

Newspaper Reportage and Framing of President Muhammadu Buhari's Anti-Corruption Campaign in Nigeria

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Abstract : This study examined newspaper coverage of President Muhammadu Buhari's anti-corruption crusade, a case study of Guardian, Nation, Sun and Vanguard newspapers. It assessed the frequency of coverage given to President Buhari's war against corruption, the prominence of coverage, the angles/framing of topics and the direction of the news stories. The determinants of the prominence of coverage were page placement, length of the story, illustrations and story types. The author made use of agenda setting and framing theories. The research was carried through the method of survey, by distribution of copies of the questionnaire. The result of this study showed that the media gave adequate coverage of President Buhari's anti-corruption war, even though the reports were not many in the early stages of the law enactment, but the coverages lacked prominence as most of the major stories were not given front page coverage; they lacked pictorial illustrations and not exhaustive enough to be impactful. Newspaper organizations are therefore encouraged to include humanistic angles in their corruption stories rather than focus highly on political angles. They should adopt the elements of investigative and interpretative journalism in their coverage of corruption news.

Keywords : newspaper, coverage, president Muhammadu Buhari, anti-corruption campaign

Conference Title : ICJMC 2018 : International Conference on Journalism and Mass Communication

Conference Location : New York, United States

Conference Dates : June 03-04, 2018