Broadcast Media Responsibility in Building Public Confidence in the Fight against Insecurity in Nigeria: Appraisal of "*Journalists' Hangout*" Programme on Television Continental (TVC)

Patience Ngunan Achakpaikyo PhD
Department of Mass Communication, Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria
Pachakpa-ikyo@bsum.edu.ng | 08113330812
Jacob Shagbaor Suemo PhD
Department of Mass Communication, Benue State University, Makurdi, Nigeria
suemojacob@gmail.com & ssuemo@bsum.edu.ng
Kusugh Ternenge PhD
Department of Mass Communication, Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria | 07037724337
kusughternenge@gmail.com & kusught@veritas.edu.ng
Mercy Tartsea-Anshase PhD
Department of Mass Communication, Bingham University, Karu Abuja | Mamet4u@gmail.com
09064453228

Abstract: This study was carried out to examine how Journalists' Hangout programme on Television Continental (TVC) Nigeria has influenced public confidence in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria. The study adopted survey research design in which the questionnaire was used as the research instrument for data collection. Data collected was analyzed through descriptive statistics, and the findings revealed that Journalists' Hangout as the popular programme on TVC News which the majority of the audience is exposed to in Nigeria while those who watch the programme very often were smaller compared to those who did so often. Journalists' Hangout, as also revealed in the study, pays greater attention to security issues as it maintains high level of objectivity in the discussion of such issues in Nigeria and that has influenced the audience by way of greater understanding of the nature of insecurity in Nigeria; recognition of the efforts by security forces in the fight against insecurity; the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight against insecurity; the efforts by government in the fight; the international collaboration and support in the fight; and the impact of Nigerian justice system in the fight to a great extent. Despite the successes, interjection from some discussants on the Journalist' Hangout programme was the major challenge among the public, followed by too much interruption from the programme's moderator, unstable power supply and limited time for viewers to call in and contribute to the discourse for information on security issues in Nigeria. The study concluded that television programmes are influential in restoring public confidence in the fight against insecurity, if properly utilized.

Key words: Broadcast Media, Responsibility, Building Public Confidence, Fight against Insecurity, Journalists' Hangout, Television Continental (TVC)

Introduction

The media in both developed and developing nations of the world have enormous responsibilities to perform for the public in order to keep the society together. It is noticeable that the traditional role of the media to facilitate the exchange of information, educate and enlighten the citizens has long been identified as very crucial. The media also function to keep the citizens abreast of developments, expose them to new ideas, and serve as a veritable platform for them to contribute to the quality of government's policy or policies and to the good governance of the nation (Ogundele, 2018 in Suleiman, 2018). To Kawl and Gamble (1999) in Fajemisin (2018), the media perform five functions in the society which include: serving as source of information and surveillance; agenda setting, structuring and interpreting our lives; connecting us with diverse groups in the society; acting as agents of socialization, and serving as means of entertainment. It is also evident that, beyond the traditional functions of the media to inform, educate and entertain the public, the mass media serve as watchdogs of the society, agenda setters and force multipliers. Through these functions, the mass media sensitize, enlighten and persuade members of the public to participate actively in developmental activities (Auwal, 2015). The mass media watch over, guard and alert society of impending problems and often proffer the ways forward (Lasswell, 1984 in Odigbo, 2003, p. 178). To that effect:

> ... the media are the eyes and ears of the public. The media provide information and alert their heterogeneous audiences of the changes that take place around them. The media consistently survey the environment and convey salient issues or mediated messages to the audience in order to reduce uncertainties and consequently react to the conflict or change in a rational way. The media..., usually scout round the environment and bring news of social, economic and political developments, dangers that are threats to national stability, threats to public welfare, environmental pollution and degradation as well as scandals of varying dimensions to the people (Josephat, 2008, p. 25).

In relation to the aboveview, insecurity is one of the major issues that the world has been battling with for decades and the mass media are in the forefront of the fight by shaping public opinion on issues that contribute to insecurity. Lansner (2006) in Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi (2020) agrees that the media can be crucial in shaping public opinion about conflict as even in the most established democracies, independent media demonstrate chauvinistic and jingoistic tendencies in wartime and during internal strife, the media can serve to dampen or fan incendiary situations. Pulitzer, cited in Nwabueze & Ebeze (2013) once wrote and emphasized the power of the mass media in addressing insecurity that:

> … There is not a crime, there is not a dodge, there is not a trick, there is not a swindle, there is not a vice which does not live by secrecy. Get all these things out in the open, describe them, ridicule them in the press and sooner or later, public opinion will sweep them away (p. 862).

This, according to Nwabueze & Ebeze (2013) is done through interpretation and explanation of the implications of happenings on the lives and environment of the masses, including implications of acts that breed insecurity on the society such as armed robbery; kidnapping and

ritual killings; high profile murders and political assassinations; herdsmen disturbances and clashes with farmers; violent agitations especially for resource control; non-violent agitations for self-determination; terrorist attacks; ethnic and religious tensions; communal and land disputes; and political/post-election violence among others (cited in Onime, 2018). It is expected that through effective information dissemination, the society would gradually turn against such acts (Nwabueze & Ebeze, 2013). On the contrary, there are indications that if wrongly used, the mass media (the broadcast inclusive) can pose a serious threat to national security (Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Ali, 2013; Bello & Oyedele, 2012; Karlson, 2000; Ndubuisi-Okolo & Anigbuogu, 2019; Udoudo & Asak, 2008). It is based on this background that this investigation is necessary to find out the contribution of the broadcast media in building the public's confidence in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria using *Journalists' Hangout* on Continental Television (TVC), Lagos, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine broadcast media responsibility in building public confidence in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria with a focus on the "*Journalists' Hangout*" programme on Television Continental (TVC). The specific objectives include to:

i. Find out the level of exposure of the audience to *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News, Nigeria.

ii. Determine the frequency which the audience watches *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News, Nigeria.

iii. Examine the level which *Journalists' Hangout* programme focuses on insecurity in Nigeria.

iv. Ascertain the level of neutrality of discussions on insecurity in Nigeria during *Journalists' Hangout* programme.

v. To investigate the level of confidence that *Journalists' Hangout* assists the public to have towards the fight against insecurity in Nigeria.

vi. To find out major challenges (if any) that the public have in watching *Journalists' Hangout* during discussions on insecurity in Nigeria.

Research Questions

i. What is the level of exposure of the audience to *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News, Nigeria?

ii. How frequent do the audience watch *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News, Nigeria?

iii. What is the level of focus of *Journalists' Hangout* programme on insecurity in Nigeria?

iv.   What is the level of neutrality of discussions on insecurity in Nigeria during *Journalists' Hangout*?

v.   In what ways does *Journalists' Hangout* programme influence public confidence in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria?

vi.   What are major challenges (if any) the audience has in watching *Journalists' Hangout* during discussions on insecurity in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Insecurity is one of the major issues bedeviling Nigeria in recent times with devastating impact on the economic activities and livelihood of the citizens (Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Ewetan & Urhie, 2014; Hadi & Alhassan, 2020). Admittedly, the level of insecurity in Nigeria has since the return to democratic government in May, 1999 increased woefully. This is induced by recurrent communal clashes, ethnic/tribal conflicts, religious riots/conflicts, militancy and ritual killings, cultism and ethnic militia attacks and the farmers-herdsmen conflicts that are not followed by the full application of law on the culprits (Akinola, 2016; Hadi & Alhassan, 2020). The insecurity situation has also birth the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-eastern Nigeria since 2009 and subsequent transformation of farmers-herders clashes into banditry and cattle rustling from 2010 till date (Ladan, 2019). Most importantly, in some states of the north, the farmers-herders form of insecurity has further transformed not only to banditry and cattle rustling but also to kidnapping of people for ransom. As cited in Onime (2018), Nigeria is by the incident of governance problems presently bedeviled with a plethora of civil unrests and insecurity including but not limited to the following: armed robbery; kidnapping and ritual killings; murder and political assassinations; herdsmen disturbances and clashes with farmers; violent agitations for resource control especially in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria; there are non-violent agitations for self-determination as observed in the South-east Nigeria; terrorist attacks epitomized by Boko Haram in the North-east Nigeria; ethnic and religious tensions; communal and land disputes typified by Aguleri-Umuleri crises in Anambra state; and political and post-election violence, among others.

Ani (2014) has identified the dimensions of human insecurity in Nigeria to include but not limited to assassination-based human insecurity, robbery/kidnapping related human insecurity, political-related human insecurity, ethnic-based human insecurity, inter-communal conflict-related human insecurity, religious-motivated human insecurity and multi-dimensional conflict related human insecurity. While Agri & Agri (2020); Gabriel (2017) and Hadi & Alhassan (2020) pointed out reasons for different forms of insecurity in Nigeria to include: over reliance on oil, over dependence on government job by citizens, export of primary commodities, social inequality, state failure, human rights violations, resource predation, corruption, feeling of marginalization and alienation, lack of specialized skills and sources of livelihood and unresolved agitations owing to inefficient systems of governance.

To address the insecurity challenge, the need for citizens to organize themselves at various levels and platforms to educate, expose and speak up against insecurity has since been advocated. This

is because security is everybody's business and insecurity affects all (Agri & Agri, 2020). The involvement of certain agencies of government like the police, the army, state security services (SSS) in handling security issues is noticeable (Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020). Besides, the mass media is an important institution that is imperative in the moves to reposition the nation's security system and restoration of peace at all levels (Chimezie, 2010; Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Jones, 2011; Kehinde, Yinusa, Addullateef & Abdul-Rasheed, 2015; Meyor, 2009; Udeze & Chukwuma, 2013).

Although, it is evident that the mass media are major stakeholders in addressing insecurity, there are different perspectives on the way the mass media in Nigeria handle security issues. Dunlami & Busayo (2013) in Orlu-Orlu (2017) corroborated this that in Nigeria, perspectives on media role and treatment of security issues vary along the various ethical divides-teleological, deontological, absolutist or relativist alike. The mass media are often implicated in the allegation of fueling crime wave through glamourising or failing to step beyond objective and neutral narratives of the notional 5Ws and H of crime reports (Dunlami & Busayo, 2013 in Orlu-Orlu, 2017). The media, according to Adisa & Abdulhareem (2012) often resort to the following un-ideal ways in reporting conflicts:

  i.   Media mostly just follows events. They do not explain what led to those events.
  ii. They concentrate on bad news of conflict and are silent on the peace process.
  iii. They are often sensational and emotional in tone.
  iv. Who are the newsmakers? They tend to focus on powerful people, political leaders, the rich and the famous that live in towns and cities.
  v.   They often reinforce stereotypes.
  vi. When telling every story, they not only choose who and what to include in the frame, but who and what to leave out.

Similarly, after an analysis of media coverage of insecurity by various scholars, Pate (2011) in Orlu-Orlu (2017) listed some common practices adopted by the media which tend to contribute negatively to insecurity as follows: selective reporting of prejudicial stereotypes about groups and individuals, reporting inter group conflicts out of their fundamental sociological, economic, political and other contexts, shallow and episodic coverage, total blackout on some groups, individuals or community, use of inflammatory, misleading and sensational headlines to attract sales, publishing inflammatory statements against some people or groups as letters to the editor, attributing statements by individuals to groups making generalized statements not supported with facts among others.

On the contrary, Abari & Kenechukwu (2021) found in their study that TVC's *Journalists' Hangout* programme enlightens the Nigerian populace excellently. They mentioned insecurity and terrorism as being among the topmost areas of focus on the programme. Itabiyi, Kayode-Adedeji, Omole & Ekanem (2016) have concluded in their study that the media have shown professionalism in the reportage of religious crises and these reports have promoted unity and security. In the study by Udeze & Chukwuma (2013), it was revealed that the surveillance function of the media can contribute to a large extent in engendering national security, however, the broadcast media are yet to effectively play the surveillance function of the mass media in its

quest to engender national security and governments (Federal, States and LGAs) are yet to effectively collaborate with the broadcast media to achieve national security in Nigeria.

Orlu-Orlu's (2017) study faulted the credibility of the broadcast media in addressing insecurity challenges when he found that NTA's reports on the abduction of the Chibok school girls are often in favour of the government while Channels Television's reports on the abduction are often balanced. According to the study (Orlu-Orlu, 2017), the credibility level of NTA's reports on the abduction of the Chibok school girls was rated low while that of Channels Television was highly rated. Nwankpa & Onyekosor (2015) revealed in their study that Nigerian Newspapers covered militancy in the Niger Delta in a fair, balanced and responsible manner, even though there were a few instances when confrontational languages slipped into reports. Ngige, Badekale & Hamman Joda (2016) concluded in their study that the media should deliberately work to improve upon its performance criteria by restoring confidence reposed on it by the generality of media users, and the media should also adopt a more positive approach to newsgathering and reporting. That, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups will always continue to be as long as the government and media fail to mitigate terrorists' exploitation of the news cycle.

Ogbodo (2018) found in his study that political, religious and 'ethnic' frames were dominantly used in the coverage of insurgency. According to the study, the frames indicate a lack of nuance or texture in the coverage with various critical aspects of the insurgency ignored. Beyond the predetermined frames as evident in the study, ten new sub-thematic (inductive) frames also emerged from the analysis. By knitting the multi-layered arguments in the coverage of the insurgency, this study found evidence of government's hegemonic narratives and strategic influence in the coverage of the insurgency. The study also noted that institutional weakness within news organizations and hostile legislative environment forces journalists to source stories from foreign media. Most of these stories are often decontextualized and therefore, only give a partial view of a situation and particularly conflict situations in Africa. As a consequence, the domestic media adopted the language of 'international terrorism' and now institutionalized the 'war against terror' narrative. This 'homogenous' or 'universal' 'war against terror' implies that the media covered the Boko Haram insurgency from the same perspective that terrorist groups in the Middle East and other parts of the world are covered without necessarily recognizing the different dynamics that led to their emergence. The study concluded that, overtly or covertly, external forces influence the direction of the coverage thereby eroding the editorial independence ofdomestic media (Ogbodo, 2018). For Okey-Ogueji (2016), the Nigerian media are yet to wholly employ peace journalism ethics in reporting the BokoHaram insurgency as they muddle up both peace and conflict frames, though with more conflict frames in the reports.

In their separate studies, Ikenna (2011), Maxwell (2010), Nwafor (2011), Okoro & Okechukwu (2012), Seimo (2010) and Ugwu (2010) found that the mass media in Nigeria including the broadcast media did not adequately and effectively perform their surveillance responsibility in addressing insecurity in the country despite their overwhelming potentials to do so. Adeyemi (2011) opted in his study that instead of just waiting to report these attacks, the media should thrive to secure national security by adopting the investigative approach to uncover and thwart their plans and where it is extremely difficult to abort the plans proper alternative measures could be put in place to minimize the effect on the people and the nation.

But elsewhere, a study conducted by Binga (2011) revealed that the mass media have helped to avert many crises that would have occurred in Cameroon. Binga further observed that the discharge of such a sensitive role by the media has helped to strengthen the security of Cameroon. Yambe (2010) equally remarked in his study that the surveillance role of the media has contributed to national security in Ghana. Yambe affirmed that the media have given overwhelming support to the Ghanaian security agents, which have also helped to maintain peace in the country.

In Ethiopia, a study by Kem (2010) revealed that the media have continued to play the surveillance function which has led to the uncovering and abortion of mayhem in Ethiopia. In the Benin Republic, Ziya (2011) found that through media responsibility in handling insecurity, the country has been living in peace. In another study, Goje (2010) argued that the surveillance responsibility of the media has seriously contributed to the security of lives and property in South Africa. Goje stated that in South Africa, the media are always at alert in informing the people of dangers to ensure safety measures are put in place. Elina (2010) also agreed with the above conclusions when she stated that the mass media have contributed to the security of France. Elina asserted that the security agencies often collaborate with the media to ensure national security.

Most of the authors cited in this study conclude that to ensure national security, a healthy partnership must exist between the media and the government. The duo must unite to thwart insecurity situations and help the nation attain a satisfactory level of national security. However, some studies have revealed that the governments of Nigeria find it difficult to collaborate with the media to achieve any sane national objective because of the mutual suspicion between the two (Maxwell, 2010; Ugwu, 2010).

Some previous studies indicated that certain factors are responsible for the inability of the mass media to measure up to desired expectations in addressing security issues in Nigeria. For instance, Auwal (2015) found that factors such as ownership control, commercialization, ethnicity, religion, legal constraints, lack of press freedom, politicization and monetization of the activities of the media among others, impede on the expected performance of the Nigerian media as far as national security is concerned. Ikechi-Ekpendu (2016) proposed that the media, if granted their right to freedom of expression, will do even better. Auwal (2015) concurred that for the media to contribute meaningfully to national security, there is the need for strict adherence to professional ethics of journalism profession; and as Olayiwola (2013) in Auwal (2015) recommended:

> the media should take cognizance of the fact that security is not just about the Army, the Navy, the Air force, the Police, the Customs, the Immigration, and so on, but also take into account the whole country's socio-political and economic systems, researches and all activities that go into normal civilian life. The mass media should also cover the totality of the security sector and security community, non-statutory security institutions and civil societies, as well as the internal and international processes that are germane to security and insecurity issues including the major aspects of regionalization and globalization of insecurity (p. 152).

From the above literature reviewed, there is a gap in knowledge about how Journalists' Hangout on TVC News assists in building public confidence in addressing insecurity in Nigeria which this study seeks to bridge.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Social Responsibility Media Theory and is supported by the Agenda Setting, Agenda Building and Structural Functionalism Theories respectively.

As it relates to the responsibility of the media in securing the society, **Social Responsibility Media Theory** demands that:

i. The media should accept and fulfill certain obligations (including that of security of lives and property) to society.
ii. Through professional standards of informativeness, truth, accuracy, objectivity and balance, these obligations can be met.
iii. The media should regulate itself within the framework of law and established institutions to be able to carry out its responsibilities.
iv. Whatever might lead to crime violence, civil disorder or offense to minority groups, should be avoided by the media.
v. The media should reflect its society's plurality, giving access to various points of views and granting all rights to reply.
vi. Based on the principle (i), the society has the right to expect high standards of performance from the media. Intervention can only be justified to secure public good.
vii. Accountability of media professionals should be to the society, employers and the market (McQuail, 1987 in Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008).

With the above stated demands, the mass media are to: (a) Serve the political system by making information, discussion and consideration of public affairs generally accessible; (b) Inform the public to enable it take self-determined action; (c) Protect the rights of the individuals by acting as watchdog over the government; (d) Serve the economic system, for instance, by bringing together buyers and sellers through the medium of advertising; and (e) Preserve financial autonomy in order not to become dependent on special interests and influences (Anaeto, Onabajo&Osifeso, 2008) and it is the reason for adopting it in this study .

Based on the **Agenda Setting Theory**, the media are expected to set agenda for public discussion. They may not always determine what we think, but what we think about. Also, the significance which they ascribe to the same issues tends to be proportional to the amount of attention given to the same issues in the media (Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008). Since the initial Chapel Hill Study of 1968, which was first published in 1972 in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, research in agenda-setting has shown that the media can set the agenda for public attention on key public issues by influencing what people think about (Dearing &Rogers, 1996;

Fajemisin, 2018; McCombs &Shaw, 1972; Peter, 2003) and by shaping the extent to which the public consider these issues important (McCombs, 2004). Similarly, over the years, Political Scientists and Sociologists have developed interest 'in how the public influences the policy agenda' (Tan & Weaver, 2007, p.729) while other studies have explained the importance of agenda-setting in educating citizens, advocating political participation and raising their level of awareness of issues associated with political and national development (Fajemisin, 2018; Norris, 2009). These studies admit the role of the mass media in setting agenda on issues of general public concern such as security, politics, policy formulation and implementation, health and environmental concerns, developmental issues and other related areas of concern (Fajemisin, 2018), and since this study is on media responsibility, it is pertinent to support it with this theory.

Known to be an extension of the Agenda Setting Theory, **agenda building** refers to the process in which salience of an issue is formed in the news media agenda through reciprocal interactions between actors including the news media, the public, and political figures (Hong, 2021). Gladys Engel Lang and Kurt Lang (1981, 1991), as cited in Hong (2021) proposed the concept in an attempt to identify the conceptual and methodological loopholes that were not accounted for in previous scholarship on agenda setting. Lang and Lang posited that the news media agenda is not set, but is built, and that agenda-setting research did not provide an adequate answer to the question of what gives rise to a political issue, thus claiming "both too much and too little for the media of mass communication" (Lang & Lang, 1991 in Hong, 2021, p. 1).

To bridge the gaps in agenda-setting, Lang and Lang proposed a four-step model of agenda building, which involves several feedback loops, to make an event or object rise to the status of an "issue." In the first step, the news media focus attention on events, personalities, activities, or groups. In the second step, the media frame the object of attention by emphasizing or deemphasizing some of its aspects, turning it into a "problem" or "concern." Next, the object needs to be linked to "secondary symbols, so that it becomes a part of the recognized political landscape" (Lang &Lang, 1991 in Hong, 2021). The last step involves the appearance of political figures that have the ability to command media attention in order to keep the issue prominent in the news (Hong, 2021. Lang and Lang's agenda-building concept provides a holistic picture of how an issue enters the public domain and becomes salient in media, public, and policy discussions. Two key points should be noted here: First, the media agenda is not set, but is built. This acknowledges the continuity of the process in which an object develops to become an issue in the public domain. Second, political figures, which had been largely ignored in agenda-setting scholarship, play an important role in the buildup of an issue in the news media agenda (Hong, 2021). Thus, this theory is useful for this research.

Furthermore, Structural **Functionalism Theory** is a sociological theory advanced by Auguste Comte (1798-1857) which viewed society as an entity that relies on different structures or units, each of which performs a designated function to keep and maintain the entire system. These interdependent structures or units are regarded as social institutions (of the state) that work to ensure the survival of the society (Merton, 1938 in Hadi & Alhassan, 2020). In this vein, the mass media can be viewed as a sub-unit that functions to ensure that the system has not fallen apart by insecurity (Hadi **&** Alhassan, 2020) and it is found relevant for use in this work.

Research Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey research design with the questionnaire used as the research instrument for data collection. Descriptive survey research in this study has made it easier for large amounts of quantitative data to be collected from a large proportion of the respondents which were reliable enough to address the research problem and objectives of the study.

The population of the study comprised Nigerians from Lagos, Abuja and Kanowhose population figures, according to the World Population Review (2022) and PopulationStat World Population Statistics (2022), the Population of Abuja is 3,464,123; Lagos is 15,141,603 and Kano is 4,164,663. In all, the population of the study, therefore, is 22,770,389 Nigerians. Abuja, Lagos and Kano were sampled in the study using purposive sampling technique because of their strategic positions as metropolitan areas from the Central, North and South of Nigeria.

The sample size of the study was 1067 which was determined using online sample size calculator, the calculator.net under the confidence level of 95%, margin errors of 3%, population proportion of 50%, and population size of 22,770,389 (https://www.calculator.net/sample-size-calculator.html?). Respondents were sampled proportionate to the population size of each of the areas selected, using the statistical formula thus:

$$\frac{S \times n}{N}$$

Where:

S =   Size of State

n =   Sample Size

N =   Total Population

The proportionate sampling was done using the above formula thus:

Abuja: $\frac{3464123}{22770389}$ X $\frac{1068}{1}$ = 162

Lagos: $\frac{15141603}{22770389}$ X $\frac{1068}{1}$ = 710

Kano: $\frac{4164663}{22770389}$ X $\frac{1068}{1}$ = 195

Therefore, 162 respondents were sampled from Abuja, 710 respondents from Lagos and 195 respondents from Kano respectively, making up 1067 respondents that were sampled for the study. The data collected was analyzed through the use of descriptive statistics such as multivariate frequency distribution tables and percentages.

Data Presentation

Data analysis in this study was based on the 1037 representing (97%) questionnaire returned that was found useful because it was correctly completed out of the 1067 administered on the respondents, while 30 representing 3% out of the 1067 questionnaire administered were discarded because of multiple cancelation and duplication of responses. The breakdown indicated that in Abuja, 157 (96.91%) questionnaire was used for analysis while 5 (3.09%) was

discarded; in Lagos, 691 (97.32) questionnaire was used while 19 (2.68%) was discarded; and in Kano, 189 (96.92%) questionnaire was used while 6 (3.08%) was discarded.

Table 1: Level of Audience Exposure to Journalists' Hangout programme on TVC News, Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Total	
	Abuja	%	Lagos	%	Kano	%		%
High exposure	117	74.52	631	91.32	119	62.96	867	83.61
Minimum exposure	35	22.29	49	7.09	51	26.98	135	13.02
Lower exposure	5	3.18	11	1.59	19	10.05	35	3.38
Rarely exposed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1 revealed that the majority (83.61%) of the audience have high exposure to *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria compared to those with minimum exposure (13.02%) and low exposure (3.38%) to the programme. It implies therefore, that *Journalists' Hangout* is a popular programme on TVC News among the audience in Nigeria.

Table 2: Frequency of watching *Journalists' Hangout* Programme on TVC News, Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Total	
	Abuja	%	Lagos	%	Kano	%		%
Very often	56	35.67	255	36.90	35	18.52	346	33.37
Often	81	51.59	363	52.53	107	56.61	551	53.13
Occasionally	20	12.74	73	10.56	47	24.87	140	13.50
Rarely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022

In table 2, it is revealed that majority (53.13%) of the respondents often watch *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria,33.37% out of the respondents watch the programme very often, while 13.50% out of the respondents occasionally watch the programme. This implies that those who watch the *Journalists' Hangout* programme very often were significantly lower as they were only 33% compared to the 53% of who watch the programme often.

Table 3: Level of *Journalists' Hangout* focus on Insecurity in Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Total	
	Abuj	%	Lago	%	Kan	%		%

	a		s		o			
High	131	83.44	597	86.40	125	66.14	853	82.26
Minimum	21	13.38	83	12.01	53	28.04	157	15.14
Low	5	3.18	11	1.59	11	5.82	27	2.60
Rarely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Data in table 3 shows that the level of *Journalists' Hangout's* focus on insecurity issues in Nigeria was high (82.26%) and not minimum (15.14%) or low (2.60%). The implication of this is that there is greater attention to security issues during the *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria.

Table 4: Level of neutrality of *Journalists' Hangout* Discussions on Insecurity in Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Total	
	Abuja	%	Lagos	%	Kano	%		%
High	121	77.07	510	73.81	139	73.54	770	74.25
Minimum	22	14.01	145	20.98	31	16.40	198	19.09
Low	9	5.73	21	3.04	12	6.35	42	4.05
Unaware	5	3.19	15	2.17	7	3.704	27	2.60
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022

In table 3, data indicated that the level of neutrality of *Journalists' Hangout* programme was high (74.25%) and minimum (19.09%) or low (4.05%) levels, while only 2.60% out respondents were unaware of the level of neutrality of the programme. It shows therefore, that *Journalists' Hangout*programme is objective in the discussion of security issues in Nigeria.

Table 5(a): Ways *Journalists' Hangout* Programme Influences the Public's Confidence in the Fight against Insecurity in Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Total	
	Abuja	%	Lagos	%	Kano	%		%
Understand the nature of insecurity in Nigeria	11	7.01	19	2.75	9	4.76	39	3.76
Recognition of the efforts by security forces in the fight	10	6.37	17	2.46	5	2.65	32	3.09
Recognition of the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight	9	5.73	15	2.17	8	4.23	32	3.09

	Abuja	%	Lagos	%	Kano	%	Total	%
Recognition of the efforts by government in the fight	7	4.46	11	1.59	6	3.17	24	2.31
Recognition of the international collaboration and support in the fight	5	3.18	13	1.88	10	5.29	28	2.70
Recognition of the impact of Nigerian justice system in the fight	12	7.64	9	1.30	3	1.59	24	2.31
All of the above	103	65.61	607	87.84	148	78.31	858	82.74
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

In table 5(a), it was revealed that *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC has influenced majority (82.74%) of the audience to: understand the nature of insecurity in Nigeria; recognize the efforts by security forces in the fight against insecurity in the country; recognize the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight against insecurity; recognize the efforts by government in the fight; recognize the international collaboration and support in the fight; and recognize the impact of Nigerian justice system in the fight compared to the minority (3.76%) who was only influenced by the programme to only understand the nature of insecurity in Nigeria, only recognize the efforts by security forces in the fight (3.09%), only recognize the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight (3.09%), only recognize the efforts by government in the fight (2.31%), only recognize the international collaboration and support in the fight (2.70%), or only recognize the impact of Nigerian justice system in the fight (2.31%).

This implies that *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC Nigeria influences the Nigerian public in understanding the nature of insecurity in Nigeria; recognizing the efforts by security forces in the fight against insecurity in the country; the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight against insecurity; the efforts by government in the fight; the international collaboration and support in the fight; and the impact of Nigerian justice system in the fight.

Table 5(b): Extent Journalists' Hangout Programme Influences the Public's Confidence in the Fight against Insecurity in Nigeria

Response	No. of Respondents						Total	
	Abuja	%	Lagos	%	Kano	%		%
To great extent	121	77.07	493	71.35	124	65.61	738	71.17
To a minimal extent	16	10.19	139	20.12	27	14.29	182	17.55
To a very little extent	13	8.28	40	5.79	23	12.17	76	7.33

Not sure of the extent	7	4.46	19	2.75	15	7.94	41	3.95
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 5(b) revealed that *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria has influenced public confidence of majority (71.17%) of the people in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria to a great extent compared to the minority (17.55%) out of the respondents who were influenced to a minimal extent, another minority (7.33%) who were influenced to a very little extent, and those (3.95%) respondents who were not sure of the extent they were influenced. It shows therefore, that *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria has great influence on the public's confidence in the war against insecurity in Nigeria.

Table 6: Major Challenges (if any) in Watching *Journalists' Hangout* Programme on TVC News in Nigeria

Response		No. of Respondents					Total	
	Abuja	**%**	**Lagos**	**%**	**Kano**	**%**		**%**
Unstable power supply	33	21.02	131	18.96	41	21.69	205	19.77
Too much interruption from the programme's moderator	35	22.29	183	26.48	43	22.75	261	25.17
Interjection from some discussants	41	26.11	199	28.80	49	25.93	289	27.87
Duration of the programme	8	5.10	17	2.46	5	2.65	30	2.89
Time of the programme	3	1.91	14	2.03	3	1.59	20	1.93
Frequency of the programme	5	3.18	11	1.59	6	3.17	22	2.12
Format of the programme	3	1.91	9	1.30	7	3.70	19	1.83
Limited time for callers on the programme	29	18.47	127	18.38	35	18.52	191	18.42
Total	**157**	**100**	**691**	**100**	**189**	**100**	**1037**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2022

In table 6, it was revealed that the interjection from some discussants on the *Journalist' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria was the major challenge to majority (27.87%) of the respondents, followed by too much interruption from by the programme's moderator (25.17%), unstable power supply (19.77%) and Limited time for callers on the programme (18.42%) compared to the duration of the programme(2.89%), time of the programme (1.93%), frequency of the programme (2.12%), and format of the programme (1.83%) which were recognized by few as challenges in watching the *Journalists' Hangout* programme for discussions on insecurity in the country. This implies that interjection from some discussants on the *Journalist' Hangout* programme was the major challenge among the public, followed by too much interruption from

by the programme's moderator, unstable power supply and Limited time for callers on the programme in watching the programme for information on security issues in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

Journalists' Hangout is a popular programme on TVC News which the majority of the Nigerian public are exposed to. This agrees with research findings from the studies separately conducted by the scholars like Abari & Kenechukwu (2021), Itabiyi, Kayode-Adedeji, Omole&Ekanem (2016), Ngige, Badekale & HammanJoda (2016), Udeze & Chukwuma (2013), Nwankpa & Onyekosor (2015), Orlu-Orlu (2017) which indicated that there was public exposure to mass media programmes/messages in Nigeria.

The Nigerian public who watch *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC very often are few compared to those who do so often. This aligns with the finding in the study conducted by Orlu-Orlu (2017) which indicated that audiences made use of the public media but not as often as it was desired.

Another finding is that there is greater attention to security issues in the *Journalists' Hangout* programme on TVC News Nigeria. This finding justifies the provision of the Social Responsibility Media Theory which challenges the media to accept and fulfill certain obligations (including that of security of lives and property) to society (McQuail, 1987 in Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008); Agenda Setting Theories which demands that the media to set agenda on issues of general public concern such as security ... (Fajemisin, 2018); the agenda building theory which indicated that salience of an issue is formed in the news media agenda through reciprocal interactions between actors including the news media, the public, and political figures (Hong, 2021); and the Structural Functionalism Theory which demands that the mass media as a sub-unit of o the larger society to perform its obligations in the manner to keep the system one and prevent it from extermination (Hadi & Alhassan, 2020); while Abari & Kenechukwu (2021) in their finding mentioned insecurity and terrorism as among the topmost areas of focus in the *Journalists' Hangout* programme

Journalists' Hangout programme is objective in the discussion of security issues in Nigeria to a great extent. This corroborates the finding in the study conducted by Abari & Kenechukwu (2021) which revealed that *TVC Journalists' Hangout* programme enlightens the Nigerian populace excellently. The finding also justifies the provision of the social responsibility media theory that through professional standards of informativeness, truth, accuracy, objectivity and balance, these obligations (such as addressing security issues) can be met (McQuail, 1987 in Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2008). However, there are previous findings that also differ from this finding which indicated that the Nigerian mass media are biased in reporting security issues in the country (Adisa & Abdulhareem, 2012; Orlu-Orlu, 2017).

Journalists' Hangout programme on TVC Nigeria influences the Nigerian public by way of understanding the nature of insecurity in Nigeria; recognizing the efforts by security forces in the fight against insecurity in the country; the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight against insecurity; the efforts by government in the fight; the international collaboration and support in the fight; and the impact of Nigerian justice system in

the fight. This finding corroborates the position of previous scholars that the mass media is an important institution that is imperative in the moves to reposition the nation's security system and restoration of peace at all levels (Chimezie, 2010; Dare, Bamidele & Oluwasanmi, 2020; Jones, 2011; Kehinde, Yinusa, Addullateef & Abdul-Rasheed, 2015; Meyor, 2009; Udeze & Chukwuma, 2013).

Journalists' Hangout programme on TVC News Nigeria have had great influence on public confidence in the war against insecurity in Nigeria. This finding agrees with different scholars (Binga, 2011; Elina, 2010; Goje, 2010; Kem, 2010; Yambe, 2010; Ziya, 2011) in their separate findings which indicated that the mass media have contributed tremendously to the security of lives and property.

Furthermore, finding revealed that interjection from some discussants on the *Journalist' Hangout* programme was the major challenge among the public, followed by too much interruption from by the programme's moderator, unstable power supply and Limited time for callers on the programme in watching the programme for information on security issues in Nigeria. This aligns with the previous findings from separate scholars which indicated that the Nigerian mass media face a number of challenges that impede their expected role in national security (Auwal, 2015; Ikechi-Ekpendu, 2016).

Conclusion

Journalists' Hangout is a popular programme on TVC News which the majority of the audience is exposed to in Nigeria. Despite the large exposure, the Nigerian audience who watches the programme very often are smaller compared to those who do so often. The programme pays greater attention to security issues as it maintains a high level of objectivity in the discussion of such issues in Nigeria. The programme influences the audience in terms of building their confidence to a great extent via a greater understanding of the nature of insecurity in Nigeria; recognizing the efforts by security forces in the fight against insecurity in the country; the need for public partnership, cooperation and participation in the fight against insecurity; the efforts by government in the fight; the international collaboration and support in the fight; and the impact of Nigerian justice system in the fight.

However, interjection from some discussants on the *Journalists' Hangout* programme was the major challenge among the public, followed by too much interruption fromthe programme's moderator, unstable power supply and limited time for callersto lend their voices to the discourse.

Furthermore, television programmes are influential in building public confidence in the fight against insecurity, if properly utilized.

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