NIGERIAN MEDIA AND THE PRESIDENCY: NEWSPAPERS FRAMING OF PRESIDENT Buhari’S INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

BY

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Abstract
This study investigated newspaper framing of Buhari’s international trips with specific attention to tone of framing, sources of stories and frame used. Content analysis was used to achieve the study aim while the sample size was made up of four newspapers namely: The Punch, Daily Sun, Daily Trust and the Leadership newspapers. A total of 210 editions were selected for a period of three years. Data were collected using the code sheet while analyses were done with simple percentages and results presented in tables. Result showed that newspaper tone on Buhari’s overseas trips were largely neutral with sources mostly from the President’s media team. The stories were also found have framed the trips as a waste of public fund. The researcher recommends, among others, that newspapers in Nigeria should improve on their source selection to include expert sources who will provide detailed analysis of presidential trips.

Keywords: Buhari, framing, newspaper, International trip, media, presidency,

Introduction
In a democratic system of government, the presidency is regarded as the centre of power. This is because the presidency comprises of the President, the vice and members of their closed aides. The presidency is always in the eyes of the general public. People usually desire to know what is happening in the presidency. They want to know the reactions of the presidency towards every issue of public interest. They want to know the general wellbeing of the presidency. This makes the presidency an important source of information for the mass media. This also means that the mass media and the presidency maintain a close relation.

Most media houses are aware of pubic need to have information about the presidency. Therefore, they position reporters at State Houses with the mandate to communicate to the general public regarding happenings at the presidency. Such reporters also report regular activities at the presidency, visitors and their mission as well as other issues as may be of interest to the general public. There is an overwhelming interest from the public regarding the presidency. Mannerberg (2017) avers that even though there is a significant change regarding public media consumption, the interest in the presidency has remained very high. That is to say that the appetite for news from the presidency is still very high among the general public. One of the aspects of the presidency that people are interested in is overseas trips. This is largely because such trips are sponsored by taxpayers’ money. More so, when the president travels, he does not travel alone. He travels with a litany of aides all of whom are sponsored by public fund. This makes presidential overseas trips an important source of information. The media need to highlight such trips and highlight the value of such trips to the general public.

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One of the defining features of the Mohammadu Buhari’s Presidency is his frequent trips overseas. Even before winning the election, Buhari had taken his campaign train outside of Nigeria to other countries like the United States of America, United Kingdom, among others. A good example was his address at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, commonly known as Chatham House, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation based in London whose mission is to analyze and promote the understanding of major international issues and current affairs (Daily Post, 2015). Another evidence that Buhari’s Presidency was going to be characterized by overseas trips was his trips to the United Kingdom few days to his inauguration. While the inauguration was built for May 29, 2015, Mr Buhari travelled on May 22, a trip that generated anxiety among party members as evidenced in the following excerpt: ‘There is major disquiet in the ranks of the All Progressives Congress (APC) over the president-elect, Muhammadu Buhari’s sudden trip to London (Ukwu, 2015). Premium Times (2015) comments on the trip thus: ‘The President-elect, Muhammadu Buhari, on Friday left for Britain on a private visit, his first (of) such trip outside the country since winning the March 28 presidential election.’ Even after inauguration, President Buhari has continued with his overseas trips as evidenced in his trips to countries like Germany, United States, Niger, South Africa, among others.

The media owe it a responsibility to reflect these trips in their coverage and possibly interpret their relevance to the Nigerian masses. By the submission of section 22 -‘The press, radio television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this chapter and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people.’ The media have a duty to cover presidential trips and hold the government to account if such trips are not in the overall interest of the masses. The manner by which the media frame presidential overseas trips could influence public opinion about such trips and even the presidency. Framing is a mechanism in media practice through which the media highlight some aspects of a story and make them prominent. That is to say that the media direct the attention of the audience to certain aspects.

David Legara Atun, and Monterola (2014) hold that frames are constructed with the use of words. In other words, it may not necessarily be what the president says, but how the media frame it. Entman (1993) conceptualized framing as the use of certain portions in a communication and make them appear essential. A study of media framing of President Buhari’s overseas trips is important because it could offer empirical data regarding how the media conceptualized such trips. This data could be use for understanding the relationship that exists between the Nigerian media and the presidency.

Statement of the Problem

There is uncertainty regarding newspaper framing of presidential trips, especially in Nigeria. The Buhari presidency is of particular interest because it has recorded one the highest number of overseas trips within a very short time. Although there is in literature evidence (e.g., Edwards, 2007; Cohen, & Powell, 2005; Cohen, & Powell, 2005). Regarding media coverage of the presidency, overseas trips have so far received far less attention. Also, presidential trips have also received attention in literature (e.g. Cohen, 2016, Eshbaugh-Soha, 2010).

However, most of these studies are from advanced democracies like the United States of America. This has created a gap in literature as little is known from less developed democracies like Nigeria. An understanding of newspaper framing of presidential trips from developing countries is essential is it will provide researchers with enough information from both advanced and fledgling democracies. Barrett and Peake (2007) aver that even though scholars, the press, and presidential advisors are in harmony that presidential travel generates lots of positive local news coverage, this assumption has never been empirically tested, hence the need for the current study.

Objectives of the Study
The general objective of this study is to determine newspaper framing of President Buhari’s overseas trips. Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following:

1. To ascertain the tone of newspaper framing of Buhari’s overseas trips.
2. To determine the possible biases in cited sources of newspaper framing of Buhari’s overseas trips.
3. To examine the frames used in reporting President Buhari’s overseas trips.

Literature Review
Since inauguration, President Buhari has embarked on different international trips. These trips cut across his first and second terms. For example, within the first 11 months of his first term in office he travelled 26 times to different countries. Immediately after his inauguration, Buhari, on June 3 and 4, travelled to Niger Republic and Chad where he held talks with the governments of Niger Republic and Chad concerning how to effectively and completely tackle the problem of terrorism in the country and the region. One could say that the intention of the trip was to intensify efforts aimed at ensuring that Nigeria is safe.

Ordinarily, this trip is supposed to have implications on the safety of Nigeria. Especially considering Boko Haram insurgency has caused untold hardship to Nigerians. However, the media may view it from a different perspective through its framing. On June 7, he travelled to Germany to attend the G-7 Summit and proceeded to South Africa on June 13 for the African Union Summit in continuation of talks on the anti-terrorism fight. While the Germany trip could be said to have economic benefits, the South African trip, just like those in Niger Republic and Chad, have implications on efforts aimed at combating terrorism and insurgency within the African region (Urhobo Today 2016).

In July, the President embarked on a four-day official visit to the United States of America on the 19th and proceeded to Cameroon for a two-day visit on July 29. The purpose for the trips to America and Cameroon were not clear. However, there were reporters on the entourage, and they have a responsibility to make Nigerians have clear knowledge of the reason for such trips. Such reporters could even go a step further by exploring the benefits of such trips to Nigerians.

The only foreign trip he made in August of 2015 was a one-day visit to Benin Republic on August 1st. That visit was also for the continuation of talks on the Boko Haram insurgency. This was also similar to the trips to Niger Republic and Chad where combating terrorism was reason for the trip. Overseas trips that highlight combating terrorism as the reason for such trips may appeal to the emotions of the Nigerian public. This is largely because the problem of Boko Haram insurgency affects even Nigerians who are not from the areas that are affected by the insurgency.

For examples, businessmen and women who travel to the North to buy and sell are also affected by the insurgency. A good example here is those from South-Eastern Nigeria who travel to Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State to buy smoked fish. They can hardly do so with the insurgency attacking defenseless Nigerians. This means that the price for smoked fish will be on the high side, perhaps, above the reach of low-income earners. The implication of this is that any attempt to resolve the lingering security challenge could command the sympathy of many people. However, it seems some persons have reservations regarding President Buhari’s overseas trips.

Buhari’s overseas trips have been heavily criticized by different people. For example, Onomuakpokpo (2015) argues that such trips are irrelevant because they do not help in solving any problem. According to Onomuakpokpo, rather than overseas trips, the president should focus his energy at addressing the many problems confronting Nigeria. Nigerians have also expressed their reservations regarding President Buhari’s overseas trips. The Punch Editorial of May 2016 also
condemned Buhari’s overseas trips with a call on the president to reduce such trips and pay attention to problems confronting Nigeria. Some Nigerians appear to be uncomfortable with Buhari’s overseas trips. For example, a newspaper article published in the Guardian newspaper with the headline: Buhari’s foreign trips generated the following comments from readers:

Mr. Paul Onomuakpokpo, I am glad, you have spoken the minds of millions of Nigerians and I congratulate you on your timely advice to Buhari, who, since his arrival on the scene, as the president of Nigeria, instead of staying at home and looking after the poor masses of Nigeria, has been helping himself and his large entourage with hefty estacode in dollars gotten at official exchange rate of 200 naira per dollar and selling the same estacode dollars in the black market at 320n per dollar when reaching back home in Nigeria.

Our President is simply confused, overwhelmed and short of ideas, hence the frequent globetrotting to avoid the hot seat for a season! I guess it’s high time someone told the Septuagenarian that you can’t solve your problems by running away from them.

He is simply a dated and a posturing president, indifferent and insensitive to the yearnings of the poor masses of Nigeria and the hardworking people of this country. He seems to live in his own cuckoo land devoid of all humility and humanity.

PMB appears better suited to be minister of tourism than a 21st century President! He has traveled more than any other Nigerian in the last 8months. A man whose house is on fire shouldn’t be seen chasing after rats! It’s gradually metamorphosing to a hubby.

However, some commenters held a contrary view as they believed such overseas trips were needed. This is evidenced in the following comments:

Paid talk...I can see the writer is confused...don’t travel but someone travelled and got our debt cancelled. The writer has chosen to put all travelling govt officials in the same kettle. Of course cos he had a goal in mind...make us think travelling to get support of foreign nations useless but clearly we have seen some of the dividends of the current president travels. The US changed their stand on supporting our fight against Boko Haram by supplying us with equipment we saw Germany visit this week and pledges to support us. Tell me those are waste of travelling time.

I want you to mention one trip which is unnecessary

So long as the looters of the commonwealth hides their loot in foreign soils, so must the leader of the country travel to those lands to organize and build alliance necessary for the return of the commonwealth back to the treasury of the federal republic. Like the age old saying, once the hunters learn to shoot without missing, the birds have since learnt to fly without perching. There are more to be gained by building the alliances which are being built through leveraging the personal integrity of President Buhari himself, since the ineffectual buffoon desecrated the office he occupied, through crass criminality befitting only of an African warlord. So we pray for good health for President Buhari, as these foreign trips need to be continued to help turn things around for Nigeria and serve as impetus for the African renaissance.

Over the years, newspaper framing of issues relating to the presidency have been examined by scholars. Barrett and Peake (2007) examined local newspaper framing of domestic presidential travel. The researchers examined this with a study of local and national newspaper coverage of President George W. Bush’s 2001 domestic travel. Content analysis was applied in the study while the code sheet served the instrument of data collection. Barrett and Peake found that the local press frame presidential domestic trips in a manner that suggests that the newspapers were detailed in reporting the presidential trips covered. The researchers equally found that the newspapers mostly framed the trips in positive light. The positive framing of the trips was found to be more associated with local press than the international ones. Barrett and Peake also analyzed variations in local newspaper framing of presidential visits, reporting that the most essential factor influencing both the amount and tone of such framing was the level of presidential support within a community.

Other factors reported to affect either the amount or tone of local framing include the availability of adversarial sources, if a newspaper has a Democratic editorial posture, and if a visit took place after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Although Barrett and Peake examined newspaper framing of presidential trips, attention was paid to local trips, not overseas. This study will expand to cover overseas trips.

Eshbaugh-Soha (2010) examined the tone of local presidential news framing using content analysis. Eshbaugh-Soha made use of theories of media politics, using mainly the profit-seeker model of news framing to examine the influence of newspaper features, audience preferences, and story attributes on local newspaper framing of the presidency. The researcher made use of a sample of 288 stories taken from the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations and showed that everyday local newspaper framing of the presidency is slightly more negative than positive and that audience are in favour of such negative framing of the presidency. Although this study did not strictly study presidential trip, it examined the tone of media framing of the presidency. Tone is a variable in the current study, thus, making the study of Eshbaugh-Soha relevant.

Ngwu and Ekwe (2015) examined newspaper coverage of 78 days presidential power vacuum crisis during President Umaru Yar’adua. The researchers adopted content analysis and with code sheet as the instrument of data collection. Their results showed that Nigerian newspapers gave the presidential power vacuum crisis prominence. The results also revealed that the issue was well reported and assumed a positive tone. The researchers equally found that journalists who reported the issue were influenced by religious and ownership factors.

This study is relevant to the current one because the researcher investigated the media coverage of the Nigerian presidency with tone as a variable. The researchers are, however, limited because their study did not examine presidential trip. The current study will fill this gap. From the empirical studies examined so far, it could be seen that literature is yet to examine newspaper framing of the presidency with reference to Nigeria and the Buhari presidency in particular.

**Theoretical Framework**

The researcher used two theories in this study. The theories are agenda setting and framing. Agenda setting theory describes the ability of the news media to influence the salience of topics on the public agenda. It is the creation of public awareness and concern of salient issues by the news media. The theory was proposed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in 1972 (McCombs, 2004; McCombs, 2005, Ukonu, 2011; Sharda, 2014; Nwodu, 2007, McCombs, & Shaw, 1972, 1974; McCombs, 1993). In the views of the theorists, the editors, in deciding what to include in the news significantly influence public views about that issue. This, therefore, makes this theory an essential theoretical framework for studying newspaper framing of president Buhari’s overseas trips. To address the framing dimension of the study, the framing theory was used.

The framing theory holds that the volume of coverage given to an issue is not as critical as the frame the media use (Goldman, & Kuypers, 2010). The framing theory was propounded in 1974 by Goffman. Goffman posits that people make meaning regarding what is happening around them using an internal framework. The theory has been found as an important framework for examining media framing because it offers insights into the type of frames that the media use in reporting issues. Within the context of this study, this theory offers a theoretical framework for understanding the areas that the media highlight in reporting President Buhari’s overseas trips.

Methodology

The researcher adopted content analysis to determine newspaper framing of Buhari’s overseas trips. Content analysis was used because it helped the researcher to study newspaper contents on Buhari’s overseas trips. The population of this study was made up of all the national newspapers in Nigeria. According to Aina (2002), cited in Ejima, (2013) there are 43 daily newspapers in circulation in Nigeria. The sample size of this study was made up of four newspapers namely: The Punch, Daily Sun, Daily Trust and the Leadership newspapers. These papers were selected to ensure equitable representation of the northern and southern parts of Nigeria. The duration for the study was June 1st 2015 – June 3rd 2018, making it three years. The researcher adopted a combination of purposive and systematic sampling techniques. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the individual newspapers.

To sample for the newspaper editions, the researcher used systematic sampling. Consequently, through a statistical calculation, 1(one) edition was selected each week for each of the four newspapers. To arrive at the editions, the researcher adopted constructed week. As a follow up, the days of the week were assigned numbers as Sunday-1, Monday-2, Tuesday-3, Wednesday-4 Thursday-5, Friday-6 and Saturday-7 and folded and put in a container labeled as the day-container. The 52 weeks in a year were also numbered as 1-52 and put in another container, labeled as the week’s container, and both were reshuffled. For each week that was picked from the container week, a day was also picked from the day container and this continued until 52 editions were arrived at from each of the newspapers, thus arriving at 108 editions from the four newspapers. These editions were examined and stories on Buhari’s overseas trips were examined. The units of analysis are articles of stories on Buhari’s overseas trips. The articles or stories could be in form of news, features or opinion (editorials).

Measurements of Study Variables

In measuring the variables for this study, the researcher adopted the rules used by Barrett, and Peake (2007) to examine newspaper framing of presidential trips in the United States. Therefore, to measure the tone of each story, the researcher counted the number of statements that would be considered positive or negative from the presidency perspectives, excluding statements made by the president himself. Positive statements include descriptions of an applauding or enthusiastic audience, an upbeat assessment of the president’s remarks by an audience member, or statements in support of the president by political allies.

Negative statements include descriptions of protests surrounding a trip, negative analysis of the president’s remarks by a group representative or a political opponent, or statements that place the visit in a context that reminds readers of something negative related to the presidency. Stories that did not belong either of the categories were coded as neutral.

To examine the possibility of source bias, the researcher counted the number of attributed statements, defined as either a quote or paraphrase, included in each story. The researcher coded each
attributed statement into one of the following categories of sources: (a) the presidency (b) experts (c) other—anyone who does not fit into one of the above categories. The following frames were used: 

**Benefit Frame:** These are frames that highlighted the benefits of the overseas trips to the Nigerian people.

**Waste frame:** Stories that present the overseas trips as a waste public resources and valuable time.

**Neutral frames:** These are stories that did not highlight either the positive nor the negative impact of the trip.

**Unit of Analysis**
For this study, the units of analysis were the articles which included news, editorials, columns, opinions, and letters to the editor. Two coders were randomly selected to do the coding. The Inter-coder reliability will be determined using Holsti’s Inter coder reliability formula thus:

\[ R = \frac{2M}{N_1 + N_2} \]

Where:
- \( M \) = The number of coding decisions which two coders agree.
- \( N_1 \) & \( N_2 \) – The number of coding decisions by the first and second coder respectively

The inter coder reliability was

\[ \frac{2 \times 60}{53 + 50} = 0.84 \]

The calculation above yielded 0.84 reliability figure. This calculation indicates high reliability.

**Method of Data Analysis**
For this study, the researcher use simple percentages in the analysis. The results were then presented in tables.

**Results**
The researcher examined the 108 editions that were selected. However, only 65 editions had stories on presidential overseas trips. This represents 60%. The implication is that 60% of the editions sampled had stories on presidential overseas trips. These editions were examined and the result is presented below:

**Table 1: Tone of newspaper framing of President Buhari’s overseas trips**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Tone of framing</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Count</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The punch</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.9%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table above was computed to ascertain newspaper tone of framing of president Buhari’s overseas trips. The result from the table above revealed that the tone of framing was mainly neutral. What this means is that the newspapers did not significantly take side in their tone of framing of President Buhari’s overseas trips. To ascertain the sources of information of newspaper framing of President Buhari’s overseas trips, table two was computed:

Table 2: Newspaper sources of Stories on President Buhari’s overseas trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of stories</th>
<th>The presidency</th>
<th>Experts</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>newspaper</strong></td>
<td><strong>Count</strong></td>
<td><strong>% of Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The punch</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Sun</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Trust</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>59.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>25.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.2%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The essence of table two above was to ascertain the sources of newspaper stories on President Buhari’s overseas trips. It was found that more than half of the stories cited the presidency with less attention paid to experts who could have provided fresh perspectives to such overseas trips.

Table 3: Newspaper framing of President Buhari’s overseas trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frames used</th>
<th>waste frame</th>
<th>Benefit frame</th>
<th>neutral frame</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The punch</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Sun</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>.0%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table three was computed to ascertain the frames that newspapers use to present president Buhari’s overseas trips. It was found that most of the newspapers frame such trips as a waste of public resources. What this means is that less attention was paid to highlighting the benefits of such trips to the Nigerian people.

**Discussion of Findings**

The essence of this study was to ascertain newspaper framing of president Buhari’s overseas trips. In doing so, the researcher paid attention to tone of framing, sources of information and frames used. The result of this study suggest that the tone of framing most of the newspaper stories on Buhari’s overseas trips was neutral. This is because most of such stories were neither positive nor negative about such trips. This result is contrary to that of Eshbaugh-Soha (2010) who after a study of newspaper tone of framing of presidential activities reported that the tone was mostly negative. This is also contrary to that of Cohen, (2016) who reported that newspaper framing of presidential activities is largely in the negative tone.

The findings of this study in newspaper story sources were also bias because most of the sources were from the presidency. This implies that the newspapers did not make extra efforts to get experts to comment on President Buhari’s overseas trips. This result is consistent with that of Barrett and Peake (2007) who found that sources of newspaper framing of presidential trips were bias as only media aids to the presidents and other presidential sources were cited. From this result, it was noticed that stories on planned presidential trips, presidential pronouncements while overseas, among others all cited the president’s media aides.

Finally, results showed that stories on Buhari’s trips were mostly framed as a waste of public fund than as beneficial efforts aimed at solving Nigerian’s problems. What this means is that most of the newspapers studied did not see the presidential trips as useful to Nigeria. These results, when interpreted along the line of the agenda setting theory, implies that the newspapers studied succeeded in making the public think about Buhari’s overseas trips but in a manner that implies the president was wasting public fund through international trips.

These results have also contributed to our understanding of framing theory by showing how media could highlight certain aspects of an issue. For example, while the presidency may want the general public to see such trips as important efforts at addressing the challenges facing Nigeria and attracting investors, the newspapers studied have framed such trips as a waste of public fund.

**Conclusion**

Based on the result of this study, the researcher concludes that newspaper framing of Buhari’s overseas trips assumed neutral tone with sources mainly from the president’s media team. Stories on Buhari’s overseas trips were also framed as a waste of public fund. The basic contribution of this study is that it has provided evidence-based understanding on the type of newspaper framing of Buhari’s overseas trips. This type of study is not common in Nigeria as most of the studies done on presidential
trips were from foreign scholars. This study has also offered empirical evidence regarding how Nigerian newspapers framing the presidency with particular attention to the Buhari presidency.

**Recommendations**

This study makes the following recommendations:

1. Newspapers should expand their sources on stories on Buhari’s trips beyond media team.
2. Newspapers in Nigeria should improve on their stories on Buhari’s trips and make them more analytical so as to provide interpretations on the relevance of presidential overseas trips.
3. Further studies should investigate public perception of newspaper coverage of Buhari’s overseas trips.
4. Further studies should be expanded to include more presidents to give room for comparison.

**References**


