



Trends on oil and gas reporting in Nigeria

Findings from a three-month media monitoring

Media for Oil Reform (MFOR)

Introduction

Chapter 2 Section 22 of the 1999 Nigeria Constitution gives the media the role of holding the government accountable. The oil and gas sector is particularly important in this regard as it is the mainstay of Nigeria's economy. In view of this, the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) conducted a three-month monitoring on how twelve newspapers report oil and gas.



Purpose

The three-month media monitoring extending from 1 January to 31 March 2017, was carried out to understand trends in the reportage of oil and gas. The intention is to leverage on findings to engage with the media at various levels towards strengthening the good and contributing to correcting the shortcoming. The ultimate aim is to help the media to be better positioned to make impact as a critical actor in ensuring transparency and accountability in Nigeria's oil and gas sector in particular and the country in general.

Approach/Method

Twelve newspapers – ten print and two online were selected randomly based on their editorial and sometimes geographical leaning for monitoring. They are The Cable, BusinessDay, Daily Trust, Leadership, New Telegraph, Premium Times, Punch, The Guardian, The Nation, The Sun, ThisDay and Vanguard. For the three-month period, every news, feature, editorial, advert, interview, opinion, photo, cartoon and letter on oil and gas were documented into a pre-tested template and thereafter analysed. Quantitative analysis technique was triangulated with spot qualitative analysis for a comprehensive research output. To do this, the descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages was used to determine the quantity of media coverage, followed by thematic analysis to establish the trends of reports in the period under review.

Limitation

As much as we hope that the twelve news media selected are fairly representative of the lot of print, broadcast and online media in the country, we understand that there may be practices in the reportage of oil and gas in Nigeria that we may have missed because of the number of news publications chosen. Some salient peculiarities with news coverage by the broadcast television and radio genres may also have been missed.



Key facts about newspapers monitored



Publisher: Business Day Media Limited
Date of Establishment: July 2001
Major coverage: National (with focus on business reporting)
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 16.48%
Title(s): BusinessDay Daily, BusinessDay Weekend (published on Sundays)



Publisher: Media Trust Limited
Date of Establishment: March 1998
Major coverage: National (with more popularity in Northern Nigeria)
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 5.86%
Title(s): Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust & Aminiya (Newspaper in Hausa Language)



Publisher: Leadership Newspaper Group
Date of Establishment: October 2004
Major coverage: National
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 6.44%
Title(s): Leadership daily & Leadership weekend



Publisher: Daily Telegraph Publishing Company
Date of Establishment: 2014
Major coverage: National
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 40
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 6.12%
Title(s): New Telegraph, Saturday Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph



Publisher: The Punch newspaper Limited
Date of Establishment: November 1976
Major coverage: National
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 5.34%
Title(s): Punch daily & Punch weekend



Publisher: Guardian Newspaper Limited
Date of Establishment: 1983
Major coverage: National
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 15.35%
Title(s): The Guardian, Saturday & Sunday Guardian



Publisher: Vintage Press Limited
Date of Establishment: July 2006
Major coverage: National
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 8.80%
Title(s): Nation daily, Nation Saturday, Nation Sunday, NationSport & NewsExtra



Publisher: The Sun Publishing Limited
Date of Establishment: January 2003
Major coverage: National
Media genre: Print
Regular number of pages: 48
Percentage of oil and gas reports: 5.80%
Title(s): The Sun daily & Soccer Star



THIS DAY

Publisher: Leaders & Company

Date of Establishment: 22 January 1995

Major coverage: National

Media genre: Print

Regular number of pages: 48

Percentage of oil and gas reports: 8.14%

Title(s): ThisDay



Vanguard

Publisher: Vanguard Media Limited

Date of Establishment: 1984

Major coverage: National

Media genre: Print

Regular number of pages: 48

Percentage of oil and gas reports: 16.08%

Title(s): Vanguard



PREMIUM
Times

Publishers: Premium Times Services Limited

Date of Establishment: 2011

Major coverage: National

Media genre: Online

Percentage of oil and gas reports: 3.72%

Title(s): Premium Times



TheCable

Publishers: Cable Newspaper Ltd

Date of Establishment: 29 April 2014

Major coverage: National

Media genre: Online

Percentage of oil and gas reports: 1.88%

Title(s): The Cable

Periodical Context

A few major national happenings informed the direction of many of the stories published in select newspapers during the period under review (January to March, 2017). These include:



Economic recession



Revelations on Malabu
oil deal



Upsurge in crude oil price



Increase in foreign reserve



Pollution: Soot in Rivers
State



Commencement of crude oil
exploration in Gongola Basin



Resumption of diesel and
kerosene production in
Nigeria's three refineries



Insurgents/militants' attacks
on pipelines



Fuel (Gas and kerosene)
scarcity

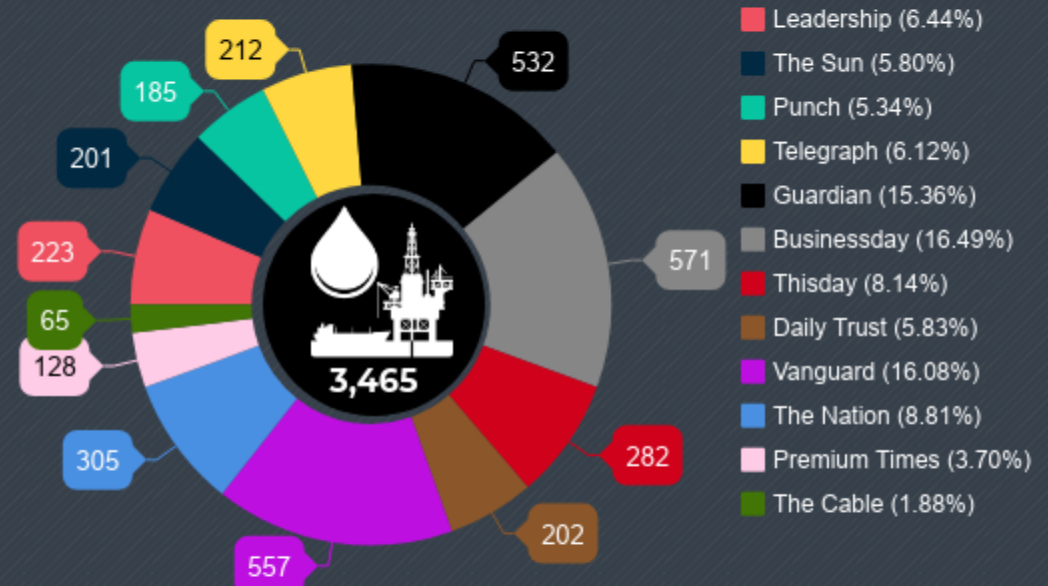


Oil workers' strike

Thematic Analyses of Results

Three broad themes— story types, story issues and company/agencies formed the bases of analysis for this report. The analysis of story types was considered under news, editorial, feature, interviews, opinion, advert, photo, cartoon and letters to editors. Story issues were analysed into security/crime, economy, politics, business, corruption, environment, association and general. Company/agency (both government and private sector led) that the stories concern was another basis of the analysis. In addition, the quality and depth of the stories in terms of how well certain principles of ethics and commendable practices in journalism were observed and then analysed.

Total number of reports on oil and gas

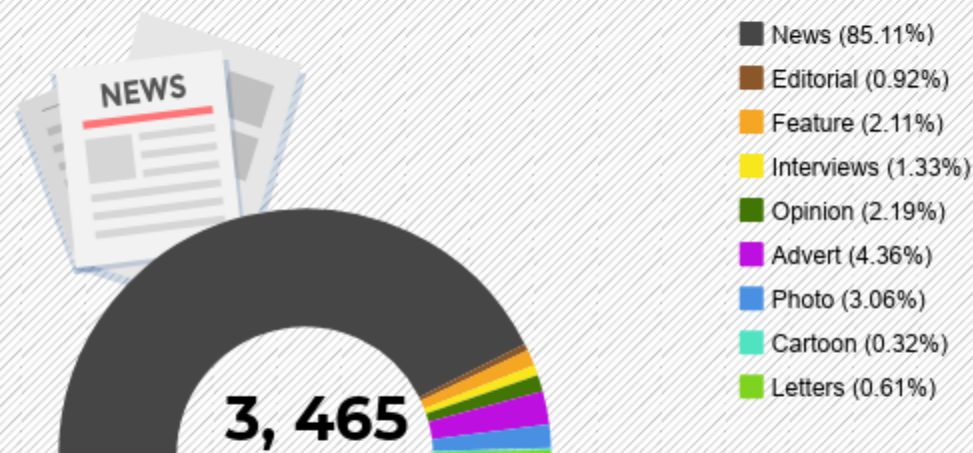


A total number of 3,465 oil and gas stories were published across twelve media outlets in the month of January, February and March 2017

Thematic Analysis: Story Types

Oil and gas stories published in the media during the period under review were sorted into story types, ranging from news, editorial, feature, interview, opinion, advert, photo, cartoon and to letters to editors. Result of the analysis shows that most of the oil and gas stories covered in the media were in the news category, followed by adverts, then photos, opinions, features, interviews, editorials, letters and cartoons as the number decreases. A large percentage of the news reports were sourced from press releases, reports from organisations, news agency reports, events and the key people in the sector.

Total number of oil and gas story types



A total number of 3,465 oil and gas stories were published across nine story types

News

News made up 85.19 per cent of oil and gas stories published during the period under review. Many of the news covered focused on oil output, oil price, scarcity, protests, explosion and fire accidents, oil theft and union activities which includes workers strike. Some of such news stories include, Premium Times' piece, 'Fuel scarcity looms as NUPENG commences nationwide strike' on January 11, 'Kerosene claims pregnant woman, son' on page 5 by Punch on February 3 and '\$1.2bn Malabu scam: Nigeria loses Africa's biggest oil block to Shell, Agip' on page 6 of March 18 published in the Vanguard.

Feature

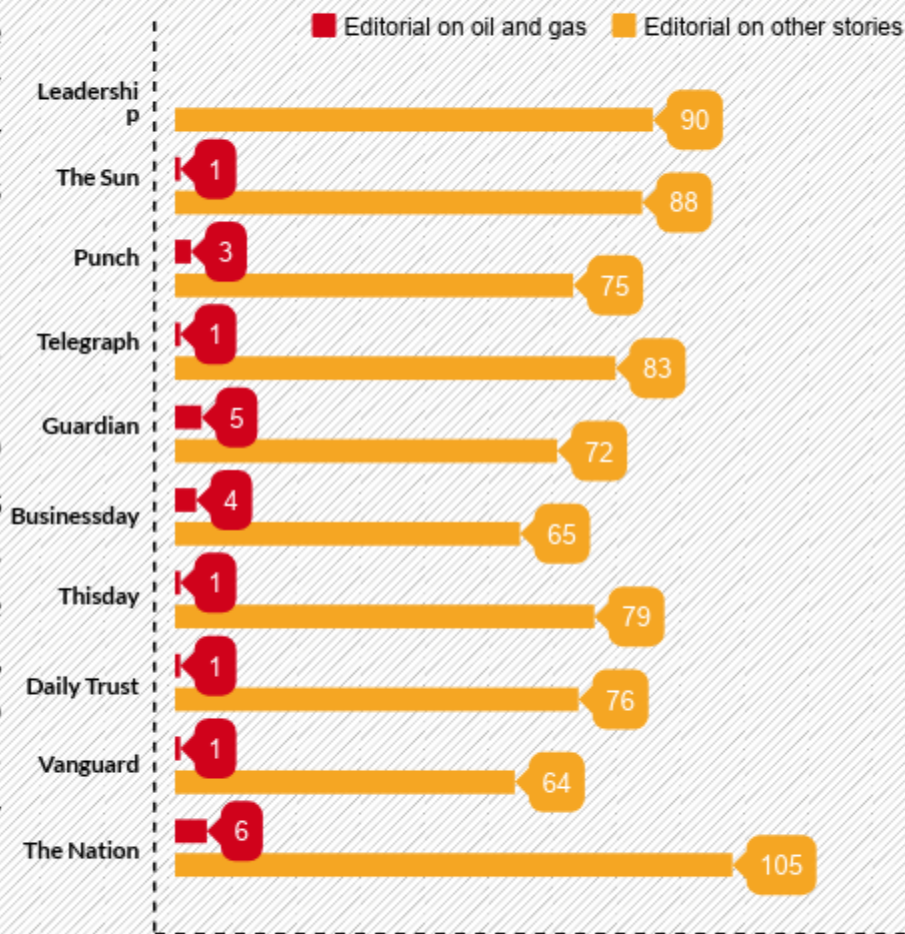
Seventy stories, representing 2.02 per cent of the total number of stories published during the period were feature stories. Many of the feature pieces focused on neglect of oil rich communities, petroleum industry governance bill, kerosene scarcity and finding alternatives to an economy based on oil. For instance, Premium Times did a special report, 'Nigeria's oil-rich communities abandoned in shocking poverty despite huge wealth' on January 29.

Nkechi Isaac's piece, 'Assessing Petroleum industry governance bill' on page 19 of Leadership January 24 publication and Adeola Yusuf's story 'Before Nigeria's crude oil dries up' on page 23 of New Telegraph February 28 publication are more examples of feature stories published in the period under review.

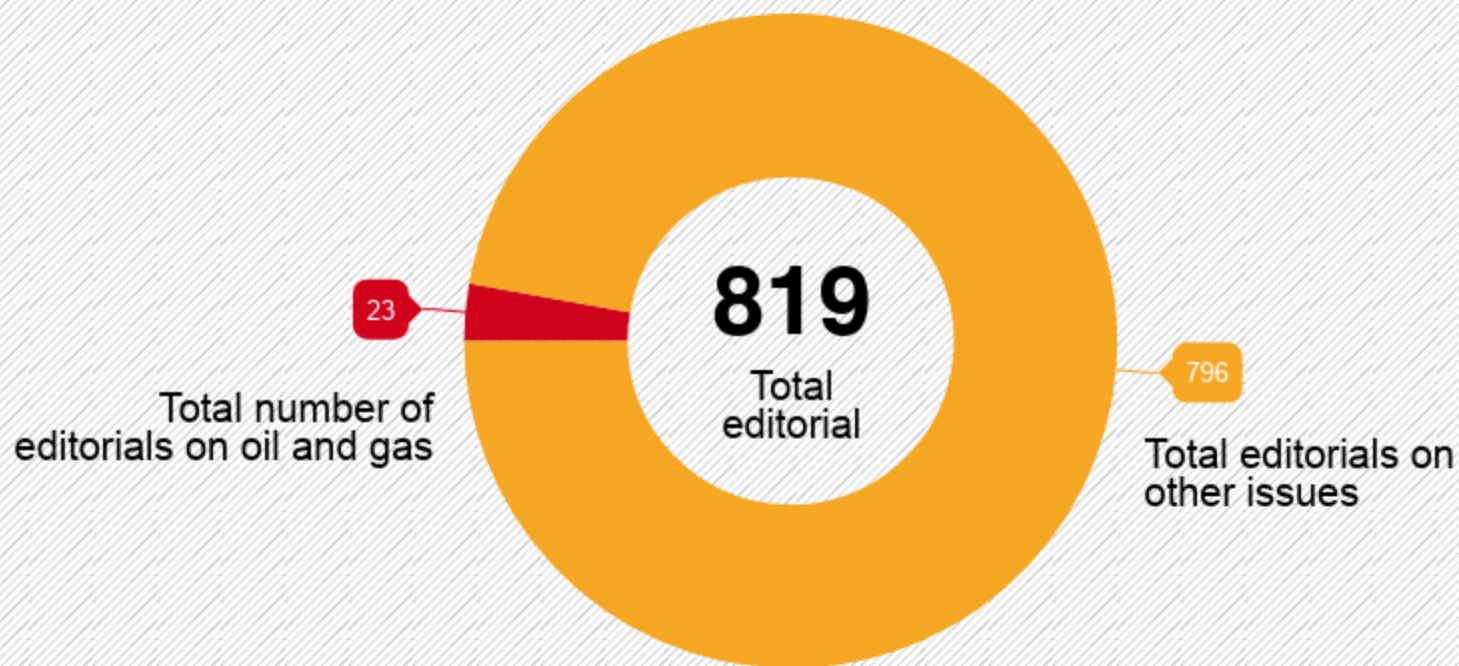
Editorial

Except for the two online papers, all the newspapers monitored in the period under review made space to articulate their organisations' stand on some oil and gas issues through the dedicated editorial page.

Given the scarcity of kerosene at the time, New Telegraph published 'The perennial kerosene scarcity' on page 15 of January 30 to make a case for the revival of Nigeria's ailing triad of refineries. The Sun with its editorial on page 14 of February 8 - 'The plan to commercialise NNPC Clinics', maintained that NNPC's decision to commercialise its 52 clinics across the country, would help it deliver high quality health access to its workers and interested members of the public



Editorial used for oil and gas stories versus editorial used for other stories



Interview

Forty-six stories representing 1.33 per cent of the three thousand four hundred and sixty-five stories published during the period under review were interviews. Pages 23 and 26 of The Nation February 24 bore an interview entitled, 'Ogiemwonyi: Niger Delta key to getting Nigeria out of recession' with Chris Ogiemwonyi, a former Minister and former Group Executive Director at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). The interview focused on getting Nigeria out of the recession through restoring peace in the Niger-Delta region of the country.

In the same vein, another interview 'Oil-based economy can no longer sustain Nigeria - Ojudu' on page 13 of New Telegraph of March 28 with Senator Babafemi Ojudu, the Special Adviser to the President on Political Matters, suggests that the country needs to diversify her economy and not rely solely on oil.

Opinion

Majority of the newspapers monitored in the period under consideration had opinion pieces that shed more light and sought to take a stand on pressing oil and gas issues at the time. In all, there were seventy-six opinion pieces. Jonas Odocha's article 'Rethinking Niger Delta region development (2)' on page 18 of Vanguard, January 5, 'Frank Uzuegbunam's work, 'Turning Nigeria's gas flares into cash' on page 8 of BusinessDay, February 15; and Jide Ojo's column article 'How Nigeria can end fuel importation by 2019' on page 21 of Punch February 15 are sample opinions published during the period.

Advert

Of the three thousand four hundred and sixty-five stories published in the select newspapers, one hundred and fifty one, accounting for 4.36 per cent were adverts. Many of the adverts focused on licence renewal, tendering and corporate social responsibilities such as scholarships for students. For instance, page 15 of ThisDay, January 25 had an advert, 'Invitation for pre-qualification of contractors'. Also, page 6 of February 16 of New Telegraph had the advert, 'Renewal of Pipeline operating License'. Finally, 'Communique by concerned stakeholders in respect of the proposed bill to amend the oil and gas export free zone act' was published as an advertorial on page 3 of March 7 publication of Vanguard.

Photo

Some stories, particularly those related to oil and gas events, were captured with photos. 'Nigerian stock Exchange CEO, Oscar Onyema flanked by NIPCO company secretary, Barrister Paul Obi (L) and Managing Director, Venkataraman Venkatapathy during the NSE management visit to the company in Lagos yesterday' published on page 16 of Daily Trust February 1 is a good examples of this.

Some of the photos were also reactionary, in that they captured the reactions of groups to changes in the oil and gas sector. The Sun's photo, 'Members of Nigerian Union and Natural gas workers (NUPENG) protesting alleged anti-labour policies' published on page 9 of January 5 is an example. The activities of security operatives in controlling illegalities in the sector is another focus of some of the photos published during the period. For instance, Vanguard published a picture, 'Suspected illegal oil bunkers paraded in Lagos weekend' on page 5 of her March 20 publication.

Cartoon

There was paucity of cartoons in select media during the period under review, with only eleven cartoons published. Aside Punch, Guardian, Vanguard and The Nation newspapers, other newspapers monitored did not use cartoons either to convey their editorial stance or pass the news.

'Nigeria's oil to dry up in 2051, says Geologist' on page 16 of The Nation, January 26 and 'Oil firm MD jailed 69 years for subsidy fraud' on page 18 of Punch January 30 are some specific examples of cartoons used in the select media for oil and gas issues.

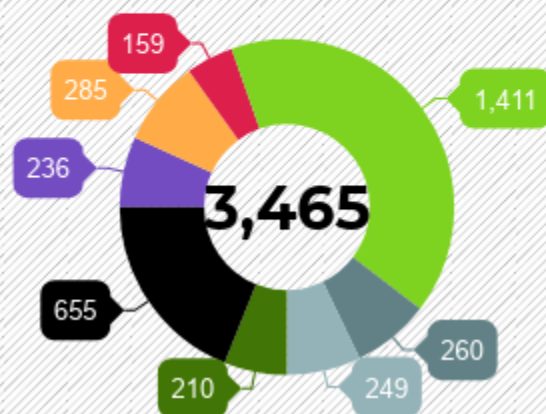
Letter

There were only twenty-one letters on oil and gas in the select newspapers during the period under review. These represent 0.61 per cent of the total number of oil and gas stories published. The letters were largely reactionary— written by readers of the newspapers as a reply to their plight or earlier actions taken by the government or some other stakeholder in the sector. 'Open letter to President Muhammadu Buhari on the endless persecution of Chief Dan Etete over Malabu Oil block 245' on page 29 of Vanguard January 6 by the Ijaw Monitoring Group and 'A word on kerosene scarcity' on page 14 of The Sun February 5 are examples.

Thematic Analysis: Story Issues

Stories were analysed into seven specific oil and gas issues (security/crime, economy, politics, business, corruption, environment and association) and one general issue that shares more than one of the specific story focus. Result of analysis shows that business was the focus of most of the stories covered in the period under review. Oil and gas stories having general focus followed, then Economy, Corruption, Environment, Security and Crime, Association and finally Politics.

A total number of 3,465 oil and gas stories were published across eight story issues



6.81% - Security and Crime

8.23% - Economy

4.49% - Politics

40.72% - Business

7.50% - Corruption

7.19% - Environment

6.06% - Association/Union

18.90% - General

Security/Crime

Security and crime account for two hundred and thirty six stories, that is 6.81 per cent of the total oil and gas stories published in the select newspapers in the period under review. The focus of many of these stories ranged from arrest, confiscation of stolen products, diversion of petroleum products, pipeline tapping and vandalism among other issues. On February 10, TheCable did the story, 'We lose \$80bn to militant attacks every year'. Daily Trust also published a story 'Arrested for criminal diversion of 45,000 litres of diesel' on page 22 of her February 27 publication.

Economy

Stories on economy represented 8.23 per cent of the total oil and gas stories published in the period under consideration. For example, a story, 'Economist forecast better 2017 on back of oil price' was published on pages 1 and 4 of BusinessDay January 3. Vanguard's story, 'Nigeria oil production receives 61,000bpd boost' on page 4 of her January 3 publication and another story 'Nigeria to save \$31.4bn on crude oil production' on page 41 of The Sun February 24 are more examples.

Politics

There were one hundred and fifty nine oil and gas stories with political angle. These represent 4.59 per cent of the total three thousand four hundred and sixty five oil and gas stories published at the time. Oil and gas stories with political angle is the least reported under the story issues category. However, many of the stories focus on oil and gas sector governance. For instance, on page 7 of her January 27 publication, BusinessDay published the story, 'Kwara Assembly moves to curtail illegal construction of petrol station'.

In the same vein, Vanguard did a story, 'Oil theft: Rivers govt promises Navy 10 gun boats' on the fourth page of her dedicated 'SweetCrude' page of February 7. New Telegraph also publish a piece entitled, 'Senate strips president, minister of power to allocate oil blocs' on pages 1 and 6 of her March 2 publication.

Business

Oil and gas stories with business angle are more than any other story issues. With one thousand four hundred and eleven stories out of the total three thousand four hundred and sixty five stories, Business alone represents 40.72 per cent of the total stories published during the period under review.

Sample stories in the category include 'Presidency orders immediate payment of N150 billion subsidy claims to marketers' published on Premium Times of January 26, 'Nigeria misses 2.2m barrels daily oil output target' published on page 10 of New Telegraph February 9, and 'Fall of oil price threatens govt's revenue projections' on page 3 of Guardian, March 24.

Corruption

Stories on corruption in the oil and gas sector represents 7.5 per cent of the entire number of oil and gas stories published in select newspapers. Premium Times' Samuel Ogundipe' did a story, 'How Ex-AGF, Adoke, overruled DPR to authorise \$1.1 billion Malabu deal exposed' on January 28. The piece is an exposé of how former Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Bello Adoke authorised the transfer of Africa's richest oil block, the OPL 245 to Anglo-Dutch companies— Shell and Agip-Eni without following due process. Following the shocking revelation on the OPL 245 oil block, New Telegraph did a story, 'Due process: Reps seeks revocation of oil bloc licences' on page 4 of her February 1 publication. The Sun also published the story 'Firm lifted 7.5m barrels of \$824m crude oil without paying entry fee, says NDPC' on page 8 of March 2.

Environment

Stories that focus on the environment constitute 7.19 per cent of the total number of oil and gas stories in select newspapers in the period under review, with most of the stories focusing pollution and the need to clean up the environment.'

Alarm over mystery soot in Rivers' published on pages 6 and 7 of The Sun, February 26 and 'Scientist disagrees with Shell on impact of oil leak on Bayelsa communities' published on page 4 of Vanguard, January 30 are sample stories on the environment in relation to oil and gas.

Association

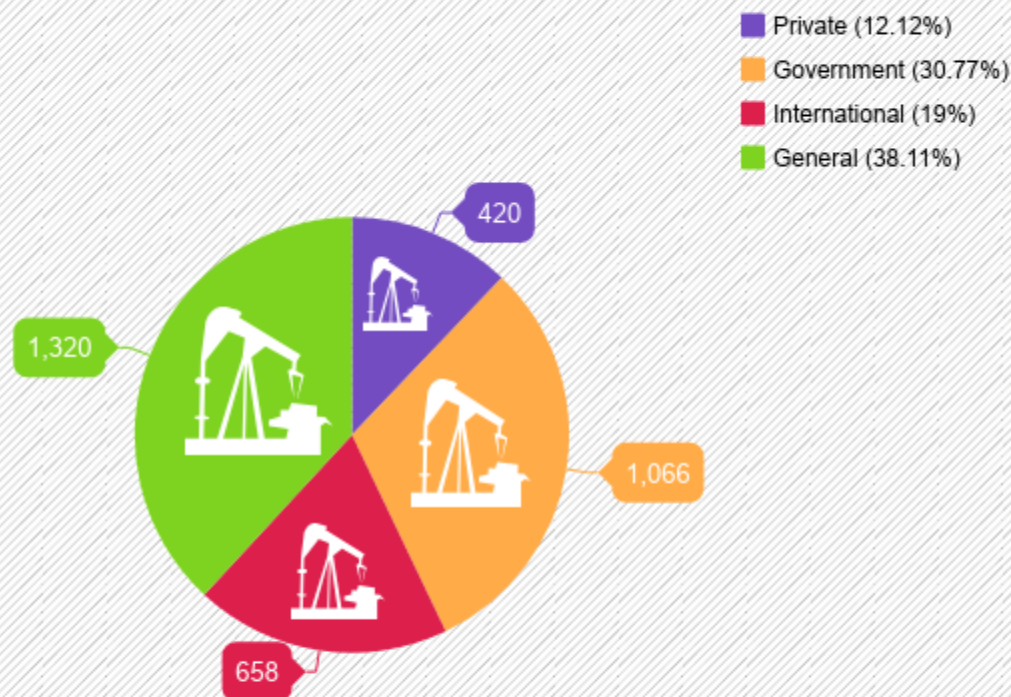
With two hundred and ten stories, Associations and Unions in the sector account for 6.81 per cent of the total number of oil and gas stories published in select newspapers during the period under review. Stories in this category focus on a number of issues ranging from warning to protest. For example The Cable did a news piece titled, 'NUPENG shuts down Total Plc over sacked workers' on January 5. The Nation also published 'Petrol Pump Price: Nigerians'll not accept another increase, say Labour Unions' on page 16 of January 30.

General

Finally, 18.9 per cent of oil and gas stories published in the period had a general focus. This broadly means that the stories had multiple focuses or that their focus was outside of the seven specific story issues. For example, 'Shell give grants to 1,560 students' published on page 33 of Daily Trust January 5 does not fall directly under business, economy, corruption, environment, security and crime, association or politics. The same applies to 'New petroleum regulatory policy will create one stop-shop, says NNPC' published on page 30 of New Telegraph, January 22.

Thematic Analysis: Company/Agencies

Given that the oil and gas stories covered in the period focus or concern a particular company or agency, the stories were sorted and analysed based on whether they focus on private companies, government agencies, international companies or general. Result of the analysis shows that most of the stories were general in terms of which company or agency they focus on. Government, international and private companies or agencies followed in frequency of appearance.



Private companies

With four hundred and twenty stories, representing 12.12 per cent of the total number of oil and gas stories published in select newspapers in the period under consideration, private companies are the least reported. Stories such as 'Forte Oil emerges worst performing stock in 2016' on page 31 of New Telegraph January 4 and 'Lekoil Otakikpo field targets 10, 000bpd by year end' on page 26 of The Sun March 6 publication centred on how private oil companies fair in business. More so, some of the stories focus on illegal dealings of some of the private oil and gas companies. For instance, TheCable published the story, 'Zamfara filling stations sell petrol at N175/ltr, say we can't run at a loss' on February 27.

Government agencies

Oil and gas stories on the activities of government alone account for 30.77 per cent, nearly a third of the total number of stories published during the period under review. Many of the stories centre on governance measures such as the Petroleum Industry Bill; corruption and oil output. TheCable did the story, 'Kachikwu: We'll allocate oil blocks, pass PIB in 2017' published on January 10. Also, Premium Times published 'Knowing real owners of oil, gas firms crucial to curb corruption' – NEITI on February 15. Amid biting scarcity, New Telegraph did the story, 'NLNG discharges 13,000 tonnes of cooking gas in Lagos' on page 3 of her January 17 publication.

International companies

There were six hundred and fifty eight stories focusing on the activities of international oil and gas companies in Nigeria. These represent 19 per cent of the total number of oil and gas stories done in the period under review. Majority of the stories such as 'Malabu Scandal: Court ruling on Shell, Eni's bid to take over OPL 245 stalled' published on Premium Times of March 13 were on the Malabu oil deal. Significant other stories such as 'Niger Delta pollution claims against Shell can't be heard in UK' on TheCable of January 26 were on the Shell oil spill while a few others such as 'ExxonMobil denies fresh retrenchment exercise' in TheCable of February 22 focused on workers' layoff.

General

Representing stories that either do not fit into any of the three specific company type or crisscross more than one company type, General stories account for 38.11 per cent of the total oil and gas stories published in select newspapers in the period under review. Sample stories include 'NEITI condemns N1.1tr tax waivers to oil firms' on page 17 of Guardian, January 3; 'Modular refineries: Operation laud Osinbajo, warns against politicisation policy' on page 54 of ThisDay February 25; and 'Buhari should visit oil communities' on page 32 of The Nation March 31 publication.

Thematic Analysis: Ethics of Journalism and Commendable Practices

Most of the newspapers monitored upheld certain principles of ethics in journalism as well as demonstrate some best practices in their reportage. These formed a basis for the qualitative analysis of stories in the period under review. Below are some examples:

Accuracy and Fairness

Some of the stories written during the period of review show elements of balance and fairness, in that none of the parties involved was favoured at the expense of the other(s). For example, the story 'Why NNPC owed N23.4 billion export supervision fees for eight years – Official' in Premium Times of February 22, was fair in that it had the voices of the representatives of the two parties involved, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the National Assembly.

The language use was also fair to both institutions. The Malabu scam story was followed up over the period to give accurate picture fair enough for the parties involved in the oil block deal.

Human Interest Reporting

Oil and gas stories, particularly those with business angle are written with jargons too technical for readers to understand. To make meaning out of the stories, many readers have to make so much assumption, aside having to read some lines over again. One of the ways that select newspapers have reported issues in the oil and gas sector in order to bring it closer to the people, is by giving it human angle.

'Residents groan as kerosene sells for N260 in Ilorin on page 53 of Leadership January 8 publication and 'Koko: Another toxic waste, many controversies' on pages 41 and 42 of The Nation March 4 are examples of human interest stories in the period.

Availability of dedicated pages to Oil and Gas

44,912 total number of pages were published from January 2017 to March 2017, out of which only about 908 representing 2 per cent were used for oil and gas stories. The remaining 44,004 pages, representing about 98 per cent were used majorly for reporting politics, entertainment, sports and crime. The allocation of the larger number of pages to politics and others enlisted is not unconnected to the competition for more readership among newspapers, which unfortunately oil and gas given its technical nature cannot afford the publisher. However, the commitment to fill more pages with oil and gas stories was observed with newspapers which have dedicated pages for energy.

Total number of pages used for oil and gas stories versus total number used for other stories



A total number of 44, 912 pages were used for story publications by 10 print media. While a total number of 907.73 were used for oil and gas and 44, 004.27 were allocated to other stories.

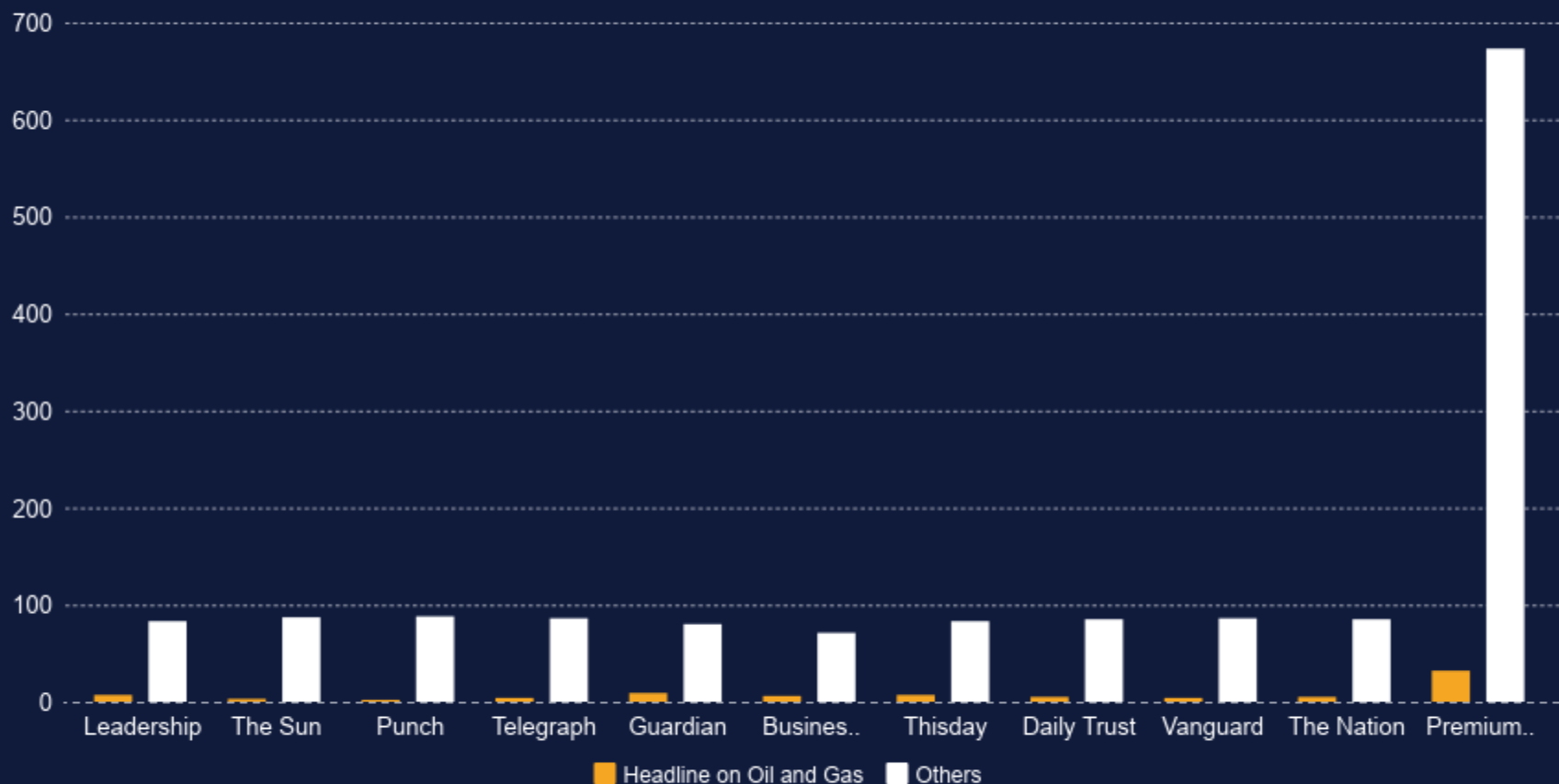
Use of Banner Headlines

Majority of the newspapers monitored used banner headlines sparingly for the oil and gas stories they published. Out of 1,591 total number of banner headlines recorded during the period under consideration, only 84, representing 5.28 per cent was captioned as banner headlines. The low use of banner headlines to amplify oil and gas stories can be clearly observed in individual newspapers, as most of them had the banner headlines in units ranging from 2 to 9.

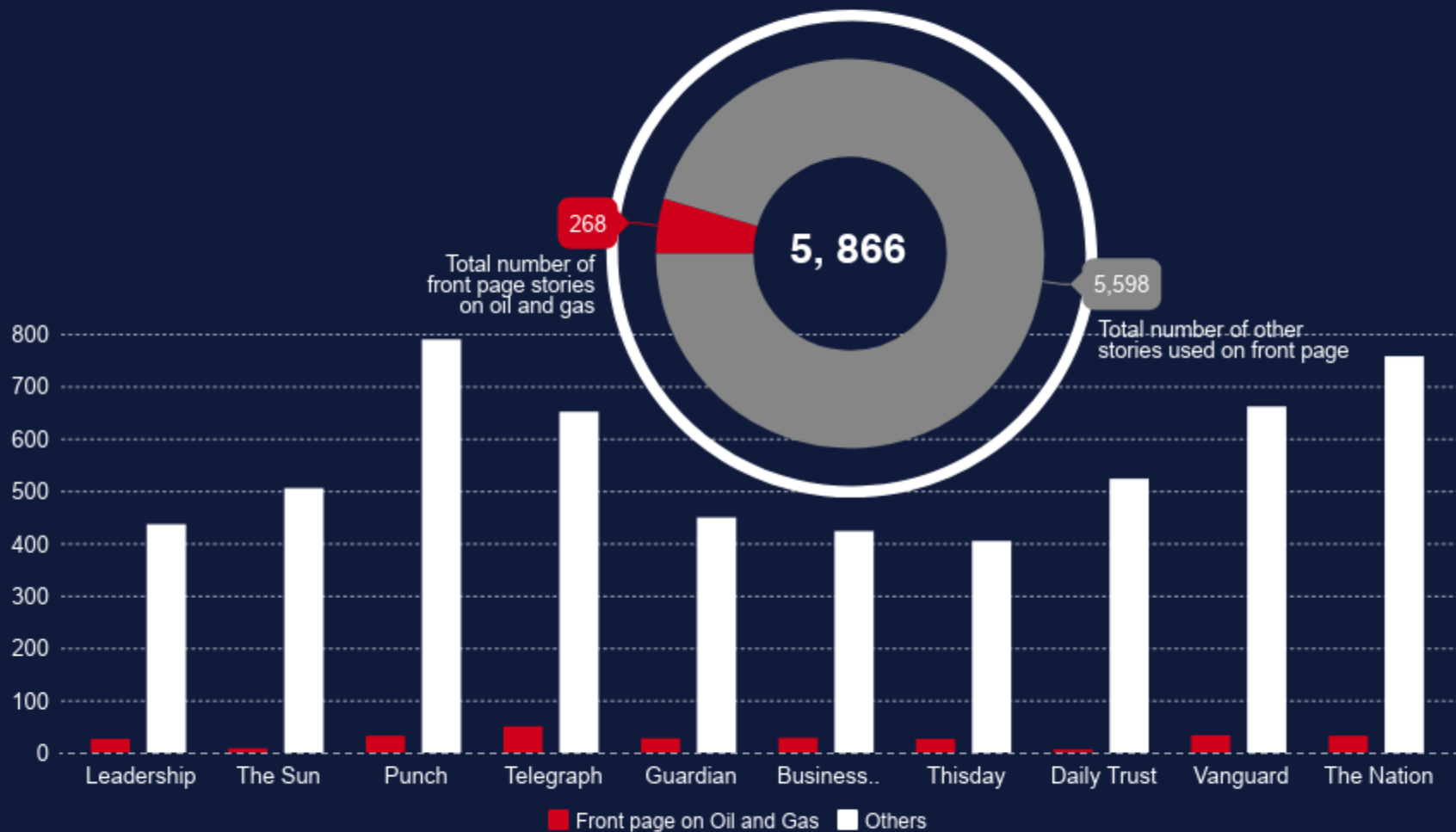
A few of the headline stories recorded are 'NNPC begins crude oil exploration in Gongola Basin' in Leadership of January 6; 'Fuel scarcity: We've enough PMS, aviation fuel – NNPC' in New Telegraph of February 3; and '\$1.1bn Malabu scam: Obasanjo, Yar'Adua, Jonathan approved deal, says Adoke' in Punch of March 13.



Banner headlines used by media house for oil and gas stories versus banner headline used for other stories



Total number of front page stories on oil and gas versus front page used for other stories



Exposing Corrupt Practices/Regulatory Irregularities

Although many of the stories published in select newspapers during the period under consideration did no more than break the news about recent happenings in the oil and gas sector, a few stories published dug into corrupt practices in the sector.

Premium Times' Cletus Ukpog's story, 'SPECIAL REPORT: Nigeria's oil-rich communities abandoned in shocking poverty despite huge wealth' published on January 29, is that of abandonment and short-change of the people of oil-rich Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State evidenced by lack of potable water, electricity and standard school facility despite document showing that the community was being paid for her oil.

Trends in Media Coverage of the Oil and Gas Sector



In Punch, oil and gas stories run from Sunday through to Saturday. Stories like the Malabu scam which lingered for a long time or had political undertone, were placed in the News pages. However the paper has some dedicated pages for oil and gas stories.

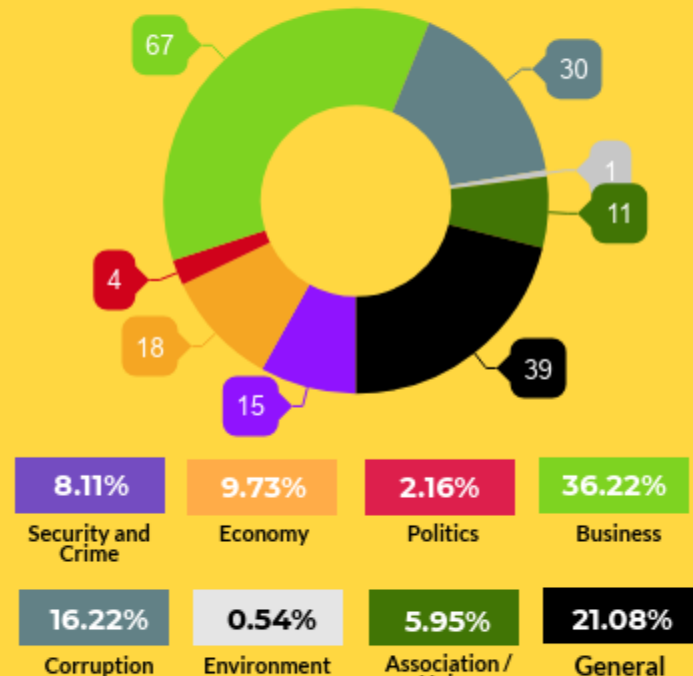
'Business News', a Sunday page with maximum number of 2 pages focuses on oil and gas alongside other business news especially those related to agriculture and exportation of agricultural produce.

'Business & Economy' is another dedicated page published Monday to Friday. It places oil and gas stories apace with mining, investment, banking, insurance and maritime. Whereas many oil and gas stories on the page speak purely to the sector, Okechukwu Nnodim's story, 'NNPC plans to generate, transmit electricity' on page 25 of March 30 publication, addresses electricity, baring NNPC's reform into an integrated energy outfit.

Saturday every week, the Punch publishes 'Business', usually a page on oil and gas, foreign exchange, aviation and other firms. Although Punch had so many by-lines in the period under consideration, no female reporter was found to cover the oil and gas sector.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers





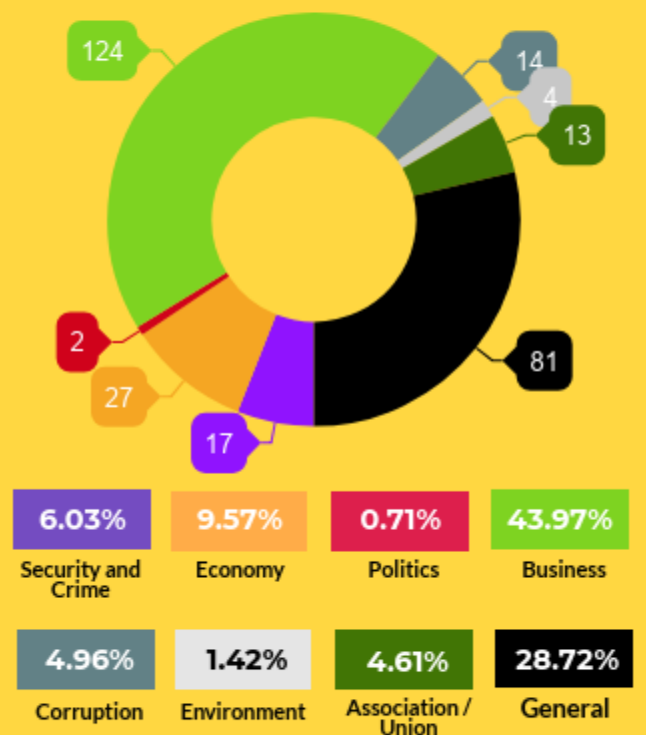
ThisDay sets aside a good number on pages daily for oil and gas stories. Many of those are placed on the 'NewsXtra' page for more visibility.

'Business' is a dedicated four pages on Sundays, focusing on oil and gas side by side with economy, bond, and aviation. 'Business World', another dedicated 8-page picks up the business stories from Monday through Friday, with particular attention to oil and gas firms, their corporate social responsibilities and appointments to offices. Other issues of the page includes aviation, economy, labour, maritime, money market, capital market and e-business.

ThisDay had a few female by-lines in the period under consideration. Some notable stories were those from Damilola Oyedele and Amanze-Nwachukwu Chika, the Group Business Editor. For instance Damilola Oyedele did a story, '\$17bn undeclared crude: Mobil, Chevron, others ignore house C'tee summons' on page 50 of January 23.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers





Guardian places investigations on the oil and gas sector on the 'News' pages. Other stories are then placed on dedicated pages.

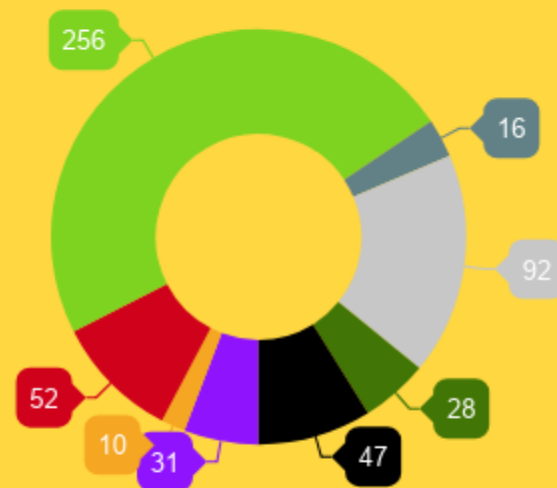
'Sweet Crude' with pages ranging from four to eight is a weekly review of the Nigerian energy industry. On the dedicated section, stories on oil and gas, power, solid minerals, freight, labour, and community are published every Wednesday.

Guardian also publishes 'Business' daily on Sundays. The dedicated page estimated to be eight pages centres on oil and gas beside power, agriculture, transport, ICT and stock exchange.

Amid a plethora of male by-lines, some female reporters had many stories during the period monitored. These include Roseline Okere, Tayo Oredola, Clara Nwachukwu, Yetunde Ayobami Ojo, Bridget Chiedu Onochie and Abosede Musari.

STORY ISSUES

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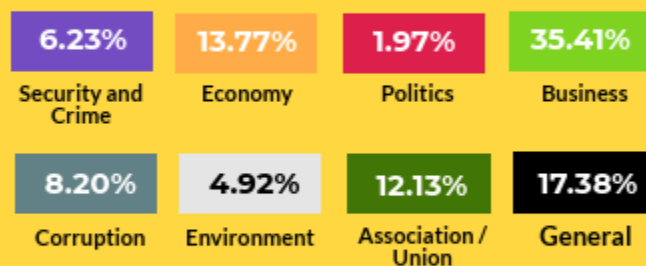
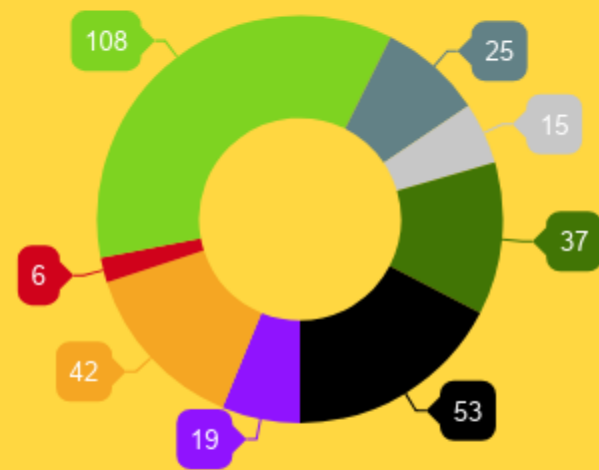
The Nation has a dedicated page, 'Business', which it publishes weekly from Sunday to Saturday. The number of pages varies from two to eight pages on a daily basis. Stories published on the dedicated pages touches issues on the oil and gas, power, transport, banking, aviation sectors as well as small and medium scale enterprises.

On Thursdays, much attention is drawn to oil and gas and other forms of energy, minerals and electricity on the two-page 'Energy' subsection of the 'Business' page. Akinola Ajibade's piece 'Optimism over rising oil price' on page 35 of January 19 is an example.

Nafisat Jimoh's by-line is one belonging to a female reporter that is quite frequent.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



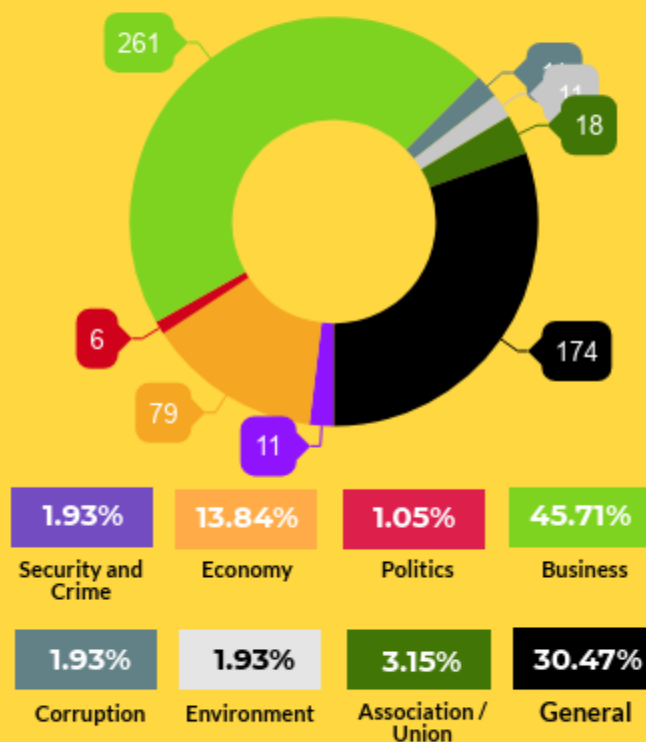
BUSINESS DAY

BusinessDay is characteristically a niche publication. Oil and gas being a big part of what consists of business in Nigeria, the publication has stories on the sector splattered all across its pages. 'Financial Times', a multiple page dedicated section published Monday to Friday focuses on economic issues including oil and gas in Nigeria and on the international front.

On Tuesdays, BusinessDay publishes a four-page 'Energy report' that is particularly focused on oil and gas and electricity. On Wednesdays, 'West Africa Energy', another seven page is published to cover the oil and gas sector apace other extractives and energy with particular attention on countries in the West African region. Female reporters covering the oil and gas sector were not identified through the by-lines.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers





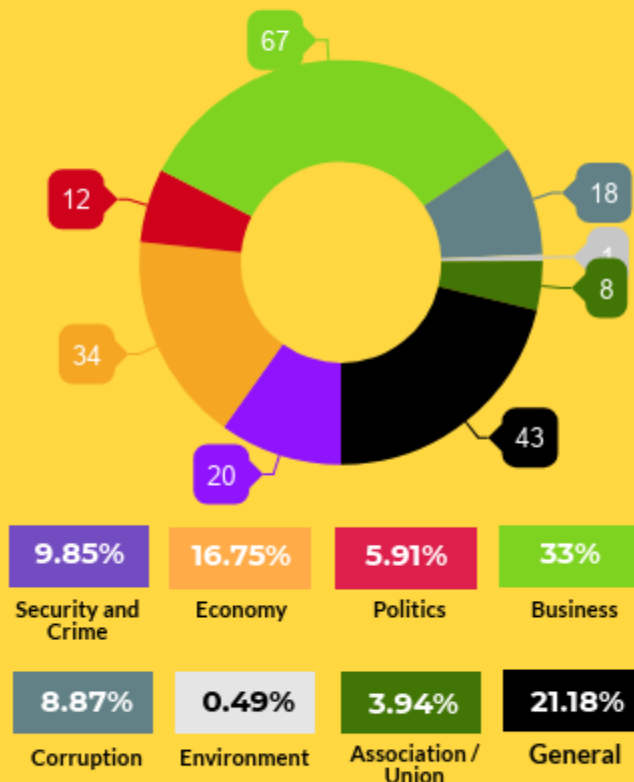
Daily Trust also has a number of dedicated pages on oil and gas. 'Business' published Monday to Friday covers oil and gas stories side by side transport, banking and telecommunications.

Of note is the newspaper's 4-page 'Energy Report' section printed on Tuesdays, which centres on oil and gas, renewables, power and environment. 'Abandoned projects come on stream as NNPC exits JV cash call' by Olusola Bello on page 31 of January 17 publication is an example.

Among ten reporters identified to report frequently on the oil and gas sector, there was no female reporter.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



New Telegraph

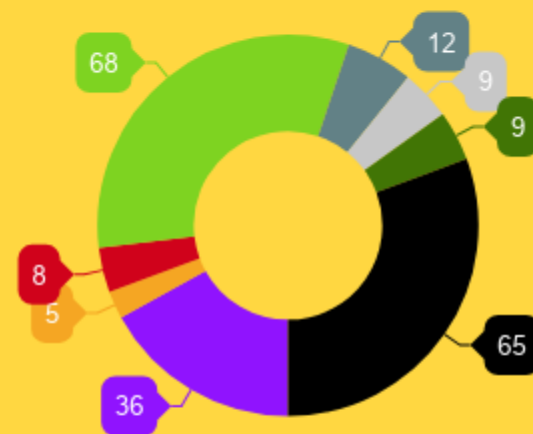
Stories on the oil and gas sector appears more on the front page of New Telegraph with publication's energy editor, Adeola Yusuf as most of the by-lines.

Every Tuesday, New Telegraph publishes stories on the oil and gas sector in its "Energy" page, a dedicated two-page for stories on oil and gas, electricity, mining and other consumer related issues. Oluseyi Alani's piece, 'Kerosene: Lagosians groan again' on pages 25 and 26 of January 18, is typical of the newspaper's reportage of the oil and gas sector.

No female by-line on the sector was found in the period under review.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



16.98%

Security and
Crime

2.36%

Economy

3.77%

Politics

32.08%

Business

5.66%

Corruption

4.25%

Environment

4.25%

Association /
Union

30.66%

General

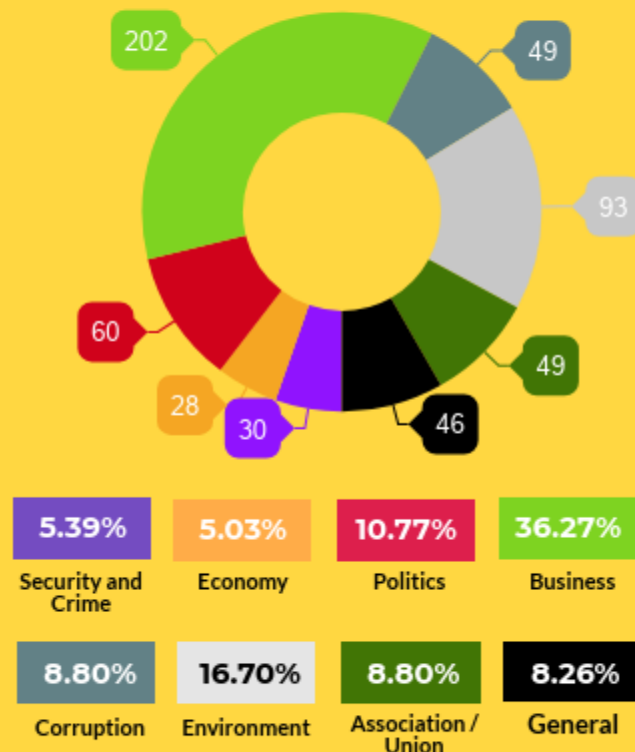
Vanguard

The oil and gas sector is widely covered in the Vanguard. Peculiarly, Vanguard newspaper also has a monthly version of pull out section of “Sweet Crude” that is seen in the Guardian weekly. In the Vanguard, it is a sixteen-page report on oil, power, gas, labour and community issues.

The two to three “Energy” pages on Tuesday and ‘Business’ published Wednesday to Friday also bear ample number of oil and gas stories weekly. ‘How petroleum sector drove Nigeria into economic recession by Michael Eboh’ published on January 2 is an example.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



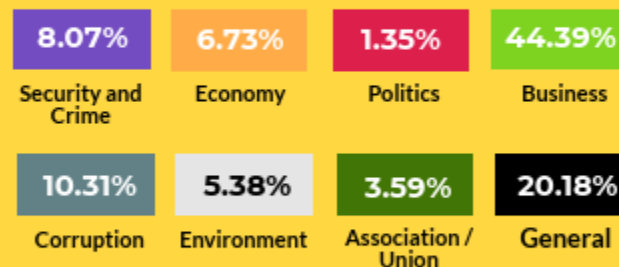
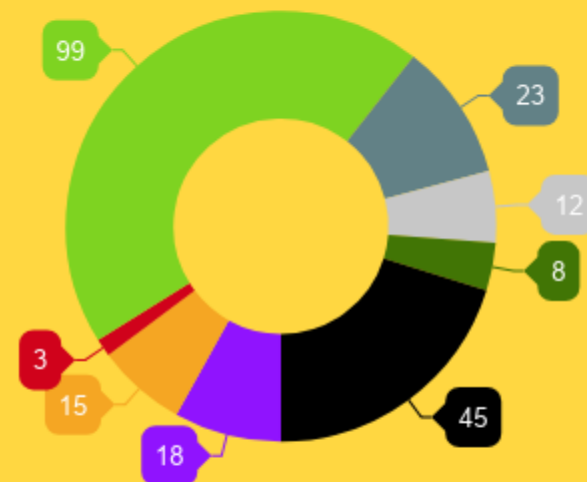


Stories on Oil and Gas, though widely scattered on the Leadership Newspaper, are however consistently featured on the 'Business' category of the newspaper. This category, which is featured daily except on Saturdays, covers economy and finance, related stories.

Abdullahi Olesin's piece, 'Residents groan as kerosene sells for N260 in Ilorin' on page 53 of Leadership January 8 captured the hard times the residents of Ilorin were going through during the kerosene scarcity of the time.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers





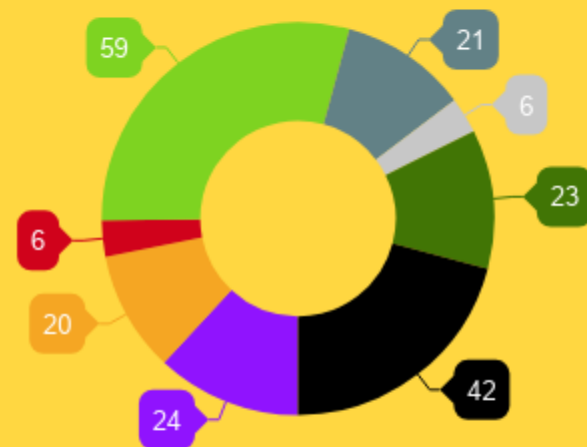
'Business Report' a segment published in The Sun every Monday and 'Business' published on the five working days of the week, have oil and gas as one of the core issues they cover.

Regardless of the dedicated pages, stories that touches on the need for urgent reform in the petroleum sector, tackling of pipeline vandalism problem, Niger Delta avengers' tussle, rehabilitating refineries, fuel scarcity, bid to ending petrol importation, loss of billions over Nigeria's oil under-dispensing, death caused by kerosene explosion, plan to commercialise NNPC amongst others are reported on other pages of The Sun.

Kemi Yusuf, Bimbola Oyesola, Juliana Taiwo-Obalonye and Adetutu Folashade were female reporters whose by-lines were reprised in many of the reports published in the period under review.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



11.94%

Security and
Crime

9.95%

Economy

2.99%

Politics

29.35%

Business

10.45%

Corruption

2.99%

Environment

11.44%

Association /
Union

20.90%

General

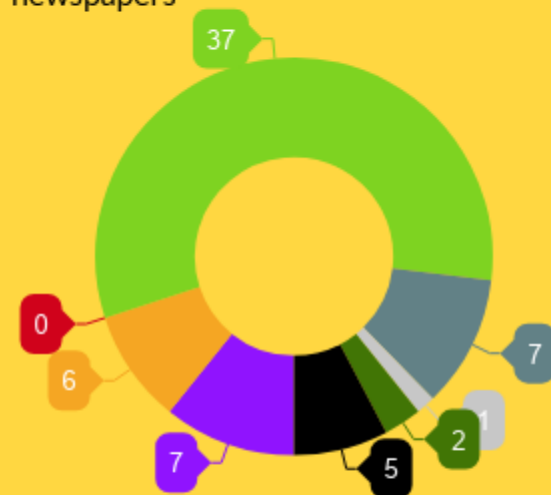


'The Nation's' catalogue on 'The Cable' news outlet has the bulk of Oil and Gas stories. On it were found quite a number of oil and gas stories which were richly reported. Most of the news focused on local and international oil price, growth and decline of oil output, as well as the Nigerian oil market.

Female reporter Oluseyi Awojulugbe is a recent name reporting some of the news published during the period.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



10.77%

Security and
Crime

9.33%

Economy

0%

Politics

56.92%

Business

10.77%

Corruption

1.54%

Environment

3.08%

Association /
Union

7.69%

General

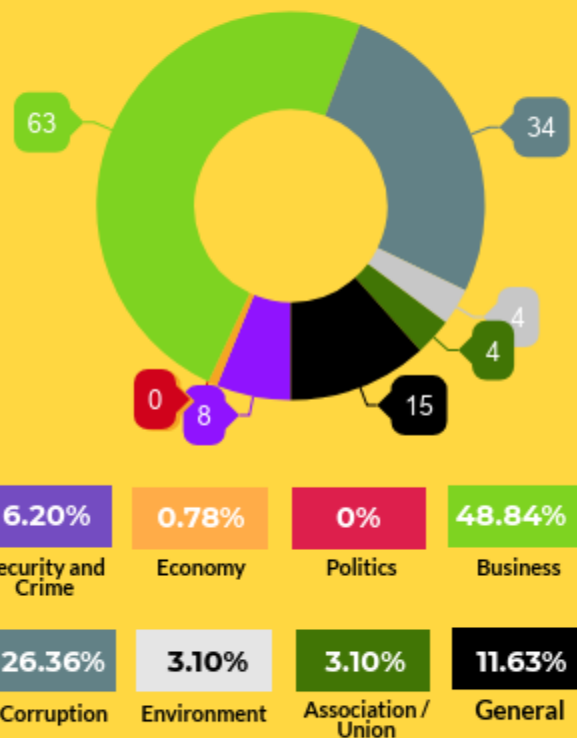


Many of the oil and gas stories on Premium Times were placed randomly with other reports on the 'News' category of the news outlet. 'EXCLUSIVE: Capital Oil, NNPC officials in fresh 90 million litres petrol scandal' published on March 15, was one of the stories reported on the news page.

Evelyn Okakwu, a female reporter was on the case of Malabu which she covered repeatedly, occurred 5 times from January to March. One of the reports, 'Malabu Scandal: Court returns OPL 245 to Shell, ENI', was published on March 17.

STORY ISSUES

This show news story issues in the newspapers



Specific Observations

Based on the results of the analyses, the following were observed in the newspapers monitored during the period under review:

- Most of the oil and gas stories covered in select media relied on press releases, reports from organisations, reports from government-owned news agency and events. As such many of the stories are only accounts of events rather than proactive agenda-setting expositions on the sector.
- The fact that adverts have the highest number of slots after news gives grounds for interrogation between commercialisation and ethics in newsrooms.
- Many of the reports merely rehash government plans, without follow up reports to see that the plans are implemented duly. Again, this speaks to the missing link of agenda-setting and investigative reporting of the sector.
- The number of female reporters covering the oil and gas sector compared to their male counterparts is quite low.

- Investigative reports covering the oil and gas sector are far between. Considering the reported cases massive of corruption in the sector, there is need for see more of these types of stories towards enhancing transparency in the sector.
- Technical stories are more rampant due to the uniqueness of the sector. Human-interest stories are however few. This makes report on the sector difficult to appreciate generally and may well be affecting the response of Nigerians to issues plaguing the sector. There is also a need to better relate the oil and gas sector to others like education, health, crime, and even gender. It would be interesting for instance to read more stories on how the sector affects women and children.
- Most of the photos see are event based. While appreciating the security risks attached to sending a photojournalist to conduct investigative reports, it is important that state that more of this is needed to better tell the story of oil and gas in Nigeria.
- There was paucity of cartoons on the oil and gas sector. Like photos, cartoons are easier to relate to and can be used to simplify the issues in such a way that more persons can relate to it.

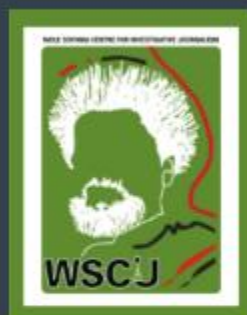
Recommendations

Based on the observations made, we recommend the following:

- Reporters should not rely overly on press releases from organisations, reporters and media houses should initiate stories by engaging the people on their experiences. This would require that more journalists are trained to conduct investigative stories.
- Follow up reports should be initiated by reporters on government plans and promises in order to keep the government on its toes in implementing her plans and promises.
- For a technical sector like oil and gas, interviews with experts are gemstones. Reports therefore be deployed to do more interviews to enrich their knowledge of the sector and provide the public more rounded understand of its working beyond spot news reports.
- There is a need to investigate and deploy strategy to increase the participation of female reporters in the coverage of oil and gas issues.
- As pictures and cartoons say much in few words and little space, media organisations should use it more to engage both those who have much time to read the newspaper and those who can only browse through the pages.

Recommendations

In conclusion, the Nigerian media has made quite a lot of strides in the way that it covers the oil and gas sector. Pull out pages like the 'Sweet Crude', in-depth investigations on corruption like the Malabu and Allison Diezani cases, and painstaking follow up stories on issues of kerosene and fuel scarcity are some examples of testimonies of how far the media has come to ensure that the oil and gas sector of the country gets the attention it deserves. The continuous cases of fraudulent practices in the sector, the fact that Nigeria's refineries are still comatose, social justice issues that plaque the Niger Delta and many more are however reminders that there is still a long way to go.



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