

The Growing Relevance Of Broadcast Media Arbitration In Nigeria And The Need For Government Support To Enhance Their Peacemaking Efforts

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Abstract: The level of interpersonal and communal conflicts in Nigeria has become a thing of concern because it most times leads to violence. This is as a result of numerous disputes ranging from land boundary, marital, business and contract disputes which always degenerate into violent attacks. This is as a result of the fact that significant number of the Nigeria population are poor which makes it difficult for them to seek redress in the courts due to their inability to afford cost of litigation. The introduction of broadcast media arbitration on the television and radio is attracting peoples' attention because of the fact that they are not required to pay any money for the services of the Arbiters. This research examined the relevance of broadcast media arbitration as a model of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) with focus on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja for a case study. It begins with the introduction, the social justice theory is used as the theoretical framework of analysis, the researcher utilized survey research method using stratify sampling technique in which opinion 311 residents of three major Area Councils(Gwagwalada '112', Municipal '161' & Kwali '39') of FCT, Abuja were sampled according to the population of each area council; among whom were 176(57.5%) male and 130(42.5%) female; descriptive statistical data used for the analysis, legality of their activities and challenges were examined while the discussion of findings, conclusion and recommendations in order to increase the citizens' access to justice are outlined.

Keywords: Media, Arbitration, Peacemaking and Broadcast Media

I. INTRODUCTION

The media broadcast arbitration is growing in relevance in Nigeria today, some live-show on the television set arbitration programmes have been of immense help to the citizens of Nigeria in resolving many conflicts that would have degenerate into complex litigation or even violent clashes. These reality television arbitration shows allows people to make complaints of wrongs done to them by either family members, business partners, co-workers, friends etc. and the other person or persons are called on phone to report on the live show on the next episode in order to state their positions on what actually happened. After listening to the both parties the arbiter makes his or her pronouncement based on relevant laws and morality.

Broadcasting was introduced in Nigeria in 1932 by the then British Colonial authorities as an experiment of the empire service of the BBC. One of its main tasks was to relay the overseas service of the BBC through wired systems with loudspeakers. This service was called Radio Diffusion System (RDS). The Radio Diffusion System (RDS) became the Nigerian Broadcasting Service, NBS in April 1951. Full broadcasting services in the country began with the establishment of the Nigerian Broadcasting Service (NBS). In 1954, broadcasting became a concurrent legislative matter in Nigeria. The NBS Act was enacted in 1956. By 1957, the RDS also underwent a name change and became the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) to provide a nationally representative domestic service and external service. Seizing the opportunity of colonial - constitutional review which gave

federal and regional governments concurrent powers in the ownership of broadcasting stations, the government of the western region established television and radio stations in 1959. In 1961, the NBC act was amended to give the Federal Minister of Information power to give general and specific directives to NBC in matters of policy and appointments to the board. By 1962, NBC External Service (Voice of Nigeria) was inaugurated and the first Nigerian director-general was appointed. In 1977, AM/FM Stereo was inaugurated as second sound channel. In 1978, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation was re-organized to become the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN (Udomisor, 2013).

Television broadcasting in Nigeria started with the initiative of the first Western Region Premier, Chief Obafemi Awolowo who on October 31, 1959 launched television broadcasting at Ibadan, the then headquarters of the region. With a small 500 watts transmitter mounted on Mapo Hill at then, and another at Abafon near Ikorodu, the Western Region Government commenced operations in partnership with British Media Company, Overseas Rediffusion Limited. The Western Nigeria Radiovision Service Limited was also created, with the responsibility of managing radio and television broadcasting in the Western region. The television was therefore established to disseminate information and entertain viewers. The radio and TV stations in the Western Region pioneered commercial broadcasting in Nigeria to supplement government subvention. The governments of the eastern and northern regions followed suit in 1960 and 1962 respectively. The federal government also set up a television station in 1962. After the military had overthrown the Civilian constitutional government in 1966, it created 12 states to replace the regions as second tier of government. New states established their own broadcasting stations. The Western region government took full control of the WNIS/WNTV by buying over all the shares held by the Overseas Rediffusion Ltd. In the same year, the Nigeria Television Service (NTS) was born in Lagos with the radio corporation of America (RCA) and the national broadcasting company international limited managing the station. But the management was eventually handed over to Reverend Victor Badejo, who was then the acting Director General of the NBC. The NTS later changed its name to NBC/TV. The Federal Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, also began to expand in 1967, building a station in each state. But this was reversed by a policy change in the 1970s (Udomisor, 2013).

Government ordered the transfer of most NBC stations to the New Media and Mass Communication to states, with the exception of those in Lagos, Ibadan and Enugu, and added the Kaduna station of the Broadcasting Corporation of Northern Nigeria. It also transformed the NBC into the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN). In 1976, television stations started beaming colour programmes. By 1978, the Federal Government under General Olusegun Obasanjo (as he then was) took over the television stations in Nigeria and changed their name to Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) and these stations were made to beam network programmes. At the same time, the government centralized all federal and state television stations under the control of a new body, the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). When the country returned to civilian rule in 1979, state governments exploited a

constitutional provision which granted them powers to establish new television stations. Federal radio also expanded its operations through building stations in all states. The military seized power again and scrapped the new federal radio stations in 1984. In the mid-1980s, the government embarked on the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which included steps to cut down on state subsidies. This led to the introduction of commercialization in the state broadcast stations - FRCN and NTA. For the first time, government designed a National Mass Communication Policy which was published in 1990. The policy retained government's monopoly over the broadcasting sector. In another reversal of policy, government promulgated a decree in 1992 which established a regulatory body, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), and opened the door to private participation in the ownership and operation of broadcasting stations. In 1992, a new vista was opened in the annals of Nigerian broadcasting history (Udomisor, 2013).

The Federal government under then Commander in Chief, General Ibrahim Babangida deregulated the broadcast industry by granting license to private individuals and organizations to set up radio and television broadcasting stations. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) was founded to monitor and regulate broadcasting on a national basis. One goal of the organization is to open up the industry to the marketplace paradigm. Both foreign and domestic participation was sought. A total of nine mandates are itemized in the charter of the NBC. Additionally, the agency has the role of arbitrator between the industry and other areas of the government. Education is also a component of the organization's work. It is charged with ensuring the development of trained personnel through accredited curricula and programs that offer courses in mass communication and broadcasting Udomisor et al.

Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999 and its successive democratic transitions have opened up the space for freedom of expression for the country's population of over 200 million people; 60.9 percent of whom live in absolute poverty conditions and overwhelming basic socioeconomic challenges of: high maternal and infant mortality, unemployment, illiteracy, poor healthcare services, youth restiveness and fatal insurgencies, weak physical infrastructure, among others. Yet, political aspirations for inclusive participation of the majority and contextualization of development remained elusive due to non-democratization of access and use of information for freedom of expression. This imperative to positively and qualitatively hasten progress has eluded the citizenry due to unfavorable policies, legal and regulatory frameworks (Umar and Abdulmutallib, 2013). Therefore, broadcast media arbitration and mediations are some of the gainful programmes produced by both public and private media agencies in the contemporary times of media broadcasting that have been helpful in conflict resolution in Nigeria. The citizens and residence of the country now make use of the media peace resolution mechanisms as such in attempt to secure quick dispensation of justice.

The need for dispute resolution mechanisms that will ensure there is a quick dispensation of justice in Nigeria has been the concern of everyone. This is as a result of the delays experienced in the judicial system of the country because of

the cumbersome manner the courts operate as parties experience so much adjournments instead of speedy trials.

There are as many factors responsible for delay in the dispensation of justice in the magistrate courts, as the number of magistrate courts in the land. The solutions to the endemic delay can be found in the opposite of all the factors responsible for the delay. The delay could be man-made. In reality, the man-made delay is the crux of the matter. If one has empirical data, one can safely assert that natural causes of delay in the administration of justice will be less than 2% of all the causes of delay in the Magistrate Courts all over our nation, while the man-made delay will therefore, account for 98% of all the factors responsible for the delays. At this juncture, we may want to answer the question, from where does the Magistrate court derives its existence? It is a fundamental constitutional requirement provided for in section 36 (1) of the 1999 constitution that every litigant shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law. The importance of prompt dispensation of justice cannot be over emphasized. A judge must therefore ensure that everything is done to give effect to this important provision of the constitution. It is axiomatic that justice delayed is justice denied. This saying is of utmost relevance in Nigeria, having regard to the general social, political and economic trends which could have far reaching effect on the outcome of litigation. A judge should therefore accord priority attention to prompt dispensation of justice (Yusuf,2023).

Until the Nigerian Judiciary is allowed to be in control of its budget, the expectations of the Judiciary as the last hope of the common man, will continue to remain a pipedream. If the Judiciary is indeed the last bastion for the Common Man in a dysfunctional society like ours, the question of access to justice becomes paramount because the troubled citizen must first be let into the hallowed chambers of the court of law before he can meet with the blindfolded Lady Justice. The setbacks to access to justice in Nigerian civil and criminal justice system are quite exigent. These setbacks include delays, cost of litigation, complex legal rules and procedure, lack of awareness and legal knowledge. Delay and corruption are also some of the factors hindering smooth flow of access to justice. It is important to note that Access to Court and involuntary attendant at court is not the same thing with Access to Justice. Everyday many helpless people are hauled into courtrooms for sundry reasons which some of the so-called "offenders" are not even aware of. Such persons could be tried, convicted, and jailed for crimes they did not commit or did not have the requisite mens rea for (Ikhariale, 2023).

These aforementioned setbacks people experience always in the Nigerian judicial system prompted their quest for expedient, simple and free or less costly alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems such as media broadcast arbitration and mediation. It against this background that, this study seeks to investigate the Growing relevance of broadcast media arbitration in Nigeria using Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as the case study.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The need for dispute resolution mechanisms that will ensure there is a quick dispensation of justice in Nigeria has been the concern of everyone. This is as a result of the delays experienced in the judicial system of the country because of the cumbersome manner the courts operate as parties experience so much adjournments instead of speedy trials. It was explained by Yusuf (2023), that there are as many factors responsible for delay in the dispensation of justice in the magistrate courts, as the number of magistrate courts in the land. The solutions to the endemic delay can be found in the opposite of all the factors responsible for the delay. The delay could be man-made and in exceptional circumstances due to "force majeure". In reality, the man-made delay is the crux of the matter.

If one has empirical data, one can safely assert that natural causes of delay in the administration of justice will be less than 2% of all the causes of delay in the Magistrate Courts all over our nation, while the man-made delay will therefore, account for 98% of all the factors responsible for the delays. At this juncture, we may want to answer the question, from where does the Magistrate court derives its existence? It is a fundamental constitutional requirement provided for in section 36 (1) of the 1999 constitution that every litigant shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law. The importance of prompt dispensation of justice cannot be over emphasized. A judge must therefore ensure that everything is done to give effect to this important provision of the constitution. It is axiomatic that justice delayed is justice denied. This saying is of utmost relevance in Nigeria, having regard to the general social, political and economic trends which could have far reaching effect on the outcome of litigation. A judge should therefore accord priority attention to prompt dispensation of justice (Yusuf,2023).

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These setbacks include delays, cost of litigation, complex legal rules and procedure, lack of awareness and legal knowledge. Delay and corruption are also some of the factors hindering smooth flow of access to justice. It is important to note that Access to Court and involuntary attendant at court is not the same thing with Access to Justice. Everyday many helpless people are hauled into courtrooms for sundry reasons which some of the so-called "offenders" are not even aware of. Such persons could be tried, convicted, and jailed for crimes they did not commit or did not have the requisite mens rea for (Ikhariale, 2023). These aforementioned setbacks people experience always in the Nigerian judicial system prompted their quest for expedient, simple and free or less costly alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems such as

media broadcast arbitration and mediation. It against this background that, this study seek to investigate the Growing relevance of broadcast media arbitration in Nigeria using Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as the case study.

II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

MEDIA

Media is defined as the various outlets through which news can be made available to the people in mass communication. Media is defined as the plural form of medium which broadly speaking describes any channel of communication and it include anything from printed paper to digital data and encompasses art, news, educational content and other numerous forms of information (Techopedia, 2020). It is the main means of communication using platforms such as broadcasting, publishing and the internet (Hoechman & Poytz2011). Hence, media includes the use of radio, television, newspapers, magazines and social media platform on the internet such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Google etc.

BROADCAST MEDIA: Broadcast media was introduced at the beginning of the 1920s in the form of radio and later television. The introduction of the television reduced the importance of radio as a means for information in the form of news as people preferred watching and hearing the news (Udomisor, 2013). In view of this definition by Udomisor, it is acceptable to say that broadcast media has to do with mass communication through radio and television transmission channels. Brenna and Sailus (2023), state that; broadcast is an electronically transmitted radio, television or digital program.

ARBITRATION

This refers to an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) method where the parties in dispute agreed to have their case heard by a qualified arbiter out of court. Under the Federal Arbitration Act of the United States decisions reached through arbitration are binding just like the court case Judgment and pursuing a claim through arbitration precludes a party from raising it in the traditional court system (LiiWex 2021). Arbitration can also be defined as a contract-based form of binding dispute resolution in which a Party's right to refer a dispute to arbitrators depends on the existence of an agreement (the arbitration agreement). This arbitration agreement determines key elements of the process such as:

- ✓ If the tribunal will comprise of a particular number of persons (one, two, or four etc.).
- ✓ If the arbitrators will be selected and how to select them.
- ✓ To know where the arbitration will hold.
- ✓ If the arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the rules of a particular arbitration institution or will be an ad hoc form of arbitration.

A claimant in a dispute will start arbitration by sending a document known as a "request for arbitration" or a "notice to arbitrate" to the opponent. After the hearing the arbitrators (tribunal) will produce its "Award". This is the decision taken on issues between the parties, unless the award is challenged in court. It determines the rights and obligations of the parties.

One of the main attractions of arbitration is that awards can be enforced in most countries globally without a rehearing of the issues and after following a relatively short process (Stewarts 2022).

PEACEMAKING

This is a process of consultations by sitting on the round table to dialogue and discuss the way out of the conflict situation through acceptable resolution points or consensus. It is a period of dialoguing, negotiation, mediation, conciliation and adjudication. Peacemaking is not a post-conflict processes, it takes place as an initial process of bringing the parties in conflict to the negotiation table for dialogue on the way out of such situation. Peacemaking can take place only when there is a consent-based negotiation and recognitions of legitimacy between the parties involved (Ruth 2020). Peace negotiations test the sincerity and the willingness of the parties to live with each other and indicates how well they can design a comprehensive blueprint for peace (Chetachukwu 2023).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The need for "Peace" in every society cannot be realized without ensuring that "Justice" is allowed to prevail in the society. *The theory of social justice* is relevant in explaining how peace can be realized by ensuring that justice prevails. The social justice theory is a political and philosophical theory that is based on the concept of fairness in the relations and interactions between individuals on the premise of equal liberty to have access to wealth, social privileges and opportunity to progress in the society. The protagonist of Utilitarianism are J. Benthem (1748-1832), James Mill (1773-1836), John Austin (1790-1859) and John Staurts Mill (1806-1873). They considered the practicability and utility to be the measure of virtue and justice. The value of justice is inherent in how many individuals that derive pleasure from it and that how far it is useful in favour of the "common interest". That which is not useful does not contain any utility. It cannot be 'just' and ethically justifiable, thus maximum good of the greatest number of people was regarded as the main basis for justice. It is the measure of good, right, morality, prosperity, progress and justice. It means that justice must be demonstrated and the welfare of the needy and the oppressed be protected (Bhimasen 2021).

Base on this theory the peacemaking efforts of arbiters especially broadcast media arbiters in Nigeria is geared towards ensuring social justice for the common interest of the Nigerian people. The use of broadcast media arbitration should increase the rate of access to justice for people especially the poor and the vulnerable group of women and children in Nigeria because many people are now getting quick dispensation of justice in the sense that their disputes are resolved through them and those affected complies during enforcement of the awards in order not to lose their reputation as this type of arbitration processes are always public on live radio or television show.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

It is observed that the broadcast media arbitration programme is usually produced and anchored by much matured and experienced person in broadcast stations. The producer always a full day preparation for each segment, meeting with complainants or parties involved in the dispute, deciding to air the programme for settling matters, maintaining contacts with panelists, coordinating the production team to ensure that nothing goes wrong because the dispute resolution is broadcast live and it is time bound (Solanke, 2011:7-8).

The idea of alternative dispute resolutions such as broadcast media and other communication technology channels arbitration is to reduce legal uncertainty, provide regulation means and power necessary, ensure disputes are resolved as quickly as possible with clear rules on confidentiality of business secrets, effective appeals procedures, preview of administrative decisions etc. (Ashok, 2023). Just like Adjudication, journalism aims at pursuing truth and resolving disputes, it is necessarily public; as both Journalists and Judges take their authority from the public. Just the court; journalist even has some ability to force parties to the table for settlement (Carol, 2007:11). The broadcast media arbitration has increased the level of citizens' access to justice in Nigeria because it reduces cost of litigation, the question of court jurisdiction and the use of the concept of locus-standi in the law courts does not apply. This model of arbitration also makes it easier for the uninformed in the society to access social justice because they watch the television and listens to the radio when some of the arbitrations are going on which educates them on their rights and makes them know that they can as well approach the producers of such arbitration programs to complain when their rights are breached (Adebanjo2017).

Legality Of Arbitration In Nigeria: The legislation that empowers arbitration in Nigeria is the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1988 (laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 Cap A18 ACA), it is a Federal Statute. There is also Lagos state Arbitration Law 2009(LASAL) which applies to arbitrations in Lagos state only. Some other states also have their own arbitration laws. The law provides that for an arbitration agreement to be enforceable an arbitration agreement must be evidenced in writing either in a document signed by parties, an exchange of letters, telex, telegrams or other means of communication which provides a record of the agreement, an exchange of points of claim, defense in claim and defense in which the existence of an arbitration agreement is alleged by one party and not denied by another the recent exciting development is the enactment on the 30th of October, 2017 of the Oyo state Multi-Door court House Law, 2017 which will empower the practice of arbitration in Oyo state (Adebanjo,2017).

Challenges Of Media Arbitration In Nigeria: Generally, the challenge being faced by arbiters in Nigeria is basically on the following:

- ✓ Enforcement of the arbitration Awards; The law that mainly empowers arbitrators to enforce their resolutions is the Arbitration and Conciliation Act (ACA) cap A18, LFN 2004. But most times people refuse to comply since

there is no strong enforcement procedures empowering the police to ensure compliance.

- ✓ Most times the party to the dispute who feel the award of the Arbiter is not in their favor do file applications in the Federal High Court seeking stay of execution and possible reversal of the awards (even though they do not succeed but it leads to undue delay).
- ✓ The court can set aside the arbitration awards “where an arbiter has shown misconduct or where the arbiter’s proceedings and award has been improperly procured. The court may on application of a party set the award aside (Folashade 2020).
- ✓ Another challenge is the situation when a person requested to appear at the television, radio and arbiter’s office decides not to attend to the call for the conflict to be resolved, there is nothing the arbiter can do rather than appeal to the conscience of those he received their report to come forward for a resolution in order to ensure peace.

III. METHODOLOGY

The researcher employed appropriate method to ensure validity and reliability of this study. These include the design of the study, study population, sampling technique, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

DESIGN: The researcher utilized Survey research method whereby questionnaires were used to elicit information from the participants of the targeted population.

STUDY POPULATION: The study population is estimated at 1,501,384. These cut across the residents of Gwagwalada Area Council of about 537,000, Municipal Council of 776,298 and Kwali Area Council of 188,000 in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja (World Population Review2024).

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Multi-Stage Sampling Technique were used for the study. First the researcher used Purposive Sampling Technique in arriving at the study area (Federal Capital Territory Abuja) aimed at having a general view of the Nigerian population. The researcher at second stage employed stratify sampling technique in which three area council (Gwagwalada, Municipal & Kwali Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja) were sampled for the study. finally, the researcher utilized convenience sampling technique which enabled only people who were at their convenience to have participated or responded to the said questionnaire.

SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION: In other to arrive at the appropriate sample size for this study, the researcher made used of Krejcie and Morgan, (1970) Sample size determination. Drawing from the total population of 1,501384 the total sample arrived at was 311. Aligning with the table, sample size for the population of 1,501,384 is 311 (World Population Review, 2024). The formula and calculation for the sample size determination is as stated below:

$$S = \frac{x^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2 d(N-1) + x P(1-P)}$$

$$S = \frac{1.96^2 \times 1,501,384 \times 0.5(0.5)}{0.05^2(1,501,384) + 1.96^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}$$

$$S = \frac{3.74 \times 1,501,384 \times 0.5(0.5)}{0.1+0.5(1,501,384) + 1.96^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}$$

$$S = \frac{5,615,176.16 + 0.25}{90083.04 + 187}$$

$$S = \frac{5,615,176.41}{9027004}$$

$$S = \frac{0.622}{2}$$

$$S = 0.311$$

$$S = \frac{311}{1,501,384}$$

In line with the determined sample number, the questionnaire was administered to the three area councils of the FCT, Abuja, using proportional sampling technique. The Halleck (2001) formula for proportional sampling distribution style was utilized to determine the sampling number for each of the 3 Area Councils of the FCT, Abuja. The formula is $(\frac{n}{N})Ni$. The interpretation of the formula is as follows:

n = population size per little units of the sampling population (Area Council)

N = total population of sampling location (1,501,384)

Ni = determined sample size (311)

$$\checkmark \text{ Gwagwalada Area Council} = \frac{537,000 \times 311}{1,501,384} = \underline{112}$$

$$\checkmark \text{ Municipal Area Council} = \frac{776,298 \times 311}{1,501,384} = \underline{160.8} = \underline{161}$$

$$\checkmark \text{ Kwali Area Council} = \frac{188,000 \times 311}{1,501,384} = \underline{38.9} = \underline{39}$$

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: Data was collected using questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher to measure the growing relevance of broadcast media arbitration in Nigeria and the need for government support to enhance their peacemaking effort. In order to ensure the reliability and the validity of the instrument/questionnaire used; the researcher subjected it to pilot study after which result from item and factor analysis were considered adequate for use in the current study.

PILOT STUDY: this research commenced with a pilot study carried out in Kano Metropolis in order to ensure reliability and validity of the instrument used for the study: the growing relevance of broadcast media arbitration in Nigeria and the need for government support of their peacemaking efforts, was subjected to a pilot study using residents of Kano Metropolis. This location was chosen because there is similarity in characteristics of the FCT, Abuja residents and this choice sampling location. In view of the test study, total number of 100 questionnaires were administered to the participants using convenience sampling technique and analyzed using SPSS 20th version; in which the residents responded voluntarily and out of the 100 copies 96 were returned, among which male were 56(58.3%) and 40(41.6%), those between 18-35 years were 22(22.9%) while those between 36 years and above were 74(77.1), public servant were highest in their occupation at 44(45.8%), the participants had various educational qualification: SSCE, ND, HND, BSc., MSc. and Ph.D. but those with SSCE were highest in number at 39(40.6%) and the specific research questions were responded to as follows: majority of respondent (18.7%) agreed that there are broadcast mediums of arbitration, 89(92.7%) of them accepted they are aware of the dispute resolution mechanism, 80(83.3) agreed they make use of

broadcast media arbitration, 45(46.8%) of them agreed there are many kinds of disputes especially marital disputes been resolved through broadcast media arbitration, 39(40.6%) agreed that most of the disputes leads to violence if not resolved on time while 30(31.2%) agreed that lack of government support is the major factor among other limitations affecting broadcast media arbitration.

DATA ANALYSIS: Data was analyzed using the 20th version of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The researcher first ascertained the demographic variables of the participants with clear emphases to Sex, age, occupation, area councils and educational qualification. Finally, descriptive statistics were used to ascertain the perceived growing relevance of relevance of broadcast media arbitration in Nigeria and the need for government support to enhance their peacemaking efforts. Sample size determination table for known population, 311 copies of the questionnaire were administered while 306 copies were retrieved which make 96.1% returns, with all being good and used for analysis, 5 respondents failed to respond to the questionnaire. The data were processed and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 20 version. The results are presented below.

ANALYSES OF RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

This section focused on the distributions according to the demographic variables of the respondents as presented in table 1: below

S/NO.	Demographic Variables	Frequencies	Percentages
1.	Sex		
	Male	176	57.5
	Female	130	42.5
	Total	306	100.0
2.	Age		
	21-35years	106	34.6
	36 years and above	200	65.4
	Total	306	100.0
3.	Occupation		
	Security Officer	30	9.8
	Traders	60	19.6
	Public Servants	80	26.1
	Bankers	20	6.5
	Transporters	50	16.3
	Medical Personnel	26	8.5
	Artisans/Famers	40	13.1
	Total	306	100
4.	Area Councils		
	Gwagwalada	110	35.9
	Municipal area council	158	51.6
	Kwali	38	12.4
	Total	306	100.0
5	Educational Qualifications		
	SSCE	70	22.9
	ND	56	18.3
	HND	54	17.6

	B.SC	50	16.3
	M.SC	25	8.2
	Ph.D.	10	3.3
	None	41	13.4
	Total	306	100

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 1: Distribution of Demographic Variables

Three Hundred and Eleven (311) copies of questionnaires were distributed between male and female and were successfully administered, three hundred and six (306) was returned of which the gender numbering is 176 (57.5%) for male and 130 (42.5%) for female. This means that the male that responded to the questionnaire are more than the female; this is because the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja is the hub of the public service in Nigeria.

Table1. above presents the distribution of the respondents according to age. The result reveals that 200 representing 65.4% of the total sample; which constituted the vast majority were aged 36years and above while 106 (34.6%) were between 21-35years age bracket.

Cursory look at Table 4.1 shows that majority of respondents; 80 representing (26.1%) of the total sample were public servants, 20(6.5%) Bankers, 30(9.6%) Security Operatives, 40(13.1%) Artisans/farmers while 26(8.5%) were medical personnel, 50(16.3%) Transporters and 60(19.6%) of Traders. This implies that significant number of participants in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja responded to the questionnaire across different occupations.

Distribution of respondents across the targeted area councils reveals that: 110(35.9%) Gwagwalada Area Council, 158(51.6%) Municipal Area Council and 38(12.4%) Kwali Area Council. The respondents in three Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja were sampled and 110 questionnaires were distributed in Gwagwalada been the commercial center of the FCT, Abuja but 109 was returned, Municipal Area Council been the administrative nerve center or headquarter of FCT, Abuja, Nigeria and 158 questionnaires were distributed but 155 was returned while in Kwali Area Council 38 questionnaires were distributed 37 returned. The number of samples per area council was determined by Heleck's (2001) formula for proportional sampling distribution ($\frac{n}{N}Ni$).

Table1, further reveals that 70 respondents representing (22.9%) of the total sample had SSCE Certificate, 56(18.3%) were holders of ND Certificate, 54(17.6%) are those with HND, 50(16.3%) and 25(8.2%) had B.Sc. and M.Sc. respectively, 10(3.3) are Ph.D. holders while 41(13.4%) possessed no academic qualifications

Presentation of Results According to Research Questions

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Spreading news	15	4.9
Use Radio to spread information	25	8.2
Use of Television to spread news	20	6.5
Act of informing and educating people on Radio and Tv.	70	22.9

Process of broadcasting news	31	10.1
Review of events and activities on the media	30	9.8
Act of journalism on radio	22	7.9
Unraveling the truth on the media	40	13.1
Sharing of information through the radio and television	30	9.8
Process of communicating to the public on radio and Tv	23	7.5
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024,

Table2: What do you understand by the phrase "broadcast media"?

Table2: showed that respondents gave a wide range of opinions when asked of their understanding of the phrase "broadcast media". 15(4.9%) views broadcast media as an act of spreading news, 25(8.2%) opines that broadcast media involves the use of Radio to spread information, 20(6.5%) of the total sample view broadcast media from the angle of using Television to spread information, 70(22.9%) posited that it is an act of informing and educating people on Radio and Television. 31(10.1%) sees it as a process of broadcasting news, 30(9.8%) submitted that broadcast media is a review of events and activities on the media. 22(7.9%) of the respondents sees broadcast media as an act of journalism on the radio, 40(13.1%) posited that it is unraveling the truth on the media. The result further showed that 30(9.8%) of the respondents view broadcast media as the sharing of information through radio and television while 23(7.5%) submitted that broadcast media is a process of communicating to the public on Radio and Television. The definitions given by various respondents above are closely related with higher number saying that broadcast media is concerned with the act informing and educating people on radio and television and followed by the definition that it is about unraveling the truth on the media.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Settlement of disputes by an Arbiter	63	20.6
Settling dispute by a third party	43	14.1
It is settlement of dispute by a neutral party with 'Award' as sanction	94	30.7
A means of resolving conflicts without going to the judicial courts for litigation	23	7.5
Use of stakeholders to settle disputes instead of courts	33	10.8
Intervention of professional dispute managers in settling disputes	20	6.5
Settlement of dispute by complaint commissions instead of the court	30	9.8
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table3: What do you understand as "Arbitration"

Table3: revealed that out of 306 respondents who attempted the question, 62(20.6%) defined arbitration as the settlement of disputes by an Arbiter while 43(14.1%) opined that arbitration is the settlement of dispute by a third party. 94(30.7%) respondents defined arbitration as the settlement of disputes by a neutral party with 'award' as sanction while 23(7.5%) pointed out that it is a means of resolving conflicts without going to the judicial courts for litigation. 33(10.8%) respondents views arbitration as the use of stakeholders to settle disputes instead of courts while 20(6.5%) respondents defined arbitration as the intervention of professional dispute managers in settling disputes. 30(9.8%) respondents further posited that arbitration involves settlement of dispute by complaint commissions instead of the court. The result of this responses shows that FCT residents have knowledge of the term broadcast media arbitration.

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Ranking
Marital Disputes	93	30.4	1 st
Inheritance/ Land Disputes	61	19.9	2 nd
Trade Disputes	41	13.4	3 rd
Debt Recovery Disputes	40	13.1	4 th
Landlord/ Tenant Disputes	71	23.2	5 th
Total	306	100	

Source: Field Data, 2024.

Table4: Some of The Disputes always Reported to the Broadcast Media Arbiters

Table4: Some of the disputes that are prevalent among the residents of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja were examined and the result show that Marital Dispute is most prevalent in the sampled area which 93(30.4%) respondents agreed. This is closely followed by Landlord/Tenant Disputes; 71(23.2.4%), Inheritances /Land Disputes; 61(19.9%), Trade Disputes; 41(13.4%), while Debt Recovery Disputes; 40(13.1%) is the least in the order of the cases reported to the broadcast media Arbiters.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Rarely	115	37.6
Sometimes	189	61.8
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 5: How frequently are the aforementioned Disputes Reported?

Table 4.5: revealed that 115(37.6%) of those who responded to the question submitted that those Disputes are rarely reported on the broadcast media while 189(61.8%) indicated 'sometimes' they are reported and been settled by the broadcast media Arbiters. This result show that the disputes occur from time to time. This means that in FCT, Abuja, sometimes the residents engage in broadcast media arbitration in settling the conflicts/disputes mentioned above.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Fatal	41	13.4
Loss/ damage of properties	61	19.9
Loss of huge cash	31	10.1
Injuries on each other	71	23.2
All the options	102	33.3
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 6: How severe does the Disputes leads to violence

Table6: depicts the degree of severity of violence that may occurs as a result of not resolving the disputes on time: 41(13.4%) respondents said it may become fatal, 61(19.9%) reported that it could result into loss or damage of properties. 31(10.1%) reported loss of huge cash while 71(23.2%) observed possible injuries by the party in dispute against each other. Also, 102(33.3%) affirmed all the aforementioned consequences. This shows that every conflict can lead to violence and sever destruction to lives and properties if not properly managed. The role of a "third party" interventions in conflict resolution cannot be overemphasized in order to ensure quick resolution to avert vindictive attitudes that may result to violent behaviors. This is because once any conflict or dispute is allowed to degenerate, it will continue to grow from bad to worse until there is a justiciable settlement. The responses here further show the imperative of the peace efforts of the broadcast media arbitration practitioners.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Help in settlement of marital disputes	20	6.5
Help in settlement of inheritance/land disputes	34	11.1
Help in settlement of debt recovery disputes	24	7.8
Helps for quick and easy resolution of disputes	68	22.2
Help in settlement of Landlord/Tenant and House Agents	34	11.1
Help in reuniting families and friends in disputes	34	11.1
Help in settlement of trade disputes	34	11.1
Help in settling unions and association's disputes	24	7.8
Help in settling human rights violation disputes	34	11.1
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 7: What ways have broadcast media arbitration in FCT, Abuja help in dispute resolution among residents?

Table 7: showed that 306 respondents who enumerated ways broadcast media arbitration have helped in the dispute resolution processes in the FCT, Abuja indicated the following as their responses: 20(6.5%) opined that it helped in settlement of marital disputes, 34(11.1%) reported that it help in settlement of inheritance/land disputes, 24(7.8%) opined that it

help in settlement of debt recovery disputes, 68(22.2%) reported that it helps for quick and easy settlement of dispute, 34(11.1%) observed that it helps in settlement of Landlord/Tenant and House Agents dispute, 34(11.1%) agree that helps in reuniting families and friends who are in dispute, 34(11.1%) state that it helps in settlement of trade disputes, 24(7.8%) accepted that it assist in settling unions and associations disputes while 34(11.1%) reported that it really impacted positively in settling Human Rights violation disputes. Here the greater number of respondents agreed that broadcast media arbitration helps for quick and easy resolution of disputes. This can explain the reason people are patronizing the broadcast media arbitration programmes at various radio and television channels within Nigeria and FCT, Abuja in particular in order to seek for settlement of their disputes.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Yes	280	91.5
No	26	8.5
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 8: Are the residents of the FCT, Abuja aware of Broadcast Media Arbitration?

Table 8: revealed that 280(91.5%) of the total sample accepted 'Yes' that residents of FCT, Abuja are aware of the utilization of Broadcast Media Arbitration in resolution of disputes while only 26(8.5%) disagreed by stating 'No' which connote that; residents of FCT, Abuja are not aware about the use of it. This prove that Nigerians in the urban centers are very much aware of the relevance of Broadcast Media Arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution system currently trending in Nigeria. It is based on this fact that Nigeria citizens now throng at Broadcast Media organization's premises seeking for audience to make their various compliant concerning different issues affecting them in the daily interactions with others.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
People demand they should be well encouraged by everyone	76	24.1
People demand they should be funded	38	12.4
People recommend adequate security for them	28	9.2
People appreciated their peacemaking efforts	30	9.8
People recommend government regulation	20	6.5
People recommend proper legal framework for them	54	17.6
People say they maintain human dignity and respect	50	16.3
People who say they don't know	10	3.3
Total	306	100

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 9: If Yes, what are people's reactions?

Table 9; show that 306 respondents who agreed Broadcast Media Arbitration is helpful in Conflict/dispute resolution in Nigeria and FCT, Abuja in particular and had the following reactions: People who said they should be well encouraged by everyone to continue their good work are 76(24.1%), those who demand they should be funded are 38(12.4%), People recommending adequate security for them are 28(9.2%), People who appreciate their peacemaking efforts are 20(6.5%), People who recommend proper legal framework for them are 54(17.6%), People who say they help to maintain human dignity and respect 50(16.3%) while those who does not know their efforts 10(3.3%). This shows that the knowledge of the activities of broadcast media arbiters is spreading among the public in Nigeria and FCT, Abuja in particular. Among the respondents 54(17.6%) demanded for proper legal framework for the broadcast media arbiters/mediators to enable their peace interventions have more force of law.

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Ranking
Lack of steady electricity supply	31	10.1	1 st
Lack of funding	40	13.1	2 nd
Lack of government support	103	33.7	3 rd
Limited cooperation with the judiciary	61	19.9	4 th
Lack of professionals to operate broadcast media arbitration	30	9.8	5 th
Lack of support by security agencies	41	13.4	6 th
Total	306	100	

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 10: Possible limitations to the use of Broadcast Media Arbitration?

Table 10: presents possible limitations to the use of broadcast media arbitration for dispute resolution in FCT, Abuja. The result showed that lack of stable electricity ranked first with 31(10.1%) responses, lack of funding 40(13.1%) ranked second, followed by the lack of government support 103(33.7%), limited cooperation with the Judiciary 61(19.9%), lack of professionals to operate broadcast media arbitration 30(9.8%) while the lack of support by the security agencies 41(13.4%).

Quarterly (3 Months) in a Year	Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Number Disputes Resolved between January to March, 2023.	1-3	30	9.8
	4-6	100	32.7
	7-9	120	39.2
	10 and above	56	18.3
Total		306	100
Number of Disputes Resolved between April to June, 2023.	1-3	36	11.8
	4-6	125	40.8
	7-9	95	31
	10 and above	50	16.3
Total		306	100
Number of Disputes Resolved between July to September, 2023.	1-3	29	9.5
	4-6	90	29.4
	7-9	130	42.5
	10 and above	57	18.6
Total		306	100

Source: Field Data, 2024

Table 11: How many disputes that are treated by broadcast media Arbitration in quarterly (3 Months) in a Year:

Table11: Show how many Disputes treated within three (3) quarters of the year 2023. It revealed that in the First quarter of the year 2023:30(9.8%) reported that 1-3 disputes were treated, 100(32.7%) indicated 4-6 disputes were treated, 120(39.2%) reported that 7-9 disputes were treated within the period while 56(18.3%) indicated 10 and above disputes were treated within the quarter of the year. Regarding the number of disputes treated in the Second quarter of the year 2023; it shows that: 36(11.1%) indicated 1-3 disputes, 125(40.8%) reported 4-6 disputes, those who indicated 7-9 are 95(31%) and 50(16.3%) reported 10 and above. Lastly, in the Third quarter of year 2023 29(9.5%) reported 1-3 disputes, 90(29.4%) reported 4-6, 130(42.5) reported 7-9 cases while 57(18.6%) reported 10 and above cases.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Hidden	53	17.3
Public	253	82.7
Total	306	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 12: How Do you prefer your Identity during Broadcast Media Arbitration?

Table12: showed that out of the 306 respondents that responded to the question whether their identity should be made public as a party involved in dispute being treated by broadcast media, 53(17.3%) affirmed that they prefer hidden identity while 253(82.7%) accepted making identity public. The majority of the responses show that most of them prefer making identity of parties public.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Cordial	41	13.4
Ok	61	19.9
Good	40	13.1
Inadequate cooperation	132	43.1
Impressive	32	10.5
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Data, 2024.

Table 13: Existing level of cooperation between the broadcast media arbiters, judicial courts and security agencies?

Table13: showed that the 306 respondents on the cooperation between broadcast media arbiters, Judicial courts and security agencies further revealed the following options: Cordial 41(13.4%), Ok 61(19.9%), Good 40(13.1%), Inadequate cooperation 132(43.1%) and Impressive 32(10.5%). In the table above which show the higher percentage of respondents' responses; about 43.1% response accepted that there is Inadequate working cooperation between the Broadcast Media Arbiters, the Judicial Courts and Security Agencies; one should expect a robust cooperation among the important conflict management sectors.

Responses	Frequency	Percent
No	36	11.8
Yes	270	88.2
Total	306	100

Source: Field Data, 2024.

Table 14: Do you accept the use of Broadcast Media Arbitration as desirable for efficient and effective dispute resolution?

Table14: revealed that 270(88.2%) of the total sample agreed on acceptability of Broadcast Media Arbitration as desirable for efficient and effective alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism for dispute resolution while 36(11.8%) disagreed. This acceptance of broadcast media arbitration as good system of conflict or dispute resolution is a further prove of the efficiency and effectiveness of this conflict management strategy in this contemporary world.

IV. DISCUSSION FINDINGS

From this research the following findings were made as follows:

- ✓ That most of the responses came from the Municipal Area Council at 46.9%. that is the administrative area that comprises mainly of civil and public servants. This could further indicate that civil or public servant tend to patronize broadcast media arbitration more.
- ✓ The outcome of this research shows that broadcast media is a vital medium of informing and educating people as well as it is utilized as a tool of conflicts or disputes resolution.
- ✓ Marital dispute was highest among cases reported to the broadcast media arbiters. This shows there is need to ensure proper enforcement of marriage laws to ensure peaceful families which will result to peaceful society.
- ✓ The use of broadcast media arbitration is on the increase because 88.2% of respondents accepted the broadcast media arbitration as one of the most effective and efficient systems of conflict resolution.
- ✓ Most of the disputes always degenerate to violence if not resolved on time. This is obvious as 70 (23.2%) of respondents agreed that it leads to injury on each other as result of fight. But another remarkable negative indication is the response of 102 (33.3%) of respondents; that all the options (fatality, loss or damage of properties, loss of huge cash and injury on each other) could be the negative effects of not resolving disputes on time. This shows that people always prefer to take laws in their hands instead of filing cases in court because of the slow processes of litigation in Nigeria (see table6). The intervention of the broadcast media arbitration helps to ensure resolution and reconciliation takes effect so that parties involved would not escalate the conflict to violent confrontations.
- ✓ Broadcast media arbitration has been helpful for quick resolution and reconciliation of disputing parties in FCT, Abuja (see table7).
- ✓ Due to the level of awareness of FCT, Abuja residents; it is obvious that there is high level of awareness of the use of broadcast media arbitration in settling disputes. This evident as 280(91.5%) of respondents agree that they are aware of it (see table8).
- ✓ People prefer that identity of parties during a broadcast media arbitration should be made public as 253(82.7%). This believed to be a way of making the disputants

quickly accept a moral and just settlement because of their reputation (see table12).

- ✓ Among all the limitations to the utilization of broadcast media arbitration in conflict management, lack of government support was rated highest at (33.7%) which shows that the government at all level should support arbiters in their efforts to ensure peaceful coexistence in the society (see table4.2.9).
- ✓ It was discovered that: there is low level of cooperation between broadcast media arbiters, the Judicial courts and security agencies (see table 13).

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The rate of conflicts in Nigeria today is very high as strives among families, communities, business partners and colleagues at work in the face of economic hardship and insecurity has become worrisome. The role of arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution systems in moderating and resolving these numerous disputes that sometimes degenerates into violence cannot be overemphasized, the idea of people running to the police to report civil disputes such as marital conflicts, breach of contract and commercial disputes etc. which most times leads to the police abuse of the rights of the other party to the dispute either by detaining the person or seizure of their property is wrong because such disputes should be subject of legal redress in the court of competent jurisdiction or the aggrieved party can engage arbiters or mediators to resolve the conflict. The broadcast media arbitration and other alternative disputes resolution models in Nigeria is gradually gaining acceptance especially the “On Air Personality style” of broadcast media arbitrations on radio and television and the needed encouragement should be given to them by the government and well-meaning Nigerians to enhance their peacemaking efforts in order to ensure peaceful coexistence of the citizens. Broadcast media arbitration has gained more and more popularity in our everyday lives because it is a highly effective dispute resolution mechanism been an alternative dispute resolution approach; it has been embraced by different people such as traders, bankers, security officers, artisans, various other organizations and individuals. Therefore, it is recommended that:

- ✓ The Nigeria government should empower the broadcast media arbiters in Nigeria by ensuring they are funded and there is legal backing for the enforcement of Arbiters Awards and agreements, so that people can comply with their resolutions unless if one of the parties feel they need to appeal the Awards in the Federal High Court on the grounds that the Arbiters did not follow due process.
- ✓ There is need for strong measures to ensure that the defendant to a dispute must honour the arbiters’ invitation and must comply with the request of the arbiter to appear before them to engage in the resolution process.
- ✓ The President of Nigeria should assent to the bill of new Arbitration and Mediation Law, 2022 passed by the National Assembly recently. As this law will empower arbitrations in the area of enforcement and funding.
- ✓ State governments should ensure they enable their own arbitration, mediation and conciliation laws to ensure the

effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in their states especially in broadcast media arbitration.

- ✓ There should be strong cooperation between the Public Complaint Commissions, the Nigeria Police Force and Arbiters at all levels.
- ✓ The Nigeria judiciary should also create special courts that can ensure quick hearing of appeals emanating from arbitration agreements and awards.

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