



MONITORING OF INDECENT LANGUAGE ON RADIO

FINDINGS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1-30, 2020



with funding support from:  **OSIWA** &



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1.0 Introduction

One of the major tools for information dissemination during election years is the media. They serve as a platform for persons seeking political office to trade ideas and provide feedback on policy issues. Such debates help citizens to make an informed choice on election day.

Unfortunately, debates or discussions among political party activists, communicators or supporters on media platforms during election years are often characterised by the high preference for vitriolic language often manifested in character assassinations, unsubstantiated allegations and unwarranted provocation, among others, which have the potential of **heightening tension and inciting people to violence**.

To help focus public discourse on radio in the 2020 electioneering period on issues and not personality attacks and other forms of vitriolic expressions, the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), is implementing a project titled, *Promoting Decent Language and Issues-based Campaigning for Peaceful Elections in Ghana in 2020*. The project is aimed at contributing to peaceful elections through issues-based campaigning devoid of hate speech and indecent expressions.

The project involves the daily monitoring of selected programmes on selected radio stations to track and report on the use of hate speech and other indecent expressions by politicians and others who feature on the programmes. It also monitors how presenters on target radio stations handle their respective programmes to ensure that indecent expressions are not tolerated on their programmes. The project is currently being implemented with funding support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and **STAR Ghana Foundation with funding from UKAID and EU**.

1.1 Methodology

The project involves the daily monitoring of expressions used by political activists and other political actors who feature on radio programmes such as news bulletins, political discussions and current affairs discussions. It also involves assessing and reporting how presenters or hosts of selected programmes on radio stations handle their programmes and whether or not they tolerate the use of hate speech and other indecent language on their programmes.

This report covers monitoring of **40 radio stations** in Ghana from October 1-31, 2020. Below are the 40 radio stations that are being monitored under the current phase of the project.

Table 1: List of Radio Stations being Monitored

Region	Radio Stations
Greater Accra Region	Top FM
	Rainbow Radio
	Oman FM
	Power FM
	Class FM
	Peace FM
	Happy FM
	Okay FM
	Accra FM
	Ahotor FM
	Asempa FM
	Adom FM
	Hot FM
	Angel FM
Ashanti Region	Hello FM
	Ash FM
	Kessben FM
	Angel FM
	Fox FM
	Otec FM
	Wontumi Radio
Northern Region	Diamond FM
	Radio Justice
	North Star FM
	Zaa Radio
	Radio Tamale
Eastern Region	Obuoba FM
Upper West Region	Radio Progress
Upper East Region	A1 Radio
Savannah Region	Pad FM
Oti Region	Beyond FM
Volta Region	Jubilee FM
Central Region	Pink FM
Western Region	Skyy Power
Bono Region	Tain FM
	Royal FM
	Space FM
	Nimdee FM
North East Region	Eagle FM
Bono East	Classic FM

The monitoring is done based on a validated [monitoring instrument](#). Forty language monitors have been recruited (one monitor per station) and trained on the use of the monitoring instrument. Each monitor is assigned a digital recorder for purposes of

recording the programmes they monitor. Monitors send daily reports to the MFWA which are analysed by a team of programme staff and researchers for a consolidated report to be produced.

This report presents findings from the daily monitoring of selected programmes on the 40 radio stations. It specifically cites the number of indecent expressions recorded, the categories of indecent expressions used, names of individuals who made indecent remarks and their political party affiliation. It also names radio stations on which indecent expressions were made, as well as the conduct of the programme hosts/presenters. The report ends with some recommendations for relevant stakeholders.

2.0 Findings

Over the monitoring period (October 1 - 31), **2,236** radio programmes were monitored on the 40 radio stations. The programmes monitored were news bulletins, and political/current affairs discussions aired on the 40 radio stations. Most of the programmes were moderated by males. Over 97 percent of the individuals who participated in the programmes as discussants, guests, callers and texters were also males.

Altogether, **81 abusive and indecent expressions were recorded**. These expressions were recorded during discussions on topics/issues such as the Attorney General dragged to court by some CSOs; NDC's Running Mate, Jane Naana Opoku continuing to receive salary from UCC; the State of Security within the Country; Spouses of MPs succeeding their deceased partners in Parliament and Issues with chief's involvement in politics. The other topics were the Electoral Commission (EC) disqualification of some candidates and holding of balloting for Political parties; the Finance Minister's presentation of the first quarter budget for 2021; Campaign activities by the two main political parties (touring of some regions); and the activities of the Western Togoland secessionist group in the Volta region.

2.1 Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded

The **81 indecent expressions** that were recorded comprised four types of indecent expressions – Insulting and Offensive comments; Unsubstantiated allegations; Provocative remarks and Expressions containing Prejudice and Bigotry.

Figure 1 below indicates the frequency of use of each of the categories of indecent expressions recorded.

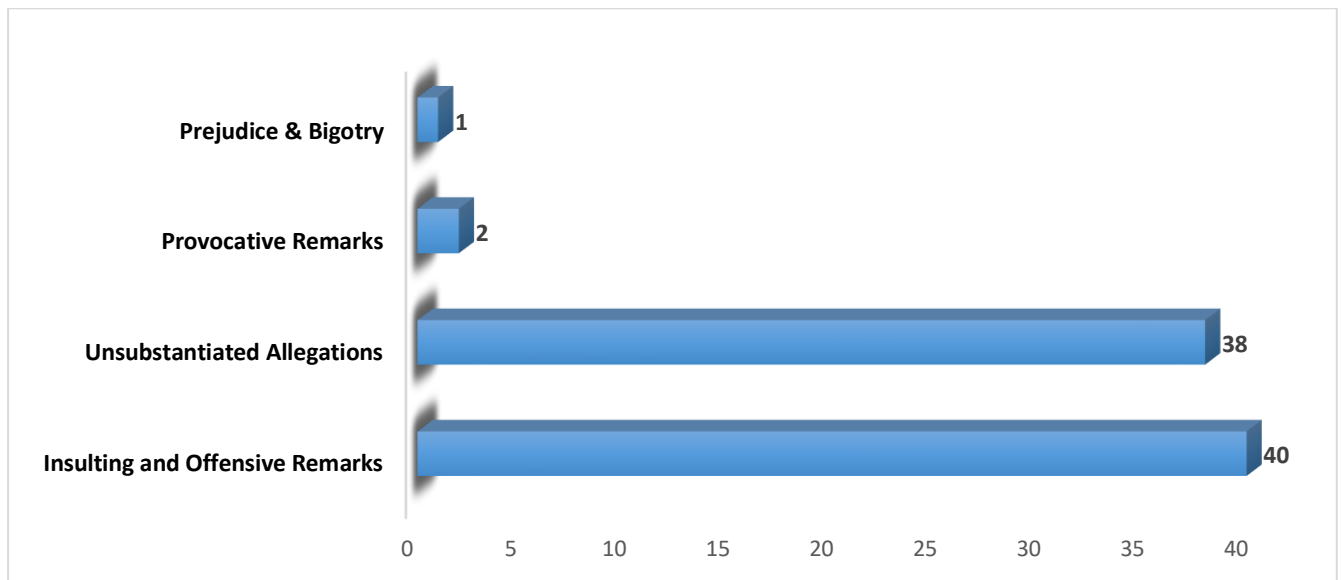


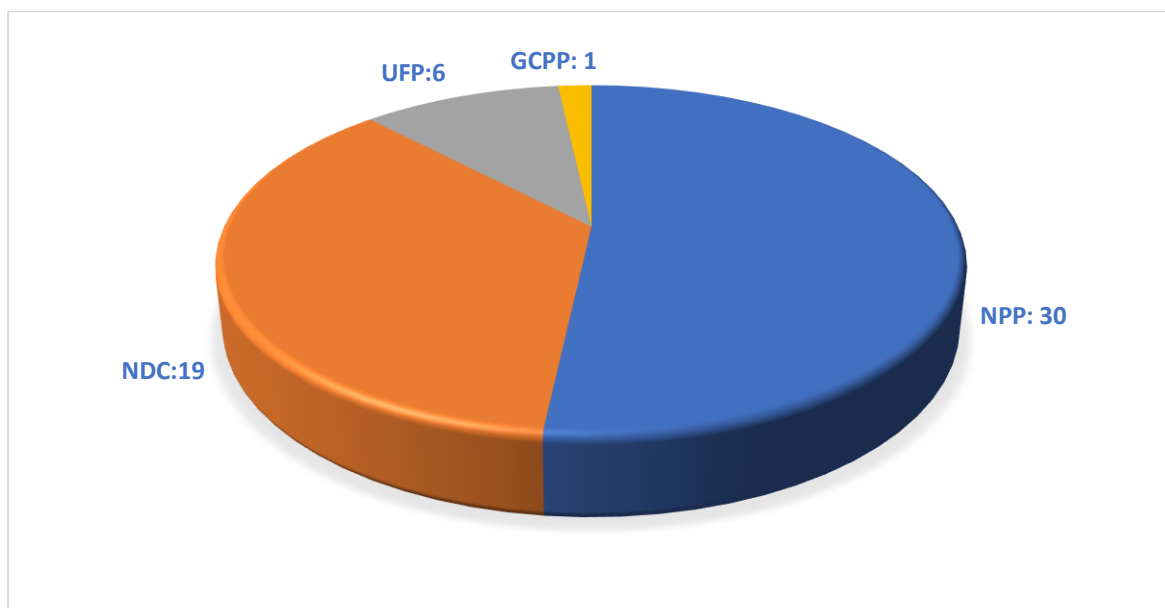
Figure 1: Frequency of Indecent Expressions Recorded

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

In all, **45 individuals made the 81 indecent expressions**. These individuals featured on the programmes monitored as hosts, discussants, interviewees, and callers. The political party affiliation of eleven (11) of the individuals who made abusive remarks could not be established. This is mainly because only persons who represent or are introduced as members of a political party are coded against their respective political parties. Fifty-six (69%) out of the indecent expressions recorded were made by political party officials, supporters and affiliates. The remaining twenty-five (31%) were made by the eleven individuals whose political affiliation could not be established.

Officials and affiliates of four political parties namely the New Patriotic Party (NPP), the National Democratic Congress (NDC), the United Front Party (UFP) and the Great Consolidated Popular Party (GCPP) were cited for the indecent expressions.

Figure 2 below gives a graphical representation of the frequency of indecent expressions recorded by affiliates of the four political parties.



Note: Individuals who used indecent expressions but their political party or group affiliation was not mentioned on the programmes monitored are not included in Figure 2 above

In **Table 2** below, the categories of indecent expressions made by affiliates of the four political parties, as well as the individuals whose political affiliation could not be established are presented.

Table 2: Specific Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded by Perpetrators

Categories of Indecent Expressions Recorded	Political Affiliation of Perpetrators					Total
	NPP	NDC	UFP	GCPP	Not Mentioned	
Insulting and Offensive Remarks	14	3	2	0	21	40
Unsubstantiated Allegations	15	14	4	1	4	38
Provocative Remarks	1	1	0	0	0	2
Prejudice and Bigotry	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	30	19	6	1	25	81

2.4 Specific Expressions Used

Below are the names of the individuals who made the indecent expressions, as well as the radio stations and the dates on which the expressions were made, placed under the specific type of indecent expression used.

Insulting and Offensive Remarks

1. Nana Ama Fosua, also known as Ahafo Ama, Ahafo Regional Captain of NPP Loyal Ladies - **one (1)** during October 1, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM which was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
2. Bernard Antwi Boasiako, also known as Chairman Wontumi, NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 5, 2020.
3. Kwame Baffoe, also known as Abronye DC, NPP Bono Regional Chairman – **two (2)** during the October 6, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
4. Kwabena Kwakye, host of *Boiling Point* – **one (1)** during the October 6, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM. The program was also broadcast on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
5. Eric Adjei, NDC Deputy Bono Regional Communication Officer – **one (1)** during Peace FM's *The Platform* programme aired on October 7, 2020.
6. Prince Kumi, also known as Maxi, an NPP Member - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 7, 2020.
7. Bernard Antwi Boasiako, also known as Chairman Wontumi, NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 7, 2020.
8. Mugabe Maase, host of Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme – **one (1)** during the October 8, 2020 edition of the programme.
9. Prince Kumi, also known as Maxi, an NPP Member - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 9, 2020.
10. Mugabe Maase, host of Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme – **two (2)** during the October 9, 2020 edition of the programme.
11. Dennis 'Miracles' Aboagye, NPP Former MCE for Akuapem North – **one (1)** during Accra FM's *Citizen Show* aired on October 10, 2020.
12. Prince Kumi, also known as Maxi, an NPP Member - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 13, 2020.
13. Nana Asare Bediako, NDC Former DCE for Atwima Nwabiagya district – **one (1)** during Fox FM's *Ɛboborba* aired on October 13, 2020.
14. Victor Osei Poku, Aide to Manhyia-North MP (NPP) - **one (1)** during Fox FM's *Ɛboborba* aired on October 13, 2020.
15. A caller by name Ɛfo (political affiliation not mentioned) – **one (1)** during Adom FM's *Burning Issues* aired on October 14, 2020.

16. A caller by name Nana Nkrumah (political affiliation not mentioned) – **one (1)** during Tain FM's Morning Political Show *Anɔpa Nkɔmmɔ* aired on October 14, 2020.
17. Bernard Antwi Boasiako, also known as Chairman Wontumi, NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 15, 2020.
18. Nana Oteatuoso Kokobeng II, a Governance Watcher (Social Analyst) (political affiliation not mentioned) - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 15, 2020.
19. Listowel Nana Kusi Poku, Executive Secretary of Good Governance Advocacy Group Ghana and General Secretary of United Front Party (UFP) – **one (1)** during Accra FM's *Citizen Show* aired on October 17, 2020.
20. Kwasi Kyei, NPP Ashanti Regional Communication Director – **one (1)** during Fox FM's Morning Show (*Adwenkeseɛ segment*) aired on October 20, 2020.
21. A caller by name Amponsah (political affiliation not mentioned) – **one (1)** during Adom FM's *Burning Issues* aired on October 21, 2020.
22. Oheneba Boamah Bennie, host of *The Battle Ground* – **two (2)** during Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme (what is trending segment) aired on October 22, 2020.
23. Mugabe Maase, host of Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme – **five (5)** during the October 22, 2020 edition of the programme.
24. A caller identified as Abdul Gafaru (political affiliation not mentioned) – **one (1)** during Radio Tamale's *Boot for Boot* programme aired on October 24, 2020.
25. Alhaji Mohammed Amin Adam Abio, NDC Northern Region Director of Elections – **one (1)** during Radio Justice's *Northerner Eye* aired on October 24, 2020.
26. Prince Kumi, also known as Maxi, an NPP Member - **two (2)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 26, 2020.
27. Listowel Nana Kusi Poku, Executive Secretary of Good Governance Advocacy Group Ghana and General Secretary of United Front Party (UFP) - **one (1)** during Accra FM's *The Citizen Show* aired on October 27, 2020.
28. Mugabe Maase, host of Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme – **one (1)** during the October 27, 2020 edition of the programme.
29. Yaw Barimah P.R.O of True Drivers Union of Ghana (political affiliation not mentioned) – **one (1)** in an interview on Tain FM's *10am News* aired on October 28, 2020.
30. Mugabe Maase, host of Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme – **three (3)** during the October 30, 2020 edition of the programme.

Unsubstantiated Allegation

1. An NDC Communication Team Member identified as Dr. Abodwesɛ – **two (2)** during Obuoba FM's Morning Show *Obuoba Kasa* aired on October 1, 2020.
2. Johnson Asiedu Nketiah, NDC General Secretary – **one (1)** during Okay FM's *Ade Akye Abia* aired on October 5, 2020.
3. Mallam Issah, NDC Communication Team member – **one (1)** during Fox FM's *ɛboborba* aired on October 5, 2020.

4. Albert Kwasi Anderson, NPP Communication Team Member – **one (1)** during Obuoba FM's Morning Show *Obuoba Kasa* aired on October 6, 2020.
5. Eric Adjei, NDC Deputy Bono Regional Communication Officer - **one (1)** during Asempa FM's *ɛkosii Sen* aired on October 6, 2020.
6. Kwabena Kwakye, host of *Boiling Point*– **one (1)** during the October 6, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
7. Kwame Baffoe, also known as Abronye DC, NPP Bono Regional Chairman – **two (2)** during the October 6, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
8. An unidentified interviewee (political affiliation not mentioned) – **one (1)** in an interview on Adom FM's *Dwaso Nsem* aired on October 9, 2020.
9. Nii Amasah Namoale, Former NDC MP for La Dadekotopon constituency – **one (1)** during Accra FM's *Ghana Yensom* aired on October 9, 2020.
10. Kwame Baffoe, also known as Abronye DC, NPP Bono Regional Chairman – **one (1)** in an interview on Okay FM's *Ade Akye Abia* aired on October 12, 2020.
11. Mallam Issah, NDC Communication Team Member – **one (1)** during Fox FM's *ɛboborba* aired on October 12, 2020.
12. Andy Kwaku Ameyaw, NPP Communication Team Member for Eastern Region– **one (1)** during Obuoba FM's Morning Show *Obuoba Kasa* aired on October 12, 2020.
13. Yaw Adomako Baafi, NPP Former National Communication Director – **one (1)** during Oman FM's *Boiling Point* programme aired on October 13, 2020. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
14. Johnson Asiedu Nketiah, NDC General Secretary – **one (1)** during Okay FM's *Ade Akye Abia* aired on October 13, 2020.
15. Yaw Debrah also known as Vito, Operation Director for Lawyer Amofa Campaign (political affiliation not mentioned) - **one (1)** in an interview on Accra FM's *Ghana Yensom* programme aired on October 13, 2020.
16. Hopeson Adorye, NPP MP for Kpone Katamanso Constituency– **one (1)** during the October 15, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
17. Nana Ansah Obofour, NPP Communication Director UK– **one (1)** during the October 15, 2020 edition of the *Boiling Point* programme on Oman FM. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
18. Listowel Nana Kusi Poku, Executive Secretary of Good Governance Advocacy Group Ghana and General Secretary of United Front Party (UFP) – **one (1)** during Accra FM's *Citizen Show* aired on October 17, 2020.
19. Fuseini Donkor, Former District Chief Executive for Sekyere Afram Plains (NDC)– **one (1)** during Hello FM's "*Akoko Abon*" aired on October 17, 2020 which was also broadcast live on Accra based Peace FM.
20. Kofi Owusu Omar, GCPP Ashanti Regional Chairman - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV on October 19, 2020.

21. Nana Agyenim Boateng, Flagbearer of United Front Party (UFP) – **one (1)** in an interview on Kumasi based Angel FM's *Evening News* aired on October 19, 2020.
22. Kennedy Ohene Agyapong, NPP MP for Assin Central – **two (2)** during Oman FM's *Boiling Point* programme aired on October 20, 2020 which was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
23. Kwame Baffoe, also known as Abronye DC, NPP Bono Regional Chairman - **two (2)** during October 20, 2020 edition of the Oman FM's *Boiling Point* programme. The programme was also broadcast live on Kumasi based Ashh FM.
24. An NDC Communication Team Member identified as Akisko- **one (1)** during Tain FM's Morning Political Show *Anɔpa Nkɔmmɔ* aired on October 20, 2020.
25. Nana Agyenim Boateng, Flagbearer of United Front Party (UFP) – **one (1)** during Adom FM's *Burning Issues* aired on October 21, 2020.
26. Listowel Nana Kusi Poku, Executive Secretary of Good Governance Advocacy Group Ghana and General Secretary of United Front Party (UFP) – **one (1)** during Ahotor FM's *Adekye Mu Nsem* programme aired on October 22, 2020.
27. Fiifi Mensah, NPP Chairman for Bantama – **one (1)** during Hello FM's *Akokɔ Abon* which was broadcast live on October 24, 2020 on Accra based Peace FM.
28. Hamza Suhuyini, NDC Communication Team Member (Former Board Member of Ghana Road Fund) - **one (1)** during Radio Tamale's *Rescue Mission* aired on October 25, 2020.
29. Bernard Antwi Boasiako, also known as Chairman Wontumi, NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 26, 2020.
30. Bismark Aborbi Ayitey, NDC Chairman for Ayawaso West Wuogon – **one (1)** during Peace FM's *The Platform* programme aired on October 26, 2020.
31. Mugabe Maase, host of Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme – **one (1)** during the October 27, 2020 edition of the programme.
32. Collins Boakye, also known as Playboy, NDC Tain Constituency I.T Director - **one (1)** during Tain FM's Morning Political Show *Anɔpa Nkɔmmɔ* aired on October 28, 2020.
33. Bernard Antwi Boasiako also known as Chairman Wontumi, NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 29, 2020.
34. Don Dallas Williams, NDC Eastern Regional Communication Officer – **one (1)** during Obuoba FM's *Obuoba Kasa* programme, aired on October 29, 2020.

Provocative Remarks

1. Kwadwo Adu Asare, Former MP for Adenta (NDC)- **one (1)** during Asempa FM's *ɛkosii Sen* aired on October 7, 2020.
2. Prince Kumi also known as Maxi, an NPP Member - **one (1)** during Wontumi Radio's *Morning Show* which picked the feed from Wontumi TV aired on October 9, 2020.

Expressions containing Prejudice & Bigotry

1. Suadiq Musa NDC, NDC Communication Team Member – **one (1)** during Radio Tamale’s *People’s Parliament* programme aired on October 27, 2020.

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 Incidents of Indecent Expressions

Out of the 40 radio stations monitored, 16 recorded indecent expressions. Power FM located in Accra recorded the highest (15) indecent expressions on its afternoon political show titled *Inside Politics*. Accra-based Oman FM recorded (14) indecent expressions all on its evening political show titled *Boiling Point*. Ashh FM located in Kumasi recorded (14) indecent expressions all as a result of feeds it picked from Oman FM. Wontumi Radio based in Kumasi recorded (13) indecent expressions on its morning show. Accra FM recorded (6) indecent expressions across two programmes – *Citizen Show* (4) and *Ghana Yensom* (2). Nkawakaw-based Obuoba FM and Fox FM based in Kumasi recorded five (5) indecent expressions each. The frequency of indecent expressions recorded on all the 16 radio stations are presented in Table 3 below:

Table 3: Radio Stations that Recorded Indecent Expressions

Radio Station	Frequency of Indecent Expressions
Power FM	15
Oman FM	14
Wontumi Radio	13
Ashh FM **	14
Accra FM	6
Fox FM	5
Obuoba FM	5
Adom FM	4
Peace FM ***	4
Tain FM	4
Radio Tamale	3
Okay FM	3
Asempa FM	2
Angel FM	1

Ahotor FM	1
Radio Justice	1
Total	81

*Note: ** All Fourteen (14) of the indecent expressions recorded on Accra-based Oman FM were also recorded on Kumasi-based Ashh FM.*

**** Two (2) of the indecent expressions recorded on Accra-based Peace FM were also picked from Kumasi-based Hello FM.*

Assessment of Moderation of Programmes by Hosts

During the monitoring, Moderators/Hosts/Presenters were assessed on how they conducted themselves on their respective programmes and also handled their programmes to ensure that hate speech and other indecent expressions are not used or disallowed on their platforms. Progressively, a number of moderators made efforts to prevent the use of indecent expressions on their platforms. The MFWA commends such moderators and encourages all others to be professional in the discharge of their duties.

However, from the monitoring period (October 1-31, 2020), some moderators directly engaged in the use of indecent expressions. Specifically, Mugabe Maase, host of Accra-based Power FM's *Inside Politics* programme, made a high of 13 indecent expressions.

3.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

In consideration of the above findings, the MFWA makes the following recommendations:

- Leaders of the various political parties, especially the NDC and the NPP should encourage their representatives, affiliates and communicators to focus on issues in their discourse on radio and desist from using indecent expressions.
- Radio stations, especially presenters/moderators should handle their programmes with professionalism by desisting from using indecent expressions and insisting on the use of decent expressions by persons who appear on their programmes.
- Radio stations and programme managers must know the reputation of guests/discussants and their penchant to use abusive language on their shows and avoid inviting such individuals.
- The National Media Commission (NMC), the Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) and the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) are encouraged to use these findings and subsequent ones to inform remedial actions and processes.
- The electorate are encouraged to follow and consider the findings from the monitoring reports to know which political parties engage in issues-based public discourse to help inform and guide their voting decisions.



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