said to have arrived the venue for the #RevolutionNow protest in

the morning of August 5, 2019 on his way to work to report it but was arrested by the Anti-Cultism and Kidnapping Squad, who claimed he had knowledge of the protest beforehand and therefore was part of the planning.

Mr Archibong and Nicholas Kalu, a correspondent with The Nation newspapers, visited the unit to inquire why he was arrested and were both detained.

However, Mr Kalu was released shortly before midnight.

After several adjournments, the arresting police officer, DSP Igini Chukwuma, and the investigating police officer, Sergeant Aaron Adie, testified before the court.

Chukwuma told the court that he was ordered to arrest anyone, who approached the venue and having seen Jonathan he decided to "take him in".

He said he was later ordered to transfer him to the State Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Department, which he did and had no knowledge of the investigations after that.

Sergeant Adie in his testimony denied knowledge of the fact the duo were journalists and could not explain why only two out of the three were charged in court.

Also, he said he neither knew the source of livelihood of the duo nor their addresses. Counsel to the defendants, Kehole Enya, proceeded to file a no case to answer submission, which was adopted on Wednesday.

He prayed the court to acquit and discharge the duo as the police had failed to prove their case.

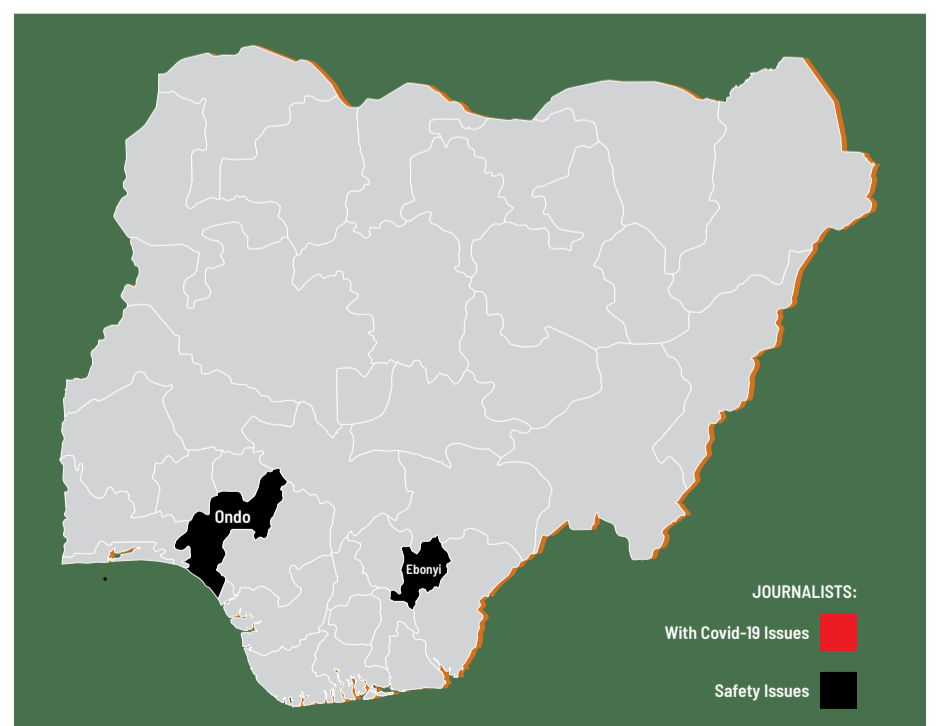
Nigerian UK-based Blogger Arraigned

The Police have arraigned a UK-based blogger, Saidi Shittu, before the Lagos State Magistrates' Court, Igboere, on a two-count charge of threat to life.

The charge preferred against Shittu by the police bordered on the alleged threat to the life of Alhaji Olanrewaju Hameed Al-Fulaney.

The police said the action is an offence punishable under section 56 of the criminal law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015.

However, the defendant who resides in Belfast United Kingdom, but is currently in Lagos, pleaded not guilty to the charge and he was granted bail by the court. Further hearing in the case has been adjourned till August 26.



NBC's Sixth Code and Threat to Business

The 6th code for broadcasting in Nigeria as instituted by the National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, is still generating intense debates and comments from stakeholders in the broadcast industry.

According to Mr. Raheem Akingbolu, of Thisday Newspaper and some stakeholders in the advertising industry, there is general uncertainty if the development will not further erode the value of advertising and entertainment businesses. The President, Association of Advertising Agencies of Nigeria (AAAN), Mr. Steve Babaeko; a former chairman of APCON, Mr. Lolu Akinwumi and Dr. Tunde Akanni, a development communications scholar and journalism teacher at Lagos State University in their appraisal say something is wrong somewhere about the amendments.

Akingbolu said that since over a decade ago when the news about the overlapping functions between the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) broke out, there hasn't been any issue that has been so controversial as the ongoing debate about the amendment to the sixth code for broadcasting, which again tends to have subsumed some of the APCON's regulatory roles.

The thorny aspects of the amendments, according to him, are; to create restrictions for monopolistic behavior in the broadcast industry and increase advertising revenue for broadcast stations and content producers. The code also establishes codes of practice relating to content acquisition, sharing of content rights for rebroadcasting and technical standards for media services; and for the regulation standards of fair market.

He said; "Its noble objectives notwithstanding, the sixth code appears to have exposed the ineptitude of its promoters because many analysts believe it was shoddily handled. In some quarters, it was also concluded that NBC had either overreached itself or the people who drafted the code were not acquainted with the existing laws guiding some of these areas." Though almost all the entire content was condemned, three areas have generated the hottest debate, he said. These are the prohibition of exclusive licensing and sports right, another case of overlapping functions and unpaid advertising rates.

Prohibition of Exclusive Licensing and Sports Right

Akingbolu said that the area that touches on acquisition of sports rights in the amended NBC Code, has continued to generate furor. "For instance, in the commission's bid to ensure fair and effective competition on all platforms at an agreed fee, rights owners to live foreign sporting events are mandatorily required to offer the rights to broadcasters on other platforms."

Also, in Section 02.2.7 with anti-competitive objectives declaration, the code says "...effective competition in broadcast industry in Nigeria, or in the absence of a competitive market." Maybe an oversight, NBC hasn't at any forum or through the amended code make any determination whether there is an absence of a competitive market or whether there in indeed any market failure or risk to consumers.

But if the amended code has its way, he argued, broadcasters or licensees would be prohibited from entering into any form of agreement, concerted practices or taking any decision, which has the objective of preventing competition in the broadcasting industry. With it, exclusive broadcasting that would exclude persons, broadcasters or licensees in Nigeria from sub-licensing same may be a thing of the past.

Akaani, the don said the code's stand against exclusive licensing and sports rights was also against global best

practice. He stated further that if the commission had done its homework very well, perhaps those who drafted the amendment would have discovered it might not fly.

He said; "In one of my published works after the new code was unveiled, I predicted the impracticability of the new proposal. Aside the fact that it looks away from the reality of the global best practices, it's alarming that NBC has moved deliberately against the tide of reality in the creative world. To me, with the new code, NBC appears to be dampening Nigeria's huge promise and playing out the "happiest moment as saddest encounter.

"How? NBC now wants to protect exclusivity of content broadcasting. In its recent amendment contained in the new code, the commission insists rights holders, after daring investment risks, must sub-license to other broadcasters, the contents they should have exclusive rights to. NBC argues that the amendment was imperative to boost local content production and make broadcast sector a better level-playing field. How illogical! NBC hardly seeks the perception of the players before coming to this conclusion.

"If fighting 'monopoly' in the mold of NBC conceives were to be deemed foolproof, the experience of the defunct Toyin Subair-led HiTV is enough a warner. At a time in the recent past, HiTV held the exclusive rights to the indomitable English Premier League. It never shared it with other broadcasters, but it's all history today. The lesson: holding exclusive rights to premium content constitutes only a component of broadcasting," said the university don.

Besides, given that the NBC has licensed several other DTH operators and pay-tv services, who operate in the same market, with some of them holding exclusive rights to some premium contents and the fact that none of them at this time has reported to the commission any allegation of unfair market conduct or anti-competitive conduct, many observers have argued that many things are not adding up in this section.

To this end, the issue has thrown up more questions than answer on the regulatory competency of the NBC as it is believed to have failed the first rule of good regulation; which is to define adequately what it aims to regulate. What problems does it aim to resolve, and to what extent/magnitude of a problem is this to the industry requiring a new rule change?

Another Case of Overlapping Functions

For advertising practitioners, especially those who are familiar with APCON's modus operandi, Sections 7.8 -7.9 of the sixth code is being considered an aberration on the part of the NBC. Some analysts, who reviewed the code, have concluded that these rules however well intentioned are outside of the remit of NBC, especially in drafting them without broad stakeholders' input.

"This should be APCON's role or at best in conjunction with the council. But for a broadcast regulator to deploy such emotive prescriptive language in a regulation of enterprise, which though impacts its licensee is outside its remit is another evidence of overreach and misconception of what NBC is, and should be doing, in an evolving digital media marketplace," an analysts had stated.

Again, the clause in Section 7.8.2 shows the apparent level of misconception. On face value, it reads and sounds very nationalistic, but the unintended consequences are vast. Consider the possibilities that Nigerian content – tv shows,

music videos and the rest now received similar treatment in other African and indeed Asian markets.

The question many stakeholders are asking is whether Nigeria would maintain its place as a global content player.

Unpaid Advertising Rates

Of all the areas treated in the amended code, the section on unpaid advertising rate has been described as one of the best but again, it has been recommended for redrafting as a result of the loose ends contained in it. Besides, many observers have also argued that the area should be an industry self-regulatory mechanism and not direct regulation from the NBC.

Reacting to issues that concern advertising in the new code, the President, Association of Advertising Agencies of Nigeria (AAAN), Mr. Steve Babaeko, told Thisday that the basis of the code was wrong as far as it has to do with advertising. "For five years, we have been clamouring for the reconstitution of the APCON council, now this is one of the flip sides of the absence of the council. With the new development, government appears to be telling us to henceforth be reporting to NBC. The question is; if we have all those things in APCON act, why pushing us to NBC? If APCON is in place, advertising will not be at the mercy of any other agency of government, but the council," Babaeko said.

Meanwhile a senior practitioner and former chairman of APCON, Mr. Lolu Akinwumi, who recently appeared on 'News Scope', with Patrick Doyle on Silverbird Television and monitored said his reaction that when he first read about the NBC's amended code, he knew that something was wrong somewhere. Akinwumi, who was also at a time AAAN President, linked some of the shortcomings in the code as related to advertisement and advertising to the fact that APCON council had remained in the limbo for years.

"My reaction when I saw the amended code was that there was a mistake somewhere because some of the issues addressed under advertisement and payment have been addressed adequately by APCON. NBC has a seat in APCON and I know the representative would have pointed out to NBC that the areas have been covered by APCON if the council is in place. The area that also tries to bar multinationals from exposing their global commercials in Nigeria is also contentious. At the appropriate time, I know that would be challenged in court. The global practice is that where there must be a foreign ad, it will attract extra levy, not prohibition. That remains a global practice, which Nigeria cannot afford to turn back against. At this stage, I will again appeal to the Minister of Information, Alhaj Lai Muhammed to look into the issue of APCON council and reconstitute it to protect advertising," Akinwumi stated.

As things are, if NBC yields to calls from various quarters, it is a matter of time, the commission will still go back to the drawing board to right the wrong and reset the entertainment and creative industries on a more dynamic ladder.



Minister Defends New NBC Code Amendments, Says Attack on Him Baseless



Lai Mohammed
Minister of Information and Culture

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed has said that the amendment to the National Broadcasting Code was well intentioned and argued that the media attacks on him were baseless.

The Minister who was appeared on an NTA live Programme “Good Morning Nigeria”, said the amended code will reposition the broadcast industry in a manner that will benefit all stakeholders and practitioners.

He said; “It is unfortunate that even those who would benefit in the new regime have been so carried away and confused by critics of the amended code that they are also attacking us. Those we are protecting are those who are vociferous in our attack.”

The amended code introduces new rules and regulations on web/online broadcasting, local contents, production of advertising for local goods and services, music, acquisition of sports rights, exclusivity and national emergencies.

Speaking on exclusivity, the most controversial of the amendments, the minister said the government rejigged the code to stop monopoly and boost local contents.

He said; “Anywhere you have monopoly and exclusivity, growth is hampered particularly as it relates to local contents. We said, henceforth, you cannot go and buy a series or opera or rights for sports and refused to sell to Nigerians.

“For instance, if you buy Premier League, and a small operator approaches you to resell, you must resell to him. We will not dictate the price at which you are going to resell but you must resell at a price to be agreed by both parties.

“I want to say that it is only in Africa that you have exclusivity and monopoly of contents as a business model. In the UK, you watch premier league on any channel,” he said.

Mohammed: Why FG Handed National Theatre Over to CNB For Renovation

For Lai Mohammed, Minister of Information and Culture, the Federal Government handed the National Theatre over to the Central Bank of Nigerian and the Banker's Committee for renovation because the government does not have there required funds for the restoration.

According to him on Thursday, the handover which was performed officially on July 12, was approved by President Buhari in October 2019 He said; “Several attempts to privatise or concession the edifice either before or during my tenure as minister has failed, and the truth of the matter is that government has no money to embark on the renovation.

“For more than 43 years, there has been really no serious renovation as a result of lack of fund by the government and the edifice is in a sorry state.

“Therefore, when the CBN made the offer, we saw it as a golden opportunity to return the national theatre to its glory days.”

“The handover of the national theatre to the CBN is one of the

“
Several attempts to privatise or concession the edifice either before or during my tenure as minister has failed, and the truth of the matter is that government has no money to embark on the renovation.
”

many steps by government to reposition the creative industry.” He assured the management of the national theatre and other stakeholders that the renovation will not lead to job loss, noting that about 6,000 jobs would be created at the reconstruction and revamping stages, while an additional 2,000 jobs would be provided when the project is completed. He also said the rehabilitation of the national theatre would boost the potentials of the creative and entertainment industry, as about 142 fallow hectares around the edifice would go to the CBN and the banker's committee to construct Lagos creative and entertainment city, with film, music, fashion and information technology (IT) hubs.

“I want to say that it is only in Africa that you have exclusivity and monopoly of contents as a business model. In the UK, you watch premier league on any channel,” he said.



National Arts Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos

Editor's Note

With the increasing dominance of online communication and interaction among communities in the COVID-19 era and likely beyond, there is increasing need for discerning users to begin to interrogate the impact of the Internet on emerging developments. Much more so for a potent thing as election, which influences the social and political lives of millions.

This concern was the import of a webinar on digital electioneering in the COVID-19 era, organized on July 30, by CLEEN Foundation, an implementing partner of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria project, EU-SDGN. It is as topical as it is educative, particularly in the context of the coming governorship election in Edo and Ondo states in the last quarter of the year. We bring you the seminal contributions of facilitators in our opening story.

The story on the continued assault suffered by journalists in the course of their work sounds like a broken record. But it has to be told and retold until the assault stops simply because as the fourth estate of the realm, the media as recorder of history in a hurry, stabilizes democratic governance through processed information that helps mass participation and inclusion. Check out the stories inside the pages and see if the forms of assault on journalists have not only increased but become varied as well.

There is no let up on the new code by the National Broadcasting Organisation, NBC, as stakeholders are still kicking against relevant sections in the contentious regulation. Even the minister of information and culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed had to defend himself at a TV appearance during the week, against attack. It makes interesting reading just as the accompany story on stakeholders criticism of the NBC code.

As usual, we serve you our regular weekly data on COVID-19 from the 36 states of the country and the FCT, Abuja. Always read it and keep obeying the health protocols to stay safe. Happy reading.

The Editor
Institute for Media and Society, Nigeria

NCDC Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by State, July 31, 2020

States Affected	No. of Cases (Lab Confirmed)	No. of Cases (on admission)	No. Discharged	No. of Deaths
Lagos	15,043	12,706	2,145	192
FCT	3,710	2,550	1,118	42
Oyo	2,713	1,427	1,259	27
Edo	2,285	506	1,698	81
Rivers	1,782	307	1,423	52
Kano	1,591	280	1,258	53
Delta	1,501	99	1,359	43
Kaduna	1,403	250	1,141	12
Ogun	1,385	287	1,075	23
Plateau	1,124	636	469	19
Ondo	1,123	551	548	24
Enugu	801	358	425	18
Ebonyi	785	165	596	24
Kwara	753	521	213	19
Katsina	742	262	457	23
Borno	613	9	569	35
Gombe	607	60	524	23
Abia	545	114	426	5
Bauchi	541	10	518	13
Osun	523	280	231	12
Imo	468	340	119	9
Benue	346	282	58	6
Bayelsa	328	30	277	21
Jigawa	322	3	308	11
Nasarawa	312	81	223	8
Niger	223	78	133	12
Akwa Ibom	221	93	121	7
Sokoto	154	1	137	16
Adamawa	140	46	85	9
Anambra	135	48	75	12
Ekiti	132	75	55	2
Kebbi	90	4	79	7
Zamfara	77	1	71	5
Yobe	67	5	54	8
Taraba	54	43	11	0
Cross River	45	33	9	3
Kogi	5	0	3	2

Highlights


- On the 30th of July 2020, 481 new confirmed cases and 5 deaths were recorded in Nigeria.
- No new state has reported a case in the last 24 hours.
- Till date, 42,689 cases have been confirmed, 19,270 cases have been discharged and 878 deaths have been recorded in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.
- The 481 new cases are reported from 15 states - FCT (96), Lagos (89), Plateau (68), Ogun (49), Edo (44), Rivers (43), Oyo (25), Osun (23), Delta (15), Enugu (11), Kano (7), Kaduna (7), Bauchi (2), Bayelsa (1), Yobe (1)
- A multi-sectoral national emergency operations centre (EOC), activated at Level 3, continues to coordinate the national response activities

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