How Twitter is Used to Hold the Nigerian Government Accountable in Nigeria: Case Study of BudgIT and TrackaNG

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Submitted to the
Institute of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts
in
Communication and Media Studies

Eastern Mediterranean University
January 2020
Gazimağusa, North Cyprus

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ABSTRACT

The rise of social media has given ordinary citizens the tools they need to serve as watchdogs to leaders in elected positions in Nigeria. This power is needed in an age where public perception is that mainstream media works for a select few and not the masses.

This research was conducted to determine how non-governmental organizations in Nigeria uncover the misuse of public office by elected officials in Nigeria. A comparative study was conducted on Twitter to monitor tweets posted by NGOs using the Twitter handle @BudgIT and @TrackaNG. These Twitter handles were purposely chosen because they are coordinated by influential citizen journalists in Nigeria who have been known to ask direct questions to elected officials on how they use funds allocated to their offices. A deductive coding sheet was developed and used for this study to answer the research questions.

The study covers the period from 1 October 2019 to 7 January 2020 because this was the period of budget debates, signing and allocation of funds. 232 tweets counted during limitation of the study, selected for the study through content analysis. The study employed the purposive sampling method. Items measured in this research are; accountability, allocation, asking questions, administrative problems, themes and presentation. The results were coded by two coders. The inter-coder reliability tests revealed high level of agreement between the two coders. The highest level of agreement was presentation at 1.000 while the lowest agreement was accountability at .674. The findings of the research reveal that BudgIT and TrackaNG used their

platform to hold the government accountable and to inform the citizens on how each state fund is distributed and to uncover administrative problems. 75.5% of the tweets discussed accountability while 20.5% discussed governance in general; for asking questions, 51.5% asked questions and demanded increased allocation for underfunded sectors in Nigeria's budget while 55.5% discussed administrative problems while asking questions. The recurring themes in the tweets analysed for this research were financial integrity which was 46.5%, increased allocation of resources which was 35% and civic participation at 18.5%.

The study recommends that BudgIT, TrackaNG and similar organizations in Nigeria should establish partnerships with mainstream media, international organizations and human rights organisations as a protective measure against the government. It also recommends that further studies should be done to compare how alternative media and mainstream media cover financial matters in Nigeria.

Keywords: Social Media, Twitter, Citizen Journalists, Nigeria, BudgIT, TrackaNG

ÖZ

Sosyal medyanın yükselişi sıradan vatandaşlara Nijerya'da seçilmiş mevkilerdeki liderlere gözlemci olarak hizmet etmeleri için gereken araçları sağladı. Bu güce, kamusal algının ana akım medyanın kitleler için değil, az sayıda kişi için işlevsel olduğu bir devirde ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır.

Bu araştırma Nijerya'daki sivil toplum kuruluşlarının, Nijerya'daki seçimle iş başına gelen yetkililer tarafından suistimal edilen kamu görevinin nasıl ortaya çıkardıklarını saptamak için yapılmıştır. Twitter'da @BudgIT ve @TrackaNG hesapları üzerinden STK'lar tarafından yayınlanan tweetleri izleme suretiyle karşılaştırmalı bir çalışma yapılmıştır. Bu Twitter hesapların seçilme nedeni bu hesapların Nijerya'daki seçilmiş yetkililere, ofislerine tahsis edilen fonları nasıl kullandıkları hakkında doğrudan sorular sordukları bilinen etkili yurttaş gazeteciler tarafından koordine edilmesidir. Araştırma sorularına cevap vermek için tümdengelimli bir kodlama sayfası geliştirilmiş ve bu çalışma için kullanılmıştır.

Bu çalışma, 1 Ekim 2019'dan 7 Ocak 2020'ye kadar olan dönemi kapsamaktadır. Bu dönemin seçilme nedeni, bu dönemin bütçe tartışmaların yapıldığı, fonların tahsisi edildiği ve onaylandığı dönem olmasıdır. İçerik analizi için bu süre zarfında atılan 232'den tweet'in hepsi seçilmiştir. Çalışmada amaçlı örnekleme yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Bu araştırmada; hesap verebilirlik, tahsis, soru sorma, idari sorunlar, temalar ve sunum öğeleri ölçülmüştür. Sonuçlar iki kodlayıcı tarafından kodlanmıştır. Kodlayıcılar arası güvenilirlik testleri, iki kodlayıcı arasında yüksek düzeyde uyum olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. En yüksek uyum seviyesi 1.000'de

sunumda, en düşük uyum seviyesi ise .674'te hesap verebirliktir'te olmuştur. Araştırmanın bulguları, BudgIT ve TrackaNG'nin platformlarını hükümetin hesap verilebilirliğini ve her bir devlet fonunun nasıl dağıtıldığı ile birlikte idari sorunları ortaya çıkarmak suretiyle vatandaşları bilgilendirmek için kullandıklarını ortaya koyuyor. Tweetlerin% 75.5'i hesap verebilirliği tartışırken,% 20.5'i genel olarak yönetişimi tartıştı; soru sormak için % 51.5'i soru sorarak Nijerya bütçesinde yetersiz fonlanan sektörler için daha fazla fon tahsisi talep ederken, % 55.5'i soru aracılı ile idari sorunları tartıştı. Bu araştırmada, tweetlerde tekrarlanan temalar % 46,5 ile finansal bütünlük, % 35 ile kaynakların dağılımını artırmak ve % 18,5 ile sivil katılım olmuştur.

Bu çalışma, BudgIT, TrackaNG ve Nijerya'daki benzer kuruluşların hükümete karşı koruyucu bir önlem olarak ana akım medya, uluslararası kuruluşlar ve insan hakları kuruluşlarıyla ortaklıklar kurmalarını önermektedir. Ayrıca, alternatif medyanın ve ana akım medyanın Nijerya'daki finansal konuları nasıl işlediklerini ile ilgili de bir araştırma için yapılması gerektiğini önermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sosyal Medya, Twitter, Yurttaş Gazeteciler, Nijerya, BudgIT, TrackaNG

To my wife Adedoyin and daughter Britney Sulaimon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis becomes a reality with the help and support of many individuals. My appreciation does to God almighty for the wisdom He bestowed on me and good health in other to finish this research. It is a genuine pleasure to express my deep sense of thanks to my supervisor Asst. Prof. Dr. Aysu Arsoy for her inspiration, suggestions with kindness, guidance with enthusiasm during my thesis period.

To all my relatives, friends and colleagues who have helped me out with their abilities who in one way or the other shared their support either morally, physically and financially. Thank you.

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INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a country of many paradoxes. While it is deemed to be of economic relevance globally because of the position it occupies as one of the world's largest producers of oil, it is also ranked as one of the poorest nations on earth. As one of the poorest nations in the world, Nigeria is ranked 5th with a high percentage of its population (as high as 70 percent) living below the poverty line. Also, Nigeria has secured for herself the reputation of being a country with a pervasive state of corruption in both private and public spheres (Okike, 2004) Because of the continuous mismanagement of resources, the state of corruption in Nigeria has reached epic proportions (Transparency International, 2017). Transparency International lists Nigeria as 148 out of 180 countries with a score of 27 out of 100 in its Corruption Perception Index (CPI). This suggests why corporate governance remains high on the agenda in Nigeria both as a developing country and as a member of the Commonwealth (Okike & Okougbo, 2019). The issue of corporate governance suggests transparency and accountability because it encourages a trustworthy, moral as well as ethical environment (Juneja, n.d).

The issue of accountability is said to be as old as civilisation itself for when Hammurabi, then king of Babylonia promulgated his legal code around 2000BC, he was said to have paid attention to the accountability of those entrusted with public resources. Accountability is an obligation to give an account of the execution of

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responsibilities by that entrusted with those responsibilities (Gray & Jenkins, 1993). Accountability exists when an individual/body responsible for managing an office or in this case public resources is also subject to another's oversight, direction or request and is mandated to provide information or justification for their action. The concept of accountability involves two distinct stages and these are answerability (Kaler, 2002) and enforcement (Stapenhurst, n.d). Answerability refers to the responsibility of the government, its agencies and public officials to provide information about their decisions/actions with a view to justifying them to the public (those with legitimate interest (AccountAbility, 1999)). Besides being answerable to the public, they are also mandated to justify actions to the organizations of responsibility entrusted with giving oversight. Authorization then again proposes that people in general or the establishment answerable for responsibility can endorse the culpable party or cure the negating conduct. All things considered, various organizations of responsibility may be liable for either or both of these stages.

The importance of evaluating the effectiveness of public officials or public bodies lies in the fact the organizations of responsibility entrusted with giving oversight. Authorization then again proposes that people in general or the establishment answerable for responsibility can endorse the culpable party or cure the negating conduct. All things considered, various organizations of responsibility may be liable for either or both of these stages.

In this regard, social responsibility alludes to the wide scope of resident activities to consider the state answerable, just as activities with respect to government, media, and different entertainers that advance or encourage these endeavours. Social responsibility procedures and devices help enable conventional residents to practice

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their characteristic rights to consider governments responsible in their administration of open assets/assets and their activity of power (McNeil and Malena, 2010). At the point when residents or organizations accused of that duty consider their administration responsible, they get great administration which is a significant element for improvement.

In order to achieve national peace and development, good governance is a vital aspect of that growth especially when it manifests in areas of rule, transparency, accountability, citizens' participation etc. Unfortunately for Nigeria, the 'poverty of leadership' which it has been dealt with since the country's independence has been a major setback for its citizens as it has not only hindered the nation's development. For instance, the country' legislators earn more than what average Nigerians would earn in a lifetime for doing much less (Ehiaghe, 2018). Several years of suppressive, incorrigible dictators and corrupt leadership has led to a large scale neglect and deterioration of public services while political instability and lack of accountability have thwarted the capacity of progressive governments to actualize financial approaches that would profit normal individuals along these lines bringing about an absence of essential enhancements for the individuals (Ejimabo, 2013). One sector that greatly suffered from neglect is the educational sector (Williams-Elegbe, 2015). The rot in the sector has been attributed as one of the reasons why many Nigerians are choosing to study abroad (Umar, 2014). While it is generally believed that bad governance was prevalent in autocratic and oligarchic systems, the evidence in democratic societies has shown that bad governance exists more in democracies (Adegbami & Adepoju, 2017). For Nigeria, a major hindrance to good governance has always been corruption.

Barriers to a solid vote based system in Nigeria at all degrees of government incorporate clash which is at times activated by political challenge and common, ethnic, strict or asset designation competitions (Williams-Elegbe, 2015; USAID, 2019).

One of the many weaknesses in Nigeria's political structure is that successive governments in the country (like in many African states) have defaulted in having the political will to start or continue 'strategy or basic change or to set out on sound financial change that would reposition the country for progress (World Bank, 1997 cited in (Yagboyaju & Akinola, 2019). The upsurge in globalization and the prospects of the borderless state have not done much to enhance policy in Nigeria and some African states. Usually, it is expected that states would take decisive roles in enhancing economic transformation, growth & development, and to also toss away acts that would obstruct the improved livelihood of citizens as well as socioeconomic and political development of a country. So far, ending impoverishment, enhancing infrastructural development and controlling insurgency in Nigeria have been a challenge and individually, these factors can hinder the political development of any country (Yagboyaju & Akinola, 2019). It then becomes worse when they are joined together as is the case in Nigeria.

Perhaps, a major hindrance to ending these problems is the issue of corruption. Corruption is a cog in the wheel of progress in Nigeria as it continuously hindered the realization of the nation's goals in spite of Nigeria's potential as a hub for enormous natural and human resources (Ijewereme, 2015).

The main problem in today's public sector is the misappropriation of funds and this is recurring manifestation of corruption in the country. This phenomenon is so common in Nigeria and other countries that it has called into question the role of the internal auditor. Financial misappropriation hinders most social and economic reforms aimed at bringing about the prudent management of financial resources which would eventually promote economic growth and infrastructure development. Unfortunately, such resources are channelled to private accounts or shipped out (as it were) to already developed-world at the detriment of the local economy (J & Ogoun, 2017). A typical example can be cited from Nigeria's experience with former Head of State, General Sani Abacha who died in 1997 but his looted funds are still being recovered and returned to Nigeria to this day.

Corruption remains a major problem plaguing Nigeria since the colonial era even though it has eaten deeper into the fabrics of the society since the country's independence in 1960. However, the remedy to this problem can be said to rest in the hands of the Nigerian people. This reasoning is hinged on the fact that many developed and developing nations have themselves put in place different structures that would curb corruption in their societies. That is to say, their control of corruption was not as a result of external factors (Osakede, Ijimakinwa, Adesanya, Ojikutu, & Abubakar, 2015).

According to Ogundiya (2009), any attempt to understand the problem of development and the threats to democracy in most developing countries must first understand the problem of corruption and 'stupendous wastage of resources'.

This is proven in the fact that the Nigerian society is unfortunately yet to experience good governance due to impunity and corruption since its independence in 1960 (Oluwasanmi, 2007; Ebegbulem, 2012).

One of the institutions that help pursue accountability in society is the mass media but they cannot fully function unless they are free. However, free press is not luxury. It is said to be a fundamental aspect or even prerequisite of equitable development. As watchdogs, it should be noted importantly that the media can help in the fight against corruption by exposing it (Coronel, n.d). They can keep track of public policy by monitoring government action. This responsibility is upheld in section 22 of Nigeria's constitution in the year 1999 (Agbo & Chukwuma, 2017). The media likewise help construct open agreement to achieve change. Such media assist markets with working better since they'd help in encouraging exchange, transmitting thoughts and advancement across limits. The media are likewise significant for human advancement, carrying wellbeing and training data to remote towns in different nations (Islam, Djankow, & McLeash, 2002).

Media are noted for playing a crucial job in moulding solid popular governments and guaranteeing great administration. As a significant wellspring of data, they have proceeded as the core of vote based social orders. The media are said to perform three key jobs in adding to vote based system and great administration; first, they go about as guard dog over the legislature and the amazing, advance responsibility and straightforwardness and realize open examination (Ashraf, 2014).

As important as this media role is, it cannot be effectively performed without press freedom. Rather, they'd act as mouthpieces for autocratic governments. Freedom of

Information in this regard includes the right of the public to get to data authorities and organizations.

1.1 Background of the Study

The term, fourth estate of the realm was reportedly deduced by Edmund Burke around the eighteenth century to describe a powerful institution behind the clergy (class of priesthoods), nobility (class of nobles) and commoners (class of the regular citizens). In coining this term, he stated that the press was the most powerful (Bainbridge, Goc, & Tynan, 2011; Dutton, 2009). Since the evolution of society, the first three estates have metamorphosed into the official, authoritative and legal arms of government with the press still maintaining its identity. The power of the press is inherent in how they discharge their duties in that they are able to hold the powerful to account, uncover facts and generate debate about issues that concern the general public (Salleh, 2008). The press also wield the power to enlighten. Also, they have the potential to mislead, deceive and distort information (Peters, 2002).

The turn of the 21st century has witnessed a power shift however as new media technologies have emerged and with their emergence came new media players. These new media technologies have ushered in an institution that bears some resemblance to the estate of the fourth realm. The new institution is being regarded as the fifth estate (Dutton, 2009).

In explaining further, Dutton (2009) credited the emergence of this new estate to the rising utilization of Internet technologies in ways that allowed networked users to gain access to alternative sources of information, people and other resources while

also allowing networked individuals to go beyond boundaries of existing institutions which end up opening new ways of increasing the accountability of the powerful.

This new trend has created a new class of citizens (digital citizens) who are fairly informed and confidently challenge unhealthy policies or the non-implementation of policies. In turn, public officials have seen the need to exist on digital spaces so as to directly engage with the digital citizens.

The rise of citizen journalism has signified the departure from mainstream mass media (Fourth estate) which is partly due to issues such as media bias (Herman & Chomsky, 2002), commercialisation whereby the media serve the interests of their corporate elites and political allies (McChesney, 1999) and the media pursuing economic interests (Entman, 1989). This has paved way for the office of the citizen as some Nigerian Twitter users identify themselves.

Due to the expressive, performative, and collaborative features of social media which allow for citizen journalism (Ostman, 2012), an area in news ecology which is focused on holding government accountable is emerging (Newman, Dutton, & Blank (2012). Yet, some scholars (Keen 2007) have presented a bleak picture of editorial freedom that has characterized the present Internet era due to lack of journalistic training which Keen refers to as the 'cult of the amateur'. What does this editorial freedom portend for democratic accountability and the likes, particularly within the confines of the Nigerian press system? To answer this question, this research will attempt to investigate and establish the patterns of citizen journalism on Nigerian social media site by focusing on the twitter page of the BudgIT.

The research is necessitated by the claims that rather than being the fourth bequest of the domain, the Nigerian press has become the 'fourth home of the disaster area' by Professor Ralph Akinfeleye in an inaugural speech he made at the University of Lagos in May, 2003.

As the county with the most population in Africa and an avid oil producing country, Nigeria has due to poor leadership struggled to bring down its level of joblessness, pay disparity and over-reliance on oil with little achievement (Anazodo & Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2015; Adesina, 2016; Ehiaghe, 2018). The period of economic boom as a result of growth in oil exports has not reached the poor in society (Adesina, 2016) as there is a sharp contrast between the flow of oil revenue and the living conditions of average Nigerians (Anazodo & Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2015). It is by and large acknowledged that the misappropriation of open assets and resources by the degenerate elites has been a significant reason for Nigeria's moderate development (International, 2014). Typically, this would weaken any democracy.

Detours to a solid popular government incorporate clash which is some of the (Williams-Elegbe, 2015; USAID, 2019). Also, an elite few dominate the political structure in Nigeria but this is being mitigated by citizen journalists as they are increasingly turning into a voice for law based change. Their endeavours to push for comprehensive administration have been fruitful from numerous points of view (USAID, 2019).

In Nigeria, some of these CSOs have established themselves on social media and using their presence to raise questions. Since the use of social media for various

rebellions and revolutions across the globe, researchers have paid attention to the potential of social media.

Although the common activities most engage in on social media are keeping in touch with family and friends and sharing funny memes, social media has the capacity to be much more. For example, it can be used to hold a public official accountable. Because of this potential, open government advocates have urged people to adjust to modern communication by doing more with their social media accounts (First Amendment Foundation, 2017). One of the advantages of social media is that it has ushered in an era of dialogue between public officials and the people they represent. Dialogue is important because it is a major channel of public accountability. With the spread of new media technologies, public debates have been enhanced and citizens now have a space where they can share their agreement on government policy or air their criticism(s). They can also question officials and demand justification/explanation for their actions. Because of this, public officials have had to main a social media presence to engage directly with the people they represent (Mones, 2016). The importance of social media in today's society is backed by important movements that are shaping future history like the Arab spring, Occupy movements, Bring back our girls, Black lives matter etc. These movements have made profound impact on global society and they have been instrumental in changing governments. The Arab spring for example brought down dictatorships while Bring back our girls played a major role in Nigeria's former president, Jonathan losing the general election.

In Nigeria, this open conversation about the country's governance issues has been made possible with the signing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 2011.

The FOI Act means to make open records and data increasingly assessable to general society and to ensure open records and data, as per the open intrigue and insurance of individual security. It empowers residents to consider the administration responsible when funds are being misappropriated or when public officials/institutions fail to deliver public services to Nigerians. The Act which was signed into the law in May 28, 2011 arguably survived the longest legislative debate in the history of Nigeria because the debate to pass it into law lasted for over 12 years (Duru, 2016). It was passed to foster openness and accountability on the government and it was developed by the Freedom of Information Coalition which happened to be a network of over 180 civil society organizations in Nigeria (ibid). According to (Ashraf, 2014), the guard dog capacity of the media is imperative in a vote based society as individuals should recognize what their local officials are doing. Thus, the essential equitable capacity of the media is to go about as a check and equalization on the state. The signing of the law ushered in a new era in governance in Nigeria. Although there are still problems in governance, significant changes have been witnessed since the bill came into law and coupled with the rise of social media.

1.2 Motivation of the Study

This study is an attempt to establishing the successes of online advocacy by Nigerian youths. Motivation for this study is drawn from the perception that generally speaking, contemporary Nigerian youths have not been known for their showing interest in public affairs. However, since the advent of social media and the use of same for advocacy in different societies, I was motivated to conduct a research that would help in documenting the achievement of Nigerian youth in advocacy. With its colourful infographic and visual presentation of data, BudgIT and TrackaNG have not only succeeded in publishing beneficial information for the youth in Nigeria, they

have also succeeded in getting the government's attention. They have received the endorsement of mainstream media, the World Bank and some state governors (see Appendix II). It is for this reason that both twitter accounts of BudgIT and TrackaNG were purposely chosen for this study. Thus, this research is legitimized by the growing use of Twitter by Nigerian youth to task their government for equitable distribution of wealth in the society.

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To establish if BudgIT or TrackaNG used Twitter as an avenue to hold the Nigerian government accountable in the reports they posted between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020.

2. To establish if BudgIT or TrackaNG uncovered and reported administrative problems on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020.

3. To determine the consistent theme in posts about Nigeria's governance by BudgIT and TrackaNG between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020.

4. To establish how BudgIT or TrackaNG reported issues with regards to Nigerian governance on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020.

5. To determine the relevance of BudgIT and TrackaNG in Nigeria's current political clime.

1.4 Research Questions

1. Did BudgIT or TrackaNG use Twitter to as an avenue to hold the Nigerian government accountable in the reports they posted between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

2. Are there administrative problems uncovered and reported by Nigerian BudgIT or TrackaNG on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

3. What is (are) the consistent theme(s) made about governance in Nigeria by BudgIT and TrackaNG on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

4. How did BudgIT and TrackaNG present issues on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

5. What is the relevance of BudgIT and TrackaNG in Nigeria's current political clime?

1.5 Aim of the Study

The aim of this research is to investigate how citizen journalists creatively investigate Nigeria's financial matters particularly in regards to Nigeria's budgetary allocation and bridge this gap in knowledge by educating Nigerian citizens on Twitter. It will establish the claims of raising standards of transparency, citizen engagement and accountability in public offices by citizen journalists in Nigeria. The Twitter accounts of @BudgIT and its subsidiary @TrackaNG will be used as primary source of data for this research due to their investigative reporting of Nigeria's financial and budgetary matters. This will be achieved by conducting a content analysis of sampled tweets from the period of 1 October 2019 through 7 January 2020. 200 tweets were purposely sampled for this research. The periods between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020 were purposely chosen because there was much debate about Nigeria's budget within this time frame. By the end of the research, the researcher hopes to learn about; (i) Nigeria's spending (ii) Its fiscal policy and (iii) sufficiently utilized funds through the tweets that would be purposely sampled in the research.

The research is guided by five objectives which are centered on tweets from the Twitter accounts of @BudgIT and @TrackaNG. These objectives are; to establish if BudgIT or TrackaNG used Twitter as an avenue to hold the Nigerian government accountable in the reports they posted between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020; to establish if BudgIT or TrackaNG uncovered and reported administrative problems on twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020; to determine the consistent theme in posts about Nigeria's governance by BudgIT and TrackaNG between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020; to establish how BudgIT or TrackaNG reported issues with regards to Nigerian governance on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020; to determine the relevance of BudgIT and TrackaNG in Nigeria's current political clime.

The 200 tweets selected for this study will be sufficient to fulfil these objectives because both @BudgIT and @TrackaNG strictly tweet on Nigeria's financial matters with the aim of explaining the allocation of funds.

It is also hoped that through the findings of this research, a clear guide might be developed for future citizen journalists through this research

1.6 Case Study in View

BudgIT was founded by in 2011 by two Nigerian tech-enthusiasts, Oluseun Onigbinde and Joseph Agunbiade during an event organised by co-creation hub in Lagos. The co-creation hub itself is an innovative enterprise that allows tech innovators to share creative ideas. During the co-creation hub, they came up with the idea for open data access to how government spends the revenue it generates. In 2014, the team received a $400,000 grant from Omidyar Network (Awosanya, 2019).

Information from their website reveals that the goal of BudgIT is to simplify the Nigerian budget and public data in order to make it accessible to the general public. This will result in the mobilization of the public for active participation in governance. They have successfully reached out to over 4 million Nigerians both online and offline and have presented over 8000 data for both private and corporate use. This has made them leaders in matters of public finance in Nigeria (budgit.com, 2020). The mission of the organisation is to creatively use technology to simplify complex information for public use while their vision is to mobilize citizens to use the information they provide to demand accountability.

In 2014, the BudgIT team created another organisation, TrackaNG to monitor how governments (Federal, state and local) across Nigeria implement projects (trackaNG, 2020).

BudgIT and its subsidiary, TrackaNG are both non-governmental organisations who function as citizen journalists. They are an innovative community of data analysts founded in the year 2011 and 2014 to engage citizens in issues that pertain to them. The name BudgIT is a mash up of the words budget and information technology. The association utilizes innovation to give data (outwardly and graphically) that would interconnect resident commitment with progress in cultural change. As the main community, BudgIT utilizes various tech apparatuses to inventively rearrange the financial backing just as different issues that identify with residents' open spending. The focal point of BudgIT is to increase the expectation of responsibility and straightforwardness in the administration while the focal point of TrackaNG is to track public projects and report on their progress. That is, they plan to make the Nigerian budgetary allocation more open and the numerical information less

complex so that the public can be properly educated. To accomplish this, the association coordinates continually with the media, open organizations and the common society in the territories of urban innovation, monetary examinations, and information portrayal. From initial observation, BudgIT is committed to explaining Nigeria's budget, following up with elected officials and public offices to give an account of their spending. TrackaNG on the other hand monitors the progress and completion of projects carried out nation-wide. They report their findings on Twitter and Facebook and task the social media pages of government officials. For these reasons, BudgIT and TrackaNG were deliberately chosen as a case study for this research. An example of their presentation is provided below:
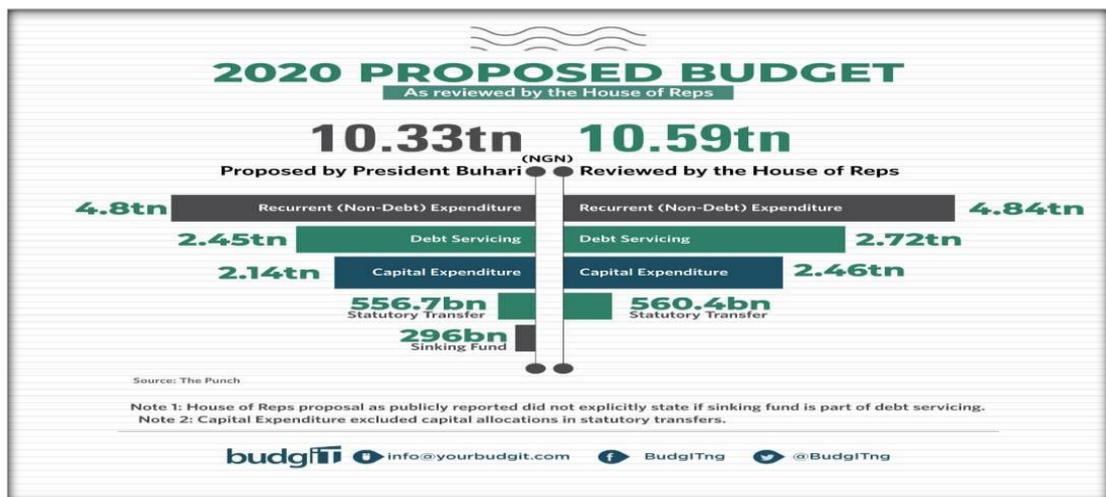
Figure 1: An infographic of Nigeria's budget posted by BudgIT posted on 4, Dec 2019.

They not only stop at visual graphics but they also simplify each of these figures by explaining how funds are allocated to each state and legislative offices.

BudgIT operates alongside its subsidiary, @TrackaNG which monitors projects to ensure that completion to monitor under-developed communities in Nigeria and track their representatives to call their attention to these problems.

Figure 2: A Screenshot of BudgIT Twitter Page

Figure 3: A Screenshot of TrackaNG Twitter Page

1.7 Problem Statement

There is a gap in both media coverage and media research in Nigeria on budgetary allocations. Currently, traditional media reporting publishes information regarding departmental and sector allocations but there is no information on what these numbers mean and the offices these allocations go to and information regarding how these allocations will affect average Nigerians. This study assumes that without the right information, it may be impossible for Nigerians to hold their representatives accountable on infrastructural projects. This is a fundamental aspect of digital citizenship that needs attention in Nigerian media studies. The purpose of this research is to investigate how citizen journalists use social media to expose Nigeria's financial matters particularly in regards to Nigeria's budgetary allocation and bridge this gap in knowledge.

As the country with the most population in Africa and an avid oil producer, Nigeria has due to poor leadership struggled to bring down its level of joblessness, income disparity and over-dependence on oil with little success (Anazodo & Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2015; Adesina, 2016; Ehiaghe, 2018). The period of economic boom as a result of growth in oil exports has not reached the poor in society (Adesina, 2016) as there is a sharp contrast between the flow of oil revenue and the living conditions of average Nigerians (Anazodo & Igbokwe-Ibeto, 2015). The essential equitable capacity is to go about and equalization (International, 2014). Typically, this would weaken any democracy.

With internal auditors failing in their duties to keep public officials in check, it has become mandatory for the media to fill in this gap. However, mainstream media in

Nigeria has been perceived as being on the side of the political elites. Other players like citizen journalists have thus become important.

In light of this, this research will attempt to establish how BudgIT and TrackaNG, (both civil society organisations which function as citizen journalism outlets in Nigeria) utilise the press freedom guaranteed by Nigeria's constitution to seek information and hold public officials accountable.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter tries to engage on extant discourses on the role of media in holding government accountable. It begins with an explication of the traditional function that has been ascribed to the media as watchdogs. Predicated view of, it reviews discourses that give the media the duty of considering the administration responsible. It identifies some of the factors that have impeded the realization of this role by the mainstream media, thus making it somewhat of a myth rather than a reality. The conceptual odyssey also discusses the need for government accountability in emerging democracies and how the media have performed within the Nigerian democratic clime. The failure of the mainstream media to discharge this watchdog role efficiently led to the emergence of social media as sites for holding government accountable because of their democratic features. The study adopts the Social Responsibility Theory of the press as a theoretical framework to establish if/how social media are carrying out socially responsible functions towards holding the government accountable.

2.2 Role of the Press in Holding Government Accountable

One of the set in stone functions of the mass media is to function as a watchdog in the democratic environment to strengthen its principles (McQuail, 2010). The conception of the press as a watchdog, according to which, the media is saddled with the executive responsibility of serving as watcher of government activities, is one

among the oldest main beliefs of mass communication (Agbo & Chukwuma, 2017). Remarking on the guard dog job of the media, a majority rules system is that of watch dog over government. The argument is that they uncover actualities and caution the society when authorities are accomplishing something incorrectly. The watchdog role begins and ends with the idea of holding government accountable. This is a function given to the press to guarantee that administration authorities are considered dependable and responsible to the individuals. Along these lines, this capacity puts a focal interest on the press to encourage responsibility and obligation in administration with the chief point of dissolving defilement which will prompt great administration that will encourage the prosperity of residents (Agbo & Chukwuma, 2017).

According to Newman, Dutton, and Blank (2012), Edmund Burke (cited in Dutton & Blank, 2012) reportedly animated the idea of the press as the 'fourth estate' of the realm when he made the following classical statement: "There were Three Estates in Parliament; but, in the Reporters' Gallery yonder, there sat a Fourth Estate more important far than they all". Akinfeleye (2003, p. 11) asserted that "the press is to watch-hound, registration to reveal and never to conceal defilement as well as off-base doings by the other three homes. They are additionally to screen administration and make the other three bequests responsible to individuals consistently". The spread of majority rules system has prompted multiplication in the interest of the press to go about as a guard dog in guaranteeing responsibility and administration.

However, most of the new emergence of democracies somewhat fall short of, the basic requirements that define democratic governance, with irregular voting processes, corruption, inefficiency and non-accountability of government being few

of the anomalies. Because the media being the major source of information and an strong link between the government and citizens, they are a necessary precondition for both government accountability and social accountability (Voltmer, 2010). According to Norris (2006) the media have three key responsibilities in consolidating democracy and good governance. The crucial capacity of the media is to go about as a guard dog over the amazing, advancing responsibility, straightforwardness and open examination. The second fundamental job of media is to give a metro discussion to political discussion, guaranteeing educated appointive decisions and activities; and the third capacity is to play out a motivation setting capacity for strategy producers, and fortifying government responsiveness. In this manner, researchers have contended that in their 'guard dog' job, the media can release a significant capacity towards advancing straightforwardness, responsibility, and open examination of leaders, through featuring arrangement disappointments, maladministration of open authorities, debasement in the legal executive, and outrages in the corporate segment (Donohue, Tichenor, Olien, 1995). Popular government is predicated on the possibility that the individuals ought to reserve the option to know every one of the exercises of government, especially the considerations and choices of government that influences their life, freedom and property (Ashraf, 2014). Giving these popularity based jobs to the broad communications is predicated on the desires that the media demonstration in light of a legitimate concern for the residents and are responsible to the residents (Voltmer, 2010). The guard dog job anticipates that the news media should guarantee a mind amazing segments of society, including high ranking representatives inside the private and open territories. Writers and media experts are required to ensure the open intrigue and to watch it from ineptitude and debasement of pioneers (Odugbemi

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and Norris, 2010). Voltmer (2010) placed that the guard dog job of the media has been exclusively talked about from a regularizing point of view, that is, the means by which they should work. Regulating remedy, as indicated by Voltmer (2010), be that as it may, informs small regarding the day-to-day truth of political detailing. Researchers have communicated incredulity and reservations with respect to the job of the media to sufficiently protect the enthusiasm of the residents in majority rule settings by considering the administration responsible. An extent of variables has been recognized by researchers as liable for the powerlessness of the press to enough release their guard dog job towards fortifying majority rules system. The following segment examines a portion of these elements that have been recognized by correspondence researchers.

2.3 Impediments to the Watchdog Role of the Media

The need for mass media to hold government accountable in governance rises from the reality that media can stimulate 'actors to reflect on their behaviour' as well as force the issue of transparency by reporting and not hiding the activities of government officials (Jacobs & Schillemans, 2016, p. 23; Schlosberg, 2013).

Research concerning news and journalism shows that citizens respond favourably when the media provide them with accurate information for which to objectively rate the government (Durán, 2016). However, for various reasons, the media's wherewithal to fulfil their democratic functions repeatedly does not live up to theoretical ideals. One of the most important reasons is the dependence of the media on official sources. To gather, process, and disseminate their news stories with authoritative credibility, journalists like to quote top-notch politicians rather than, for example, civil society groups, the validity of whose claims is often difficult to

establish (Hearns-Branaman, 2016; Tuchman, 1972). This is what Gandy (1982) refers to as 'information subsidy theory'. The information subsidy theory, according to Gandy, refers to the dependence on government sources for news because of the steady availability of news and its cheapness in terms of production.

The dependence on official sources, especially government sources, has been found to have detrimental consequences on the media's ability to discharge their responsibility as watchdogs efficiently. According to Entman (1989), the impediments to democratic accountability which is a cardinal responsibility of the 'fourth estate' are two-fold: political and economic. The political aspect, according to Entman (1989) has to do with their dependence on government officials for the very raw material they process to news. To this end, journalists fall short of holding the government accountable because the dependence on government sources leads to a steep decline in investigative journalism due to increased dependence on press releases. As a result, this is compounded because government officials want to manage publicity and not illuminate truth. On the economic aspect, the financial needs of media houses have placed them at the mercy of those in the corridors of power as they depend on paid political advertisements for survival. This strive for survival has led to symbiotic relationship between media and politicians as journalists offer publicity while politicians provide raw material for news and financial incentives to the survival of media outlets in form of paid political advertisements. This, according to Entman (1989), serves as a cog in the wheel of media's discharge of their responsibility towards holding the government accountable which takes democracy away from the citizens.

This line of thought has also been echoed by Shoemaker and Reese (1996) who argue that external media influences such as political advertisements by government officials and the dependence on government sources for news have conjured to inhibit the normative expectation of the 'fourth estate of the realm'. As a result, those who are providing the raw material will not provide information that will be detrimental to their political interests. To this end, the democratic function of the mass media as watchdogs is negatively affected. It leads to systemic inabilities of the media to perform their task of exposing malfeasance and corruption. The decline of investigate journalism among journalists has also constrained the performance of holding the government accountable. Perhaps, one of the greatest books on the political economy of the mass media which explicates the inability of the media to carry out democratic functions in the interest of the public is Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky's (2002) *'Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media'.*

In *'Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media',* Herman and Chomsky (2002) identify five filters that inhibit the mass media from defending the public interest but rather serve the interests of political and economic elites. Herman and Chomsky (2002) identified the five filters: size and ownership, advertising, sources, flak, and anticommunism (antiterrorism). Within the current discourse, four of these filters are worth considering with respect to their negative impacts on democratic accountability pertaining to the media. Most media outlets are gradually taken over by economic and political elites through concentration of media ownership. Through this takeover, media outlets are constrained to serve the interest of the political elites rather than hold them accountable. This trend is also prevalent

in the Nigerian media milieu as it will be discussed in the next section. Similarly, politicians serve a source of revenue for media outlets because of paid political adverts. Similarly, as explicated by the preceding scholars (Entman, 1989; Shoemaker & Reese, 1996), dependence on government sources has tilted media to serve the interest of political power rather than hold the government accountable. Similarly, the production of flak by government through censorship and negative response to the media have militated against their democratic function to hold government accountable which is prevalent in newly emerging democracies. Commenting on this point, Voltmer (2010, p. 141) posited that "The chances for successful watchdog journalism are even more restricted in new democracies where the functional interdependence between politicians and journalists is still overshadowed by the legacy of suppression and censorship during the old regime. Political leaders – even those who are committed to democratic values – find it hard to accept an adversarial press that demands public justification of policy decisions and political conduct. In fact, the relationship between governments and the media in most new democracies is characterized by frequent clashes – quite tellingly dubbed 'media wars' – over the boundaries of government interference into the operation and structure of the media and even the content of news reporting". Some scholars instead regard the media as lapdogs. The lapdog conception of the media is a total repudiation of the Fourth Estate view in all respect. Fundamental characteristics of the lapdog view are absolute submissiveness to authority, complete lack of independent power, not inclined to all interests except those of powerful groups, and framing all issues to be synonymous with the perspectives of the highest powers in the system (Donohue, Tichenor, & Olien, 1995). The basic condiments of the fourth estate watchdog paradigm include a quantum of autonomy for the media, their

representation of the interests of the citizens rather than the dominant groups, and their independent power and unfettered access to directly and independently challenge political power (Donohue, Tichenor, & Olien, 1995).

From the above explication, it is clear that the reality on ground is in contradistinction with the normative function ascribed to the media to hold the government accountable. Due to political and economic factors considered above, the media are constrained to perform the watchdog role by holding government accountable with the aim of strengthening democracy. This is also prevalent in new emerging democracies. In the next section, the conceptual journey will consider government malfeasance in Nigeria and how the media are responding to such acts, whether they are carrying out their constitutional responsibility of holding the government accountable efficiently or they have faltered in this regard.

2.4 The Media and Accountability in Nigeria

It is certain that cases of corruption, lack of accountability and lack of good governance are ubiquitous all over the whole world; but what makes a difference and raises a serious concern in any political system is its prevalence and pervasiveness. Without any doubt, these cases are high in Nigeria which the democratic system in place needs to do something about it in order to avert to some level, its attendant problems. However, it is rather unfortunate to note that about every single responsible institution in Nigeria has refused to appreciate completely the obligation upon them to do something tangible about these aberrations, including the media. At the heart of bad governance is essentially corruption (Egbefo, 2015). Corruption is considered to be the biggest and most thriving industry in Nigeria (Agbo & Chukwuma, 2017). There have been rising incidences of corruption, inability to give

account for the resources that have been allotted for the development of the country and the systemic indiscipline and insecurity threats that has become challenging to the Nigerian populace (Egbefo, 2015). Commenting on the pervasiveness of corruption among political elites, Udeze & Chukwuma (2012, p. 64) posited that "our leaders have continued to reap the nation of our collective wealth. The level of corruption amongst our leaders is heart-breaking and very unimaginable. The monumental level of corruption in governance has resulted to governments' inability to bring succour to the poor masses".

In order to checkmate the tide of systemic corruption and unaccountability of government officials, the watchdog role of the media was enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Section 22 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria clearly stipulates the responsibility of the media towards holding the government accountable. Section 22 states that "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 government to the people".

Furthermore, the signing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 2011 gave more power to Nigeria's mass media. The FOI Act aims to make public records and information more assessable to the public and to protect public records and information, in accordance with the public interest and protection of personal privacy. It enables citizens to hold the government accountable when funds are being misappropriated or when public officials/institutions fail to deliver public services to Nigerians. The Act which was signed into law on May 28, 2011 arguably survived the longest legislative debate in the history of Nigeria because the debate to pass it

into law lasted for over 12 years (Duru, 2016). It was passed to ensure transparency and accountability on the government and it was developed by the Freedom of Information Coalition which happened to be a network of over 180 civil society organizations in Nigeria (ibid). According to (Ashraf, 2014), the watchdog function of the media is vital in a democratic society as people ought to know what their public servants are doing. Thus, the primary democratic function of the media is to act as a check and balance on the state. The signing of the law ushered in a new era in governance in Nigeria. Although there are still problems in governance, significant changes have been witnessed since the bill came into law and coupled with the rise of social media.

It is instructive to note that the media in Nigeria have discharged the watchdog role as enshrined in the constitution to some extent. Among some of the cases of the media holding government officials, one case that is worthy of consideration is that of former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Patricia O. Etteh. She was accused of financial mismanagement and was pressured to resign as the Speaker of Nigeria's Federal House of Representatives. Notwithstanding all of her efforts and those of her sponsors to remain in office, she was left with no other choice than to bow to pressure and resign which saw the emergence of Hon. Oladimiji Bankole as the new Speaker of the House during that dispensation. In this regard, the media in Nigeria have repeatedly tried to fulfill the watchdog function. One of the major approaches employed by the media in Nigeria to conduct this crucial watchdog role is via investigative journalism. Investigative journalism gives a very potent platform for the media unravel what is known as "*facts behind the facts*" particularly in governance. Via investigative journalism, the press carries out robust investigations

to unearth hidden facts (Agbo & Chukwuma, 2017). With respect to holding government accountable to the people, the Nigerian media via deployment of investigative journalism held many politicians accountable. According to Lwahas (2004) the media acts as a watchdog by uncovering political, economic and corporate corruption, alongside other forms of abuses of power or inept policies. This was exemplified in the series of senate gate scandals that were uncovered by the investigations conducted by the Nigerian media. Jibo and Okoosi-Simbine (2003) reported the speaker gate scandal involving Alh. Salihu Buhari, the first Speaker of House of Representatives in the Obasanjo presidency. *The News* magazine ensured the pursuance of allegations of certificates forgery to the latter until Buhari was forced to resign and was subsequently tried and convicted for perjury.

Despite the successes recorded by the Nigerian media with respect to holding government officials accountable, investigative journalism has witnessed a sharp decline in recent times, thus the inability of journalists to efficiently carry out their responsibility as watchdogs within the Nigerian democratic milieu. A myriad of reasons has been identified by scholars as being responsible for the inability of the media to adequately discharge this responsibility. The decline in investigative journalism towards holding government accountable has been attributed to certain factors.

According to Ojomo & Tejuosho (2017), fundamental concern of media practitioners in Nigeria is better remuneration and improved working conditions. Due to absence of all these, journalists often engage in activities that are inimical to the discharge of their duties as watchdogs, like courting the friendship of politicians and personalities in power. Thus, this inability to develop and maintain social distance from

government officials make journalists to compromise on standards. In a situation where publishers, editors and reporters are on the payroll of corrupt politicians, it would be practically impossible to raise an alarm when such politicians do wrong. An investigative journalist who wines and dines with politicians instead of fulfilling certain investigative functions stands a greater chance of being intimidated or blackmailed into irrelevance. On the other hand, is the problem of ownership interest. According to Asemah & Asogwa (2012), this problem often emanates from the interference of the owners of the media houses. There are prevalent instances when media owners determine what should be reported to the public. The owners of media houses exert considerable influence not just through intervention or by establishing lines that cannot be crossed; they set the tone, decide which markets to target, control editorial budgets and they hire and fire their editors, who are their representatives in the media world. Okechukwu (2014) found that majority of media houses in Nigeria are owned by state governments and politicians with the financial wherewithal to establish such outlets. As a result of this, journalists are constrained to conform to the whims and caprices of the owners. Because politicians own and control these houses, investigative journalism and the sacred duty of holding the government accountable has declined sharply over the years. As a result, the proliferation of information communication technologies (ICT), particularly social media, has led to newer forms of holding the government accountable. The next section considers the emergence of social media in holding public officials accountable around the world in general and Nigeria in particular.

2.5 Citizen Journalism versus Mainstream Media

Prior to the advent of social media and its use for activism, revolution and other citizen activities, the discourse surrounding media and its responsibility in society

was viewed through the lens of mainstream traditional mass media which includes Newspapers, Magazines, Television, Radio and Film/Cinema. Peters & Simonson (2004) call them the Big Five.

Since its emergence, citizen journalism has changed the media landscape by redefining what is to be regarded as journalism and who is to be regarded as a journalist (Miller, 2019). It has gone from professionally trained journalists gathering information and sharing same information in simple terms so that the public can understand to people with no knowledge of journalism using internet technologies to report events. For citizen journalists, the goal is to mobilize people in challenging the status quo (Chung, Nah, & Yamomoto, 2013). This is because the involvement of citizens in sharing the news is driven partly by public mistrust of the media who are seen as helping an elite few to maintain hegemonic control (Suárez-Villegas, 2017; Goode, 2009).

The transformation that citizen journalism has brought into journalism practice has made it one of the most significant changes in the field over the last decade (Suárez-Villegas, 2017).

According to Noor (2017), citizen journalism is a form of journalism where average citizens report events that are happening around them. By this definition, small scale events are brought to the larger scale through social media. The significance of this is that due to the unpredictable nature of social media, any report has a fair chance of becoming a national or global issue. Since the Egyptian revolution in 2011, the use of hashtags to trend became a strategy that online citizens started using to amplify their messages (Radsch, 2016).

In discussing citizen journalism, Radsch (2016) draws from the Egyptian revolution in 2011 and concludes that cyberactivism has so far been able to transform the field of journalism by making the relationship between mainstream media and the political elite meaningless. This is because, there are no more boundaries where participation is limited. Rather, participation is now a public thing and anybody can freely do so. This has resulted in openness in government policies. Also, the exclusivity which mainstream media has always enjoyed and that has helped them to maintain hegemonic control on behalf of the political elite has now become obsolete because citizens now report issues on the go (Radsch, 2016). Thus, citizen journalists are really cyberactivists according to Radsch (2016).

The implication here is that people are now more aware and are no longer passive receivers of news. Rather, they are active particpants (Jenkins, Itō, & Boyd, 2016).

2.6 Advent of Social Media and Implication on Democratic Accountability in Nigeria

There is unanimity among scholars that the advent of social media has had implications for the democratic process with respect to increased citizen participation in the electoral process and in holding government accountable (Honwana, 2012). Kaplan and Haenlein (2010, p. 61) define social media as "a group of internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technical foundations of Web 2.0, and that allow the creation and exchange of user generated content". The advent of social media has been demonstrated by scholars to have encouraged political participation, especially among youth, due to their expressive and collaborative features that allow for dissemination of user-generated content (Östman, 2012) with implications for government accountability. One of the examples of the efficacy of social media to

hold government accountable is the incident of the Arab Spring. The increased access to and use of social media technologies drove the Egyptian protests (Honwana, 2012). Various social-media-based activities helped in the dissemination of information within Egypt as people exchanged views about dissatisfaction with the Mubarak regime: such activities included interacting via Facebook pages and groups, and sharing web links on important political issues associated with the protests (Bhuyian, 2011). In the same vein, the 'Jasmine Revolution' in Tunisia was largely mediated through Facebook and Twitter, as protesters demonstrated against malfeasance and unemployment (Howard, 2011). Similarly, the present utilization of the Internet and other computerized data and correspondence advances (ICTs) has initiated the potential for another autonomous wellspring of responsibility − what has been named a Fifth Estate (Dutton, 2009). As the press can be constrained by the state or business interests, and lose their independence to adequately hold the government accountable, so the Fifth Estate is dependent on a level of independence from control by other estates of the Internet realm. Though the Fifth Estate has characteristics similar to the Fourth Estate, like disseminating information not controlled by the state, it is sufficiently distinctive, such as by being anchored by networked individuals and their collaborative networks (Newman, Dutton, & Blank, 2012). The deployment of social media and online communication technologies have led to citizen journalism tilted towards holding the government accountable in Nigeria, a typical example is Sahara Reporters which was founded by Omoyele Sowore in 2006. This is attributed to the inefficiency of mainstream media to carry out this function due to some of the factors enunciated in the last section.

The advent of Sahara Reporters was facilitated by a combination of factors ranging from technological advances to the inefficiency of the mainstream media to hold government accountable and the desire of the ordinary citizen to be involved in news making. Sahara Reporters is regarded among various sections of the Nigerian population as being the citizen journalism website or better still, "the face of Citizen Journalism" (Olumhense, 2008). Similarly, Sahara Reporters has recorded tremendous success in holding power accountable, in exposing corruption, and in citizen empowerment. For example, the website exposed how former Governor of Delta State, James Ibori, used state funds to manipulate and corrupt the judges who presided over his case. In Nigeria, Ibori was repeatedly exonerated of any wrong doing through legal manoeuvring by his lawyers and controversial court rulings that granted him what seemed like a final legal respite or outright clearance from allegations of corruption and criminality (Dare, 2011). Up till date, Sahara Reporters is still blazing the trail in holding government officials accountable. It repeatedly publishes financial misconducts of public officials and also publishes their phone numbers so ordinary citizens can call them and ask questions. A recent example is the successful removal of Nigeria's immediate past Minister of Finance, Kemi Adeosun, after investigative journalism by one of Nigeria's online news sites, Premium Times. The online news website authoritatively published that Kemi Adeosun had skipped the compulsory national youth service year in Nigeria and forged an exemption certificate (Premium Times, 2018). This trend of holding government and government officials accountable has trickled down to social networking sites (SNS) such as Twitter and Facebook by individuals and organisations in their attempt to hold the government accountable to the citizens. As a result, the present administration of Muhammadu Buhari attempted to restrict

social media use due to expressive and democratic features that have enabled citizens to ask serious questions about how they are being governed. The present administration took this initiative under the guise of trying to stem hate speech and fake news (Premium Times, 2019). The advent of BudgIT on the social media platform, Twitter, has unravelled another measurement in the powerful possibilities of internet based life to consider the administration responsible. It is very imperative to assess its impact because of the area it beams its search light into. This is because budget preparation and implementation in Nigeria are usually ridden with irregularities and unaccountability. However, some scholars have expressed reservations regarding the ability of Internet users and social media users to perform the function of journalistic watchdog efficiently (e.g Keen, 2007). However, social media have continued to dominate the realm of holding government accountable in recent times within the Nigerian democratic clime.

2.6.1 Twitter

Although Facebook has the highest number of active users globally with average active database of 2.5 billion users worldwide (statista.com, 2020), Twitter is fast emerging as a source of large data for academic research. Twitter currently averages a total of 330 active monthly users (statista.com, 2020). While this figure is a far cry from Facebook, the use of twitter by world leaders and netizens for political engagement gives it an academic importance. With billions of active users, Facebook has more users than Twitter. However, Twitter has become a more appropriate it has more public data than Facebook. (Fiesler & Proferes, 2018).

Because of how easy and interactive it is to use Twitter, its users use it for entertainment, education, news and information. Content shared on Twitter ranges

from trivial things to what people ate to important information like rising social movements (Williams, Terras, & Warwick , 2013). The access Twitter provides to information about the personal and global makes it a rich source of data for academic research (ibid). This is because Twitter is not a social media platform where people interact on social basis but rather, it is also a microblogging platform.

As a micro-blogging site, Twitter offers a more hybrid but more minimal form of blogging by allowing its users to quickly post short (the word count is limited to 280 words per tweet) updates as information develops. This also allows other users to digest information on the go (Ross, Warwick, & Welsh, 2011).

According to Cormode, Krishnamurthy, & Willinger (2010), the central focus for academic researchers who do Twitter research are the user and the message however a majority of academic research on Twitter prioritise the user.

Twitter research covers a variety of topics like health, politics, business, education, entertainment, citizen journalism, social movements (Williams, Terras, & Warwick , 2013).

This research however investigates how Twitter is used by citizen journalists in Nigeria to hold government accountable and push for more transparency in governance. Twitter was specifically chosen for this research because BudgIT and TrackaNG have more Twitter engagement than other social networking sites (SNS). Also, while BudgIT has a Facebook page, TrackaNG does not have a Facebook page. Choosing Facebook would therefore have hindered the accurate presentation of data for this research.

2.7 Social Responsibility Theory

The Social Responsibility Theory of the press will serve as the theoretical anchor for the study. Although the propositions of the theory traditionally apply to mainstream media, recent technological developments and the emergence of social media warrant investigation into the extent that social media serve the social responsibility function by holding the government accountable, hence the adoption of the theory.

The Social Responsibility Theory had its origins from the Hutchins Commission of 1947 on the Commission of Freedom of the press. According to Anaeto, Onabanjo, & Osifeso (2008) and Ojobor (2002), The tenor of the "social responsibility theory is that freedom" has certain obligations, and that the media outlets, "which enjoys a privileged position under the government", is obligated "to be responsible to society by carrying out certain essential functions of mass communication" (Anaeto et all, 2008; Ojobor, 2002).

Anaeto, Onabanjo, and Osifeso (2008) also listed social responsibility theory principles of McQuail (1987) as follows:

- That the media should accept and fulfill certain obligations to society.

- That through professional standards of informativeness, truth, accuracy, objectivity and balance, these obligations can be met.

- That media should regulate itself within the framework of law and established institutions to be able to carry out its responsibilities.

- That whatever might lead to crime, violence, civil disorder or offence to minority groups, should be avoided by the media.

- That the media should reflect society's plurality, giving access to various points of view and granting all the right to reply.

- Based on the principle in (1), the society has the right to expect high standards of performance from the media. Intervention can only be justified to secure public good.

- Accountability of the media professionals should be to the society, employers and the market.

- The social responsibility theory postulates five specific functions for the press:

- To serve the political system by making information, discussion and consideration of public affairs generally accessible.

- To inform the public to enable it take self-determined action.

- To protect the rights of individuals by acting as watchdog over the environment.

- To serve the economic system, for instance by bringing together buyers and sellers through the medium of advertising; and

- To preserve financial autonomy in order not to become dependent on special interests and influences. (Anaeto, et all 2008; McQuail, 1987)

2.7.1 Social Responsibility Theory and Citizen Journalism

The media can influence the general public on key issues, because of their agenda setting function in society,. Beyond that, the media can also mediate between the government and the general public by acting as checks and balances. This has earned the media the position as watchdogs in society. However, with the rise of social media, the media is now complemented with the activities of social media users whose activities have now created the fifth estate. Through their advocacy, social

media users have been able to change governments as witnessed during the Arab spring. In Nigeria, social media is seen to be increasing active participation of youth in politics. Now, Nigerians do not solely rely on traditional mainstream media for information as social media users have become active in content sharing (Okpara, 2015).

Generally speaking, the role of the citizen journalist includes; educating and informing the public and giving members of the public the platform to speak (Joli, 2020). These two roles are a summary of the principles mentioned in the social responsibility theory. In Nigeria's 2019 elections, citizen journalists served an important function throughout the electioneering period. Etika (2019), captures this in his research, "Citizen journalism and its impact on professional journalism in progressive society" when he argued that citizen journalists captured each election moment in the cross river governorship election from issues such as snatching of ballot boxes, multiple voting and vote buying.

As good as this situation is, there are ethical matters to consider. The tenets of the social responsibility theory can only be comprehended and followed by professionally trained journalists.

One of the fundamental principles of social responsibility theory involves the accurate and truthful presentation of news (Tsukamoto, 2006). This reporting would also be done in context that gives the events which are being reported meaning.

The rise of fake news as it pertains to social media and citizen journalists has caused some concern in media discourse. However, as some users spread fake news, others

also use the same social media to counter fake news. In their article, "Is citizen journalism better than professional journalism for fact-checking rumours in China?" Zeng, Burgess, & Bruns, (2019) argued that there was great potential for grassroots effort in debunking false information. This essentially upholds the principle of accurate and truth presentation of events in social responsibility theory.

In "citizen engagement in the contemporary era of fake news", Carr, Sanchez, & Daros, (2019) argue as the hegemonic control of framing information is now being taken away from mainstream media, the legitimacy of citizen journalism as it pertains to the underlying principles of journalism ought to be addressed. This is because, social media which as the primary location of citizen journalists have shown the capacity to be receptive towards propaganda. Yet, the authors argue that there is great potential for media literacy in citizen journalism.

2.8 Chapter Summary

The chapter attempted a conceptual journey into extant discourses regarding the watchdog role of the media. It begins with an explication of the watchdog role ascribed to the media to hold the government accountable. It then identified certain factors that serve as an impediment to the realisation of the normative function of serving as a watchdog in the democratic environment. It then identified how the media in Nigeria have fared with respect to this function. Lastly, it discussed the factors that necessitated the growth of information communication technologies in holding the government accountable. This then leads to citizen journalism which is judged to be a departure from mainstream media style of reporting. The discourse is then narrowed to the Nigerian context by discussing how social media impacts

democratic accountability in Nigeria. The Social Responsibility Theory of the press was adopted to serve as a theoretical anchor for the current study.

Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter expands on the design and description of the method that will be used in the study. The method selected to guide the collection of data is content analysis. Content analysis will be used because of the cardinal objective(s) of the study to analyse tweets from the Twitter accounts of BudgIT and TrackaNG towards holding the government accountable in Nigeria. The collected data was analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The content analysis comprises the following: assurance of the universe, unit of examination, evaluation, preparing of coders, dependability test, coding investigation of information gathered and moral contemplations (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011).

3.2 Research Design

The study will adopt quantitative content analysis to conduct its investigation geared towards achieving the objectives of the study. According to Babbie (2010, p.333) "content analysis is the study of recorded human communications. Among the forms suitable for study are books, magazines, web pages, poems, newspapers, songs, paintings, speeches, letters, e-mail messages, bulletin board postings on the Internet, laws, and constitutions, as well as any components or collections thereof". Content analysis is suitable for communication research (Babbie, 2010). Kerlinger (2000) cited in Wimmer & Dominick (2011, p. 156) aver that "content analysis is a method of studying and analyzing communication in a systematic, objective, and quantitative

manner for the purpose of measuring variables". While Kerlinger's (2000) definition places premium on quantitative content analysis in communication scholarship, it is instructive to note that content analysis can also take qualitative form depending on the objectives of the study.

According to Riffe, Lacy and Fico, (2005, p. 19) "quantitative content analysis is the systematic and replicable examination of symbols of communication, which have been assigned numeric values according to valid measurement rules, and the analysis of relationships involving those values using statistical methods, to describe the communication, draw inferences about its meaning, or infer from the communication to its context, both of production and consumption". Quantitative content analysis will be adopted due to two reasons. First, it is a nonobtrusive, nonreactive measurement technique which gives the researcher leverage to reach conclusions from content evidence without requiring access to communicators that may be unwilling or unable to be examined directly. Second, because it allows for the reduction of large amounts of information or data that would be increasingly impossible with qualitative content analysis (Riffe, Lacy, & Fico, 2005; Frey, Botan, & Kreps, 2006). Tweets from the Twitter account of BudgIT will be analysed. BudgIT is a civic enterprise that is at the forefront of simplifying budget allocations of government to the citizens to help them understand and track government spending in Nigeria. Tweets from the Twitter account of BudgIT will be purposively chosen because they constitute an innovative and novel way of ensuring transparency in government spending which necessitates investigation into the impact of this new way of holding government accountable in the Internet era and in a young democracy as Nigeria's.

3.3 Universe of the Study

Wimmer and Dominick (2011) offer that defining the universe means to specify the confines of the body of content to be analysed. The universe for the study was tweets on BudgIT Twitter account from the period of 1 October 2019 to 7 January 2020. Tweets within this period will be analysed because the time frame represents a critical period in the complete implementation of the previous calendar budget and the preparation of a new one. Tweets within the period of review were downloaded using the Twitter advanced search settings. All tweets BudgIT and TrackaNG posted during 1 October 2019 to 7 January 2020 collected; In total 232 tweets during the limitation of study, 137 tweets from Tracks, 95 tweets from BudgIT in total 232 tweets analysed from the tweets. This is because of the quantum of tweets that is expected which necessitates selecting a manageable number of tweets to be analysed. Content analysis allows for selection of test from the universe (Riffe, Lacy and Fico, 2005; Wimmer and Dominick, 2011).

In the study of communications, like in the investigation of people, one cannot often observe everything that they wish to explore (Babbie, 2010). After the universe is defined, a sample is selected. Although the guidelines associated with traditional sampling procedures are applicable, the sampling of content in content analysis involves some special considerations (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011). One way of sampling content is by stratification into weeks of a month or into some days of the week. It has been a rule of thumb that no more than two days from one week can be chosen to ensure a balanced distribution across the month (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011). The sample for the current study will be selected through stratification of the universe into the weeks that form the period under review. Tweets from two working

days will be sampled in tandem with the rule of thumb for selection of samples. The days will be varied across the four-month period.

3.4 Unit of Analysis for the Study

Unit of investigation alludes to the classifications into which units can be arranged (Frey, Botan and Kreps, 2000). Unit of analysis then is the specified confines of content that serve to further centre the observation on that particular content of interest (Riffe, Lacy, & Fico, 2005). A researcher decides on the unit of analysis (i.e., the amount of text that is assigned a code). For example, for a political campaign, each issue (or day) of a paper is the unit of examination (Neuman, 2007, p. 231). In this study, tweets on budget and government accountability on the Twitter account of the civic enterprise, BudgIT will constitute the unit of analysis. The tweets will be the ones posted on the Twitter account from 1 October 2019 to 7 January 2020. Neuman (2006, p. 327) averred that "each issue of a newspaper, each newspaper article or each paragraph could be the unit of analysis. In the changing milieu of news ecology where there is proliferation of partnership in the production of news, tweets and other user generated contents have attracted attention in communication research (Newman, Dutton, & Blank, 2012).

3.5 Quantification of Tweets for the Study

Research with respect to media substance can be coded at all degrees of estimation: ostensible, ordinal, interim and proportion. The idea of the present examination will warrant the coding of tweets associated with budget and public accountability at the nominal level. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2011) in nominal measurement, numbers and other symbols are used simply to classify people, objects, or characteristics which make it the weakest level of measurement.

3.6 Training of Coder(s)

To improve nature of coders with the unit of examination and substance classifications, the analyst will direct four direction sessions for one coder before the last coding. The last coding will be finished by the specialist and the coder dwelling in Nigeria. The specialist will clarify the coding convention and coding sheet and how they are to be utilized to the subsequent coder, who has a first degree in mass correspondence in Nigeria.

3.7 Reliability of Method used in the Study

"Unwavering quality is characterized as the consistency between autonomous estimations of a similar wonder. Unwavering quality is then the solidness, steadfastness and consistency of an estimating instrument. It is the exactness or accuracy of an estimating instrument" (Asika, 2010, p. 73). Since the coding included two coders, between coder unwavering quality will be fundamental. The suggestion is that the two coders must concur on the best way to recognize the topics to be coded in the substance of the chose tweets. Between coder unwavering quality is a numerical affirmation that estimates the degree of understanding between various coders (Davis and Mosdell, 2006). It shows the degree to which various coders agree on the utilization of the coding plan. The cardinal goal for discovering between coder dependability is to upgrade the nature of information (Riffe, Lacy and Fico, 2005).

The examination will utilize the Krippendorff's alpha coefficient (KALPHA) to establish the dependability between the two coders. Two coders will therefore code the same set of tweets (n = 200) after which their coding will be cross-tabulated according to each individual's results. The items to be measured are; accountability, allocation, asking questions, administrative problems, themes and style of

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presentation. The essence of this is to effectively fulfil the objectives of the study. Each item will be cross-tabulated individually according to KALPHA measurement. Where there is significant level of agreement between the two coders, the coding will be accepted. Where there is no significant level of agreement between both coders, the coders will begin coding again until there is agreement between them.

The KALPHA full scale figures Krippendorff's alpha unwavering quality tests for calculations made at all degrees of estimation, any number of onlookers, with or without missing information. To do the calculations, it is required that in any event two eyewitnesses code the unit. KALPHA =.80 is frequently the adequate limit for a decent unwavering quality test, with at least .67 or even .60. By general accord, flawless understanding is put at 1.000 or 100%. The nonappearance of understanding, which is shown by 0.000, speaks to a circumstance where the units of examination don't have any measurable connection to how they wind up being distinguished, coded, or portrayed (Hayes and Krippendorff, 2007). The KALPHA inter-coder reliability test is presented in chapter 4 of this study.

3.8 Descriptive Statistics of Tweets from the Twitter Accounts of BudgIT and TrackaNG

Coding data for this study was done manually. The tweets used in the study were obtained via web using twitter advanced search settings. Due to Twitter's privacy settings and algorithm, its enterprise applications only limit search to 7 days. Therefore, the advanced search setting was utilized by typing the accounts and setting the time frame from 1 October 2019 to 7 January 2020. After generating the tweets, a Chrome extension called Fireshot Full Screen Capture was used to download the tweets into JPEG form. Twitter's privacy settings restrict the tweets

from being downloaded into PDF. This was to enable coding and archive the information for future references. The inter-coder reliability test was done by entering the separate coded data from the individual coders and then cross-tabulating on SPSS by ticking on Kappa and correlation on the statistical software. Six (6) items were measured in the research; accountability, allocation, asking questions, administrative problems, themes and presentation (See chapter 4 for KALPHA statistics). Before cross-tabulating the items to answer the research questions, comparison was done to measure how each Twitter account measured the items individually. The results are presented in the following tables.

Table 1: Comparison on Accountability

| | | | ACCOUNTABILITY | | |
			YES	NO	Total
TWITTER ACCOUNT	BudgIT	Count	75	24	99
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	75.8%	24.2%	100.0%
	TrackaNG	Count	84	17	101
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	83.2%	16.8%	100.0%
Total		Count	159	41	200
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	79.5%	20.5%	100.0%

In this table, 75.8% of tweets from BudgIT argued for accountability while 24.2% tweeted on general issues. For TrackaNG, 83.2% tweeted about accountability while 16.8% discussed general issues. Thus, TrackaNG had more discourse on accountability than BudgIT.

Table 2: Comparison on Allocation

| | | | ALLOCATION | | |
			YES	NO	Total
TWITTER ACCOUNT	BudgIT	Count	60	39	99
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	60.6%	39.4%	100.0%
	TrackaNG	Count	53	48	101
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	52.5%	47.5%	100.0%
Total		Count	113	87	200
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	56.5%	43.5%	100.0%

In table 2, 60.6% of tweets from BudgIT discussed how funds were allocated to different sectors with reference to increased allocation for sectors like education. 39.4% of the tweets did not record this. On the other hand, 56.5% of tweets from TrackaNG discussed allocation while 43.5% did not. As such, BudgIT had a higher discourse on budgetary allocation than TrackaNG during the period of this study.

Table 3: Comparison on Asking Questions

| | | | ASKING QUESTIONS | | | |
| | | | | | CHALLENGING FALSE INFORMATION | |
			YES	NO	WITH FACTS	Total
TWITTER ACCOUNT	BudgIT	Count	39	32	28	99
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	39.4%	32.3%	28.3%	100.0%
	TrackaNG	Count	60	37	4	101
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	59.4%	36.6%	4.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	99	69	32	200
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	49.5%	34.5%	16.0%	100.0%

39.4% of tweets from BudgIT asked questions or encouraged their followers to ask questions about government funding and projects, 32.3% of tweets did not focus on asking questions and 28.3% encouraged their followers to challenge false information about government spending and projects with facts. On the other hand,49.5% of tweets from TrackaNG encouraged users to ask questions, 34.5% did not and 16% of their tweets encouraged users to challenge false information with facts.

Table 4: Comparison on Administrative Problems

| | | | ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS | | |
			Yes	No	Total
TWITTER ACCOUNT	BudgIT	Count	51	48	99
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	51.5%	48.5%	100.0%
	TrackaNG	Count	60	41	101
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	59.4%	40.6%	100.0%
Total		Count	111	89	200
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	55.5%	44.5%	100.0%

51.5% of tweets from BudgIT talked about administrative problems while 48.5% did not. 55.5% of tweets from TrackaNG discussed administrative problems while 44.5% did not. Thus, TrackaNG had more tweets about administrative problems than BudgIT.

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Table 5: Comparison on Consistent Themes

			FINANCIAL INTEGRITY	INCREASE ALLOCATION FOR IMPORTANT SECTORS	CIVIC PARTICIPATION	Total
TWITTER ACCOUNT	BudgIT	Count	40	25	34	99
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	40.4%	25.3%	34.3%	100.0%
	TrackaNG	Count	53	45	3	101
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	52.5%	44.6%	3.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	93	70	37	200
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	46.5%	35.0%	18.5%	100.0%

40.4% of tweets from BudgIT were on financial integrity, 25.3% were on allocation and 34.3% were on civic participation. For TrackaNG, 52.5% of tweets were on financial integrity, 44.6% were on allocation and 18.5% were on civic participation.

Table 6: Comparison on Presentation

		PICTURE EVIDENCE OF FAILED PROJECTS	INFOGRAPHICS THAT BREAK DOWN FINANCIAL ALLOCATION	VIDEOS	TWEETS THAT EXPLAIN BUDGETARY ISSUES IN SIMPLE TERMS	Total
		PRESENTATION STYLE				
BudgIT	Count	18	53	3	25	99
	% within TWITTER	18.2%	53.5%	3.0%	25.3%	100.0%
TrackaNG	Count	17	53	2	29	101
	% within TWITTER	16.8%	52.5%	2.0%	28.7%	100.0%
Total	Count	35	106	5	54	200
	% within TWITTER	17.5%	53.0%	2.5%	27.0%	100.0%

18.2% of tweets from BudgIT gave picture evidence of failed projects, 53.5% gave infographics about financial allocation, 3% used videos to present information and 25.3% were tweets explaining budgetary issues in simple terms. For TrackaNG, 17.5% of tweets used pictures to show evidence of failed projects, 53% used infographics, 2.5% used videos and 27% were explanatory tweets.

3.9 Coding of Tweets for the Study

To manage the coding exercise, a coding guide and a coding sheet will be given. The coding guide is to aid order and coding of the substance of the tweets. It will give codes and definitions to every factor then again, the coding sheet will be utilized for the documentation of factors recognized in the tweets. Qualities will be allocated to every factor to be coded from each tweet. The suggestion is that there will be one coding sheet for each tweet. So also, content segment factors, for example,

production date and distribution time will be remembered for the coding sheet. Last coding will be completed by the scientist and the subsequent coder.

3.9 Analysis of Data

Data collated from the content analysis will be analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) via the coding sheet. Descriptive statistics comprising frequencies, percentages and KALPHA will be used to analyse data collected in order to achieve the objectives of the study.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The researcher will ensure that works and ideas of scholars used in the course of the study are duly acknowledged to avoid the academic fraud of plagiarism. Findings of the study will be properly reported without manipulation whatsoever and made available in the public domain (Frey, Botan, & Kreps, 2000) to contribute to communication scholarship.

3.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter gave a blueprint for the collection and analysis of data. The study will adopt quantitative content analysis to carry out its investigation. Universe, unit of analysis, quantification of data, training of coder(s), reliability tests, coding procedure, procedures for analysis of data, and ethical considerations were discussed in the current chapter. Krippendorff's alpha coefficient will be used to ascertain inter-coder reliability between two coders.

Chapter 4

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This section centers around the introduction of information equipped towards addressing the examination questions and exchange of discoveries that relate to the information broke down. This part responds to the five research questions created in section one concerning the job of online networking in considering government responsible. Tweets from the Twitter handle of BudgIT, a common society association which considers government responsible and its subsidiary, TrackaNG, which screens venture execution in Nigeria structure the information that were examined towards addressing the examination questions. Overall, BudgIT and TrackaNG have over 300 tweets within the period selected but 200 tweets were purposely selected for this research.

4.2 Analysis of Data to Answer Research Questions

This section uses the data generated in this research to answer the research questions.

Table 7: Inter-coder Reliability

Coding Units	N	KALPHA
Accountability	200	.674
Allocation	200	.898
Asking questions	200	.967
Administrative problems	200	.959
Themes	200	.976
Presentation	200	1.

Hayes and Krippendorff (2007) recommend KALPHA=.6 as acceptable level of agreement between coders. The inter-coder reliability in Table-1 for the six coding units therefore show high Krippendorff's alpha coefficient ranging from .674 to 1. This indicates high level of agreement between the two coders.

4.2.1 The Use of Social Media to Hold Government Accountable in Nigeria

The first research question sought to investigate if citizen journalists in Nigeria use social media to hold government accountable. Available data from the two Twitter handles indicate that, indeed, citizen journalists use social media to hold government accountable in Nigeria. In light of this, table-2 shows us a chart of tweets that promoted accountability in governance. 79.5% of the tweets coded (n = 159) discussed accountability while 20.5% of the tweets (n = 41) discussed governance in general with no mention of accountability.
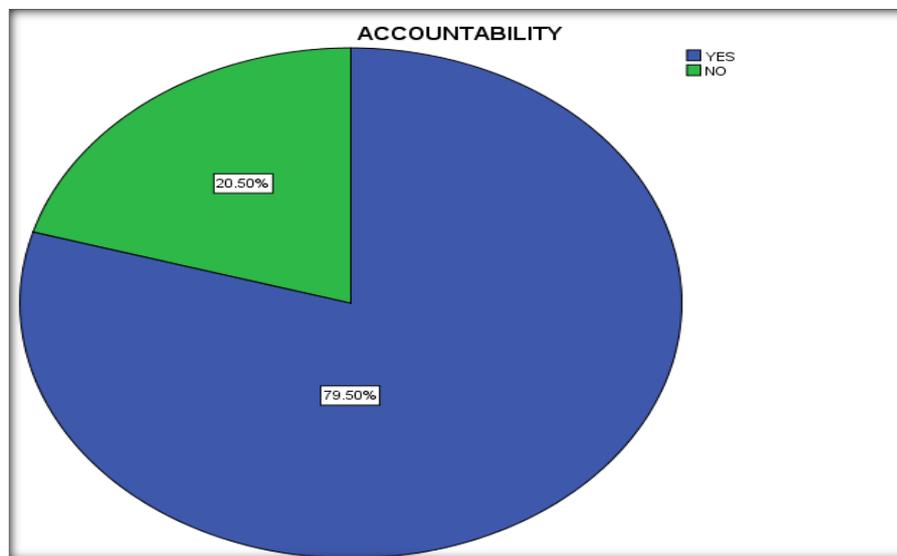

Figure 4: Chart Showing How Accountability was Tweeted by BudgIT and TrackaNG

Table 8: Cross-tabulation on Accountability

			ACCOUNTABILITY		
			YES	NO	Total
TWITTER ACCOUNT	BudgIT	Count	75	24	99
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	75.8%	24.2%	100.0%
	TrackaNG	Count	84	17	101
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	83.2%	16.8%	100.0%
Total		Count	159	41	200
		% within TWITTER ACCOUNT	79.5%	20.5%	100.0%

Data showing percentage of tweets that discussed accountability in governance

4.2.1.1 Cross-Tabulation of Tweets That Pursue Accountability and Tweet That Ask Questions or Encourage Twitter Users to Ask Questions

In addition to determining the number of tweets that discussed accountability, the study sought to establish a relationship tweets that upheld accountability values and tweets that asked questions or encouraged Nigerian twitter users to ask questions. Table 8 shows that out of the 159 tweets that upheld accountability, 82 tweets either directly tweeted at public officials to ask questions or they encouraged Twitter users to ask questions about governance and development. These tweets mostly used the hashtag #GetInvolved or #AskQuestions. However, 53 out of the 159 tweets that upheld accountability did not call on citizens to ask questions while 24 tweets in the same category challenged false narratives published by public officials about infrastructural projects. Also, 17 tweets that were not coded under the category of tweets that upheld accountability called on citizens to ask questions while 8 tweets that were not coded under the category of tweets that upheld accountability challenged false claims by government officials on Twitter.

Table 9: Cross-tabulation on Tweets That Focus on Asking Questions

| | | | ACCOUNTABILITY | | |
			YES	NO	Total
ASKING QUESTIONS	YES	Count	82	17	99
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	82.8%	17.2%	100.0%
	NO	Count	53	16	69
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	76.8%	23.2%	100.0%
	CHALLENGING FALSE INFORMATION WITH FACTS	Count	24	8	32
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	159	41	200
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	79.5%	20.5%	100.0%

Cross-tabulation between tweets that discussed accountability and tweets that encourage users to ask questions

Table 9 reveals a cross-tabulation of tweets about budgetary allocation and tweets that encouraged twitter users to ask important questions. 53 tweets out of the 113 tweets that discussed budgetary allocation either asked direct questions or encouraged twitter users to ask questions about governance in Nigeria. On the other hand, 38 tweets that discussed allocation did not ask questions or encouraged citizens to ask questions. 24 tweets within this category debunked misleading information by the government.

Table 10: Cross-tabulation of Tweets That Focus on Asking Questions and Increased Allocation

| | | | ALLOCATION | | |
			YES	NO	Total
ASKING QUESTIONS	YES	Count	51	48	99
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	51.5%	48.5%	100.0%
	NO	Count	38	31	69
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	55.1%	44.9%	100.0%
	CHALLENGING FALSE INFORMATION WITH FACTS	Count	24	8	32
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	75.0%	25.0%	100.0%
Total		Count	113	87	200
		% within ASKING QUESTIONS	56.5%	43.5%	100.0%

A cross-tabulation of tweets that revealed a step-by-step breakdown of budgetary allocation and tweets that encouraged users to ask questions about governance.

A sample of these tweets geared towards holding government accountable are given below:

Figure 5: A Screenshot of Tweet Posted by BudgIT Celebrating a Successful Advocacy for Nigerian Senators to Release Public Funds

The full tweet reads:

FLASH: Hon. Mayowa Akinfolarin bows to pressure from @TrackaNG and @ICPC_PE as he has distributed the N20m provision allocated in the 2018 budget for empowerment items to some selected beneficiaries in the constituents. Public funds must work for the people. #Getinvolved.

The tweet above shows how @TrackaNG in collaboration with @ICPC_PE were able to hold a legislator accountable to the resources that were allocated to him for constituency projects and get him to do the right thing after intense scrutiny on social media by the two citizen journalists. This is because funds are usually allocated to Nigerian legislators to develop their constituencies. However, these funds, usually in millions of Naira, are siphoned for personal aggrandizement. There are more instances in which citizen journalists use social media to hold public officers to account. The following tweets are good examples:

Figure 6: Tweet from TrackaNG Alleging That Funds were not Fully Disbursed to the Community

Another reads:
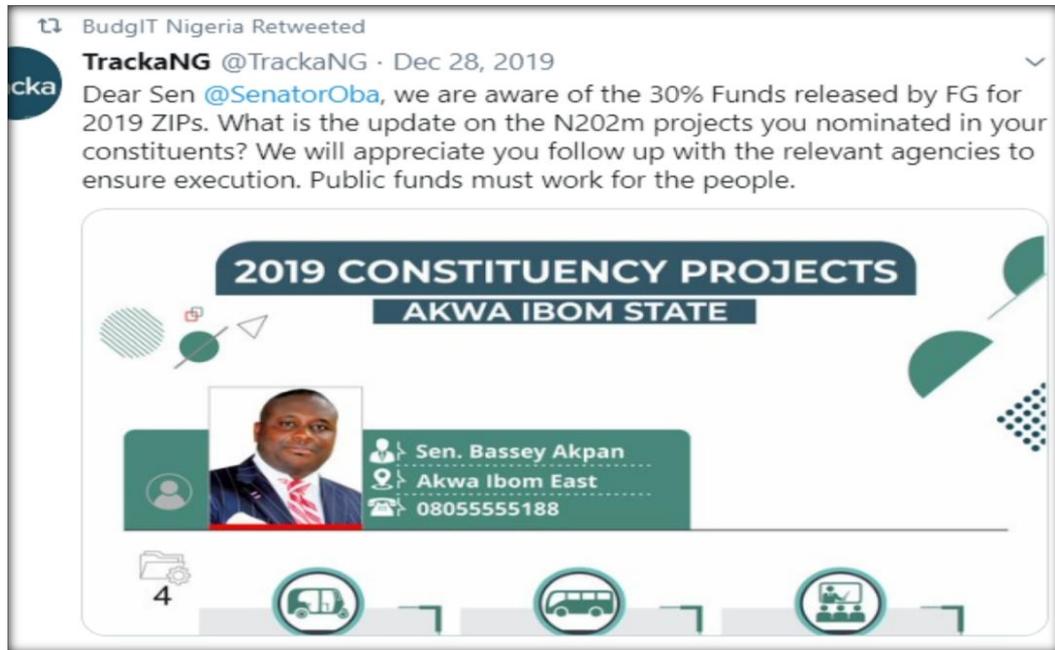
Figure 7: Trackang Asks a Senator for Information For Funds That Have Been Disbursed to His Office. They Also Post His Contact So That His Constituents can Ask Him Questions.

These are typical examples of citizen journalists using social media, especially Twitter, to hold government accountable with respect to budget implementation. In Nigeria, preparation and implementation of budget are usually unscrupulous by self-seeking politicians who inflate figures and siphon funds meant to develop the nation. These citizen journalists have been at the fore of holding government officials accountable on social media. They empower ordinary citizens to get involved in asking questions about how funds meant for their development are spent by posting the phone numbers of representatives so ordinary citizens can call them and ask questions. An example is given below:

Figure 8: A Screenshot of a Senator's Contact posted by BudgIT to Get Citizens
Involved. Retrieved from the Twitter Account of @BudgIT

**4.2.2 Administrative Problems Reported by BudgIT on Twitter Between
October 2019 and January 2020 on Twitter**

The current research question sought to investigate if citizen journalists uncover
administrative problems on Twitter. Figure 2 shows that 55.5% of the tweets (n =
111) established administrative problems while 43.5% (n = 89) did not discuss any
administrative problems.
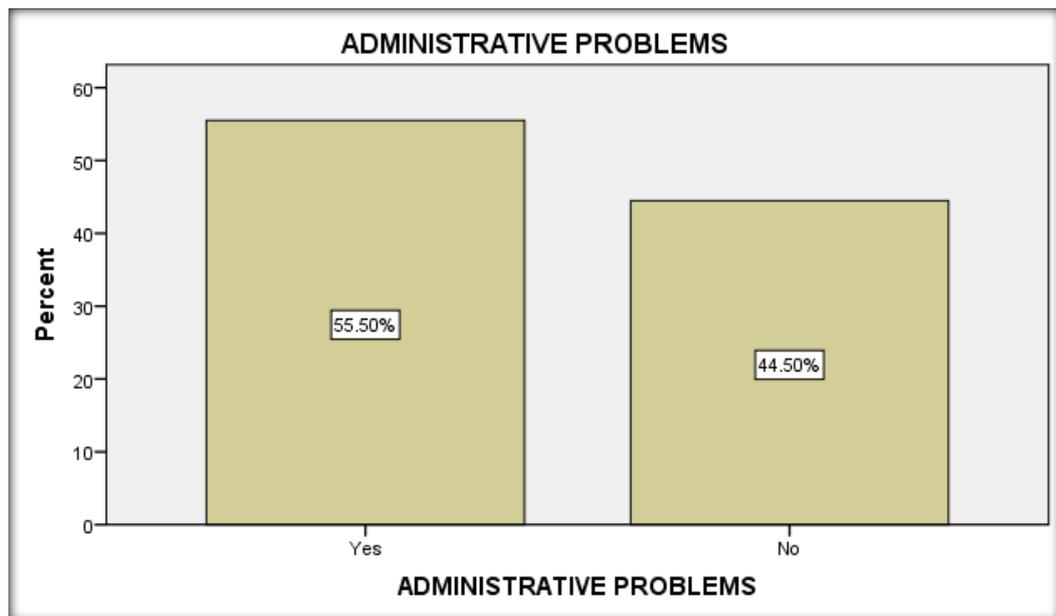
Figure 9: Bar Chart Showing the Percentage of Tweets That Uncovered
Administrative Problems

From available data, indeed, citizen journalists uncover administrative problems on social media. With respect to the executive arm of government, citizen journalists have been able to uncover administrative problems associated with this arm of government. An example is the uncovering of the Katsina State Government's inability to provide pupils with a befitting place to study despite this being its sole responsibility. The tweet by BudgIT in this respect and the accompanying picture of the dilapidated structure is found below:

Figure 10: A Screenshot Showing Calls on the Governor of a State in North-western Nigeria to Look Into The Issue of a Dilapidated Public School

With respect to the Federal Government, Common Society Organizations have had the option to reveal authoritative issues that for instance trouble on key designations to basic areas that if appropriately put resources into will be advantageous to national improvement yet are regularly ignored or given detached allotment and consideration. An example is given below:
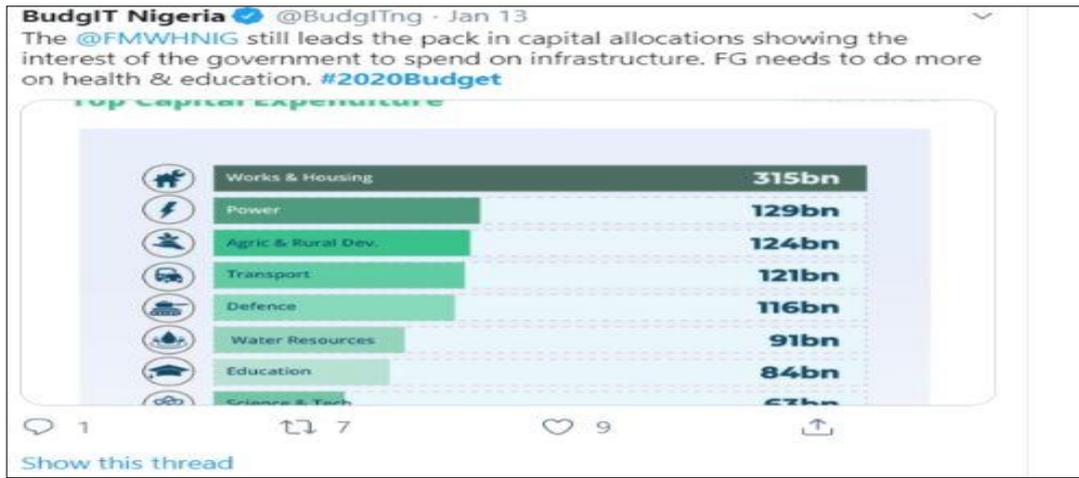
Figure 11: A Tweet by Budgit Showing How the Government Spends on Capital
Expenditure

The allocations of government in this regard with respect to its priority in spending

shows administrative recklessness as critical sectors such as education and health are

not given proper allocation. Sometimes, the Federal Ministry of Information receives

more allocation than other critical sectors of the economy.

Figure 12: BudgIT posts a Summary of the 2020 Budget
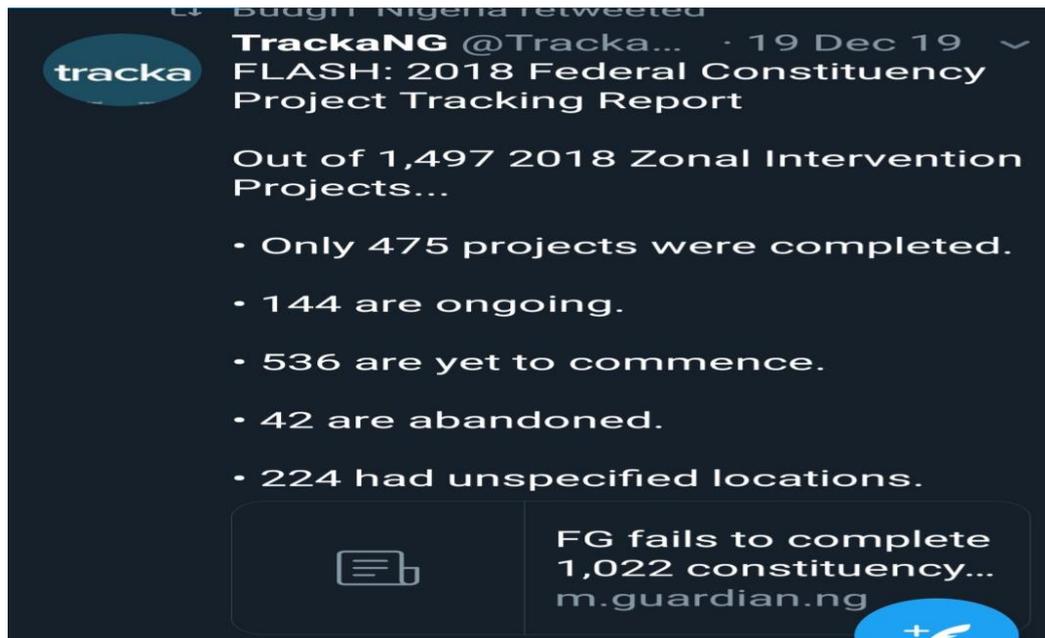
Figure 13: TrackaNG Reveals That Some 2018 Projects Have Still Not Been Completed

4.2.3 Consistent Themes made by BudgIT on Twitter

This research question sought to investigate the consistent theme made by citizen journalists on social media concerning governance in Nigeria. Figure-8 shows that 46.5% of tweets (n = 93) reflected financial integrity as a theme while 35% (n = 70) reflected an advocacy for increased allocation in important sectors. In addition, 18.5% (n = 37) encouraged civic participation. Overall, these were the consistent themes in the tweets that were coded for the study. Also, all the sampled tweets were copied into a word file and put in Nvivo to get the most frequent words. The result is presented below:

Figure 14: A Word Cloud of the Most Commonly Used Words in the 200 Sampled
Tweets

The word cloud presented in figure 15 summarises the overall message in the
findings of this research. Nigeria is the primary location upon which this research is
centred. As such, it was frequently added in tweets posted by BudgIT and TrackaNG.
The boldest word in the tweet is corruption. As stated from the beginning of this
study, corruption was presented as one of the reasons why there is a contradiction
between Nigeria's wealth and the inability of the successive governments in Nigeria
to equitably distribute wealth to Nigeria's citizens (Anazodo & Igbokwe-Ibeto,
2015). As a result, there is little development in terms of infrastructure, education,
health and other basic amenities. However, in line with the agenda to mobilize the
people to become active participants, BudgIT and TrackaNG have redirected
attention from the federal government to the states and local governments (See
Appendix II). Because petroleum is Nigeria's major source of revenue, issues
regarding the industry were also tweeted about.

Figure 15: Chart Showing the Percentage of Themes Determined in BudgIT's
Twitter Account

4.2.3.1 Theme of Financial Integrity and Responsible Leadership Aimed at Delivering the Dividends of Democracy to the People

Consistently, citizen journalists strive to see that public officials maintain a high level of financial integrity with the sole aim of delivering the dividends of democracy to the people. This is evident in the fact that their tweets predominantly end with the statement '*public funds must work for the people'*. Example of such tweets are found below:
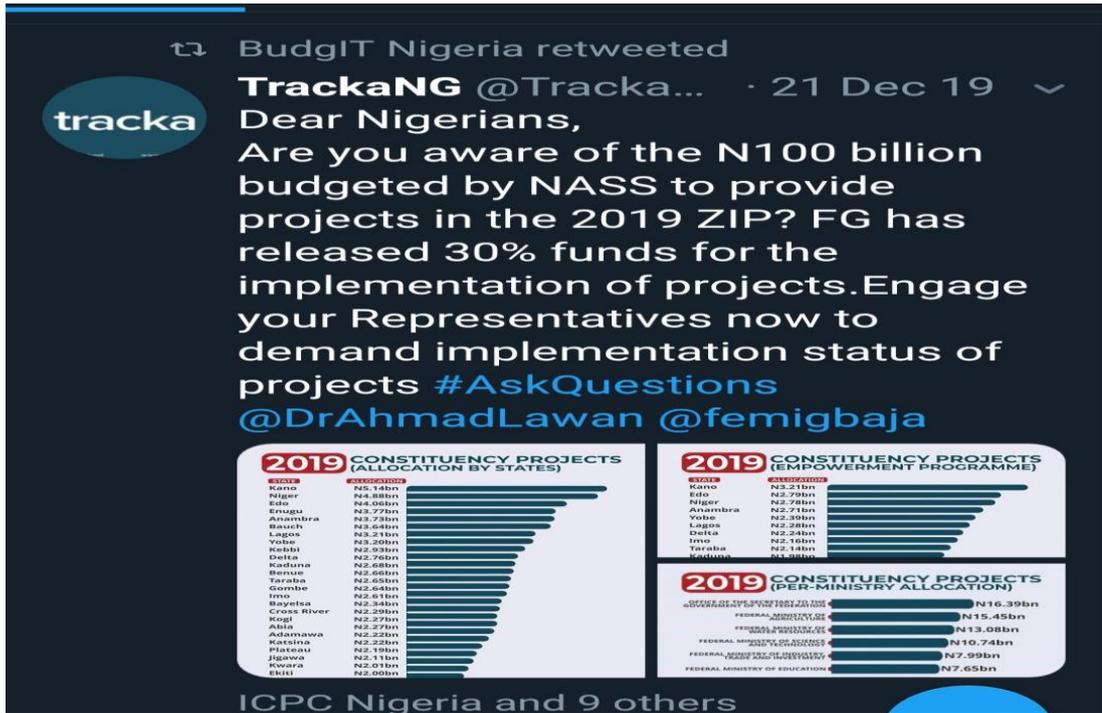
Figure 16: TrackaNG asks Nigerians if they are aware of the Amount Budgeted by the National Assemble (NASS) for National Projects

Another tweet reads:
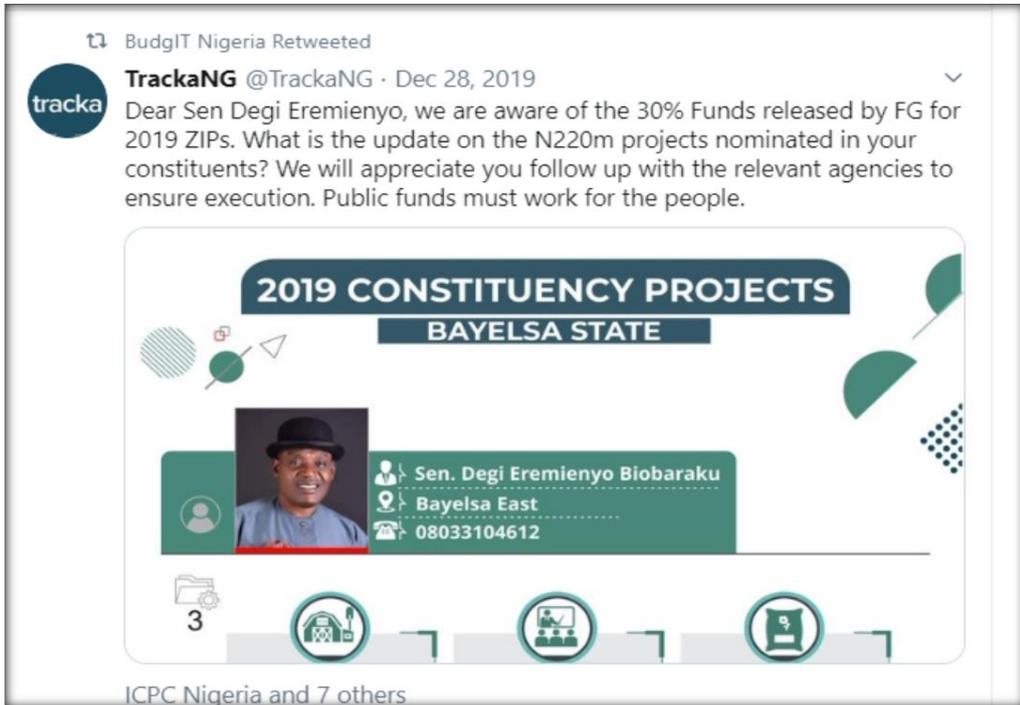
Figure 17: TrackaNG Asks a Senator for Follow up Information on Funds Released to His Office for Projects

This is a consistent theme made by citizen journalists on social media about governance in Nigeria. Similarly, citizen journalists on social media underscore the importance of responsible leadership via a comparative analysis. An example is given below:
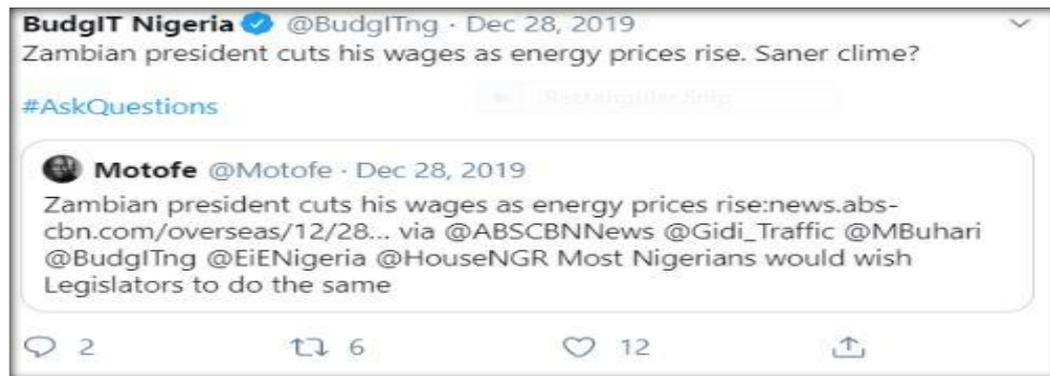

Figure 18: Tweet Insinuating That Politicians in Nigeria are Selfishly Enriching Themselves in Contrast to Politicians in other Parts of the World

One of the most discussed issues with respect to political office holders in Nigeria has to do with their salaries and emoluments. Nigerian political office holders earn a lot that a chunk of yearly budgetary allocations goes to their earnings. This is a consistent theme made by citizen journalists on social media – the need for public office holders to cut their spending and earnings.

4.2.3.2 Increased Allocation of Resources for Critical Sectors and Scrutiny of Budgetary Allocations

The second consistent theme is the need for proper allocation of resources and scrutiny of budgetary allocations. This means that critical sectors of the economy, such as health and education, should receive greater allocations than other sectors. This has been a fundamental theme made by citizen journalists concerning governance in Nigeria. Examples of such themes are found in the tweets below.

The tweet below directly challenges the poor funding of Nigeria's education sector. According to Williams-Elegbe (2015), this is one sector that does not receive the attention it requires in Nigeria.
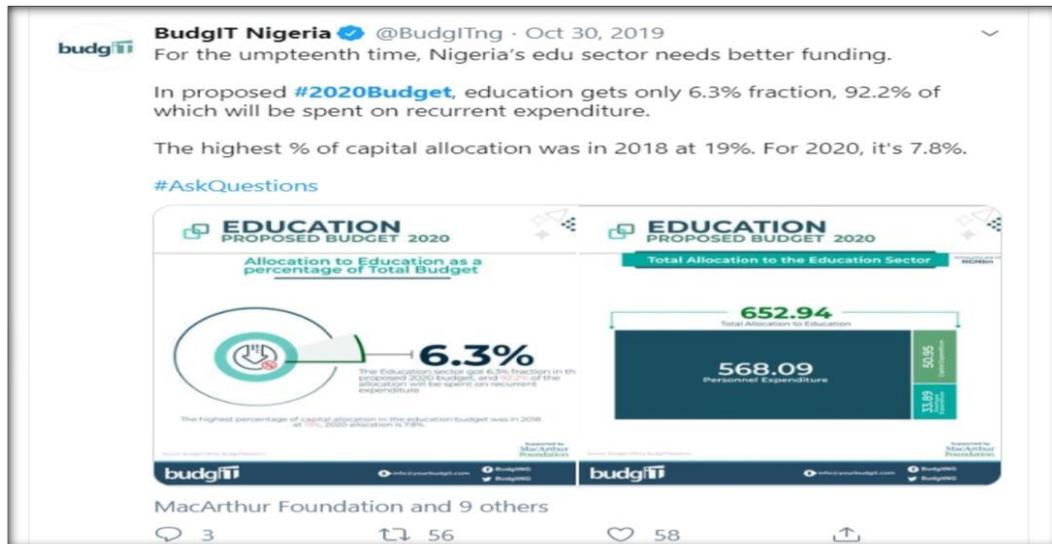

Figure 19: Tweet Lamenting the Poor Funding of Nigeria's Education Sector

The above complaint earns a response from another civil society organisation in Africa @Connected_dev.
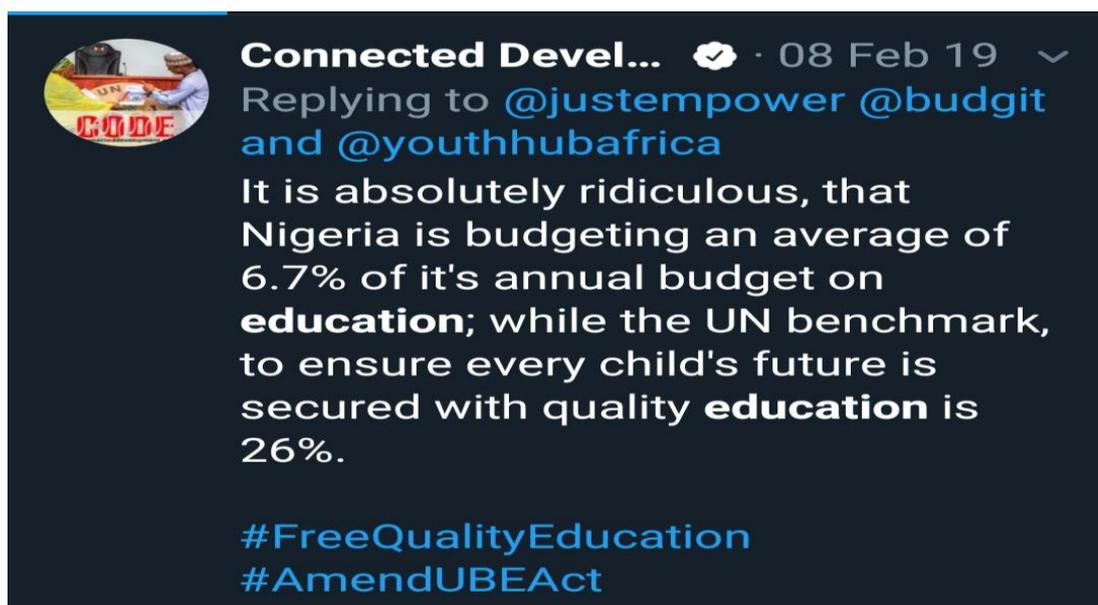

Figure 20: Response from an Independent Social Organisation Condemning the Poor Funding of Nigeria's Education Sector

The second part bothers on scrutiny of budgetary allocations:

While we appreciate the resolve by the President and NASS to see that the budget circle is aligned with the annual calendar, we advise @NGRPresident to scrutinise the 2020Budget and ensure that additional items are not frivolous and wasteful (This bothers on scrutiny of the budget).


Figure 21: A Tweet Asking Nigeria's President Buhari to Ensure That the Budget is Passed Responsibly

However, the need for scrutiny is not attainable at present if the tweet below is anything to go by:

Figure 22: Tweet Showing Claims That the 2020 Budget was passed without Legislative Debate.

4.2.3.3 Civic Participation

In line with upholding accountability in governance, a less visible but consistent theme was that of civic participation. Tweets that fell within this category not only encouraged citizens to ask questions but they also showed BudgIT and its subsidiary holding town halls in communities to teach citizens why and how to hold their representatives accountability. This is in line with Chung, Nah, & Yamomoto (2013) who suggest that the goal of citizen journalists is to mobiilize the public into civic action. Examples of this theme are found in the tweets below;

Figure 23: Tweet Explaining Why Civic Education is Important

The above tweet by @TrackNG explains why education on civic participation is necessary in Nigeria.

Figure 24: BudgIT Tweets an Image of Primary School Publics in Four Public Different Schools Learning While Sitting On Floor

Figure 25: Tweet Showing a Civic Education Meeting Organised by BudgIT's Subsidiary in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

4.2.4 Presentation of Issues on Twitter

Figure 10 reveals how BudgIT and its subsidiary TrackaNG presented their information on twitter. 17.5% (n = 35) used pictures to show incomplete/abandoned projects. 53% (n = 106) used infographics to simplify the breakdown of budget allocation. 2.5% (n =5) used videos to show public debates while 27% (n = 54) used tweets to explain budget allocation in simple terms.
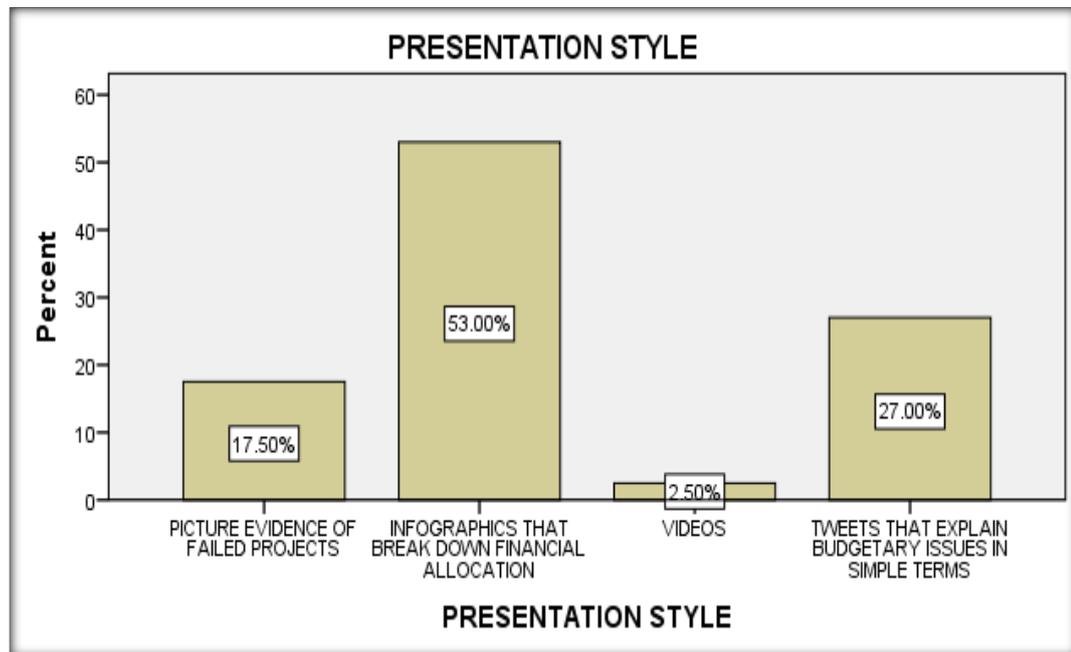

Figure 26: Bar Chart Showing How BudgIT Presented Information on Twitter

Citizen journalists on social media use imagery and infographics to report issues on social media. These images are used to simplify complex economic terms so ordinary citizens can relate and understand budgetary allocations that concern them.

The following images capture examples of these imagery and infographics:

Figure 27: An Infographic Tweeted by BudgIT Which Shows a Timeline of How Nigeria Presents It Yearly Budget
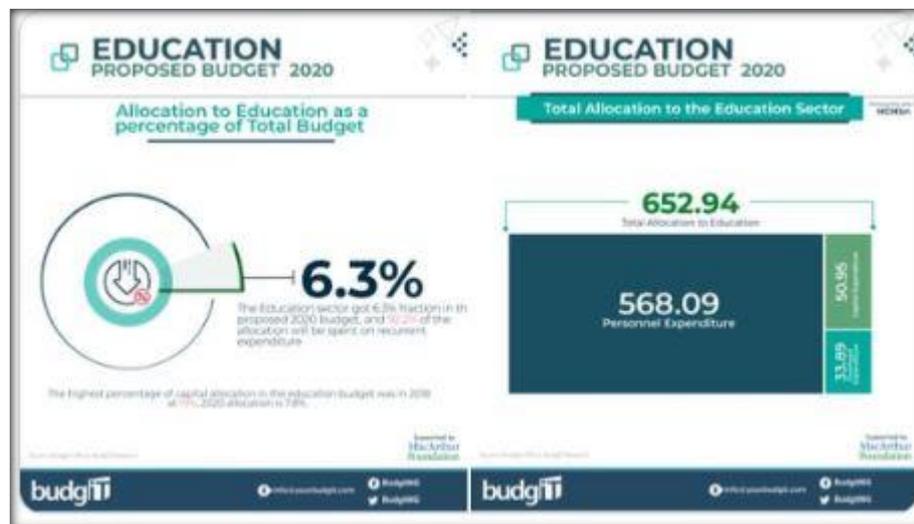
Figure 28: An Infograph Tweeted By BudgIT Which Explains the Small Funding of the Education Sector in the 2020 Budget in Nigeria

The above images are typical examples of the graphical method that citizen journalists in Nigeria use to report issues. These images simplify complex data to the understanding of ordinary Nigerians on social media platforms. This serves to corroborate the centuries old submission by the Chinese that *"a picture is worth more than a thousand words".*

4.2.5 Relevance of BudgIT in Nigeria's Current Political Clime

BudgIT is relevant in the current Nigerian political clime because it contributes to holding government accountable and minimises malfeasance of political office

holders. It does this by information and educating social media users of budget preparation and implementation, inter alia. This contributes immensely towards citizens getting involved in critical issues that bother on their lives. An informed citizenry is necessary for democracy to function (Memoli, 2011). Citizens cannot hold government accountable without adequate information at their disposal. BudgIT is therefore, providing citizens with useful information to be able to ask their representatives serious questions. Unfortunately, mainstream media have been lagging behind in this respect.

Traditional media fail to carry out this responsibility of providing useful information that will facilitate holding the government accountable in Nigeria because of a myriad of reasons which include commercialisation of news (McChesney, 1999); ownership of media outlets by politicians (Asemah & Asogwa, 2012; Herman & Chomsky, 2002); censorship (Voltmer, 2010); dependence on politicians as news sources (Entman, 1989; Herman & Chomsky, 2002). As a result of this failure, citizen journalists such as BudgIT have taken to social media platforms to enlighten and educate citizens with respect to how public funds are managed by their representatives. This is due to the democratic features of social media platforms that allow for creation and dissemination of user generated contents (Östman, 2012).

Thus, BudgIT has become relevant to Nigeria's political clime by providing useful information that helps hold government accountable on an important topic which Nigerian public officials have been relentlessly unscrupulous – financial management. BudgIT is the more relevant because traditional media have not beamed their searchlight into holding government accountable with respect to financial spending. Hence, BudgIT provides an alternative and effective route to

holding government accountable by providing useful information and empowering ordinary citizens to get involved in the process. For example, figure-13 shows a map of BudgIT's coverage in Nigeria. It shows that they have monitored and tracked projects in 26 states in Nigeria, impacted 9,006 communities and 586 local government areas. The map also shows that they have tracked 15,859 projects since their inception in Nigeria. This is an important outreach project because there is no currently no mainstream media organisation that monitors projects in Nigeria.

Figure 29: Tweet Showing the Impact of BudgIT Monitoring Causing Senators to Release Public Funds
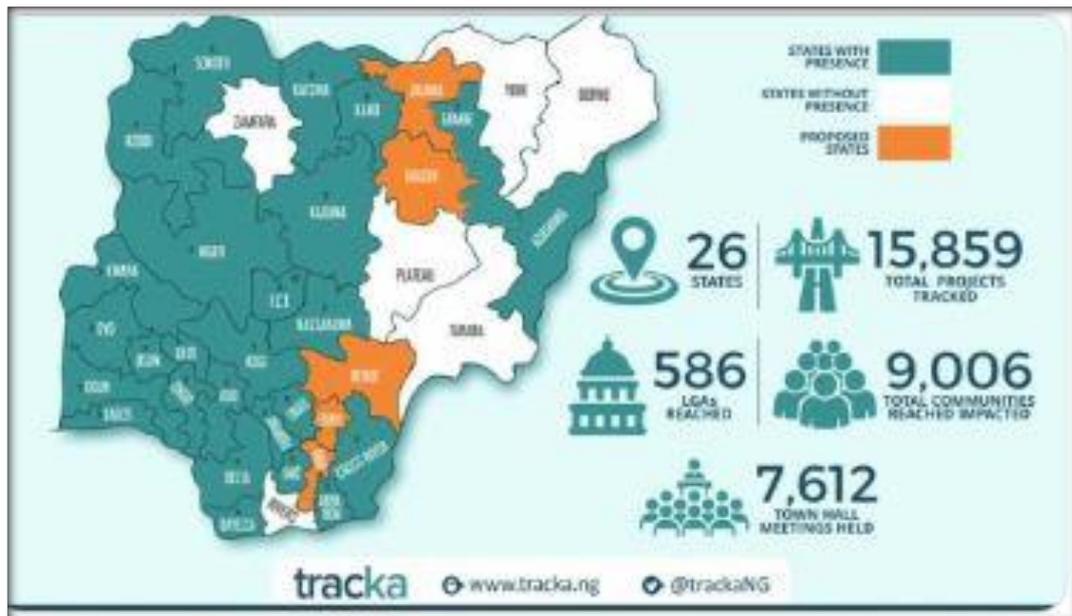
Figure 30: An Infograph Tweeted By BudgIT Which Shows How Many
Communities, Projects Budgit, and Its Subsidiary Have Monitored So Far. It Also
Shows the States They Are Yet To Start Activities

Figure 31: A Twitter User Showing How BudgIT and TrackaNG Have Helped To
Educate Her

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The current study sought to investigate the role of social media in holding

government accountable with particular reference to BudgIT, who act as both citizen

journalists and civil society organisation that posts tweets regarding budget preparation and implementation in Nigeria. The study answered the following research questions: did BudgIT use Twitter to as an avenue to hold the Nigerian government accountable in the reports they posted between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020? Are there administrative problems uncovered and reported by Nigerian BudgIT on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020? What is (are) the consistent theme(s) made about governance in Nigeria by BudgIT on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020? How did BudgIT present issues on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

The analyses of data showed that citizen journalists use social media to hold government accountable in Nigeria. Citizen journalists deploy investigative journalistic skills within the context of social media to hold government officials accountable. This is evident in the tweets that they post which are geared towards ensuring that government officials do the right thing as representatives of the people. Similarly, citizen journalists uncover administrative problems on Twitter. An example is the uncovering of the inability of the Katsina State Government to provide a befitting environment for pupils to study despite being its sole responsibility. With respect to the consistent themes made by citizen journalists on social media about governance in Nigeria, two themes were identified, namely: financial integrity and responsible leadership aimed at delivering the dividends of democracy to the people; and increased allocation of resources to critical sectors and scrutiny of budgetary allocations. This means that citizen journalists on social media place premium on financial integrity of public officials which leads to the betterment of citizens' lives and the need for increased allocation to critical sectors that have

great implications for a nation's development. The penultimate research question sought to investigate how citizen journalists report issues in Nigeria. It was found that citizen journalists report issues by using infographics to simplify and clearly deliver their messages to ordinary citizens as a picture is worth more than a thousand words. Lastly, the relevance of BudgIT in the current political clime of Nigeria was investigated. It was discussed that BudgIT is relevant because it provides an alternative means for holding government accountable due to the fact that traditional media often ignore this important aspect of financial integrity due to constraints identified which include ownership of media outlets by politicians and commercialisation of news.

4.4 Chapter Summary

The chapter draws attention to the presentation of data and discussion of findings to answer research questions. Four research questions were answered. Tweets from the Twitter handles of BudgIT, and its subsidiary, TrackaNG, were the data analysed to answer the research questions. The analysis of data found that BudgIT and its subsidiary, TrackaNG, hold government accountable by using a unique style of infographics to simplify budget allocation and spending to ordinary citizens, thus making them relevant where traditional media have faltered in discharging their watchdog role towards strengthening democracy within the Nigerian democratic milieu.

Chapter 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND

RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is a summary of the findings of the study, conclusions and recommendations emanating from the findings of the study. It is therefore the synopsis of the entire work from chapters 1 to 4.

5.2 Summary and Conclusions Drawn from the Study

Modern Nigeria is a union between various societies in a manner akin to the ancient Greek city-states (Udogu, 2009). In terms of its size, cultural diversity, political arrangement and economic relevance, Nigeria remains one of the most under-researched countries in the world (Nolte, 2011). This makes the current study timely.

Nigeria's diversity has always reflected in its diverse media (Press Reference, n.d). This history is also tied to its colonial past where the diverse groups that would later form the country Nigeria had sectional press to counter colonialism and fight for independence. Soon after the country's independence in 1960, the nationalist press that had collectively challenged colonial authority soon started pursuing the sole interests of their regions and the leaders who represented them (Okoro, 2012). Unfortunately for Nigeria, this move meant that nepotism and mediocrity would be normalized because issues were now being discussed through the lens of a leader's

origins. Perhaps, this is why corruption was often overlooked and vital issues to Nigeria's development became shrouded in mystery with the help of the press.

Nevertheless, the successive military regimes in Nigeria started an era of strange relationship between the Nigerian media and the government. On one hand, the Federal radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) was usually the first institution to be captured during any forceful military take-over was the radio house. Receiving broadcast announcement that another coup had taken place was something that Nigerians had come to expect during this era (Eminue, Ekah & Akpalaeke, 2017). On the other hand, the press was known to have stood up to the military dictatorships like they did during colonialism (Adeniyi, 2016). With democracy came some freedom. This was later consolidated when the Freedom of Information bill became an Act in 2011. This new development offered opportunities to citizens because it gave citizens the right to access and request for public information that ordinarily would have been unreleased. This advances the cause of citizen journalists. Through social media, various forms of advocacy have been known to occur. For example, citizen journalism has changed the formation of social movements. They are able to do this by raising awareness, forming alliances, organising movements and creating imaginary communities (Saka, 2018). In BudgIT and TrackaNG's social activism, all of the components mentioned by Saka (2018) are evident. The successes of BudgIT and TrackaNG are engineered by the alliances they form with international civil organisations, mainstream media within the Nigerian polity and the hashtags they promote which creates imagined communities.

The study sought to investigate the role of social media in holding government accountable in Nigeria by using BudgIT and its subsidiary TrackaNG that beam their

searchlight into how public funds are used, using the social medium, Twitter. This is owing to the fact that traditional media have faltered in their watchdog role due to commercialisation of news, dependence on politicians as news sources, and the ownership of media outlets by powerful politicians who determine their contents as he who pays the piper dictates the tune. The study had the following research questions:

i. Did BudgIT and TrackaNG use Twitter as an avenue to hold the Nigerian government accountable in the reports they posted between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

ii. Are there administrative problems uncovered and reported by Nigerian BudgIT and TrackaNG on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

iii. What is (are) the consistent theme(s) made about governance in Nigeria by BudgIT and TrackaNG on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

iv. How did BudgIT and TrackaNG present issues on Twitter between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020?

v. What is the relevance of BudgIT and TrackaNG in Nigeria's current political clime?

The study employed the qualitative method to carry out its investigation where tweets were analysed using themes, texts, and images to answer research questions owing to the nature of the investigation. The findings of the study were that:

i. Citizen journalists use social media to hold government accountable

ii. There are administrative problems uncovered by Nigerian citizen journalists on Twitter.

iii.　Two consistent themes made by citizen journalists about governance on social media are financial integrity among public office holders and increased budgetary allocations for critical sectors.

iv.　Citizen journalists use images and infographics to report issues with the aim of simplifying budgets to ordinary citizens and empower them to ask serious questions on how public funds are spent.

v.　BudgIT is relevant in Nigeria's current political clime because it provides an independent force in holding government accountable. It is the more relevant because traditional media have faltered in this regard.

5.3 Conclusions

Social media have become an important force in holding government accountable within the Nigerian democratic milieu. In an era where traditional media have faltered in discharging their cardinal responsibility of being watchdogs with the sole aim of strengthening democracy, social media have become a veritable tool in the hands of citizen journalists towards holding public officers accountable and exposing official malfeasance. The opportunities that citizen journalism offers to citizens are endless. Citizen journalism can institute institutional change through consistent advocacy. The analysis of data (tweets) by BudgIT and its subsidiary TrackaNG who perform the role of citizen journalists in Nigeria shows that they, alongside other Civil Society Organisations, are leveraging on the democratic features of social media to hold power accountable and empower citizens to participate in the political process by enlightening and educating them, thus having an informed citizenry. This increases accountability and transparency in governance.

One fundamental lesson learnt in this study is; because of Nigeria's complexities and how easy it is to be at cross-hairs with law enforcement agencies who would prefer not to be held accountable, citizen journalists run the risk of being in danger if they do not form alliances with mainstream media, human rights organisations and other non-governmental organisations. In 2017 for example, a tracking staff of BudgIT, Moses Motoni was arrested by some members of a unit in the Nigerian police force who disguised themselves as delivery men. It took sustained social media campaigns in coordination with calls from international organisations like Amnesty International on social media to get him released. His crime was never communicated to him. It then follows even though there are potentials for citizen journalism in Nigeria and there is a law to back them up, the Nigerian democracy is still too young to be receptive of criticism. Therefore, building alliances is fundamental to the survival of citizen journalists in Nigeria.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are therefore, made:

i.   BudgIT, its subsidiaries and other citizen journalists should maintain the role of holding power accountable to ensure that a healthy democracy is in place.

ii. Citizens should get involved in the important financial discussion that is presented by these citizen journalists to demand a change because financial mismanagement has been a bane to Nigeria's democratic advancement.

iii. Citizen journalist in Nigeria should strive to include videos that expose financial crimes.

iv. Traditional media should mitigate their close relationship with politicians so they can discharge their watchdog role within the Nigerian democratic clime.

5.5 Chapter Summary

The current chapter gave the summary, conclusions, and recommendations of the study. It concluded that citizen journalists are leveraging on social media tools to hold government accountable in an era where traditional media have faltered. It recommends that citizen journalists should maintain this trend to ensure a healthy democracy and underscores the need for traditional media to mitigate their involvement with politicians to enable them carry their watchdog role efficiently. Transparency enables accountability. Technology and the open data access it brings is arguably a catalyst for openness and transparency which would in turn be a stimulus for accountability. This in turn reduces corruption (Petasis, Triantafillou, & Kastens, 2017). This is enhanced by the merging of complex data and computer analytics in visual form (Petasis, Triantafillou, & Kastens, 2017).

Accountability is determined by the citizen's perception of corruption and transparency (Nunkoo, Sunnassee, & Gursoy, 2018). As a result, there is need for government spending of revenue to be fully accessible to the public. This will enhance transparency and build public trust. Public trust legitimizes governance. Without the freedom of information, records published on BudgIT may not be public information. On the other hand, TrackaNG would have only been limited to physical projects they can track without having access to the funds released for such projects. Thus, the Freedom of Information Act has improved transparency in government. However, it is important to remember that there are still risks for BudgIT, TrackaNG and other similar organisations.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Content Analysis

CODEBOOK

CONTENT ANALYSIS

Please read before coding.

This is a social media research that focuses on the twitter accounts of @BudgIT and @TrackaNG. This research is limited to the period between 1 October 2019 and 7 January 2020. Each tweet that falls under the sample should be coded as a unit of analysis.

For emphasis, keywords that should be coded are words like corruption, looting, development, progress, project, completion, budget, government, transparency, open government etc.

Remember that as watchdogs, journalists are expected to monitor the activities of the arms of government and report anything that is amiss. This is part of their mandate of holding the government accountable and enhancing transparency in government.

For clarity, tweets about accountability that call for transparency, details on how public funds are spent, state of infrastructural projects and progress of these projects. Consider if the tweet fact-checks any claims by public officials and if it brings up contested reports to contradict any claims by the administration.

Budgetary allocation in this context refers to the simplistic breakdown of how money is allocated to each sector and the significance of the amount allocated to each sector. Consider if the explanation is concise and detailed enough to be understood by the average twitter user.

Consider if the tweet urges followers to ask questions to their representatives or public government officials. Does the tweet mention representatives? Does it ask them questions? Does it ask others to do the same? Any tweet that mentions a representative's handle or release their information so that members of the public will contact them over an issue should be coded under this category. If the tweet ends with a call on citizens/netizens to ask questions, it should be coded in this category.

To code for administrative problems, you should consider if there are societal problems that are explained in the tweet. For example, how will the poor funding of a sector affect the ordinary citizen or how are funds mismanaged in government and what do these mean for the welfare of the average citizens?

Individual coding schedule

Question	Answer
Name of coder	
Date of Tweet	
Twitter account	
Mention the keywords in the tweet	
Do you feel the tweet is about accountability?	

Does the tweet discuss budgetary allocation?	
Does the tweet encourage other twitter users to ask burning questions?	
Does the tweet reveal administrative problems?	
What is the theme of the tweet?	**1 – Financial integrity** **2 – Increased funding** **3 – Civic participation**

How the variables will appear on SPSS

Variable	**Values**
Accountability	1 – Yes 2 – No
Budgetary allocation	1 – Yes 2 – No
Asking questions	1 – Yes 2 – No
Administrative problems	1 – Yes 2 - No

Themes	1 – Yes
	2 – No
Presentation of issues	1 – Yes
	2 – No

PS: Presentation of issues should be coded as either video or images. It is expected that posts are made with words so normal words should not be coded as anything else.

Also note that it is possible to get different themes in one tweet depending on the keywords used. Please note this if you encounter this challenge

Coding themes

Financial integrity – tweets that call on any government official (elected or otherwise) to be open about the pubic funds allocated to them should be coded in this category. Consider if the tweet talks about an unfinished project that was supposedly fully funded or social welfare programs that did not take place even though funds were released for them. Also consider if the tweet gives the real estimate of a project that allegedly costs way lower than the amount given on paper. Does the tweet call for open government and transparency? Does it ask for information from public officials?

Increased funding – some sectors in the Nigerian economy are underfunded. For example, the educational sector was touched upon in the literature of this study. Therefore consider if the tweet calls for more funding for important sectors.

Civic participation – this ties directly to the variable about asking questions. You should consider if the tweet encourages active citizenship on matters that are important. Tweets that should be coded in this category are tweets that encourage citizens/netizens to speak out on issues. You should also code tweets that show public engagement from citizens.

Appendix B: Tweets

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 1, 2019
We cannot speak "great lofty heights attain" into existence, we can only ACT it.

We MUST all #GetInvolved.

A Unique People, A Great Nation
Happy independence Day, Nigeria

💬 1   ⟲ 42   ♡ 72   ⤴

💬 2   ⟲ 62   ♡ 64

Show this thread

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 1, 2019
Professor Soludo is validating our work.

Societies only progress when citizens are actively involved.

Are you involved?

#AskQuestions #NigeriaAt59 #ThePlatformNG

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 3, 2019 ⌄

Akpogu: We Need Electricity After 100 Years

"Sad that we have no electricity, after a century plus of existence. Govt supplied the first transformer in 1999— but not installed until 2014. Since then, the wiring is abandoned."

From @TrackaNG Stories of Renewed Hope

Watch out!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 3, 2019 ⌄

President Muhammadu Buhari will present the 2020 budget to the national assembly on October 8, 2019.

The estimates will be presented to the joint session of the National Assembly by 2pm.

No capital fund has been released for current budget, which kicked off in June 2019.

💬 9   ⟲ 100   ♡ 84   ⤴

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 7, 2019 ⌄
State of States 2019

Only a few states in Nigeria can meet
their recurrent expenditure obligations
without sinking in debt. 🤦‍♀️

How can we help policymakers at state
levels with deep dives on IGR growth,
sustainability and export potentials?

#SOS2019 is our answer.

Anticipate!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 7, 2019 ⌄
Is there a "war on women" in Nigeria?

Hon Gudaji Kazaure said:

"Women are the the DOMESTIC
WORKERS and CAREGIVERS both for
the husband and children but they
should not be given TOO MUCH
opportunities."

Nigeria ranks 157/189 of countries in
the Gender Inequality Index.

THREAD.

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ @ · Oct 7, 2019 ⌄

AT LAST: Lagos Releases
#2019Budget

The @followlasg has published its
2019 budget, following unceasing
demands from BudgIT.

Until 2019, the last time LASG
honoured FOI requests on
audited/financial statements was
2015.

Link: mepb.lagosstate.gov.ng/budget-
documen...

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ @ · Oct 7, 2019 ⌄

State of States 2019

Only a few states in Nigeria can meet
their recurrent expenditure obligations
without sinking in debt. 🤦‍♀️

How can we help policymakers at state
levels with deep dives on IGR growth,
sustainability and export potentials?

#SOS2019 is our answer.

Anticipate!

Capital Expenditure: N2.14tn

Debt Service: N2.45tn

Sinking Funds for retirement of debt:
N296bn

💬 6   ⟲ 89   ♡ 77   ⌁

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 8, 2019   ⌄
As at June 2019, FG earned N2.04tn as
TOTAL revenue.

Total Revenue Projections for
#2020BudgetNG:

Total Revenue: N8.15tn
Oil Revenue: N2.64tn
Non-oil Tax Revenue: N1.81tn
Other Revenue: N3.7tn

#Budget2020NG

💬 9   ⟲ 83   ♡ 94   ⌁

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @ · Oct 8, 2019

President @MBuhari today presented to a joint session of @nassnigeria an Expenditure Budget of N10.33tn, with N8.15tn projected as revenue and deficit (borrowing) of N2.18tn.

We shall bring you more details. #Budget2020NG

● Revenue **8.15tn**

Oil Revenue • → **2.64tn**

Revenue (Non Oil) • → **1.81tn**

Other Revenue • → **·3.7tn**

Deficit
N2.18tn
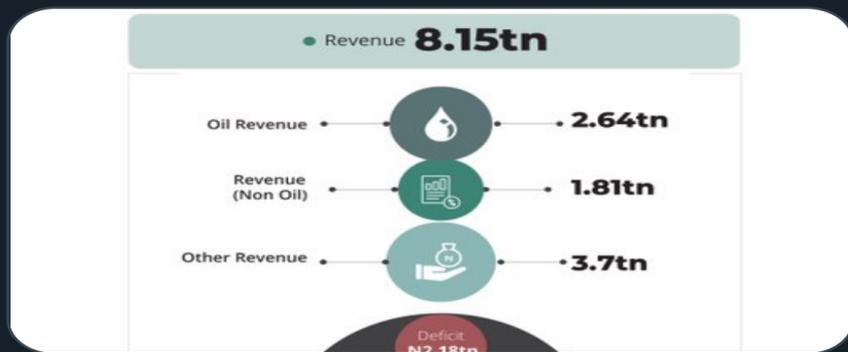
💬 16   🔁 110   ♡ 128   ⌁

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 11, 2019

Can TAXES ever be enough for Lagos without ACCOUNTABILITY?

"Over N48 billion was spent on the purchase of the buses and N22 Billion were spent on import duties. 520 of the buses are still at the seaport,"

Is this the best use of public resources?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 12, 2019 ⌄

Our #StateofStates2019 holds on October 23, 2019. We have two special guests - Governors @kfayemi & @elrufai.

We will be exploring fiscal sustainability of states.

Kindly register here: stateofstates.yourbudgit.com

#StateofStates 2019

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 14, 2019 ⌄

As the details of 2020 Budget are presented today, we inquire if FG revenue targets are realistic.

How does FG intend to move from N2.04tn revenue as at June 2019 to N8.15tn in 2020?

#2020BudgetNG #AskQuestions

Amount in Naira   Realistic

BudgIT Nigeria ✅ · Oct 15, 2019 ⌄

With the details of the proposed 2020 budget released yesterday, our analysis will be represented on Thursday.

WATCH OUT.

BudgIT Nigeria ✅ · Oct 16, 2019 ⌄

Are there specific roads that were fixed that made a sum of N10.69bn payment expedient at this period?

Can @NGRPresident please list the roads? #AskQuestions

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 16, 2019 ⌄

SHOCKING #StateOfStates FACTS

• In 2018, Cross River projected a revenue of N1.19tn but made only 57bn i.e. 4.81% revenue performance.

• Even if all IGR goes to debt servicing, Yobe would take almost 9.7 years to pay off its debt.

• Zamfara mainly survives on FG allocation.

Show this thread

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 16, 2019 ⌄

• Lagos leads in IGR (N302.4bn in 2016 alone), but is strangled by a total debt of N973.1bn as at 2018 year end.

• Kaduna's IGR has more than doubled in the last 5 years, 130.4% increase.

• Kogi's 2018 domestic debt jumped by 724.1% (N84.9bn btw 2014-2018).

#StateOfStates

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 16, 2019 ⌄

#THREAD: Nigerians are quite eager to know the FG Budget for #Health #Education & #Agriculture – crucial human capital development sectors – in #2020BudgetNG.

We hereby present the figures:

Health: 3.7%

Agriculture: 1.34%

Education: 5.23% (almost N100bn cut from 2019 budget).

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 17, 2019 ⌄
Good morning Nigeria.

Tea, coffee , water, kunu or zobo?

N25.7tn is Nigerian Govt debt portfolio.

FG External Debt has grown from $7.34bn in June 2015 to $22.87bn as at June 2019.

FG Domestic Debt has moved from N8.39tn in June 2015 to N13.41tn as at June 2019. 💥●

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 17, 2019 ⌄

DID YOU KNOW?

Lagos, Rivers & Akwa Ibom are the only states that can meet their recurrent expenditure with no reliance on federal allocations.

In 2017, only 19 states were able to do so with their IGR + gross FAAC.

14 states RELY on FAAC & LOAN to pay salaries.

#StateOfStates

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 17, 2019 ⌄
We are fully in support of this.

Since inception in 2000, NDDC has received at least N15 TRILLION project funds, yet FAILED to achieve the Niger Delta Regional Development Masterplan to lay the foundation for transforming the region into Nigeria's Dubai.

twitter.com/budgitng/statu…

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 18, 2019 ⌄
Dear Pres. @MBuhari,

While we give a nod to this, it's in the best interest of Nigeria that such audit is institutionalized for good (by law). Forensic audit is needed across the board to stem the massive looting.

Will you rally @DrAhmadLawan/ @femigbaja to give 🇳🇬 an Audit Bill?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔   · Oct 18, 2019   ⌄

A woman's chances of death during pregnancy or childbirth in Nigeria is 1 in 13.

How will you rate your govt on healthcare?

Since 2015, our #StateOfStates has focused on states' fiscal sustainability. This year, we're adding a deep-dive into healthcare situation across states.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔   · Oct 19, 2019   ⌄

10 Things We Learnt About #2020BudgetNG

1. Can Nigeria double its revenue in two years? Total revenue projections of N8.15tn are overly optimistic.

FG is projecting N8.15trillion for the total revenue. As of June 2019, the revenue performance for #2019Budget is about 58% ...

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 21, 2019 ⌄

Do you think Pres. @MBuhari is really fighting corruption?

In 2020, the President plans to spend N4.06bn on maintenance of mechanical/electrical installations of the Villa.

Presidential air fleets alone will cost Nigeria N1.61bn.

10 Things You Must Know About #2020BudgetNG👇

Show this thread

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 21, 2019 ⌄

What does it mean to "Invest in People" with focus on Nigerians?

Our research work, which started since the @BillGates presentation to the Federal Executive Council, will be presented on October 23, 2019.

#StateofStates2019

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 21, 2019 ⌄

In the 2019 #StateofStates Document, we got the 2017 ACTUAL RECURRENT expenditure of 36 States through audited statements.

It is clear that 4 out of 5 states with the highest recurrent expenditure are from South-South.

What surprises you?
#StateofState2019

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 21, 2019 ⌄

In two days, we will issue a scorecard of 36 states Nigerian states, showing you exact facts and figures on how public resources are being abused.

Surely, we will side-by-side show you the progressive states.

Below is just tip of the iceberg.

#StatesOfStates2019 #AskQuestions

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ · Oct 22, 2019 ⌄

We need to protect citizens who are doing their best for a functional and accountable society.

Frontline leaders such as @fisayosoyombo deserve to be commended for the rigourous work.

We support the campaign to #Keepfisayosafe

💬 3   ⇄ 246   ♡ 404   ⤙

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 22, 2019 ⌄

Hello Nigerians,

We analyzed year-end 2017 financial statements of all 36 states (within the broader scope of #StateOfStates2019); some findings are scary.

Would you believe?

Delta State, for instance, spent N200bn+ on recurrent expenditure in 2017 alone.

How??

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 23, 2019 ⌄

Everything is set for the much anticipated 2019 State of States and Investing in People reports.

Please, follow #StateOfStates2019 for LIVE updates.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 23, 2019 ⌄

"We are not here to paint a doom and global picture of the Nigerian economy and human capital challenges, but we can't shy away from the fact that Nigeria's Public expenditure is very small relative to its economy."

— Yeu Man Lee, @WorldBank Senior Economist

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 23, 2019 ⌄

Representing governor @elrufai, Kaduna State Chief of Staff, @Dattijo, speaks on the economic transformation process in the state.

"If we take out oil producing states, Kaduna ranks 3rd."

#StateofStates2019

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 23, 2019 ⌄

SHOCKING!

• A total of 33 state govts cannot finance their recurrent expenditure without allocation from FG.

• Only 3 states could finance their recurrent expenditure independent of federal allocation.

Read full details of #StateOfStates2019 below:

yourbudgit.com/wp-content/upl…

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 24, 2019 ⌄

BREAKING: Lagos, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Others top BudgIT's 2019 Sustainability Index

Is your state financially sustainable at all? Check below!

#StateOfStates2019

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ · Oct 28, 2019 ⌄

#StateOfStates: The BudgIT Impact 👏

Last year, only 20 states had their budgets open. By February 2019, the number has increased to 32.

#Transparency #Accountability #BudgetForThePeople

💬 6   ↻ 50   ♡ 72   ⤳

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 29, 2019 ⌄

IRONIC!

Senate President @DrAhmadLawan says Nigeria is broke.

Whereas "broke Nigerians" have to beg @NGRSenate to kill its N5.5bn SUV plan. Months now, the SP is still mute on the matter.

To Nigerians, we're broke. Inside NASS, it's heaven on earth.🙇

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 29, 2019 ⌄

"Activists in Government: Does it work?"

This is a salient question our Director, @seunonigbinde will be answering at this month's #ThursdayTalks.

Don't miss his first hand reports on his time in Government.

#ThursdayTalks

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 29, 2019 ⌄
Why's the oil-rich ND region
underdeveloped?

We are LIVE tomorrow in Akwa Ibom at
#StartupSouth5—biggest regional
startup/entrepreneurship ecosystem
for SS/SE dev.—to engage young
actors on how to optimize civic-tech
advocacy for equitable, accountable
governance.

Join us!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 29, 2019 ⌄
The current balance of Nigeria's
Excess Crude Account is $324m.

💬 14   🔁 60   ♡ 59   ⤔

BudgIT Nigeria ✓   · Oct 31, 2019   ∨

Nigeria's 36 states spent a whopping N4.319 trillion to fund their operations in 2018.

Of this, our #StateOfStates2019 report reveals, recurrent spending gulped N2.67tr while N1.648tr was devoted to capital projects that are meant to benefit the masses.

How states blew N2.67tr in 2018,

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Oct 31, 2019 ∨

This is EXTORTION.

Our staff and hundreds of other passengers are asked by one Ibom Airport Development Company LTD for PASSENGER SERVICE CHARGE TICKET at Uyo airport in Akwa Ibom.

Hello @MrUdomEmmanuel, is this on your authority? It is wrong!

@FAAN_Official @DrJoeAbah

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Nov 1, 2019 ∨

When will this end?

Abandoned projects in Nigeria (those with existing structures alone) amount to over ₦12 trillion, according to the Chartered Institute of Project Management.

We tracked 916 projects in 2017/2018 budgets. Of these, 402 reads NOT YET STARTED.

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ ⟨ · Nov 1, 2019 ∨

Dear @NigeriaGov,

It's 60 days to @EITIorg deadline for setting up a Beneficial Ownership register.

Nigeria can't afford to miss this.

PS. Out of $1tr that illicitly leaves developing countries due to hidden company & property ownership, $8.3bn leaves Nigeria annually.

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ ⟨ · Nov 4, 2019 ∨

How to Reduce Nigeria's Out-of-School Children: The Success Story of Kebbi's Maga Primary School

Great story of @TrackaNG successful advocacy in Nigeria.

Please read and share. Thank you.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⓘ · Nov 4, 2019 ⌄

Nigeria isn't investing in its people. Save to conclude that the state deliberately impoverishes the people.

#AskQuestions

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⓘ · Nov 4, 2019 ⌄

LET'S TACKLE LG CORRUPTION

March to July 2019 alone, 774 Local Govts got N672bn directly from FG as monthly allocations.

Anything to show for it?🤷‍♂️

Today, we launch an SMS simple solution to follow LG monthly allocations –– #LGalert

How much did your LG receive last month?👇

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Nov 4, 2019 ⌄

Mr. President,

When will you assent to #PIGB? That's the real long overdue amendment.

~~Show this thread~~

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Nov 5, 2019 ⌄

Hello FG!

Let's tell you what Nigerians feel about tax.

Yeu Man Lee, @WorldBank senior economist, spoke the minds: "Most citizens don't believe they will get more from paying taxes." 👀

50% plus of Nigerians say NOT paying tax is understandable, found @officialNESG. #BetterTax

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ ⓘ · Nov 5, 2019 ⌄

Dear @MBuhari,

Massive corruption is still ongoing--even under your watch.

The Proceed of Crime Bill is a crucial legal instrument you need to succeed in the anti-corruption war.

With NASS 100% under @APCNigeria, will you (re)sponsor the revision of the POC bill?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Nov 5, 2019 ⌄

Dear Nigerians,

It's not every time Buhari Buhari [@MBuhari].

Your local government authority – the closest govt to you – sits on billions of federal/other allocations with little impact to show for it.

Will you join BudgIT in demanding accountability of LGs?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Nov 6, 2019 ⌄

Corruption is killing Naija!

$5bn Abacha loot, Diezani's $2.4bn, Dan Etete's $1.1bn, all laundered through companies in which govt officials had beneficial ownership.

To end this, @EITIorg set Dec 31, 2019, as the deadline for countries to set up #BeneficialOwnership register.

December 31st, 2019

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Nov 7, 2019 ∨

FLASH: Lagos Releases 2008 to 2019 "Less Detailed" Budgets

–

The @followlasg has released its budgets from 2008 to 2019 thanks to our endless #OpenLagos advocacy.

Great to see @jidesanwoolu's admin hinching towards #transparency.

What's in N873 BILLION #Lagos2019Budget? THREAD

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 11, 2019 ⌄

In just 7 days that we launched
#LGAlert, more than 500k Nigerians
(on Twitter alone) have started taking
actions to demand accountability from
LGs across the country.

Naija people don wise up!

How did LGs spend N672bn between
March to July & for whose benefit?

#AskQuestions

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 11, 2019 ⌄

WHAT IS YOUR LG NAME?

Some Nigerians don't know their LG's official name while some misspell it. Partly their fault but truly, politicians don't want you to.

To use #LGAlert (i.e. to how much your LG receives monthly from FG), here's how to spell the name.

1. NW
2. NE
3. NC

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 13, 2019 ⌄

That killer road?

The money to fix it might be in your LG's account, waiting to be laundered.

You MUST act NOW!

1. Use #LGAlert to know how much is allocated to your LG per month.

2. #AskQuestions

NOTE: We've updated (thread below) the LG List—now as it is on FG payroll.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 14, 2019 ⌄

Motion capture of the real story behind @tracka successful advocacy on Kebbi's Maga Primary School.

Please share wide and let's contribute to the reduction to over 13.2 million children out of school in Nigeria.

@luminategroup

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 19, 2019   ⌄

Nigeria's Bulging Population: A Ticking Timebomb?

With 100% population growth, Nigeria is estimated to become 3rd most populous country in the world by 2050.

ALARM: It's currently filled with 24m unemployed youths.

What then lies ahead of 2050?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 20, 2019   ⌄

"Nigeria is the worst place in West Africa to be a poor mother or poor child." –– @WorldBank

"Nigeria is the country where nearly 20% of all global maternal deaths happen." –– @WHO

We are calling on govts at all levels to expedite investments in health infrastructure.

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄
ON SECURITY

Nigeria spent more than N7tn on security between 2016 to 2019. In 2020, @NigeriaGov is to spend another N1.77tn.

To question the security condition of the country or officers' welfare or just concerned about corruption in the security sector, here's the breakdown.

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄
ALARMING

"What the report of BudgIT says, in effect, is that 32 (or about 89%) of the 36 states in Nigeria have gone beyond being stressed; they have become liabilities not just unto themselves but also to the people."

@GuardianNigeria on #StateOfStates

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 21, 2019   ⌄

In just 8 months, this partnership is shaking the foundations of Constituency Project corruption in Nigeria.

We remain committed to making sure that the commonwealth of Nigeria works for all Nigerians, not a few elite.

Thank you @ICPC_PE @TrackaNG.

#GetInvolved #AskQuestions

BudgIT Nigeria ✅ · Nov 21, 2019 ⌄

Cross River Numbers:

2017 Actual Revenue = N60bn
2018 Actual Revenue = N73bn.

However, Governor Ben Ayade
presents N1.1tn for 2020 Budget
termed as "Budget of OLYMPOTIC
MERISTEMASIS".

How will the state fund the budget?

💬 131   🔁 378   ♡ 501   ⌗

BudgIT Nigeria ✅ · Nov 22, 2019 ⌄
Our Director, @seunonigbinde, speaks
on Constituency Projects corruption
this morning on @sunrisedailynow.

Point: If Nigerians could get
@nassnigeria to kill the corruption on
its palm, it would embolden its guts
and constitutional power to tackle
Executive corruption. #OpenNASS

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 22, 2019 ⌄

On #ConstituencyProjects

@MaupeO: You hear lawmakers say
we are the closest to the people. We
know the need of our people.

@seunonigbinde: That is the problem.
I've heard people say these things, but
when you go back to the communities,
you will see there is a huge divergence.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 25, 2019 ⌄

Do you even know your LG
chairperson?

We've heard that LG chairmen abandon
their local base to enjoy the "big boy
life" around (like some state govs rule
from Abuja) 🤷‍♂️

We all have a duty to stop such
profligate, anti-masses life.

For October LG allocations, use
#LGalert NOW.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 26, 2019 ⌄
Dear Unemployed Youth,

As companies continue to bemoan the
unavailability of suitable candidates
amidst high unemployment rate,
Nigeria needs programs to re-skill and
right-skill graduates so they can stop
missing out on opportunities.

Here's some solutions. Read & RT.

#Thread

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 26, 2019 ⌄
This is a great step forward.

Nigeria cannot afford the bogus
packages for ex-Governors & Deputies.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 26, 2019 ⌄
Source:

How states spent N37.367bn on pensions of 47 ex-govs, deputies -...

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 28, 2019 ⌄

Again, BudgIT Asks Cross River to Halt SuperHighway Project

Gov @senatorbenayade insists on borrowing N648bn fund, wanting the state to repay the LOAN for 180 YEARS.

2018, Cross River's total REVENUE was N54.5bn––with a total DEBT of N225bn.

Stop NOW!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 28, 2019 ⌄

In 2018, FG borrowed N668.79bn from the domestic market. Every naira the government borrows is a stab on the chance of businesses to get a loan.

47% of loans advanced by Nigeria banks are taken up by a mere 100 people.

This is affecting both businesses and individuals.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Nov 29, 2019 ⌄

CAUTION: FG External Debt has grown from $7.34bn in June 2015 to $22.87bn as at June 2019, a 211% growth in 4 years.

President @MBuhari submits a plan for another $30bn. The details are yet to be public.

What are your thoughts on the rapid rise in FG external debt?

💬 195   ⟲ 640   ♡ 583   ⤜

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⦅⦆ · Dec 2, 2019 ⌄

In 9 months——Jan to Sept 2019—— Nigeria's 36 states have received N1.79 trillion FAAC allocation from FG.

After deductions (repayment for loans, bonds, etc.), the biggest earner is Delta State (N163bn) while Osun wallows on the bottom rung of the list (N16.9bn).

What benefits?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⓘ · Dec 3, 2019   ⌄

Hello @senatorbenayade,

We insist that your Superhighway
Project would plunge Cross River into
economic disaster.

How did you even trick the State
Assembly that, despite being the 5th
highest debtor, Cross River should take
N648bn loan payable for 180 years?

Disembark NOW!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⓘ · Dec 4, 2019   ⌄

The @HouseNGR has today increased
#2020Budget to N10.59tn––from the
N10.33tn submitted in October by
Pres. @MBuhari.

The N264bn increase will later be
harmonized with @NGRSenate
 increment.

For now, what are your thoughts on
debt servicing, capital expenditure &
other increase?

budgIT BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 4, 2019

The @HouseNGR has today increased #2020Budget to N10.59tn--from the N10.33tn submitted in October by Pres. @MBuhari.

The N264bn increase will later be harmonized with @NGRSenate increment.

For now, what are your thoughts on debt servicing, capital expenditure & other increase?

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Dec 5, 2019 ⌄

BREAKING: NASS Passes N10.59tn #2020Budget

The National Assembly has passed the 2020 Appropriation Bill into law.

NASS budget is increased with N3bn - from proposed N125bn to N128bn, as passed.

With this, Nigeria returns back to January-December budget cycle.

Details later.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ((· Dec 5, 2019 ⌄

This is highly welcome. It always seems impossible but with consistent effort, the civil society can surely save Nigeria from corrupt leaders.

This is highly welcome!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⓘ · Dec 6, 2019 ⌄

We condemn the unlawful re-arrest of @YeleSowore by the Nigerian government barely 15 hours after he was released on bail yesterday.

To see on national TV how operatives of the Dpt. of State Security Service invaded a courtroom is an insult on democracy.

@MBuhari @ProfOsinbajo

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ ⓘ · Dec 9, 2019 ⌄

INCREDIBLE: FG launches the Open Treasury portal. A BIG win for TRANSPARENCY today.

OAGF will publish payments of at least N10m for MDAs, beneficiary, purpose and amount involved.

We will monitor compliance.
@NigeriaGov @EiENigeria
🌹❤️🙏😄💪🏾

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 12, 2019   ∨
Dear Gov,

In the spirit of #OpenLagos, we'd really appreciate if we can get the list of the 160 roads. @TrackaNG will conduct independent monitoring of all the projects with updates on where, when and status.

Let's do this for #GreaterLagos.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 14, 2019   ∨
You are invited to the @TrackaNG launch of our 2018 Constituency Projects Report on Wednesday - December 18, 2019.

This is the third series of our idea to fight for communities left behind.

#GetInvolved.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 17, 2019 ⌄

"A breakdown of the inserted projects — which will cost the country ₦264 billion.....that contrary to Mr Barau's justification, country is poised to spend more on vague, frivolous, self-enrichment projects smuggled into the budget by federal lawmakers"
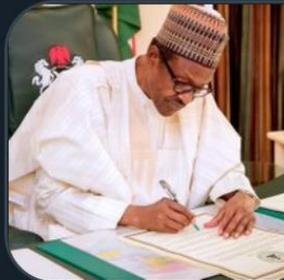
EXCLUSIVE: Beware Buhari. 2020 Budget ...

🔗 premiumtimesng.c...

💬 14   🔁 114   ♡ 77   ⌁

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 17, 2019

According to reports, here is the #2020budget signed by Mr. President. A sum of N10.59tn with a major increase in capital expenditure.

#AskQuestions

2020 APPROVED BUDGET
As signed by the President

10.33tn   10.59tn
(NGN)

Proposed by President Buhari ● ● Signed to Law by president Buhari

4.8tn	Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure	Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure	4.84tn
2.45tn	Debt Servicing	Debt Servicing	2.72tn
2.14tn	Capital Expenditure	Capital Expenditure	2.46tn
556.7bn Statutory Transfer		560.4bn Statutory Transfer	

💬 17   🔁 100   ♡ 96   ⤻

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 18, 2019   ⌄

We are set for @TrackaNG 2018 Federal Constituency Projects Tracking Report.

This report offers the most comprehensive update on FG's N100bn 2018 zonal intervention projects.

Of 1,497 projects, how many are executed or abandoned?

Join us!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 18, 2019 ⌄

DOWNLOAD: @TrackaNG 2018 Constituency Projects Report.

SUMMARY
Total Projects Tracked: 1,497
Completed: 475
Ongoing: 144
Yet to start: 536
Abandoned: 42
Unspecified Locations: 224

Our FULL report will be published in January.

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 23, 2019 ⌄

Here is a summary of the 2020 Appropriation Act. A Budget size (Expenditure) of N10.59tn & revenue target of N8.42tn.

Debt servicing is climbing fast & our deficit keeps expanding. N2.47tn is budgeted for CAPITAL EXPENDITURE. #AskQuestions

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 30, 2019 ⌄
On @nassnigeria N37bn #NASSRenovation, Hon. @bamidelesalamBS @HonLegor & @akinalabi have said #NoRenovation.

"Alabi revealed that the budget was not debated nor discussed at the National Assembly." #BudgetPadding

Do you support these honourables?

RT.
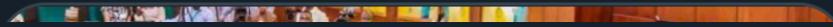
BudgIT Nigeria ✔ · Dec 30, 2019 ⌄
As 2019 comes to a close, we bring you the story of Akpogu community The robust engagement of our @TrackaNG team delivered results.

@luminategroup #GetInvolved

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @Bu... · Jan 2 ⌄

The other time it was Senators Godfrey Utazi and Akpabio, it's Hon. Mayowa this time. There's no limit to what we can achieve when we #GetInvolved.

Go! Go! Tracka!

BudgIT Nigeria ✔ @Bu... · Jan 2 ⌄

Top Allocations in FG #2020Budget:

Defence: N975.77bn
Education: N706.8bn
Health: N463.74bn
Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management: N445.18bn
Police Affairs: N410.53bn
Works & Housing: N343.55bn
Interior: N253.49bn

Follow our Analysis sheet here:

BudgIT Nigeria ✓ @Bu... · Jan 6 ⌄

Brent oil price (Nigeria's reference price for oil revenue) is on the rise, reaches $69.58 per barrel. Oil benchmark price in #2020Budget is $57 per barrel.

If this is sustained, expect increase in Excess Crude Account, approximately at $325m.

TrackaNG @Trac... · Oct 11, 2019   ⌄

Dear Gov @elrufai, we appreciate your prompt response. A better Nigeria is possible when the budget is tracked and delivered to citizens. Tracka ensures that the budget works for people. #AWorldOfPositiveReturns

> **Nasir Ahma...** ✔ · Oct 11, 2019
>
> Dear @TrackaNG. We appreciate your efforts. Your message has been re-directed to the Chairman Lere Local Govt who is responsible

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 30, 2019
We tracked the supply of 2058 students and 386 teachers furniture in selected schools, Ika North- East. During our visit to Aliza primary school, we discovered that furniture is yet to be supplied. #AccessNg

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019
N40m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of sport Pavillion for Youth in Ileoluji/Okeigbo (Phase one) Ondo State. Despite the 70% funds released we report this project as ABANDONED. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019
Thank you Sen @YAYIAdeola for the update.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 29, 2019
65k followers already. Thank you all for following @TrackaNG, We appreciate your support from all our followers and Nigerians as a whole. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report work completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Nomadic community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

We tracked the N30m allocated in the 2018 budget for the provision of Solar street lights in various farm settlement, Ogbaru LGA, Anambra State. We confirmed that the light has been installed in Atani community, Ogbaru. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 29, 2019

N40m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the Efulu Ugwuoba rural road rehabilitation project, Oji River LGA, Enugu State. We tracked and report that the contractor ONLY graded the road and the project remains ABANDONED. #GetInvolved
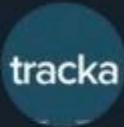
TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 2

Hon Mayowa Akinfolarin representing Odigbo, Oke-Igbo, Ile-Oluji Constituency, Ondo State.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

What is the method of selection? Who are the beneficiaries?

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 30, 2019

We tracked the supply of 2058 students and 386 teachers furniture in selected schools, Ika North- East. During our visit to Ekei primary school, Owa Ekei. We confirmed that the furniture has been delivered to the school. #AccessNg

💬   🔁 18   ♡ 25   ⌥

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 23, 2019

N27m was allocated in 2018 budget for the completion of renovation and furnishings of 5no two classroom block in Kajuru federal constituency Kaduna state. We tracked and report

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 24, 2019

Thank you for the prompt response. We will appreciate if this request is given due consideration. @kabir2k3

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 26, 2019

In 2017 and 2018 budget, N9m and N5m was allocated for the construction of a lock up shops at Abadina community, University of Ibadan, Oyo state Despite the N14m budgeted for this project, we report that the project is ONGOING at a SLOW PACE. @seyiamakinde #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report work completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Garin Bako Awak community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report work completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Garin Bako Awak community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Need assessment is key.Empowerment provisions are short-term provisions that meet immediate individual needs but without any long-term impact on the community

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Need assessment is key.Empowerment provisions are short-term provisions that meet immediate individual needs but without any long-term impact on the community

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 23, 2019
Dear @MrUdomEmmanuel, this is the dilapidated state of staff quarters in Ibaka PHC in Mbo LGA, Akwa Ibom. We tracked and observed the following

Needs: Renovation and Furnishing

We URGE you to expedite actions and direct the relevant authorities to renovate the staff quarters.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 30, 2019
We tracked the supply of 2058 students and 386 teachers furniture in selected schools, Ika North- East. During our visit to Eghoma primary school, Owa Alero. We confirmed that the furniture has been delivered to the school. #AccessNg
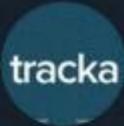
TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 3, 2019

Our team held a town hall meeting with residents of Ojavun community, Owan East LGA in Edo State. We enlightened indigenes on 2019 FG constituency projects in their community. We are taking civic education to the grassroots. Public funds must work for the people. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 2, 2019

BREAKING: Recall the ABANDONED N154m dialysis center in Auchi Edo State, Our advocacy movements through Tracka and persistent calls the dialysis center has been completed awaiting commissioning. #AWorldOfPositiveReturns

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 29, 2019

N30m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the rural access road in Ogor (Ikem), Isi-Uzo LGA, Enugu State. We tracked and report the was POORLY constructed, and the project remains ABANDONED. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 24, 2019 ⌄

Can you also avail @TrackaNG with the list of the 3500 schools to be rehabilitated or expanded across the state? Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 3, 2019 ⌄

N10m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of multi-purpose hall at Ayanran in Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency. We tracked and report the project as completed. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 25, 2019 ⌄

Our team held a sensitisation meeting with residents of the Yan hoho ward community, katsina State. We enlightened them on the 2019 FG constituency projects in their community. We are taking civic education to the grassroots.Public funds must work for the people. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 26, 2019

N6m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the renovation and provision of classroom furniture central pry sch, Lapai in Niger State. We tracked and report no furniture supplied. When Residents demanded for furniture the contractor collected the key and locked up the building.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

N80m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of Abbatoir at Obo Annang market-Akwa Ibom North-West Senatorial District, Akwa Ibom State. We confirmed work is ongoing at a very SLOW PACE. #GetInvolved @Senator_Akpabio @MBuhari @MrUdomEmmanuel
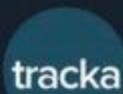
TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report work completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Willi community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report work completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Baule Tula community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Jonathan coker road, Ifako Ijaiye LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work completed.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@LSPWC_Official @Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 30, 2019

We tracked the supply of 2058 students and 386 teachers furniture in selected schools, Ika North- East. During our visit to Ogbaigbena primary school, Owa Oyibu Community. We confirmed that the furniture has been delivered to the school. #AccessNg

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen Christopher E, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N220m projects nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 24, 2019

Dear Gov @GovernorMasari, this is Rafin Barwa Dan Mangwaro community,Kahutu ward, Danja LGA, Katsina State.Where over 480 pupils learn in an overcrowded condition. We will appreciate if you assist the community to construct a standard building for learning. #GetInvolved @MBuhari

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 4, 2019

N10m was allocated in the 2018 budget for a block of two classrooms and headmaster office at Elafe primary school, Ugboshi-Afe in Akoko Edo Federal Constituency. We tracked and report this project as an ABANDONED project by the contractor. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 4, 2019

Dear Gov @elrufai, we tracked the N81m allocated for the construction of a block of 12 classrooms at Government Junior Secondary School Doga in Kaduna North LGA, Kaduna State and OBSERVED that work is ongoing at a SLOW PACE.
#GetInvolved #AccessNg

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 29, 2019

Dear @dabiodunMFR, this is the deplorable state of Agbado crossing and Agbado Oke Aro road, Ifo LGA, Ogun State. It's now a death trap where cases of lengthy traffic in several hours of agony.We urge you to expedite actions on the repair of the road.
#AccessNG #CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra… · Dec 26, 2019 ˅

Thank you all for being part of our success in 2019. Lets do more in 2020. A better Nigeria is possible when the budget is tracked and delivered to the citizens. #AskQuestions #GetInvolved @luminategroup

TrackaNG @Track… · Dec 4, 2019 ˅

We tracked the renovation of Ekpese college Lampese in Akoko Edo LGA, Edo state. We confirmed the renovation as completed. This renovation was captured in the 2018 budget for N13m, the school was RENOVATED by @EdoStateGovt, assisted by the International Development Association
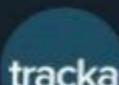
TrackaNG @Tra… · Nov 29, 2019 ˅

N50m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the Ogbeke Nike rural road rehabilitation project, Enugu East LGA, Enugu State. We tracked and report this project as ABANDONED by the CONTRACTOR. #GetInvolved
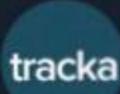
TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 7

N10m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of a Multi purposes town hall at Akuku in Akoko Edo LGA, Edo State. We tracked and confirmed this project has been ABANDONED since 3months ago. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 31, 2019

Thank you all for being part of our success in 2019. Lets do more in 2020. A better Nigeria is possible w the budget is tracked and delivered the citizens. #AskQuestions #GetInvolved @luminategroup

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 25, 2019

HURRAY!

From KAFFE where pregnant women received treatment under-tree to MAGA where pupils haplessly learn on the bare floor to AKPOGU, a community that'd suffered water problem for nearly 100 years.

This is how we bring joy to marginalized communities.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 26, 2019

Dear Gov @MrUdomEmmanuel, this is the dilapidated state of Ukana Ikot Esidomo community road, Essien Udim LGA, Akwa IbomState. It's now a death trap to road users. We urge you to expedite actions on the repair of the road. #GetInvolved @Senator_Akpabio @NDDCOfficialNGR

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 24, 2019

Good Morning, Gov @GovernorMasari, this the dilapidated state of the laboratory at Govt day pilot Sec School, Bakori, Katsina State, after the fire outbreak in 2014.The laboratory remains abandoned.

Needs: Renovation

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do needful

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of
Agbe Road, Abule Egba, Ifako Ijaiye
LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work is yet to
commence

Where do you live? Send pictures of
bad roads.

@LSPWC_Official @Mr_JAGs
@jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 21, 2019

N50m was allocated in the 2018
budget for the supply of motorcycle in
Edo Central Senatorial District, Edo
State. Today, the motorcycles has been
distributed to the selected
beneficiaries in the constituents.
#GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 5, 2019

N4m was allocated for the construction of 1 block of 2 classrooms at Lukoro in Edati LGA, Lavun in Mokwa Fed Cons,Niger state. Despite the 70% funds released for projects in the 2018 budget. Work is ONGOING at a slow pace. Pupils sit on the bare floor to learn in the OLD building

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 19, 2019

FLASH: 2018 Federal Constituency Project Tracking Report

Out of 1,497 2018 Zonal Intervention Projects...

• Only 475 projects were completed.

• 144 are ongoing.

• 536 are yet to commence.

• 42 are abandoned.

• 224 had unspecified locations.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 21, 2019

N50m was allocated in the 2018 budget for vocational training for make-up artists for youth and Women motorcycle in Edo Central Senatorial District, Edo State. Today, the empowerment items has been distributed to the selected beneficiaries in the constituents. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen Ewhrudjakpor L, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N220m projects nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 3, 2019

N10m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of multi-purpose hall at Ayanran in Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency. We tracked and report the project as completed. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 27, 2019

Dear Gov @GovernorMasari, this is dilapidated state of Bagudu primary school, Kufur LGA, Katsina State. This school is located in @GovernorMasari ward. The only school in the community

Needs: Total Renovation

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 25, 2019

Our team held a sensitisation meeting with residents of the Ohita community,Ogbaru LGA, Anambra State. We enlightened them on the 2019 FG constituency projects in their community. We are taking civic education to the grassroots.Public funds must work for the people. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Micheal Adekoya Street, Ilupeju, Mushin LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report the road was POORLY CONSTRUCTED.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 5, 2019

Dear Gov @AABagudu, this is the dilapidated state of Ambursa PHC in Bernin LGA, Kebbi state, among the 225 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated. We tracked the health facility, report completed and in use by the community
#225PHCsInKebbiState
#CommunityChampions
@KBStGovt
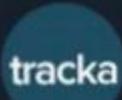
TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 19, 2019

Dear Gov @AABagudu, this is the dilapidated state of Ambursa PHC in Bernin LGA, Kebbi state, among the 225 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated. We tracked the health facility, and report that work has not started. #225PHCsInKebbiState #CommunityChampions @KBStGovt

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 5, 2019

Dear Gov @NigerStateNG, we tracked IBB Pry Sch, Chanchaga LGA, Niger State, despite the newly constructed a block of 2 classrooms pupils still sit on the bare floor to learn
Needs: Furniture

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.#CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 29, 2019

N20m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of Orie Agu-Amokwe-Udi link road to Ebia and Amudamu, Ikem, Isi-Uzo LGA, Enugu State. We tracked and report that the drainage and road has been graded. #GetInvolved
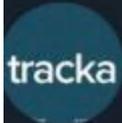
TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen @SenatorOba, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N202m projects you nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 2

FLASH: Hon Mayowa Akinfolarin bows to pressure from @TrackaNG and @ICPC_PE as he has distributed the N20m provision allocated in the 2018 budget for empowerment items to some selected beneficiaries in the constituents. Public funds must work for the people. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019   ∨

Here is a repair of a failed section of Industrial Avenue by Polaris Bank, Ilupeju, Mushin LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work completed.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 19, 2019   ∨

Dear @GovernorInuwa, this is the dilapidated state of Government Comprehensive school in Dadin Kowa in
Gombe State.

Needs: Renovation of classrooms, Hotels and Furniture

We urge you to expedite actions to direct the responsible authorities to do the needful. #FixPublicSchools

193

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 3, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Ilupeju byPass, Mushin LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work is Ongoing

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@LSPWC_Official @Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu
#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report that work has been completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Wange Vocational school, Tula community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 3, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Morroco road, shomolu LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work completed.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@LSPWC_Official @Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu
#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 19, 2019

Dear @GovernorMasari, this is the dilapidated state of Government Senior and Junior Secondary school in Rimi LGA, Katsina State.
Needs: Total renovation and Furniture
We urge you to expedite actions to direct the responsible authorities to do the needful. #FixPublicSchools

TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 4

N50m was allocated in the 2019 budget for empowerment of youth and women in poultry production in Edo Central Senatorial district, Edo state.We tracked and confirm that 60 constituents were trained and provided with a grant of N200,000 each out of the 30% funds released by the FG

TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 7

N48m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of a blk of 3 classrooms each at St Paul's Ijokun Sagamu, United Pry Sch, Ipara Remo and Obafemi Awolowo memorial sch, Ikenne. Sagamu, Ikenne, Remo, Ogun state. We found out that only 2 out of the 3 was constructed 1/2

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019 ⌄

Here is a repair of a failed section of Abiodun Kuye road by Olayiwola junction, Ifako Ijaiye LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work completed.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 23, 2019 ⌄

Our team held a town hall meeting with residents of the Onda community in Nasarawa LGA, Nasarawa State. We enlightened them on the 2019 FG constituency projects in their community. We are taking civic education to the grassroots.Public funds must work for the people.
#GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 4, 2019

Dear Gov @elrufai, we tracked the N81m allocated for the construction of a block of 12 classrooms at Government Junior Secondary Sch Richifa street Tudun Wada in Kaduna South LGA, Kaduna State and OBSERVED that work HAS STOPPED at the ongoing project site. #GetInvolved #AccessNg

⟲ TrackaNG Retweeted
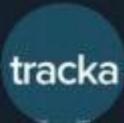
TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 19, 2019

Dear @GovernorInuwa, this is the dilapidated state of Government Comprehensive school in Dadin Kowa in
Gombe State.

Needs: Renovation of classrooms, Hotels and Furniture

We urge you to expedite actions to direct the responsible authorities to do the needful. #FixPublicSchools

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen Evelyn Akon, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N172m projects nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Abraham Afolabi street, Ifako Ijaiye LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work is yet to commence

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@LSPWC_Official @Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads
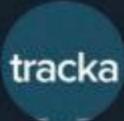
TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 25, 2019

Dear Sen @SenUcheEkwunife, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N266m projects nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

Our team held a town hall meeting with residents of the Eleyele community in Oriire LGA, Oyo State. We enlightened them on the 2019 FG constituency projects in their community. We are taking civic education to the grassroots. Public funds must work for the people. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Ekoro road, inward Abule Egba by Agbelekale Junction, Alimosho LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report only Granite was used.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 29, 2019

N30m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the completion of Abia-Orie Agu-Amokwe-Udi erosion control project, Udi LGA, Enugu State. We tracked and report that work STOPPED since April 2019 as the project remains ABANDONED.
#GetInvolved @iamekweremadu

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 21, 2019

Dear Nigerians,
Are you aware of the N100 billion budgeted by NASS to provide projects in the 2019 ZIP? FG has released 30% funds for the implementation of projects.Engage your Representatives now to demand implementation status of projects #AskQuestions @DrAhmadLawan @femigbaja

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen @YAYIAdeola, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N222m projects you nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 7

at Ijokun Sagamu and Ipara Remo. The building remained under lock and key for over six months as no provision was made for furniture, while the third school was RENOVATION in Ikenne instead of CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONE. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 29, 2019

N92.5m and N30m was allocated in the 2019 budget to supply grinding & Sewing machines in Malumfashi/Kafur Federal constituency, Katsina state. We confirmed from @kabir2k3 that only 41 people benefited from the empowerment items, despite the 30% funds released in the 2019 budget.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 25, 2019

Dear Sen @stellaoduah, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N315m projects you nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen Douye Diri, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N153m projects you nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 23, 2019

N70m was allocated in the 2019 budget for the supply of HP laptops to youth in Surulere 1 federal constituency, Lagos state. Yesterday, we confirmed the items were distributed to the beneficiaries as END OF YEAR GIFT to some selected MEMBERS of the constituents. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen Degi Eremienyo, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N220m projects nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 28, 2019

Dear Sen @oluremitinubu,we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N220m projects you nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 23, 2019

We tracked the presentation of empowerment items allocated in the 2019 budget in Surulere 1 federal constituency,Lagos State, yesterday and we confirmed the items were distributed to the beneficiaries as END OF YEAR GIFT to some selected MEMBERS in the constituents. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 4

N50m was allocated in the 2019 budget for entrepreneurship development programme for youth in Owan East and West Federal Constituency, Edo state. We tracked and confirm 500 constituents were trained and given N30,000 as grant out of the 30% funds released by FG . #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 7, 2019

Here is a repair of a failed section of Ogba road around Mobil roundabout section, Ifako Ijaiye LGA, Lagos State.

We tracked and report work completed.

Where do you live? Send pictures of bad roads.

@Mr_JAGs @jidesanwoolu

#GetInvolved #FixLagosRoads #FixPothholes

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 30, 2019
We tracked the supply of 2058 students and 386 teachers furniture in selected schools, Ika North- East. During our visit to Owa Model Secondary school, Owa. We confirmed that the furniture has been delivered to the school. #AccessNg

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 25, 2019
Dear @GovUmarGanduje, we tracked the Dawakin Kudu Vocational and Rehabilitation Centre, Kano State.

We observed the following.

Needs: Renovation, Mattresses, and teaching Equipment

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the needful. #RenovatePWDschools

TrackaNG @TrackaNG · Jan 4

N50m was allocated in the 2019 budget for training and empowerment youth and Women in Owan East and West Federal Constituency, Edo state. We tracked and confirm 500 constituents were trained and given N30,000 as grant out of the 30% funds released by FG . #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 27, 2019

Dear Gov @GovernorInuwa, the dilapidated state of Govt Sci Sec School, Lakanje, Kaltungo LGA, Gombe State where students sleep in an unsafe hotel.

Needs: Total Renovation and Mattresses.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.#CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 28, 2019

Update: We tracked and report work completed for the construction of a block of 2 classrooms at Jalingo Kamo community in Kaltungo LGA, among the 15 units to be constructed in Kaltungo/Shongom Federal constituency, Gombe state.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 4, 2019

N10m was allocated in the 2018 budget for IPC solar-powered water borehole at Ojah in Akoko Edo Federal Constituency, Edo state. We tracked and report that the project has been completed and in use by the community. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 30, 2019

We tracked the supply of 2058 students and 386 teachers furniture in selected schools, Ika North- East. During our visit to Owa Model primary school, Boji Boji Owa. We confirmed that the furniture has been delivered to the school. But Labelled as DONATION #AccessNg

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 21, 2019

N50m was allocated in the 2018 budget for training and empowerment of youth and Women in Edo Central Senatorial District, Edo State. Today, the empowerment items has been distributed to the selected beneficiaries in the constituents. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 29, 2019

N40m was allocated in the 2019 budget for empowerment training & skill acquisition for women and youth in Malumfashi/Kafur Federal constituency, Katsina state. We confirmed that only 41 participants trained and was given a token sum of N16,000 upon completion of the program.

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 4, 2019

Dualisation of Suleja-Minna Road in 3 Niger State Phase II (km 40+000-km101+000) for N3.5Billion. We report work ONGOING at A SLOW PACE around Izom Town section. #GetInvolved @tundefashola @MBuhari @NigerStateNG #N100BillionSukukBondProject

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 25, 2019

Dear Sen @Dr_IfeanyiUbah, we are aware of the 30% Funds released by FG for 2019 ZIPs. What is the update on the N250m projects nominated in your constituents? We will appreciate you follow up with the relevant agencies to ensure execution. Public funds must work for the people.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Dec 19, 2019

Dear Gov @kfayemi, this is the dilapidated state of Ojewunmi community Nur/Pry School in Oloje Ekiti, Oye LGA, Ekiti State.

Needs: Total renovation and Furniture

We urge you to expedite actions to direct the responsible authorities to do the needful. #FixPublicSchools

TrackaNG @Track... · Dec 5, 2019

We tracked the renovation of Ekpese college Lampese in Akoko Edo LGA, Edo state. The renovation has been completed. This project was captured in the FG 2018 CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS for N13m, The RENOVATION was done BY the @EdoStateGovt, assisted by IDA. Where is the N13m from FG?

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

N14m was allocated in 2018 budget for the construction of New Nurse quarters at Government health Centre Abba, Njikoka LGA, Federal Constituency, Anambra State. We report the project as completed and surrounded by fast-growing weed. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

Dear Gov @GboyegaOyetola, this is Ido-Osun PHC in Egbedore LGA, Osun state is one of the 332 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated in Osun State.
We tracked and report that the project is ABANDONED.
#332PHCsInOsunState
@luminategroup @eniyan_olorun
 #CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

Our team held a sensitazation exercise with members of Latter Rain Assembly in Ikeja, Lagos State. We enlightened them on the 2019 FG constituency projects in their community. We are taking civic education to the grassroots. Public funds must work for the people. #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

Dear @GovernorObaseki, we tracked the Special Education Primary School of the Deaf(Handicapped) Afuze Owan East, We observed the following.

Needs: Fix the Bad roof, Doors,Windows and Security

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the needful. #RenovatePWDschools
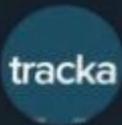
TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 21, 2019

Dear Edo North Citizens,
Do you know Senator Francis Alimikhena nominated N380m constituency projects in the 2017 budget? And a total sum of N192,143,875.00 has been released for the project's execution. The beneficiaries of these training remain unknown. #AskQuestions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

Dear @GovernorObaseki, we tracked the School of Deaf and Dumb in Benin City, Edo State. We observed the following.

Needs: Furniture

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the needful. #RenovatePWDschools

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 22, 2019

Needs: Fix the Bad roof, Doors,Windows and Security

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the needful. #RenovatePWDschools

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 21, 2019

SGF & CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS SCAM

From N12 BILLION in 2018, the SGF Office gets N16.39BN in 2019.

So much fake progs.

Eg., over 1.5BN is budgeted for REFUGEE EMPOWERMENT.

Since 2017, FOI requests to seek prog/beneficiary specification are buried under the carpet. No response!

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 21, 2019

TRACKA: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

✓ Actively present in 26 states; 586 LGAs.

✓ Tracked over 15,859 projects in over 9,006 communities.

✓ Organised 7,612 town hall meetings.

Public funds must work for the people.
#GetInvolved #AskQuestions
@luminategroup

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 21, 2019

CONSTITUENCY PROJECT: HOW GOVT WASTES PUBLIC FUND

• N100 BILLION released for 2018 const. projects

• 61BN allocated for FAKE empowerment progs

• Only 40% of overall projects executed (June 2019)

• Another N100BN now approved for 2019

CC
@MBuhari
@DrAhmadLawan @femigbaja

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 21, 2019 ⌄

Dear Nigerians,
Zonal Intervention Projects
(Constituency Projects) is corruption
funnel for both @NigeriaGov
@nassnigeria,
we insist.
The office of @MBuhari's SGF will
implement constituency projects
valued at N16.40bn in
#2019Budget. @DrAhmadLawan

Details? Scanty!

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

PROGRESS!

President @MBuhari finally agrees with
us that the N100bn annual Zonal
Intervention Projects (Constituency
Projects) is largely an institutionalized
corruption.

Big thanks to @ICPC_PE for partnering
us to unearth the massive corruption in
the scheme.

#GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 21, 2019

This is the breakdown of allocation per state.

Which state gets the highest?

With these BILLIONS, why are Nigerians getting poorer?

Healthcare ✗

Education ✗

Job ✗

What's
@AsoRock

@nassnigeria

& MDAs using ZIP fund for?

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄
Dear Gov @NigerStateNG, this the dilapidated state of Gbamache Primary School, Edati LGA, where pupils sit on the bare floor and under the tree to learn

Needs: Total Renovation and furniture.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.#CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄
Dear Gov @engraasule1, this the dilapidated state of GSS, Adogi, Lafia LGA, Nasarawa State, where the students learn in an unpleasant condiction.

Needs: Total Renovation, furniture and toilet.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL Immediately

Dear Gov @GboyegaOyetola, this is Faaji PHC in Odo Otin LGA, Osun state is one of the 332 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated in Osun State.
We tracked and report that work is yet to commence.
#332PHCsInOsunState
@GatesAfrica @luminategroup
@eniyan_olorun
#CommunityChampions

Dear Gov @NigerStateNG, this the dilapidated state of Govt Girls Science School, Agaie, where students sleep in an unsafe hotel.

Needs: Total Renovation and Mattresses.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.#CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

Dear Gov @AABagudu, this is the dilapidated state of Kola PHC in Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi state, among the 225 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated.We tracked the health facility and observed that work is yet to commence #225PHCsInKebbiState #CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

UPDATE: We report MASSIVE construction work ongoing at the failed section of Miriri bridge along Abuja road in Lere LGA, Kaduna state. We are using Tracka to follow up projects implementation in Nigeria .#CommunityChampions #GetInvolved

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

Thank you for the prompt action taking on the rehabilitation of Are primary school.

> **Mannir Yakubu...** · Nov 20, 2019
>
> Replying to @TrackaNG @GovernorMasari and 9 others
>
> We are looking forward to the feature of our dear State.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

UPDATE: We report MASSIVE construction work ongoing at the failed section of Miriri bridge along Abuja road in Lere LGA, Kaduna state. We are using Tracka to follow up projects implementation in Nigeria .#CommunityChampions #GetInvolved
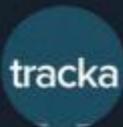
TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

Thank you for the prompt action taking on the rehabilitation of Are primary school.

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 19, 2019 ⌄

Breaking: This is the dilapidated Are Primary School in Rimi LGA, Katsina State. Through our advocacy movement and persistent calls to the responsible authorities the rehabilitation work is ONGOING. Tracka make sure the budget work for the people. #GetInvolved @QSMannirYakubu

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

Dear Gov @AABagudu, this is the dilapidated state of Tudun Wada PHC in Argungu LGA, Kebbi state, among the 225 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated. We tracked the health facility and observed that work is yet to commence #225PHCsInKebbiState #CommunityChampions @KBStGovt

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019

Dear Gov @engraasule1, this the dilapidated state of GSS, Adogi, Lafia LGA, Nasarawa State, where the students learn in an unpleasant condiction.

Needs: Total Renovation, furniture and toilet.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL Immediately

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019

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#332PHCsInOsunState
@GatesAfrica @luminategroup
@eniyan_olorun
#CommunityChampions

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

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Needs: Total Renovation and furniture.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.#CommunityChampions

⭍ TrackaNG Retweeted

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 19, 2019 ⌄

UPDATE: Dualisation of Suleja-Minna Road in 3 Niger State Phase II (km 40+000- km101+000) for N3.5Billion. We report construction work ONGOING along Izom to Suleja-Minna road section. @tundefashola @MBuhari @luminategroup @ProfOsinbajo @NigerStateNG

#N100BillionSukukBondProject
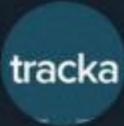
TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 20, 2019

Dear Gov @NigerStateNG, this the dilapidated state of Govt Girls Science School, Agaie, where students sleep in an unsafe hotel.

Needs: Total Renovation and Mattresses.

We URGE you to direct the relevant authorities to do the NEEDFUL.#CommunityChampions

⊔ TrackaNG Retweeted

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 19, 2019

N8m was allocated in the 2018 budget for the construction of a block of four classrooms with headmaster's in Umuofor-Okija, Ihiala Federal Constituency. We tracked and report that the project has been ABANDONED and surrounded by fast-growing weed. #GetInvolved @naijama
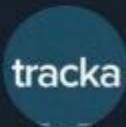
TrackaNG @Tra… · Nov 18, 2019 ⌄

Tracka will appreciate if Gov @engraasule1 expedite actions on the renovation and furnishing of GJSS Adogi as soon as possible. Thanks @macfound @naijama @seunonigbinde @Eduplana_NG
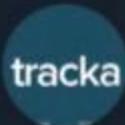
TrackaNG @Tra… · Nov 20, 2019 ⌄

Dear Gov @AABagudu, this is the dilapidated state of Kola PHC in Birnin Kebbi LGA, Kebbi state, among the 225 healthcare centres to be rehabilitated.We tracked the health facility and observed that work is yet to commence #225PHCsInKebbiState #CommunityChampions @KBStGovt

TrackaNG Retweeted

TrackaNG @Tra... · Nov 19, 2019

We tracked the N50m allocated in the 2018 budget for the supply and installation of 500KVA and 300KVA transformers at various locations in Ogbaru Federal Const, Anambra State. We confirmed work Ongoing at Ohita community in Ogbaru. The project site has been submerged by flood.