



## POLITICAL REPORTING PROJECT

### FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

**GRANTEE:** Enugu Literary Society & WABMA®

**GRANT YEAR:** 2022

**FEDERAL GRANT NUMBER:** SN150022GR0018

**EXPIRATION DATE:** Aug. 2023

**GRANT PROGRAM:** Political Reporting Project

**DATES COVERED BY THIS REPORT:** Sep. 2022 – Sep. 2023

#### 1. PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The Political Reporting Project (PRP) proposed to build the capacity of 150 Nigerian political reporters, editors, photojournalists, and videographers, in the 17 southern states of Nigeria, who would cover the 2023 election cycle. Grouped into four zones, namely:

- South West zone (Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Ekiti),
- South South zone (Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta and Edo),
- South East zone (Enugu, Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo and Abia), and,
- Lagos zone,

the project would, additionally, set up and managed an election coverage reporting website dedicated to political journalism content produced by all participants (Reporters, editors, photojournalists, cameramen) before, during and after the elections. Among others, the website was to include content

such as fact checked political stories, photos, videos and other multimedia materials produced during the project.

**Project Components:** We proposed to organize two separate workshops as part of the implementation of this grant. The first component is a series of political journalism workshops in the selected zones for a total of 100 reporters and political editors from radio, TV, newspapers, and online media. The second part is a series of workshops for a total of 50 photojournalists and video journalists on innovative visual story telling during the electoral cycle.

## 2. PROJECT SCHEDULE

### i. Phase 1 Sept. 2022 – Oct. 2022

- a. Choose participants, instructors, and US expert media trainer in liaison with US Consulate Lagos.
- b. Choose and reserve regional training locations (American Corners) in liaison with US Consulate Lagos.
- c. Develop content and harmonize with US media trainer.
- d. Liaise with chosen participants and instructors for confirmation of participation.
- e. Complete all participants' and instructors' logistical arrangements (hotel bookings, feeding, transportation, etc.).

### ii. Phase 2: Nov. 2022 – Dec. 2022:

- a. Organize 4 regional residential workshops from November – December 2022 with 150 participants in the four regions (Lagos, SW, SE, SS).

### iii. Phase 3: Jan. - Apr. 2023

- a. Build or expand fact check website and community forum online: integrate participants into the active website forum for sharing of content such as fact checked political stories, photos, videos and other multimedia materials produced during the project, and for community support.

### iv. Phase 4: May – August 2023

- a. Organize an awards and exhibition closing ceremony, with poetry, drama and live social media streaming during the event, to reward outstanding participants.



### 3. PROJECT STATUS:

#### Phase 1: Sept. – Oct. 2022:

- a. Participants, instructors, and US expert media trainer were chosen in different areas of the media (radio, television, online & print); done in liaison with the Consulate
- b. Training locations were reserved in Ibadan, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Enugu American Spaces in liaison with the Consulate.
- b. Training content was developed by WABMA® and instructors in liaison with the US media trainer.
3. Correspondence and liaison with participants, their organisations, and instructors, and US expert done.
- g. Hotels were booked in all four locations for all participants and instructors. Other logistic arrangements including feeding and transportation were made.



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## 2023: U.S. trains 150 journalists on election reporting

The Election Reporting Project (ERP) supports Nigerian journalists, videographers and photojournalists to cover the 2023 elections.

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**Phase 2: Nov. 2022 – Dec. 2022:**

- a. The first workshop was held on November 14 and 15 at the American Corner, Ibadan, for political reporters and editors from the South West zone, comprising: Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Oyo, and Ekiti States. This was followed by a 2-day workshop from November 17-18 for photojournalists and videographers from Lagos, Ondo, Ekiti, Oyo, Ogun, Ekiti and Osun States.

The South-South workshop held at the American Corner, Port Harcourt from 21-22 November for Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta and Edo States. After the training in PH, the team flew to Lagos on November 23, 2022 to train Lagos political reporters and editors. Lagos training started on 24 November and ended on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and last set of workshops held in the South East for political reporters from Anambra, Abia, Imo, Ebonyi and Enugu States, from November 28-29<sup>th</sup> and that of photojournalists and videographers began on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and ended on December 1. (Please see attached workshop schedule and attendance summary below)

**Attendance Summary Table**

S / N	Region	States	Location	Workshops	
				Expectations	Achieved
1	South West Political Reporters	Ondo, Osun, Oyo Ogun & Ekiti	American Corner Ibadan	25	26
2	South West Photojournalists/ Videographers	Ondo, Osun, Oyo Lagos, Ogun & Ekiti	American Corner Ibadan	25	25
3	South South Political Reporters	Akwa Ibom, Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers & Cross River	American Corner, UniPort	25	23
4	South East/South	Akwa Ibom, Edo, Delta,	American Corner,	25	25

	South Photojournalists/ Videographers	Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross River, Imo, Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi, & Anambra	UNEC		
5	Lagos Political Reporters	Lagos	American Corner, Ikeja	25	24
6	South East Political Reporters	Enugu, Imo, Anambra, Ebonyi & Abia	American Corner, UNEC	25	32
<b>Total</b>				150	155



### WABMA-ELS Election Reporting Project Training Schedule & ME Plan

S/N	Location	Date/Duration	Venue	Format	Monitoring
1	Ibadan (For South West)	Nov 13, 14 & 15 Nov 16, 17 & 18 (3days)	American Corner Ibadan	1. SW Political Reporters workshop 2. SW and Lagos	1. Pre-and-Post Tests 2. Photo and video evidence

				Photojournalists & Videographers workshop	3. <i>Feedback forms</i>
2	Port Harcourt (For South South)	Nov 20, 21, 22 (3days)	American Corner	SS Political Reporters workshop	1. <i>Pre-and-Post Tests</i> 2. <i>Photo and video evidence</i> 3. <i>Feedback forms</i>
3	Lagos	Nov 23, 24 & 25 (3days)	American Corner	Lagos Political Reporters workshop	1. <i>Pre-and-Post Tests</i> 2. <i>Photo and video evidence</i> 3. <i>Feedback forms</i>
4	Enugu (For South East)	Nov 27, 28 & 29 (3days) Nov. 29, 30 & Sep. 1 <sup>st</sup>	American Corner	SE Political Reporters workshop SS and SE Photojournalists & Videographers workshop	1. <i>Pre-and-Post Tests</i> 2. <i>Photo and video evidence</i> 3. <i>Feedback forms</i>



Mega City

## 2023 Polls: When WABMA, US Consulate General trained S'South journalists

📅 December 14, 2022 👤 Pauline Onyibe 💬 Comment(0)



**TRAINERS & FACILITATORS:**

- Prof. Chris Ulasi (US Journalism Expert)  
Dean, School of Communications  
Texas Southern University  
Houston, TX USA  
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- Journalism/political reporting workshop  
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Ms. Grace Ekpu  
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# WAP'S Prof. Chris Ulasi Leads Election Reporting Project in Nigeria



By Ezinwanne Onwuka (Senior Reporter) | November 21, 2022



gazzetngr.com/2023-u-s-trains-150-journalists-on-election-reporting/

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According to him, the Election Reporting Project (ERP) is an intervention project supported by the U.S. Consulate to adequately support Nigerian journalists, videographers and photojournalists to cover the 2023 elections.

He explained that ERP is part of the U.S. Consulate's continued support for the growth of democracy in Nigeria in partnership with the West Africa Broadcast and Media Academy (WABMA) and the Enugu Literary Society (ELS).

The lead facilitator is Chris Ulasi, the dean of the School of Communication and chair, Department of Radio, Television and Films, Texas Southern University Houston, USA.

Other facilitators include Lai Oso, former Dean of Communications, Lagos State University, and Grace Ekpu, an investigative reporter with the Associated Press.

Earlier, Mr Ulasi, a Nigerian university don based in the United States, noted that the global attention was on Nigeria and urged journalists to effectively report the electoral process professionally.



**PHASE 3: Jan. - Apr. 2023:**

Fact Check website portal expansion was completed in Jan. 2023 and participants were onboarded online and in WhatsApp community fora for sharing of content such as fact-checked political stories, photos, videos and other multimedia materials produced during the project, and for community support.

WABMA-ELS team also provided support services to participants during the coverage of the general elections held in February and March 2023. Some of the biggest support from the team was in the area of fact checking, including the production and sharing of the weekly WABMA FakeNewsDebunker® sent to all participants, sometimes twice weekly, and domiciled at the project website: <https://projectfactchecknigeria.org/> .

Additionally, the team monitored and curated content by participants across various media platforms as they reported about the political process, pre, during and post elections. From these curated content outstanding participants were identified and their works passed on to judges for the consideration in the awards phase.

**PHASE 4: May – Sep. 2023:  
CLOSING EXHIBITION & POLITICAL REPORTING AWARDS**

From July-August 2023 the project judges concluded the assessment of curated and fact-checked political journalism content produced by participants of the Political Reporting workshops, and who are part of the online community of trained political reporters, editors, photojournalists and videographers.

The grand finale of the PRP was the **closing and awards ceremony**, entitled **Political Reporting Awards**. Held on Friday September 22, 2023 at the American Corner Ikeja, Lagos, the event was a huge success with more than 200 media practitioners, students, and youths present. This prestigious event brought together prominent political reporters, journalists, literati and key figures in the media industry for a day of recognition, networking, and reflection on the vital role of journalism in our society.

The Deputy Public Affairs Officer of the US Consulate General Lagos, **Ms. Amanda Roach-Brown**, and the spokesman of the US Consulate General Lagos, **Mr. Tayo Famutimi**, represented the Consulate and spoke at the occasion.



**Awards Objectives:**

1. To recognize outstanding participating reporters, editors, photojournalists, and cameramen who produce exceptional content that embodies journalistic ethics of objectivity, balance, fairness and presentation of facts and data.
2. To exhibit and reward participating journalists’ focus on the salient electoral issues, such as: electoral processes, mitigating electoral violence, overcoming ethnic and religious stereotypes in media and politics, and campaign finance.

**Priority Areas:**

1. Features, documentaries, fact-based reporting, photo and video reports, and podcasts.

**Open To:**

Reporters, editors, photojournalists and videographers who were part of the ELS-WABMA-US Consulate Political Reporting Workshops held in Nov-Dec 2022.

**Main Category Awards:**

1. Print (online print media included)
2. Broadcast (online broadcast media included)
3. Photo/video journalism

**N300, 000 – WABMA Training Scholarship winning prize in each category was awarded.**

**POLITICAL REPORTING PROJECT AWARDS 2023**

22 Sept American Corner, No 42 local Airport road, Concord Bus stop Ikeja Lagos.

WABMA

## List of Awardees

### Phase 1: Honorable Mention for Media Outlets

1. Silverbird Communications
2. WAZOBIA FM
3. Channels TV
4. *Trust Newspaper* and Trust TV
5. Arise News
6. Radio Lagos/EKO FM

### Phase 11: Honorable Mention for individual reporters/participants

1. Hameed Oyegbade (Trust TV/Online, Osogbo)
2. Ufuoma Egbamuno (WAZOBIA FM, Lagos)
3. Opeyemi Segun Adiniyun (Videographer, Arise TV)

### Phase 111: Main Category Awards

#### 1. Political Reporting Award (Print/Online)

Miss Ekemini UDO

(*Southern Examiner Newspaper* and Redemption FM, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State)

#### 2. Political Reporting Award (Photo-Video Report)

Mr. Oba ADEOYE

Arise News, Lagos

#### 3. Political Reporting Award (Broadcast Media)

Miss Juliet BUNA

Crest FM Ibadan/OSRC Ondo





NEWS

# Daily Trust, Trust TV, Oyegbade Win WABMA Political Reporting Award

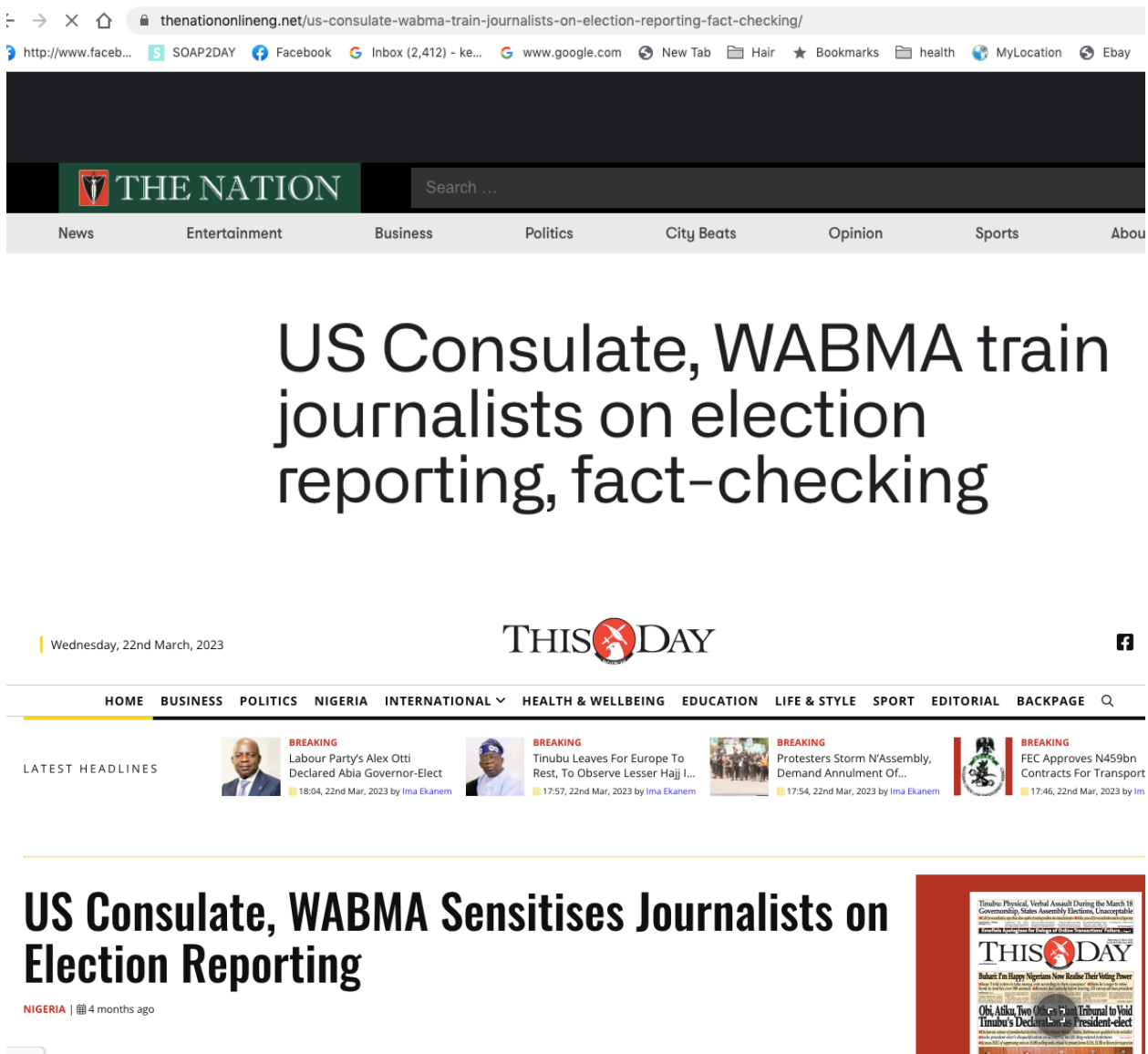
Trust Television and Daily Trust newspapers shined at the West Africa Broadcast and Media Academy 2023 Political Reporting award ceremony held at American Corner, Ikeja,...



## 5. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

1. Electricity constraints encountered in some of the American Spaces, especially Portharcourt and Enugu. Those Spaces need reliable back up power supply capable of powering air conditioners.
2. Huge difference in budgeted costs for hotels, flights and feeding due to the rampant inflation in the country, led to budgetary constraints. These could not have been foreseen at the time of planning the grant.
3. Unplanned holidays (sit-at-home orders) in the South East almost disrupted the SE workshops.
4. Photojournalists' workshops were changed from 1-day to 2 days. This affected costs.

However, none of these problems significantly impaired our ability to meet grant objectives. ELS-WABMA provided funding, as part of our project support, for the extra requirements.



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# US Consulate, WABMA train journalists on election reporting, fact-checking

Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023

**THIS DAY**


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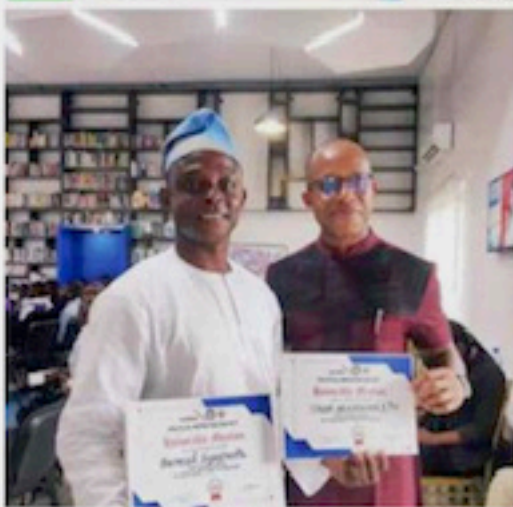
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## US Consulate, WABMA Sensitises Journalists on Election Reporting

NIGERIA | 4 months ago





## Hameed Oyegbade Wins WABMA Political Reporting Award - AmiLoaded News

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[amiloadednews.com](http://amiloadednews.com)

<https://amiloadednews.com/2023/09/hameed-oyegbade-wins-wabma-political-reporting-award.html>



The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the two-day session for the South-South geopolitical zone was concluded on Wednesday in Port Harcourt.

Speaking at the event through video conference, the U.S. Consulate General, Mr Will Stevens, assured of the support of the United States government to deepen democracy in Nigeria.

Stevens was represented by the U.S. Consulate Public Affairs Officer, Mr Joe Kruzich.

According to him, the Election Reporting Project (ERP) is an intervention project supported by the U.S. Consulate to support Nigerian journalists, videographers and photojournalists to adequately cover the 2023 elections.





Reps Bye-Election: Akoko Northwest Monarchs Play Host To APC Aspirant, Dr. Muyiwa Olusa

2 HOURS AGO




NEWS POLITICS

## Ondo Born Journalist, Juliet Buna Bags Prestigious Election Reporting Award

Crest FM's Juliet Buna Wins Prestigious WABMA Election Reporting Award

Juliet Buna, a journalist at Crest 91.1 FM in Ibadan, Oyo State, has won the Election Reporting Project award of the West Africa Broadcast and Media Academy, WABMA. 



**CONCLUSION:**

The **Political Reporting Project (PRP)** was a media intervention program that built the capacity of 150 reporters, political editors, photojournalists and video journalists, covering the 2023 election cycle in Nigeria. Organized by the **West Africa Broadcast & Media Academy [WABMA®]**, in conjunction

with the **Enugu Literary Society [ELS]**, and the **US Consulate General Lagos**, the yearlong project began in September 2022, involved a series of Political Journalism Workshops and Photojournalism and Videography Workshops held in Nov. and Dec. 2022 for participants selected from radio, TV, newspapers, and digital media (online) from 17 Nigerian states.

Additionally, the project created an online community of trained political reporters, editors, photojournalists and videographers who are also certified fact checkers; as well as supported and curated content produced by participants pre-during-and-post election culminating in the upcoming closing ceremony and Awards to outstanding participating journalists.

This capacity building project achieved the main **Objectives**:

1. Enhance the understanding of participants on the role of the media in the democratic process
2. Educate participants on the elements essential to fair elections and political processes including impartial electoral frameworks, credible electoral administration, effective oversight of electoral processes, informed and active citizens and effective transfer of political power
3. Highlight the salient topics and issues that often surround electoral processes and reporting including election campaign finance, mitigating electoral violence, overcoming ethnic and religious stereotypes in media and politics etc.
4. Teach the basics of incorporating social media, photography, infographics and data-driven investigative storytelling into election coverage and reporting.
5. Increase awareness of objectivity, balance, fairness, social responsibility, and ethics of election reporting as well as the legal pitfalls to avoid in political coverage
6. Highlight best practices for planning an effective election coverage, interviewing political candidates and covering political rallies.
7. Underscore the role of the media in promoting the participation of women, youth and people living with disability in the electoral process.
8. Teach best practices in tackling hate speech, political fact checking and tracking and countering fake news disinformation during election coverage.
9. Equip participants with skills to ensure their digital and physical safety while covering the upcoming election.

The Enugu Literary Society [ELS], and its implementing partners, the West Africa Broadcast & Media Academy [WABMA®], EKO Literary Society, and WABMA Media Development Foundation [WAMDEF] are grateful to the US Consulate General Lagos for the immense support and guidance provided in the execution of such a complex project.



## **ELECTION REPORTING PROJECT**

Our Ref:.....

Date:.....