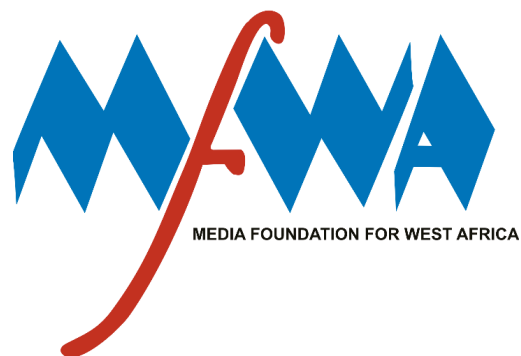


REPORT ON INDECENT CAMPAIGN LANGUAGE ON RADIO

FINDINGS FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1- 30, 2016



REPORT ON INDECENT CAMPAIGN LANGUAGE ON RADIO –
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1.0 Introduction

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) has been monitoring and reporting on incidents of hate speech and other abusive expressions on radio since April 2016 as a preemptive measure to nib any potential elections-related violence in the bud. Findings from the monitoring have so far shown a steady decline in the use of such indecent expressions, and the findings in the month of November are no exception.

November 2016 recorded a total of eight indecent expressions, a 27 percent reduction from the October findings (11). This report presents details of the eight indecent expressions – in terms of the categories of expressions used, the Official, supporters and affiliates of the political party cited, the radio stations on which such acts were perpetrated and a recommendation to streamline political communication.

The monitoring and reporting of hate speech and other indecent expressions form part of the MFWA's election project titled: **Promoting Issues-based and Decent Language Campaigning for Peaceful Elections in Ghana in 2016**. The project involves the monitoring of selected programmes on 70 radio stations across the country to track and report on the use of abusive expressions by politicians and activists. It also assesses the performance of hosts in their handling of programmes and whether or not they tolerate such language on their programmes.

The project is being implemented with funding support from OSIWA, STAR-Ghana, the EU (through Socioserve-Ghana) and the Embassy of France in Ghana.

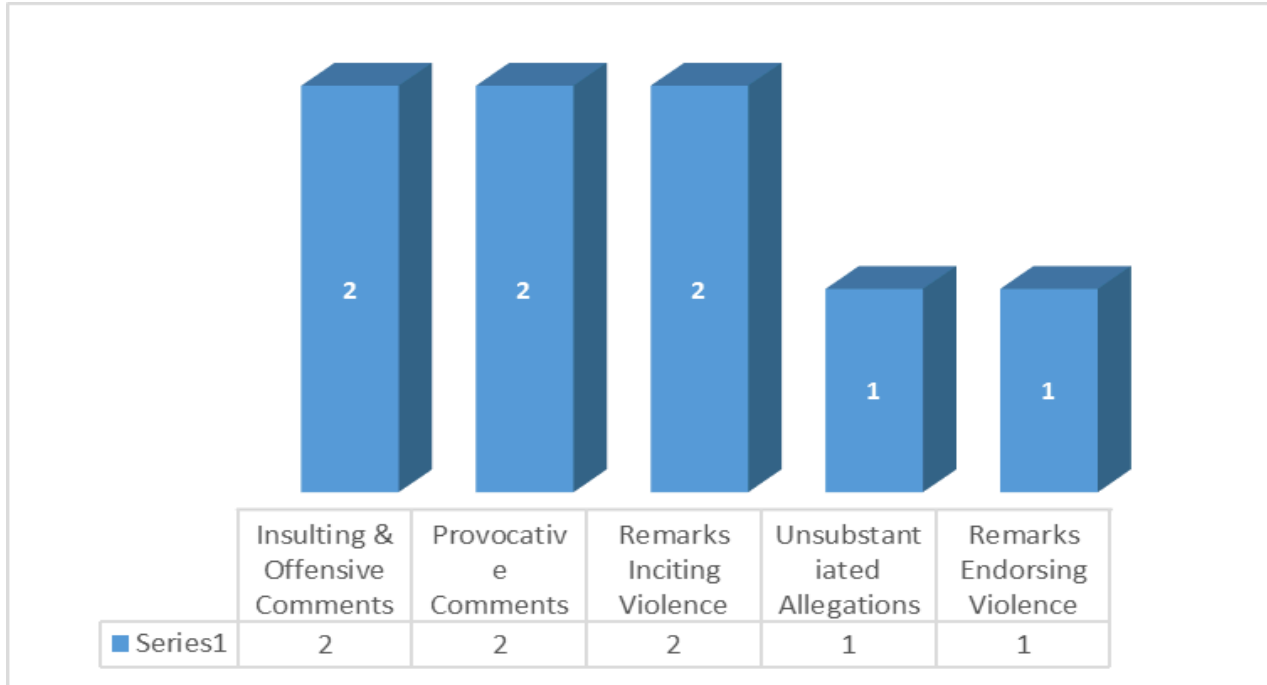
2.0 Findings

During the monitoring period (November 1-30, 2106), a total of **2,965** programmes were monitored on the 70 target radio stations across the country. The programmes monitored included news bulletins, current affairs and political discussion shows. Eight indecent expressions were recorded on all the **2,965** programmes monitored. During the monitoring period, eight (8) individuals were cited for use of indecent expressions – six males and two females. However, none of the indecent expressions recorded was gender-specific derogatory remark.

2.1 Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded

The eight indecent expressions recorded were made up of five (5) categories of expressions: Insulting & Offensive Comments, Provocative Comments, Unsubstantiated Allegations, Remarks Inciting Violence and Remarks Endorsing Violence as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Categories and Frequency of Indecent Expressions Recorded



2.2 Political Party/Group Affiliation of Individuals Who Used Indecent Expressions

Eight individuals were cited for making the eight indecent remarks recorded. These individuals participated in the programmes monitored as panelists, interviewees and callers. Out of the eight, four were individuals whose political party affiliation was not established on the programmes they featured on. The remaining four were officials and affiliates of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) who together made 4 of the eight indecent expressions recorded.

Presented in Table 1 is a breakdown of the categories of indecent expressions used by the NPP officials, supporters and affiliates, as well as individuals whose political party affiliation was not established on the programmes monitored.

Table 1: Specific Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded by Political Party Affiliates

Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded	Affiliation of Culprits		
	NPP	Affiliation Unknown	Total
Insulting & Offensive Comments	1	1	2
Provocative Comments	1	1	2
Remarks Inciting Violence	1	1	2
Unsubstantiated Allegations	1	0	1
Remarks Endorsing Violence	0	1	1
Total	4	4	8

2.3 Specific Expressions Used

Below are the names of the individuals who made the eight indecent expressions. The names are placed under the specific categories of indecent expressions they made. The radio stations on which they used those expressions and the dates on which the expressions were made have also been indicated.

Insulting & Offensive Comments

1. Yaw Adomako Baafi, Deputy Communication Director of the NPP on November 15, 2016 – during the broadcast of *Boiling Point* on Oman FM.
2. Daasebre Adjei Dwamena, host of *Key Note* on Ashh FM (affiliation unknown) - on November 3, 2016.

Provocative Comments

1. Daasebre Adjei Dwamena, host of *Key Note* on Ashh FM (affiliation unknown) - on November 3, 2016.
2. Prince Milono, a member of the NPP – during a studio interview on November 28, 2006 during the broadcast of *Good Morning Boss* on Boss FM.

Unsubstantiated Allegations

1. Kennedy Agyapong, NPP MP for Assin North Constituency on November 29, 2016 – during the broadcast of *Boiling Point* on Ashh FM (also aired on Oman FM).

Remarks Inciting Violence

1. Innocent Supremo Tetteh, a caller (affiliation unknown) – on November 28, 2016 during the broadcast of *Omanba kasa* on Pink FM.
2. Frances Essiam, a member of the NPP on November 10, 2016 – during the broadcast of *Boiling Point* on Oman FM

Remarks Endorsing Violence

1. Efia Akoto, a caller, (affiliation unknown) on November 15, 2016 – during the broadcast of *Obuoba Kasa* on Obuoba FM.

As a policy, the MFWA does not publish the indecent expressions people make since it amounts to rebroadcasting those remarks. The specific expressions made by people cited in our reports are, however, available at the MFWA for verification by those cited.

2.5 Radio Stations and Incidence of Indecent Expressions

Out of the 70 radio stations monitored, five recorded indecent expressions. Details of the specific indecent expressions cited on all the five radio stations are presented in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Frequency and Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded on Radio Stations

Radio Station	Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded					Total
	Insulting & Offensive Comments	Provocative Comments	Unsubstantiated Allegations	Remarks Inciting Violence	Remarks Endorsing Violence	
Oman FM	1	0	1	1	0	3
Ashh FM	1	1	0	0	0	2
Boss FM	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pink FM	0	0	0	1	0	1
Obuoba FM	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	2	2	1	2	1	8

3.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Similar to findings of September and October monitoring, findings from the November monitoring also show a further decline in the use of hate speech and other indecent expressions on radio. This sturdy decline is commendable and also contributed to reducing tension in the country prior to the elections.

The MFWA believes that with the continuous support of all stakeholders, especially, the media, political parties, media groups and associations and the general public, the incidents of abusive expressions could be brought down further. We therefore encourage all stakeholders to again focus on issues-based campaigning and discussions devoid of inflammatory remarks which could mar the electoral process and the stability of the country before, during and after the December polls.