



A Influence of "All Eyes on the Judiciary" Twitter Campaigns on the Outcome of the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

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In recent times, allegations of electoral and judicial fraud have been alarming. Hence, this study aims to investigate the influence of "All Eyes on the Judiciary" Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. The public sphere theory served as the theoretical foundation for the study. In this study, the survey research method was used with a population of 5,100,000 and a sample size of 385, which was derived from the Survey Monkey online sample size calculator. A purposeful sampling technique was employed. The instrument used was an online questionnaire. The data was analysed using percentages and mean analysis. Results showed that, at an average of 74.0%, citizens are exposed to the "all eyes on the judiciary" Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria to a large extent. Findings revealed that, at a mean of 1.8 (N = 372), the "all eyes on the judiciary" Twitter campaigns did not influence the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. It was concluded that as much as the exposure of respondents to the campaigns was high, so was its usefulness. The campaign could not influence the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria.

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1. Introduction

In a democratic dispensation like Nigeria, elections have been relied upon to produce leaders to occupy key positions at different levels of government. In February 2023, Nigeria conducted its seventh presidential and National Assembly (NASS) elections. Although there were significant anomalies in the elections, observers deemed them to be generally free, fair, and credible (Habib, 2023);(Times, 2023). However, during the elections, anomalies continued to (Akeaya-Inne, 2023);(Acheampong, 2023);(Ijaseun D, 2023). Yiaga Africa's Executive Director, Samson Itodo, who

closely monitored the elections, claims that every worry raised in the election manipulation risks index (EMRI) materialised in the way the polls were conducted (Itodo, 2023). These generally have to do with the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) failure to uphold its own commitments and stop political misbehaviour.

According to studies on Nigerian election management, the country's elections are now of lower quality due to thuggery, shoddy Information Communication Technology (ICT) implementation, poor planning, insecurity, and logistics (Iwuoha et al., 2021);(Nwamara & Etumnu, 2022).

In the 2023 elections, there appeared to have been electoral manipulation and attacks on voters. People have commented on the elections held at various points in time. In 2015, for example, both parties and international observers deemed the general elections in Nigeria to be the most fair and free ever (Shuaibu et al., 2019). But that was not the case in the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections, which resulted in a tribunal case. The presidential tribunal was instituted to enable dissatisfied presidential candidates such as Peter Obi and Atiku Abubakar to register their respective cases with regard to the election.

The Nigerian Chief Justice, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, officially opened the Election Petition Tribunals on November 7, 2023, to hear complaints contesting the results and manner of the 2023 presidential election. The backdrop for the judiciary's involvement in resolving the issues is Nigeria's history of post-election petitions, particular accusations of irregularities, public opinion, and the debates and discussions that followed (Iruke C, 2023).

As the case was ongoing at the tribunal, people were following it up and updating on social media. One of the social media platforms used was Twitter. According to a Statcounter.com, (2023) statistical report, Twitter is the second most used social media platform in Nigeria. Social media helps in monitoring election duties and gives voters the information they need to choose the parties and candidates they want to support or vote for (Nwamara & Etumnu, 2022). Twitter's open, horizontal, and widely networked architecture makes it especially capable of contributing significantly to political conversation. According to Kadijat et al., (2020), Nigerians are using social media for more than just casual socialising. In contrast to Facebook, which by default restricts users' accessibility to other users' posts within the network, tweets are publicly shared and readily accessible to all users. Twitter is a lively platform for public conversation because of its open architecture, which gives users a way to reply to other users (Igiebor G.O, 2022);(Kim, 2016). Because of the nature of Twitter, it has been heavily relied upon for political debate or even as an avenue for correcting social ills in society. Due to the trust issue Nigerians have in the judiciary regarding election matters, they have now become extremely conscious of their court activities,

thereby raising people's consciousness on the presidential election tribunal case by creating the hashtag #All Eyes on the Judiciary as a form of campaign aimed at checking the judiciary.

Election matters are very serious because, in most cases, they define the fate of the country in which they are conducted. The 2023 presidential election in Nigeria was filled with so much hope because of the candidates contesting the election, especially Peter Obi. His participation made so many people across the country register for the election with the hope of having the right candidate elected as president of the country. However, the election appeared to be marred with irregularities, thereby declaring All Progressive Congress (APC) candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu the winner of the election. The pronouncement angered so many people who had high hopes for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The declaration left people dissatisfied, including the contestants, which then resulted in the winning being petitioned in the tribunal. The matter was taken to the tribunal with the hope of addressing the issues of the election and being the last hope of the common man in society. A social media campaign was started with the caption #All Eyes On The Judiciary, mostly on Twitter, with the aim of monitoring and putting the judiciary on their toes to carry out unbiased judgements on the presidential election. The question is, were the "All Eyes on The Judiciary" campaigns on the presidential election tribunal able to influence the judiciary in giving out their judgement?

The following questions guided the study: To what extent are citizens exposed to the "all eyes on the judiciary" Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria? How workable is the use of Twitter in coordinating the "all eyes on the judiciary" Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria? What is the perception of citizens to the "all eyes on the judiciary" Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria? What is the influence of the "all eyes on the judiciary" Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria?

2. Theoretical Framework

The public-sphere theory is the foundation for this investigation. This theory's central tenet is that the public sphere directs political activity, and the only legitimate governments are those that pay attention to the public sphere (Habermas J, 1962).

In theory, Habermas defines his "public sphere" as an area that offers a somewhat independent and public platform for discussion among the general public. According to Habermas, (2006), the public sphere functions as a kind of middleman for discussions taking place informally in face-to-face forums at both the top and bottom of the political hierarchy and in formally organised forums. For him, liberal or participatory democracy is typified by this kind of discussion. He continues,

saying that the public sphere is based on networks for the unrestrained flow of communications, including news, reports, debates, interviews, scenes and photos, and television programmes and films with material that is polemical, instructive, amusing, or informational (p. 415). The public sphere, according to Habermas, (2006b), is a network for exchanging ideas and information about the common good.

Instead of originating from a single, authoritative source as in the mainstream media, these materials originate from a variety of sources, all of which aim to sway opinions, particularly those of those in positions of power. Participation in politics happens in the public sphere, not in a vacuum (Etumnu, 2021);(Polat R, 2007). Political organisations have a significant function in the public domain, according to deliberative democratic theory.

According to McQuail (2004), the players in this area of discussion include political parties and politicians, pressure organisations, lobbyists, and members of civil society. This discussion affects not just the learning impacts of citizens' pondering political talks in daily life but also the decision-making process in national legislatures, court rulings, and other political institutions (Wadud, 2021).

One of the most significant intermediate institutions of civil society is the media, if it is arranged appropriately and is open, varied, and free (McQuail, 2004). However, Habermas' space is free to access and guarantees people's freedoms of assembly, association, and expression—unlike the mass media, which manipulates people instead of assisting them in developing sensible viewpoints. This is a result of the media's gatekeeping procedure, which allows them to choose which people and topics to let through.

Several scholars have recognised the potential of the Internet and digital media technologies to establish a virtual public sphere that encourages more horizontal communication among peers. These technologies offer an unrestricted platform for information exchange, make cultural products like digital music accessible with ease, offer greater freedom of choice that is not geographically limited, facilitate debates and discussions that challenge official and professional stances, and allow for the circulation of ideas and information, potentially inspiring political action (Dahlgren P, 2005);(Samosir, 2021). Twitter serves as a prominent illustration and is the focus of our inquiry.

Social Media and Electioneering Campaign in Nigeria

Social media has developed into a powerful tool for political campaigns in Nigeria, providing politicians and political parties with new avenues for voter engagement, public opinion swaying, and support mobilisation. Political parties and candidates can engage directly with a wide audience by using social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WhatsApp (Shadrach &

Apuke, 2020). In real time, candidates may interact with voters and discuss their policy stances and campaign messaging. Social media's viral quality makes it possible for messages to travel quickly, expanding their effect and reach. Politicians may use social media to spread false information about real or imagined opponents in an attempt to gain support from the public because, in contrast to traditional mass media, it is democratic and uncontrolled (Alegu, Maku, Adelaja, 2021). Social media tools enable candidates and voters to communicate in both directions. Candidates are accessible to the public for interaction, questioning, concerns, and comments. Voters gain the ability to actively participate in politics and are encouraged to be inclusive as a result of this participation. Candidates can customise their campaign messaging to appeal to particular demographics, geographic areas, or interests by utilising the advanced targeting capabilities provided by social media platforms (Stier et al., 2018). By optimising the impact of campaign activities, this targeting capacity allows for more effective engagement with important voter categories. According to Orji (2014), social media has become an important tool for political communication in Nigeria since 2007. But Nigeria's 2011 general elections marked the nation's first real experiment in using social media for political engagement (Okoro & Nwafo, 2013).

During election campaigns, social media has become a crucial tool for organising grassroots movements. Online platforms are employed by political parties and candidates to arrange volunteerism, synchronise campaign-related tasks, and mobilise supporters for events, rallies, and doorstep campaigns. Social media makes it feasible to track public opinion and reactions to political campaigns in real time (Okoro & Santas, 2017). In order to adjust their strategies as needed, candidates and parties can keep an eye on how the public reacts to their messaging, policies, and campaign activities. Social media platforms provide a venue for the sharing of alternate narratives and opinions. Social media can be used by individuals, groups, and independent candidates to change public opinion, contest prevailing narratives, and bring attention to crucial topics (Mamman, 2019).

Using Twitter for Political Mobilisation

Political parties, candidates, and activists can share information about their platforms, policies, events, and accomplishments via Twitter. It offers a forum for interacting with a large audience, rallying support, and raising awareness of political concerns. Television used to dominate the political agenda, but Twitter is taking over that position. Television, or at least televised news, now follows Twitter (Adinda & Filosa, 2022). Twitter is a microblogging platform that promotes user involvement through its interactive design and narrative. This social network stands out for how simple it is to create content. A tweet cannot be sophisticated, but it might be clever or humorous. Hashtags on Twitter are used to organise discussions around specific topics. Political campaigns can create and utilise campaign-specific hashtags to amplify their messaging, mobilise supporters,

and increase participation (Dungse et al., 2018). Hashtag campaigns have the potential to generate online dialogue, increase visibility, and galvanise support for specific politicians or issues (Hadma & Anggoro, 2021). Using Twitter, supporters and political activists may communicate, organise, and plan local events. It can be used to plan neighbourhood get-togethers, voter registration drives, door-to-door campaigns, and volunteer recruitment (Pérez-Martínez et al., 2017). Twitter's networking tools help create interest-based groups of people who might meet in person. Political candidates in Nigeria have the ability to interact directly via Twitter with both their supporters and prospective voters. They are able to provide real-time information, answer questions, and resolve issues (Nsude et al., 2016). Having conversations with supporters promotes inclusivity, loyalty, and trust—all of which can aid in political mobilisation. They may learn about the election process, voter rights, and voter registration on Twitter. Campaigns can share information about election dates, polling locations, and necessary documentation requirements. Twitter can increase voter education and awareness, which in turn can increase political involvement and turnout (Carlos et al., 2022).

Election: An Overview

Elections are the heartbeat of democracy, pulsating with the collective will and aspirations of a society. At their core, elections represent more than just a mechanism to select leaders; they embody the essence of choice, a fundamental right and responsibility bestowed upon citizens (Umoh, 2021). The meaning of elections transcends the mere act of casting ballots; it is a profound expression of civic engagement, a testament to the belief that every voice matters.

In a democratic framework, elections serve as a conduit for the peaceful transfer of power. They are a mechanism through which individuals can participate in shaping the trajectory of their nation, influencing policies, and holding leaders accountable (Carter & Farrell, 2010). The act of voting is not merely a civic duty but a powerful statement of belief in the potential for positive change. It is a way for people to stake their claim in the collective destiny of their society (Ibeanu, 2022).

Moreover, elections are a reflection of diversity and pluralism. They provide a platform for various ideologies, perspectives, and voices to contend and compete. In this arena, the richness of ideas converges, offering voters a spectrum of choices that mirror the complexity of human societies (Birch, 2008). Elections, therefore, become a celebration of diversity, fostering an environment where differing opinions can coexist and contribute to the greater tapestry of a nation (Animashaun, 2010). The meaning of elections extends beyond the immediate outcome. It is a continuous process that sustains the democratic spirit. It involves informed deliberation, open discourse, and the ongoing commitment of citizens to stay engaged beyond the polling day (Umoh, 2021). Elections are not isolated events but part of a larger narrative of civic responsibility and the shared journey towards a more just and equitable society (Obi, 2008).

In essence, elections symbolise the heartbeat of a vibrant democracy, pulsating with the energy of participation, choice, and the collective pursuit of a better future. They encapsulate the profound notion that every vote cast is a thread woven into the fabric of a nation's democratic identity, shaping its character and defining its course (Commonwealth, 2014).

An Overview of Election Petition Tribunal

The Election Petition Tribunal plays a crucial role in the democratic process of a nation, serving as a legal forum where electoral disputes are adjudicated. As an essential component of the judiciary, these tribunals are tasked with resolving complaints and controversies arising from the conduct of elections. The establishment of such tribunals reflects the commitment to upholding the principles of fairness, justice, and the rule of law in the electoral process (Iruke, 2023).

One of the primary functions of an Election Petition Tribunal is to hear and determine petitions filed by aggrieved parties challenging the outcome of an election. These petitions may be brought by political parties, individual candidates, or even voters who believe that the electoral process was marred by irregularities, fraud, or other malpractices (Nesgroup.org, 2023). The tribunal serves as an impartial body with the authority to review evidence, listen to testimonies, and make rulings based on the merits of each case.

The composition of an election petition tribunal typically includes judges who are experienced in electoral matters. The selection of tribunal members is crucial to ensuring the credibility and impartiality of the adjudication process. Judges with a deep understanding of electoral laws and regulations are better equipped to interpret the complexities of election-related disputes, providing a fair and informed judgement (Iruke, 2023).

The decisions rendered by election petition tribunals hold significant consequences for the political landscape of a nation. If the tribunal determines that the election was flawed and that the irregularities affected the outcome, it may order various remedies, including nullifying the election results, ordering a recount, or even calling for a fresh election in extreme cases (Nesgroup.org, 2023). On the other hand, if the tribunal finds that the election was conducted fairly and in compliance with the law, it will uphold the results, affirming the legitimacy of the elected officials (Nesgroup.org, 2023).

The existence of Election Petition Tribunals serves as a crucial check and balance in the electoral system. It provides an avenue for redress for those who believe they have been wronged during the electoral process and reinforces the accountability of electoral bodies. The tribunal's decisions contribute to public confidence in the electoral system by ensuring that electoral disputes are resolved transparently and justly (Travesty, 1997).

However, it is essential to note that the effectiveness of election petition tribunals depends on various factors, including the independence of the judiciary, the transparency of the electoral process, and the adherence to legal procedures. Challenges such as delays in the adjudication process, political interference, and resource constraints may impact the tribunal's ability to fulfil its mandate effectively (Adejumo, 2011).

The Election Petition Tribunal is a vital institution for safeguarding the integrity of elections and promoting democratic values. By providing a legal framework for resolving electoral disputes, these tribunals play a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that the voice of the people is heard and respected in the democratic process.

Empirical Review

Godwin & Ph (2018) carried out a study on the effectiveness of Twitter in the 2015 presidential electioneering campaigns. President Goodluck Jonathan of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and challenger Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressive Congress (APC). Analysis of data collected from 200 respondents revealed that while Twitter facilitated the acquisition of information through voters' engagement with political candidates, it did not have a substantial impact on voter interest or influence voting decisions. Voters were unable to remember whether they used Twitter as a factor in deciding how to vote due to the passage of time after the election. In a study conducted by Olabanjo et al (2022), it was found that social media platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and others are frequently utilised as tools for organising protests, conducting opinion surveys, developing campaign strategies, expressing grievances, and sharing interests, particularly during elections. The results also indicated the influence of each candidate in terms of their chances of winning the election (Brookes, 2004).

In their study, Dungse et al (2018) investigated the role of social media, particularly Twitter, in facilitating political mobilisation. The researchers determined that although social media plays a significant role in political processes, politics is a more intricate process that cannot be solely attributed to social media. Hence, it recommends that, in order to achieve the intended political, economic, social, and developmental changes, individuals should increase their engagement on digital platforms. In their study, Bello et al (2019) found that online social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook offer a versatile and effective means for individuals to communicate on a large scale, generating a wide range of statistical data. These platforms provide political parties with the opportunity to engage in various activities related to elections. Additionally, they discovered that the primary opposition party uses a dual approach, which involves endorsing its candidates while simultaneously criticising the ruling party and its nominee. In contrast, both the ruling party and minority parties concentrate on endorsing their own candidates.

In their study, Agbim et al (2023) used a survey method to select 384 respondents and discovered that, while Twitter is just one avenue for voter engagement, it can be a potent platform for political mobilisation. Twitter movements and hashtags have the power to magnify voices that might not otherwise be heard, shape narratives, and bring attention to certain causes. They can also start conversations, interact with decision-makers, and mobilise people behind different causes. According to a study done by Ayika (2022), there are more lawsuits pertaining to elections, and the rulings that come from them are sometimes contentious and contradictory. It was noted that a few of the causes of this were the numerous inadequacies in the pertinent laws and rules governing Nigerian elections, which, among other things, required the courts to use their discretionary authority to close the gaps. The maintenance and strengthening of Nigeria's democracy were adversely affected by the inadequacies and the ensuing use of judicial discretion (O'Neill, 2002). The study found that the consequences of the electoral laws' shortcomings led to the judicialisation of Nigerian elections, which in turn required the courts to use their discretionary powers. According to the report, there have been instances where the courts have misused or mishandled their discretionary powers for reasons relating to economic, political, religious, or personal gain.

According to a study by Burchard & Simati (2019), violence happens in a small percentage of sub-Saharan African elections. The researchers investigate the circumstances in which courts might restrain election-related violence by utilising data on electoral violence from the Nigerian elections of 2015 and 2019. They discovered that there is a correlation—but only if the courts are widely regarded as reliable—between winning an electoral challenge in court and a decrease in the heinousness of violence in the following election. These results suggest that enhancing generalised trust in judicial institutions is essential to lowering electoral violence, in addition to strengthening judicial competency. The legitimacy issue that Nigerian President Bola Tinubu's administration is expected to face in the wake of the conduct and results of the 2023 presidential election were studied in the Fasakin (2022) study. The research shows how Tinubu's legitimacy as Nigeria's president would be impacted by INEC's actions, his personality crisis, the challenges the ruling APC has in a pluralistic society, and the burgeoning youth category.

In research conducted by Bello & Famoroti (2023), it was found that the election outcome disappointed not only the majority of the voters but also local and international observers. The article contends that the result should not come as a surprise due to the failure to address the inherent issues related to elections in Nigeria. In their study Godwin & Ph (2018) highlighted the effectiveness of Twitter in Southeast Nigeria during the 2015 presidential campaign of the two main candidates. The findings indicated that Twitter had no substantial impact on voter engagement or the shaping of voting choices, despite the provision of a platform for communication with political

candidates and access to relevant information. Additionally, it was shown that a significant number of individuals were unable to recall if they used Twitter as a means to vote following the election.

3. Method

Research Design. The researchers adopted the survey method in carrying out this study. This method enables the researcher to study samples, and it also makes for easy identification of conditions and phenomena in their natural setting (Loveth et al., 2022). Hence, the researchers used the survey design to select a representative sample from the population and later generalise on the said population.

Population of Study. This study population consists of Twitter users. According to Giorgi et al (2022) data report, the total twitter users in Nigeria is 5,100,000 million. Therefore, the population of this study is therefore 5,100,000 million.

Sample Size. The survey monkey online sample size calculator was used at 95% confidence level and 5% error margin. Therefore, the sample size for this study is 385.

Sampling Technique. For the sampling technique, the researcher used the purposive sampling technique to reach out to respondents. The researcher used this procedure to be able to select only those who are Twitter users. The technique was employed until the whole element in the sample was selected. Tayo-Garbson et al (2019) used this sampling procedure in their study, and it was effective in reaching out to the respondents.

Instrument for Data Collection. An online Google questionnaire was the main tool used to collect data for this investigation. Two sections, A and B, made up the questionnaire for this study. The demographic data of the respondents were presented in Section A, and the thematic issue (the researcher's subject matter) is presented in Section B. All questions were closed-ended or structured. The questions were structured in Likert scale format and in "yes," "no," and "can't say" formats as well. In all, there are 13 items on the questionnaire designed to address the research problem.

Reliability/Validity of the Instrument. The researchers distributed 20 copies of the questionnaire to respondents online. The retrieved questionnaire responses were computed using Cronbach alpha with the aid of SPSS version 21 to check for the level of consistency of the instrument. The result showed 77, meaning there is a high level of internal coefficient in the instrument. Meanwhile, face validity was used in this study. In a bid to ascertain the validity of the instrument, the researcher gave a copy of the structure questionnaire to some experts in the faculty of communication and media studies for vetting. Corrections were made, which affirms the validity of the instrument (Lindøe, 2006).

Method of Administering Instrument, The questionnaire as an instrument for data collection was distributed using links shared on WhatsApp status as well as groups, direct messages, Facebook, and Twitter handles of respondents within a period of two weeks. After much persuasion, responses started coming within this period.

Method of Data Analysis, For data analysis, the researchers utilised the simple percentage and mean methods. The data were presented in a table for easy understanding and analysis.

4. Result and Discussion

This section focuses on the presentation and analysis of data. At the end of the timeframe of data collection, the responses received were 372. The return rate of response stood at 96.6%, which is appropriate for the analysis in the study. Therefore, the analysis was done based on the received responses. The socio-demographic data was first presented before the psychographic data.

Table 1. RESPONDENT BIODATA ANALYSIS

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Male	199	53.2%
Female	173	46.8%
Total	372	100
Age		
Items	Frequency	Percentage
15-21 years	93	25
22-28 years	124	33.3
29-35 years	108	29.1
36-above years	47	12.6
Total	372	100
Marital Status		
Items	Frequency	Percentage
Single	239	64.2
Married	101	27.2
Separated	25	6.7
Widowed	-	
Divorced	7	1.9
Total	372	100
Education		
Items	Frequency	Percentage
SSCE	69	18.5
OND/NCE	101	27.2
BSc/MA	153	41.1
PhD	49	13.1
Total	372	100
Occupation		
Item	Frequency	Percentage
Students	121	32.5
Civil servants	72	19.3
Traders/Entrepreneur	80	21.5

Professionals	99	26.6
Total	372	100

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Table 1 above revealed that with 199 (53.2%) of the respondents, the majority of the respondents for this study are male. This implies that most of the respondents are male. The data revealed that the majority of the respondents, consisting of 124 (33.3%), are within the age bracket of 22–28 years. It was also revealed that most of the respondents, which are 239 (64.2%), are single. In essence, most of the respondents used for this study are single. For educational attainment, most of the respondents, 153 (41.1%), are first-degree holders. The data also indicated that a large number of the respondents, 121 (32.5%), are students. This implies that the majority of the respondents are students.

Analysis of Physiographic Data

Research Question One: To what extent are citizens exposed to the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria?

Table 2. RESPONDENTS RESPONSES ON WHETHER THEY HAVE TWITTER ACCOUNT

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	372	100%
No	-	-
Can't say	-	-
Total	372	100

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

The data presented in table 2 above shows that 100% of respondents stated that they have a twitter account. This means that all respondents have a twitter account.

Table 3. RESPONDENTS VIEWS ON HOW OFTEN THEY VISIT TWITTER PLATFORM TO MAKE AND READ POSTS

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Very often	171	45.9%
Often	127	34.1%
Rarely	74	19.8%
Not at all	-	-
Can't say	-	-
Total	372	100

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Data as presented on the above table 3 revealed that 45.9% of respondents confirmed that they visit twitter platform to make and read posts very often. What this means is that majority of the respondents visit twitter platform to make and read posts very often.

Table 4. RESPONDENTS RESPONSES ON WHETHER THEY ARE EXPOSED TO ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY TWITTER CAMPAIGNS

Items	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	372	100%
No	-	-
Can't say	-	-
Total	372	100

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Data as presented on the above table 4 revealed that 100% of respondents confirmed that they are exposed to all eyes on the judiciary twitter campaigns. This shows that all the respondents are exposed to all eyes on the judiciary twitter campaigns.

Table 5. RESPONDENTS VIEWS ON THE EXTENT CITIZENS ARE EXPOSED TO THE “ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY” TWITTER CAMPAIGNS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PETITION TRIBUNAL IN NIGERIA

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very Large extent	90	24.1%
Large extent	187	50.2%
Moderate extent	80	21.5%
Low extent	15	4.0%
No extent	-	-
Total	372	100%

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Analysis of data from the above table 5 reveals that 50.2% of the respondents confirmed that they are exposed to the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria to a large extent. This implies that majority of the respondents are of the view that they are exposed to the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria to a large extent.

Research Question Two: How workable is the use of Twitter in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria?.

Table 6. RESPONDENTS VIEWS ON HOW WORKABLE IS THE USE OF TWITTER IN COORDINATING THE “ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY” TWITTER CAMPAIGNS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PETITION TRIBUNAL IN NIGERIA (N=372)

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remark
Twitter helps campaigners update on the tribunal case.	209	163	-	-	3.6	Accepted
The use of twitter helps the campaigns to be well organized.	131	152	56	33	3.0	Accepted
Through the use of twitter the tribunal case was widely discussed in Nigeria.	108	197	67	-	3.1	Accepted
Mean					3.2	Accepted

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Variables Key: SA (Strongly Agree) = 4; A (Agree) = 3; D (Disagree) = 2 and SD (Strongly Disagree) = 1.

Decision Rule: If the average mean score is lower than 2.5 (1 – 2.4), the researcher decides that the use of Twitter is workable in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. But if the average mean score is higher than 2.4 (2.5 – 5.0), the researcher decides that the use of Twitter is not workable in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria.

Table 6 revealed that with a mean of 3.2 (N=372), researcher decides that the use of Twitter is workable in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. By implication, this finding reveals that Twitter

was very workable in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria.

Research Question Three: 3.What is the perception of citizens to the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria?.

Table 7. RESPONDENTS PERCEPTION ON THE “ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY” TWITTER CAMPAIGNS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PETITION TRIBUNAL IN NIGERIA (N=372)

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remark
The campaign was started to keep an eye on the judiciary.	177	132	52	11	3.3	Accepted
The campaign drew everyone’s interest to the tribunal case.	91	192	76	13	3.0	Accepted
The campaign was aimed at getting justice for the aggrieved parties of the election.	89	83	190	10	2.7	Accepted
Mean					3.0	Accepted

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Table 7 revealed that at a mean of 3.0 (N=372), the respondents agreed to all the items on the table. That is to say that respondent’s perceptions are the campaign was started to keep an eye on the judiciary. The campaign drew everyone’s interest to the tribunal case and the campaign was aimed at getting justice for the aggrieved parties of the election. By implication, this finding reveals that respondents have positive perception on the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria.

Research Question Four: What is the influence of the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria?.

Table 8. RESPONDENTS RESPONSES ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE “ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY” TWITTER CAMPAIGNS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PETITION TRIBUNAL IN NIGERIA (N=372)

Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Remarks
The all eyes on the judiciary twitter campaigns made the judgment to be very swift even before schedule time	41	16	192	123	1.9	Rejected
The all eyes on the judiciary twitter campaigns made judges to pass favourable judgment for the petitioners	56	33	131	156	1.9	Rejected
The all eyes on the judiciary twitter campaigns made the judges to use less technicalities in the presidential election petition tribunal case	8	67	97	200	1.6	Rejected
Mean					1.8	Rejected

SOURCE: FIELD SURVEY (2024)

Table 8 revealed that with a mean of 1.8 (N=372), the respondents did not agree that the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns influence the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. The respondents rejected all the items on the tables which were designed to ascertain the influence of the campaign. By implication it means the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns had no influence on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria.

The goal of this study is to investigate the influence of "all eyes on the judiciary "Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. The results showed that, on average, 74.0% of citizens are exposed to the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter

campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria to a large extent. That is to say, those Twitter users studied were exposed to the campaigns to a large extent. This finding is consistent with that of Dungse et al (2018), who revealed that exposure to Twitter leads to political mobilisation in politics and that, undoubtedly, Twitter is a vehicle for political mobilisation. Similarly, in their study, Agbim et al (2023) observed that Twitter has the potential to serve as a potent tool for political mobilisation. However, it is important to emphasise that Twitter is just one of several channels available for communicating with voters. This finding aligns with the public sphere theory this study was anchored on because when people are exposed to Twitter campaigns, they have the opportunity to discuss issues on the platform, which according to the theory is a public space for discourse.

Findings revealed that, with a mean of 3.2 (N = 372), the use of Twitter in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria was workable. By implication, this finding shows that Twitter was very workable in coordinating the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. This finding aligns with the research conducted by Bello & Famoroti (2023), which showed that Twitter was very efficient in influencing voters' behaviour during the 2015 presidential election. The study also found that Twitter facilitated the dissemination of necessary information through voters' engagement with political candidates. In addition, Olabanjo et al (2022) observed that social media platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and others have been utilised as a means to organise rallies, conduct opinion polls, develop campaign strategies, vent grievances, and showcase interests, particularly during elections.

The result showed that at a mean of 3.0 (N = 372), it was confirmed that respondents have a positive perception of the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. The majority of the respondents agreed with the items designed to establish their perceptions of the subject matter under investigation. This aligns with the findings of Loveth et al (2022), who discovered that respondents held a favourable view of the Obidient movement on Twitter. This positive perception ultimately had a major influence on voter behaviour and electoral results in the 2023 general election. This finding concurs with the public sphere theory on which this study was based. Campaigns like “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns can give room for open discussion online, which, in the long run, can influence users' perceptions on the particular subject.

The findings revealed that, at a mean of 1.8 (N = 372), the majority of the respondents disagreed that the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns influence the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. In essence, what the finding means is that “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns had no influence on the outcome of the presidential election petition

tribunal in Nigeria. In their study, Olabanjo et al (2022) observed that social media platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and others, have been utilised as a means to organise protests, conduct opinion surveys, develop campaign strategies, foster agitation, and facilitate the expression of interests, particularly during elections. However, in the case of the present study, the effect of social media was not felt, as seen in the responses in Table 8. The study conducted by Burchard & Simati (2019) observed that the election result disappointed not just the majority of voters but also local and foreign observers. Fasakin (2022) posited that the government's legitimacy is of paramount importance in the realm of governance. However, the compliance and cooperation of citizens with the government, as well as their perception of elections and their results, can significantly impact the government's legitimacy.

5. Conclusion

Election issues are serious and always attract attention. This could be the reason the majority of the Twitter users studied were exposed to the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns on the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. In line with the findings, Twitter was very useful in coordinating the campaigns aimed at ensuring unbiased judgement by the judiciary. This could explain the reason for their positive perception of the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns. However, as much as the exposure of respondents to the campaigns was high, so was its usefulness. The campaign could not influence the outcome of the presidential election petition tribunal in Nigeria. In essence, the campaigns were not able to influence the judiciary to pass judgement that favoured the petitioners who brought the case to the tribunal. In line with the findings, the following recommendations are put forward: 1. Because of the respondents' extensive exposure to Twitter campaigns, the platform may be a useful forum for social mobilisers and political actors for discussing concerns because of the large number of users who could provide insightful comments. 2. The use of the Twitter platform to coordinate campaigns such should not stop. The platform should be relied upon to bring burning national issues to the knowledge of the general public. 3. The fact that there is a positive perception of the “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns goes to show that when things are done right in the social media space, they will have a positive and lasting impression on people. 4. The fact that “all eyes on the judiciary” Twitter campaigns did not influence the outcome of the presidential petition tribunal should not discourage campaigners from always championing for what is right through the platform or all other social media platforms. The following are the study implications: Social media is a dynamic field of research in communication, particularly in its connection to political communication. We should be capable of discerning whether the platform has improved democracy or undermined it. The 2023 Nigerian presidential election presented an opportunity to assess the potential influence of political information disseminated through Twitter on Nigerians, particularly in relation to the presidential

election petition tribunal. The study is advantageous for political campaigners that aim to reach a broader audience of individuals seeking information, beyond the confines of traditional media. Twitter can be effectively utilised to disseminate essential information that has the potential to influence and shape people's attitudes, opinions, political actions, and legal judgements about election issues. The study elucidates the effectiveness of Twitter as a reliable and engaging communication platform that has the potential to shape voters' understanding and perception of politics and political matters. The study will also enhance the existing body of knowledge in the field of political communication, specifically in regards to the use of Twitter during presidential campaigns and election petition tribunals. The research exhibits several shortcomings. First, the study focused solely on the Twitter campaign, despite the fact that there were other social media campaigns on the presidential election tribunal. Secondly, the researchers failed to consider the perspectives of those involved in the election tribunal case, which could have significantly enhanced the study's depth. Lastly, the study only employed one method. A mixed method that analyses the views of social media users on the issue would have enhanced the findings. Based on the limitations, the researchers suggest that future studies should consider including the views of those involved in the case. Additionally, to enhance the depth of findings, they should consider utilising multiple methods in their study.

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