

Coverage of Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria: A Content Analysis of Selected Newspapers (2006 – 2007)

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Abstract

The study “Coverage of Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria” seeks to investigate the performance of the print media in the coverage of Oil Revenues Management and to find out the extent to which the coverage has improved Oil Revenues Management. The study adopted Content Analysis Method to carry out the research. Our investigations revealed that the media indeed provided adequate coverage to Oil Revenues Management. The study also established that, the media provided adequate information, education, enlightenment and mobilization in their coverage on oil revenues management to Nigerians. This coverage was capable of bringing about improvement, stimulating growth and engendering best practices in our oil revenues management. The study concludes that, the media have pivotal roles to play in reaction to challenges of nation-building such as Oil Revenues Management. Consequently, it recommends that in the best interest of society, the media should continue to work towards emergence of good governance and development. It also suggested that the media should do more on the Niger Delta by pointing out to government which area in the Niger Delta needs electricity, universities, roads, hospitals and so on.

Keywords: Coverage, Oil Revenues, Nigeria, Newspapers

Background of the Study

There is no gainsaying the fact that the biggest challenge facing Nigeria as a nation is how to manage its oil revenues and saving to preserve macro-economic stability. According to Cohen (2003, p.5), best management practices and financial controls in the taxation and expenditure stages of oil revenues accrual and disbursement are essential. The history of oil rich states from Saudi Arabia to Nigeria, provides evidence of high cycle revenues/high expectations/high expenditures followed by an oil market slump, a decline in revenues and social unrest caused by fiscal and budgetary adjustments.

According to Obadan (2006, p.2), crude oil possesses some peculiar attributes which distinguishes it from other sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and so on. Earnings from oil can be volatile and cyclical with implication for macroeconomic performance. It is therefore imperative that resources accruing should be well managed and developed for optimal economic performance. Otherwise, it can Elaigwu (2005, p.63) avers that given their power to inform and misinform, educate or miseducate, they build or destroy social expectations and contribute to inflate or deflating social ego and confidence.

In his own contribution, Kolawole in *The Nation* (2007, April 12), says:

In the modern state, the media performs the articulatory role. The press links the government with the populace by informing and educating the citizenry on the policies and programmes of government.... The press aggregates the broad opinion of society to enable government properly address them in terms of policy-formulation and decision. In some instances, the press may serve as a “police” on government to minimize abuse of public trust or instill a sense of probity and accountability.

Elaigwu (2005, p.63) says that ideally, “the mass media should perform certain functions in reaction to challenges of nation-building”. Such challenges should include the oil revenues management in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, article 22 of 1999 constitution provides for the obligation of the mass media to the society and it states that:

The press, radio, television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in chapter 11 of the constitution and to uphold the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people.

Odozi (2005, p.68) avers that Nigerians have through this constitutional provision state their economic objectives as contained in article 16 with the following goals to guide the government:

1. To harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, a dynamic and self reliant economy.
2. Control the national economy in such a way or manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity.
3. Government is expected to manage the major sectors of the economy while individuals can as well be permitted to operate there.
4. The government is expected to direct its policy to ensure the promotion of a planned and balanced economic development.
5. That the economic system is not operated in such a manner as to permit the concentration of wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of few individuals or group and that adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living, old age care and pensions, unemployment benefits and welfare of the disable are provided for the citizens.

Statement of Problem

The greatest challenge facing Nigeria as a nation is how to manage its oil revenues. How adequate was the amount of coverage given to oil revenues management in Nigeria by the print media? It is based on the above premise that this study seeks to investigate the performance of the print media in the Coverage of Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria.

The Objectives of Study

This study is predicated on the following objectives:

1. To determine the amount of coverage given to Oil revenues management in Nigeria by the selected Newspapers.
2. Find out which areas of oil revenues were given prominence by the selected Newspapers in Nigeria.

3. Ascertain the direction given to the coverage of oil revenues management in Nigeria by the selected Newspapers.
4. To determine the extent to which the coverage has improved the Oil revenues management in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The research questions for this study are:

1. How adequate was the amount of coverage given to Oil revenues management by Nigerian Newspapers?
2. What areas of Oil Revenues Management were given prominence by the selected Newspapers?
3. What is the direction of coverage given to oil revenue stories by the selected Newspapers?
4. How has the coverage improved the Oil revenues management?

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study for the research work is two years, from January to December 2006 and January to December 2007. A period considered suitable for the determination of Oil revenues management.

Theoretical Framework

The Agenda Setting Theory

In an article captioned “Broadcasting plus integrity equals better image for Africa” filed by Kabir Alabi Garba and Published by the *Guardian* (2006, November 20), the agenda setting theory was defined by Prof. Gerard Gyor in simple terms thus:

Agenda setting claims that what the media finds important will eventually be mirrored in what people think are important. From agenda setting stems the formation of public opinions and the distribution of pros and cons of a particular issue or people. This will efficiently shift the focus of attention away from immediate effects on attitudes and opinions to longer-term effects on cognition.

Specifically focusing on the agenda setting function of the media Lang and Lang (1966, p.466) observe:

The media force attention to explain issues. They build up public images of political figures. They are constantly presenting objects suggesting what individuals in the mass should think about, know about, have feelings about.

Perhaps, this hypothesized agenda setting function of the mass media is most succinctly stated by Janowitz and Hirsch (1981, p.128), who noted that, the press:

May not be successful most of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about.

Folarin (1998, p.68) posits that agenda setting implies that the mass media predetermine what issues are regarded as important at a given time in a given setting. Agenda setting does not ascribe to the media the power to determine what we actually think; but it does ascribe to them the power to determine what we are thinking about. They set agenda for political campaigns for instance. The elements involved in agenda setting include:

- a. The quantity or frequency of reporting;

- b. Prominence given to the reports through the headline display, pictures and layout in newspapers, magazines, films, graphics, or timing on radio and television.
- c. The degree of conflicts generated in the reports; and
- d. Cumulative media effects over time.

In addition to politics and elections research on agenda setting later focused on racial unrest, student riots, crime statistics, inflation, drug abuse etc. Additional examples that could furnish relevant research material in Nigeria include “June 12”, military interventions, ethnic rivalries, “419”, and paid assassination. In the same vein, Kunczik (1988, p.192) points out that the opportunity for agenda setting by the mass media becomes enhanced when the value structure of a society is in a state of flux (Relate this to Nigeria!). Approximate procedures for examining agenda setting involve comparisons between media content over a certain period and the subjects that most people in society are discussing. The greater the consonance, the more agenda setting hypothesis, but is generally agreed that it has a strong enough basis in logic and experience. As McLuhan (1968, p.204) concludes, the press can colour events by using them in a particular way or refusing to use them at all.

Or giving it more or less space or time, in their print and broadcast news presentations.

4. The selection of stories presented, with their different levels of prominence, space and time, forms the news agenda of the press.

5. Therefore; when the public attends to these news reports they will perceive the order of prominence assigned by the press in its agenda of stories and will use it to decide on the personal rankings of importance of the issues and topics that make up the news.

One of the tenets of agenda setting theory states that, the mass media pre-determines what issues are regarded as important at a given time in a given society. Agenda setting claims that what the media finds important at a given time in a given society. Agenda setting claims that what the media finds important will eventually be mirrored in what people think are important. Thus, the print media can help create awareness on the Oil revenues management in Nigeria through the quality and frequency and continuing coverage of news reports.

Social Responsibility Theory

Odozi (2005, p.26) avers that this is a modified version of the “free press theory” and lays more emphasis on the accountability of the media to the society. The essence of this system is that though the media is free, it must accept obligation to serve the society in truth, fairness and honesty.

In his own contribution, Biagi (2000, p.366) says: this theory accepts the concept of a libertarian press but prescribes what the media should do. Someone who believes in the social responsibility theory contends that members of the press will responsibly serve society well if only periodically reminded about their duties.

The Poignant explanation of Vivian (1991, p.444-445) throws more light on the social responsibility theory thus: doubts about some libertarian assumptions took firm shape in 1947 when Magazine tycoon Henry Luce gave a grant of \$200000 to an old college friend Robert Hutchins, to study the American Press. Hutchins, Chancellor of the University of Chicago assembled a group of scholars. The Hutchins commission as it was called issued a bombshell report that expressed concern that news media were becoming too powerful. The commission cited the growth of newspaper chains. To Luce’s dismay the commission seemed concerned about the power of the magazine group like his own “Time Life and Fortune”. The commission said the news media need to be more responsible and specifically called on the press to provide:

- i. Truthful comprehensive and intelligent account of the day’s events in a context that makes them meaningful.

- ii. A forum for exchange of comment and criticism, including contrary ideas.
- iii. A representative picture of society's constituent groups, including blacks and other minorities.
- iv. Coverage that challenges society's constituent groups, including black and other minorities.
- v. Coverage that challenges society's goals and values and help classify them.

The social responsibility theory shows how the press could fulfill its obligations to society. The press (Print and electronic) are expected to display professional standards by informing people adequately and truthfully too on the burning issue of Oil revenues management.

Review of Literature

Conceptualization of Media Role in Economy

Sambe (2005, pp. 39-40), posits that: a constant flow of information is vital to economic life. Apart from being an economic force in itself, the news media purvey information necessary for the well being of a society. For example, news of the stock exchange is regularly purveyed by the media. Information is purveyed in minutes all over the world, thus enabling global buying and selling to easily take place. The role of advertising in buying and selling appears to have reached its zenith with the advancement in mass media technology.

According to Oti (1998, pp. 44-46), economic development is an aspect of national development. It has to do with recorded progress in the activities that concern using scarce resources to meet numerous needs. Economic development includes improvement in occupational patterns and levels, per capita income etc. The activities of the mass media influence the above indicators of economic improvement. The newspapers and other print media supply information on skills which eventually lead to improvements in patterns of occupations. Unemployment may be a lack of information as regards availability of jobs in specific areas at specific level. The mass media supply the necessary information which could link people with jobs. In fact the mere existence of the mass media and its activities creates jobs for experts and other "casual workers". The mass media provide information on investment opportunities. Most of the media supply information on the stock-market and money market. Such information helps to create awareness about the operations of such markets. In fact one of the differences between the economy of the "developing countries" and the "developed countries" is the availability of information in these countries with regard to economic activities. Whereas the developed countries supply every minute pieces of information concerning economic activities through the media the developing countries hardly pay very much attention to information dissemination about their economic activities. The advertisement of products through the mass media leads to more purchase of these products and increased profits for the producers. Such producers whose products easily sell in the market will eventually contribute to the economic progress of the nation. Manufacturers also receive information on consumer behavior and consumer preferences through the mass media. Such information guides their efforts towards producing goods that will be bought by these consumers.

In advanced societies the media could be an avenue through which goods and services are sold. Individual consumers can make their purchase through internet. Producers of goods and services who are hooked to the net can easily be reached by those who surf the net and transactions which conveniently take place in that instance. Information through the mass media can expose hidden areas of national wealth. The media can supply information about certain neglected natural resources which when adequately tapped could increase the wealth of the nation.

The media according to Kpundeh (2006) can perform three principal key roles in setting the economic agenda in governance or more specifically in Oil revenues management. The media can act as a public watchdog by informing citizens about issues affecting their well-being. Such issues as transparency in government decisions, public expenditures, corruption, transparency in the award of contracts and licences. Apart from that, information on public officials in the media provides a useful check on the discretionary exercise of authority. The media can act as a gate-keeper by acting as a news filter, determining what the public knows. By setting agenda in shaping public discourse, the media can act as the mediator between leaders and public influencing national debate.

The media as a public conscience can act as a platform for citizen voices and provides feedback on public perceptions of public and private sector leader's performance. The provision of information begins to inform by revealing the actions of policy-makers; making the consequences of those actions known on a timely basis, including through the efforts of academics, analysis and social activists, makes evaluation and monitoring possible, with an associated rise in the contestability of ideas. As new information on both actions and consequences becomes widely known, the quality of public debate can improve, with new ideas proposed and prospect of holding the government accountable coming into focus. In so far as citizens can be motivated to raise their level of participation, the scope of public advocacy increases, and government becomes a two-way flow, generating further demands for more reliable information on economic, financial and institutional process and outcomes.

Research Methodology

Research Design

For the purpose of this study, the researcher adopted content analysis. It is to Ogunbameru (2000, p.92) a method of studying and analyzing communications in a systematic, objective, and quantitative manner to measure variables. Walizer and Wenir (1978, p.166) defines it as a systematic procedure devised to examine the content of recorded information.

The Population of the Study

The population for the study is basically print media comprising of all national dailies in the country and news magazines. However, for an effective study of the population this present study is limited to a random selection of stories and articles from national newspapers published and circulated daily in Nigeria. They include: *The Daily Trust*, *The Leadership*, *The New Nigerian* and *Nigeria Tribune* from January to December 2006 and January to December 2007.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The study purposively selected from the population or universe four national newspapers published and circulated each day as the sample size. The parameters for the selection of these newspapers were:

- a. Availability
- b. Circulation
- c. National coverage

From January to December 2006 and January to December 2007, the selected newspapers published 730 editions each bringing the total to 2,920 editions for two years.

To reduce the sample size to a manageable population using purposive sampling procedure the researcher selected 48 editions, twelve each of *Daily Trust*, *New Nigerian*, *Tribune* and *Leadership* newspapers from which 40 stories relating to Oil revenues management were

chosen. Each paper contributing 10 stories each. This gave us an opportunity to select one edition of sampled newspapers in a month. This was to arrive at accurate data and avoid bias.

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis according to Omega (2013, p. 300), is critical to successful content analysis because the entire exercise concerns placing the individual units about which or whom descriptive and explanatory statements are made. The unit of analysis in written content analysis might be a single word or symbol or an entire story. In this study, every new story, feature story, editorial that is relevant to the study will constitute the unit of analysis. Specifically the study was guided by the following units of analysis.

- a. Topic/Subject matter of stories on: oil revenues, oil companies and good governance
- b. Page placement of stories
- c. Illustration
- d. Direction of stories

Instrument for Data Collection

To enable the researcher carry out this research code sheet was used as part of the instrument for the collection of data (Omega, Ibid). It was used to examine the newspapers page by page in order to identify news stories, feature stories, editorials and so on relating to the management of oil Revenues in Nigeria.

Method of Data Collection

Using the unit of analysis, the researcher coded the contents of the Newspapers selected for the study and recorded them on a sheet. Oil Revenues management in Nigeria were separated from other issues and the coding was based on the units of analysis earlier on articulated.

Method of Data Analysis

The results for the study were quantitatively analyzed. The data derived from the content of newspapers were converted to raw score (where possible) and then to percentages for ease of cognition and comprehension.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

Presentation and Analysis of Data

This section presents and analyses data collected from the field.

Research Question One: How adequate was the amount of coverage given to Oil Revenues Management by Nigerian newspapers?

Table 1: Stories on Oil Revenues Management in *Tribune*, *Daily Trust*, *Leadership* and *New Nigerian* Newspapers

Newspapers	No. of Stories	Percentage %
Tribune	10	25%
Leadership	10	25%
Daily Trust	10	25%
New Nigerian	10	25%
Total	40	100%

Source: Field Study, 2008

A cursory look at Table 1 and Table 4 elucidates the fact that Nigerian Newspapers have given significant contributions to Oil Revenues Management in their reportage. For instance, in table 1, out of the 40 stories purposively selected or chosen from the 48 newspaper editions

for this study both the *Daily Trust*, *New Nigerian*, *Tribune* and *Leadership* contributed 10(25%) stories each.

Table 2: Page Placement on Oil Revenues Management

Placement of Stories	Front Page	Back Page	Centre Spread	Inside Pages	Total
Tribune	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
Daily Trust	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
Leadership	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
New Nigerian	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
Total	32(80%)	0	0	8(20%)	40(100%)

Source: Field Study, 2008

Similarly, the result on table 2 shows that the selected newspapers published 32(80%) stories that were displayed prominently on their front pages. Inside had 8(20%). While none of the stories were published on the centre spread and back pages.

Table 3: Direction of Stories

Direction	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Total
Tribune	10	-	-	10(25%)
Daily Trust	10	-	-	10(25%)
Leadership	10	-	-	10(25%)
New Nigerian	10	-	-	10(25%)
Total	40	0	0	40(100%)

Source: Field Study, 2008

Also, table 3 corroborates the level of coverage given to Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria. All of the 40(100%) stories selected for the study were positive while none of the stories from the newspapers was credited negative and neutral.

Table 4: Illustration

Illustration	Illustrated with photographs	Line sketch or drawing	Not illustrated	Total
Tribune	-	4(10%)	5(12.5%)	13(32.5%)
Daily Trust	-	4(10%)	6(15%)	10(25%)
Leadership	-	4(10%)	4(10%)	8(20%)
New Nigerian	-	4(10%)	5(12.5%)	9(22.5%)
Total	-	16(40%)	20(50%)	40(100%)

Source: Field Study, 2008

Table 4 however shows that most of the stories/reports 20(50%) published in selected newspapers namely: *New Nigerian*, *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* had no illustrations. Only *Tribune* seems to have fared better as 4(10%) of the stories had photographs. Although line drawing/sketches 16(40%) appeared in the reports of selected newspapers this appears unsatisfactory. This seems to be a major flaw identified in the coverage of Oil Revenues Management. This is because the value of illustrations as attention catchers in Media reports on Oil Revenues Management such as pipeline explosions/vandalization, hostage taking, Oil

spillages and gas flaring etc should be backed by photographic images to further explain the state of challenges facing the Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria.

Research Question Two: What areas of Oil Revenues Management were given prominence in selected Newspapers?

Table 5: Topic/Subject Matter Category

S/N	Topic/Subject Matter	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Federalism	4	10
2.	Local Content	1	2.5
3.	Niger Delta	14	35
4.	Vandalization/pipeline explosion	1	2.5
5.	Good governance	8	20
6.	Budget and expenditure of Oil revenues	5	12.5
7.	Oil revenues and economy	1	2.5
8.	Oil companies	6	15
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Study, 2008

Data available on table 5 shows the key areas that were emphasized in the coverage of Oil revenues management by the selected Nigerian newspapers for this study. The result indicates that, out of the 40 stories selected for the study, the Niger Delta had 14 (35%), Fiscal Federalism 4(10%), Good Governance had 8(20%), Budget and Expenditure of Oil Revenues 5(12.5%), while Oil Companies had 6(15%).

While admitting that the selected Newspapers made tremendous efforts by highlighting areas that need to be addressed headlong in the Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria, we maintain that a lot, needs to be done on the Niger Delta. It is the responsibility of journalists of selected newspapers for the study to have gone to the Niger Delta region and report that this area in the next five or ten years whosoever is in power should develop 10 mega cities; whosoever is in power should ensure that there are about three or four universities in the area; whosoever is in power should ensure that there are 100 industries cited; and even go out spell the kind of industries that should be established in the area to arrest youth restiveness.

Research Question Three: What is the direction of coverage given to the Oil Revenues Stories by the selected Newspapers?

Table 6: Page Placement on Oil Revenues Management

Placement of Stories	Front Page	Back Page	Centre Spread	Inside Pages	Total
Tribune	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
Daily Trust	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
Leadership	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
New Nigerian	8(20%)	-	-	2(5%)	10(25%)
Total	32(80%)	0	0	8(20%)	40(100%)

Source: Field Study, 2008

From the analysis in table 6, it is not in doubt that the direction (tone) of the selected newspaper reports are credited to the Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria. Out of 40 stories chosen for the study, the selected newspapers namely: *Tribune*, *New Nigerian*, *Leadership* and *Daily Trust* published stories that were positive or favourable to the Oil revenues

management. Each of the papers contributed 10(25%) reports totaling 40(100%). None of the stories were credited negative and neutral.

Research Question Four: How has the coverage improved the Oil Revenues Management?

Table 7: Topic/Subject Matter Category

S/N	Topic/Subject Matter	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Federalism	4	10
2.	Local Content	1	2.5
3.	Niger Delta	14	35
4.	Vandalization/pipeline explosion	1	2.5
5.	Good governance	8	20
6.	Budget and expenditure of Oil revenues	5	12.5
7.	Oil revenues and economy	1	2.5
8.	Oil companies	6	15
	Total	40	100

Source: Field Study, 2008

Table 7 serves as a ready made answer to this question. The data on the table shows that the four newspapers selected for the study as in: *Daily Trust*, *New Nigerian*, *Tribune* and *Leadership* are credible examples of the roles of the media as purveyors of information by providing fundamental insights on the problems of Oil revenues management in areas such as: Fiscal Federalism, Good Governance, Niger Delta, Local Content, Causes of Vandalization/Pipeline explosions, Oil Revenues and Economy as well as the activities of the local and foreign Oil companies operating in Nigeria. These insights provided in these reports no doubt will go a long way in opening the eyes of the managers in charge of our Oil revenues at the Federal, State and Local and even private sector with a view to entrenching best practices. Similarly, out of the total number of 40 stories purposively selected from 48 newspaper editions for the study, both newspapers contributed stories on Oil revenues management. Each filed 8(20%) stories each representing 32(80%) on their front pages. Also each of the chosen newspapers contributed 2(5%) stories/reports totaling 8(20%) on their inside pages. While none of the selected newspapers published stories on the back page and centre spread of their newspapers on the Oil revenues management.

The implication is that, by constantly publishing stories on the problem areas of Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria on their front pages, these newspapers perpetuated impressions on such problems in both government and the citizenry. Thus, it would be right to say that the amount of information position and placement of stories concerning Oil Revenues Management in the period under consideration for this study was capable of bringing about improvement in the Oil Revenues Management.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary

Windfalls occurred many times in history, with mixed results. Many countries developed and developing, such as Norway, South Africa, Nigeria and Netherlands, have struggled with this issue. Commodity windfalls are a potential blessing to any country; managing these windfalls on the other hand is a formidable challenge with enormous consequences for both present and future generations. This study was undertaken to assess the print media coverage and Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria.

Our investigations revealed that, reports/stories relating to Oil Revenues Management received significant adequacy of reportage by Nigerian print media especially in the selected

newspapers for this study. For instance, in table 1, out of the 40 stories purposively selected from the 48 newspapers editions for this study among them, *Daily Trust*, *New Nigerian*, *Tribune* and *Leadership* contributed 10(25%) stories each.

In the same vein, the result on table 4 shows that all the selected newspapers published 32(80%) stories/reports that were displayed prominently on their front pages. On the inside, all the newspapers had 8(20%). While none of the stories were published in the centre spread and back pages.

On the direction of coverage (tone) given to Oil Revenues stories in selected newspapers, it is not in doubt that most were credible. For instance, *Tribune* contributed 10(25%), *Daily Trust* 10(25%), *Leadership* had 10(25%) while *New Nigerian* also had 10(25%). Out of the 40 stories purposively chosen for the study, all the selected Newspapers published stories that were positive or favourable to the Oil revenues management in Nigeria. None of the stories were credited negative and neutral.

Conclusion

From the analysis and interpretation of data collected in the chosen newspapers, some conclusions were drawn:

That the media have pivotal roles to play in reaction to challenges of nation building. Such challenges should include the Oil revenues management in Nigeria. The media can do this by acting as an intermediary of information between the government and civil society; increasing their understanding of key economics and developmental issues, thereby improving their awareness of these developmental concerns in society at large. In the study, it is crystal clear that, the print media have helped a great deal in educating, informing, enlightening and mobilizing Nigerians on economic issues such as Oil Revenues.

The print media should have critical roles to play as active participants in on-going efforts by Federal Republic of Nigeria to foster good governance environment and change the attitudes towards corruption in the Oil Revenues Management in Nigeria.

Any attempt to resolve or manage the Niger Delta imbroglio, no matter how constructive should include active involvement of and participation of the media.

Recommendations

Media reporting and analysis of economic and other relevant issues should aim at providing information to the public about these issues;

1. Enable them to understand the significance of these issues and their consequences; and subject government policies and activities in these areas to scrutiny as part of the duty of the media to hold government accountable.
2. It is recommended that, the media should do more on the Niger Delta by pointing out to government which area in the Niger Delta needs say universities, electricity, industries etc.
3. It is also recommended that the media should ensure that adequate information is available to the public during the drafting of budget to enable them participate effectively.
4. Although media professionals are confronted by a variety of legal, political, economic and institutional challenges which inhibit effective coverage of the economy especially as it relates to the Oil revenues management, it is recommended that, in the best interest of society for the media to continue to work towards the emergence of good governance and development.

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