

Comparative Analysis of the Post and Cameroon Tribune Newspapers' Coverage of Corruption Practices in Cameroon

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Abstract: Embarking on the fight against corruption is one of Cameroon's greatest efforts to forge the country ahead. Due to the endemic and devastating nature of corruption in the country, the government, under direct instructions from the Head of State, has made the fight against corruption a priority in all sectors. The media remain a major partner in attaining government's objectives. This paper therefore, seeks to understand the role of the media in this fight through a comparative analysis of Cameroon media coverage of corruption by a private (The Post) and a public (Cameroon Tribune) media. In order to analyse central issues on corruption by the Cameroon media, a content analysis has been used to study *The Post and Cameroon Tribune newspapers*. Issues of the newspapers as from July 2014 to December 2014 were content analysed with the unit of analysis being a news story. Findings reveal that The Post newspaper covered more stories on corruption (70.6%) than Cameroon Tribune (29.4%). The Post newspaper gave prominence on corruption stories (88.9%), front page placement to Cameroon Tribune (11.1%). Results further reveal that The Post coverage on corruption mostly centred on the investigation of public authorities (85.7%) and accusation of corrupt practice on public officials (78.6%) while Cameroon Tribune centred on legal proceedings on corruption (75%). Out of the 34 stories covered on corruption by both newspapers over a period of 6 months, fraud (100%) and embezzlement (46.7%) were heavily highlighted by The Post newspaper while Cameroon Tribune mainly covered corruption issues pertaining to embezzlement (53.3%). To conclude, the private press analysed is more proactive in the fight against corruption in Cameroon. However, though the public media is engaged in the fight against corruption, most of their concern is directed towards government policy on the issues.

Keywords: Corruption, Public Media, Private Media, Media Coverage.

INTRODUCTION

This paper seeks to assess how the Cameroon media have embarked on the fight against corruption in view of performing their watchdog role. The study stems from the fact that since 1998 and until 2014, Cameroon has been listed among the most corrupt countries of the world. According to Transparency International's 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), a ranking of public sector corruption, Cameroon is now ranked 136th out of 175 countries. The Transparency International report reveals further that the judiciary, police, custom service and educational sectors are still rife with corruption [1]. In view of the tragic impact of corruption on Cameroon's economy, socio-cultural and political life, as well as its effects on the honour of the nation, the Cameroon government embarked on the fight against corruption by creating and implementing structures through Decree No. 098/273 of October 1998 as well as article 66 of the constitution.

Although these structures exist, corruption is still high in Cameroon and has become a way of life for most Cameroonians. Corruption has rendered Cameroon an infertile nation for economic investment since nearly every sector is infected or otherwise affected by this plague [2]. Despite the fact that corruption is punishable under sections 134 and 134 (a) of the Penal code of Cameroon, the canker worm is still heavily practiced in the different sectors of the economy, political life and social activities. The media have been highly rated to fight so many social ills through its power to inform, educate as well as its capacity to act as a tool for surveillance. Eigen [3] confirms that the media can play an important public accountability role by monitoring and investigating the actions of those who are granted public trust and who may be tempted to abuse their office for private gain. Supporting Eigen [3], Rose-Ackerman [4] says qualitatively, independent media reporting on corruption can play an important role in pressuring the government to act in the public interest. By drawing the

attention to behaviour that is generally perceived as acceptable and exposing such behaviour as corrupt, media can raise public awareness; activate anticorruption values; and generate outside pressure from the public against corruption [4]. Similarly, proponents of watchdog journalism have high hopes for what it can do, especially in the control of corruption. By exposing wrongdoing, they say, the press prompts investigations of those involved in malfeasance and catalyzes changes in laws and regulations. It helps shape public opinion against corrupt governments and generates public hostility against those who abuse their office [5].

In Cameroon today, corrupt officials investigated by “Opération Epervier” have been exposed to the public through various media outlets. According to Africa Report N°161 [24], by May 2010 the sparrow hawk operation had led to the incarceration of at least 100 people, including nine former ministers, seven former heads of state-owned companies, one former ambassador and a former member of Parliament. The first wave of arrests occurred in early 2006: three former heads of state-owned companies, Gilles-Roger Belinga of the Société Immobilière du Cameroun (Cameroon Housing Company) (Sic), Emmanuel Edou of the Crédit foncier du Cameroun (Cameroon Housing Loan Fund) (CFC) and Emmanuel Gérard Ondo Ndong of the Fonds Camerounais d’équipement intercommunal (Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance) (Féicom), and some accomplices were arrested, including two parliamentarians from the ruling Cameroon People’s Democratic Party Movement (CPDM) party. All were charged with corruption and embezzlement of state funds. The former Minister of Energy and Water, Alphonse Siyam Siwé was also jailed for corruption [24].

Ano-Ebie [6] describes “épervier” as a sparrow hawk, scientifically known as *Accipiter nisus*, a bird which preys on other birds. The “Opération Epervier” describes the attitude of the sparrow hawk when it stalks and snatches its victims. In “Opération Epervier”, individuals who are alleged to have embezzled public funds are monitored and arrested in a similar way. The “justice man” (the government) identifies his target and “comes like a thief in the night” to arrest them [6].

Bearing in mind the role the media play in supporting the government’s efforts to fight against corruption, need exists to assess the public media versus the private media of Cameroon in the fight against corruption. Slothuis [7] asserts that issues framed in policy discourse and news reporting regularly influence citizens’ political opinions. Whether print or television, the media tend to report the news according to certain frames that lead the reader, listener and viewer to put events, issues and political actors into contextual

frameworks of reference [8]. The public media in Cameroon such as Cameroon Tribune and Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV) Corporation are unyieldingly pro-government, tending to promote, legitimize or justify government actions [9]. Tanjong further laments that whatever the case may be, public media frame news events and reports to favour government and the ruling Cameroon People’s Democratic Movement (CPDM) party. Often, the public media consciously omit anti-government news items to accomplish this objective. This, has earned public media in Cameroon a lot of criticism from the private media and the masses [9].

Notwithstanding, private ownership of media might not always produce the desired results on corruption as well [11]. The private media in Cameroon are overtly anti-government. They are accused of sensationalism, irresponsible journalism and lacking in courtesy and propriety [10]. Tanjong [9] adds that the private media in Cameroon have been characterised with the propensity of publishing stories without proper investigations and have often framed the government as corrupt, irresponsible and liars. Considering the position of the public and private media in reporting issues in the country, this paper therefore seeks to assess their coverage of corruption to better understand the Cameroon’s media role in the fight against corruption.

Furthermore, though the private media have been heavily criticised for its unprofessionalism in reporting issues in Cameroon, the public believes they play a better role in the fight against corruption than the public media. In his study, ‘media fight against corruption in Cameroon: public assessment,’ Tanjong [9] found out that a majority of 60.4% of the respondents say private owned media in Cameroon are more active in the fight against corruption as opposed to 28% of the public owned media. He justified this finding by asserting that private media have more liberal editorial policies aimed at serving the audience by reporting critically on corruption while the public media as an arm of the government are out to promote government policy. The respondents hold that CRTV and Cameroon Tribune are least active in reporting corruption while private organs like The Post Newspaper and Radio Equinoxe are more critical in reporting on corruption [9]. Looking at the results of the survey study, this article further seeks to content analyse The Post Newspaper and Cameroon Tribune to either debunk or validate this claim. In doing so, the study aims to examine qualitatively and quantitatively the nature of print media coverage of corruption in Cameroon by examining the following questions:

1. What Corruption issues do *The Post and Cameroon Tribune Newspapers* focus on most?

2. How are corruption issues handled in *The Post Newspaper* as compared to *Cameroon Tribune Newspaper*?

Nefarious Corruption in Cameroon

The term corruption has been variously defined, with its impacts on every economy nefarious. 'Backdoor,' 'pushing of files,' 'oiling of palms,' 'soya,' 'beer,' are some of the expressions used by Cameroonians to describe the act of bribery and corruption [18]. According to Klitgaard [12], corruption is the misuse of office for unofficial ends. He added that a catalogue of corrupt acts includes – but not limited to – bribery, extortion, influence peddling, nepotism, fraud, the use of "speed money" (money paid to government officials to speed up their consideration of a business matter falling within their jurisdiction), and embezzlement. Notwithstanding, Adji [13] believes corruption is the result of a conscious act generally for money, performed outside legal, social and moral or spiritual norms: the corrupter and the corrupted violate these norms in a pre-meditated manner for their own concrete or abstract interests. Adji reiterates that corruption is legally, morally and socially condemned because it is a denial of the constitutional or legal principles of the equality of citizens in rights and duties, of the free rendering of public services, of the promotion of the right to property and of the subjection of public employees and of the officials to the law and not the reverse [13]. Similarly, Dike [14] adds that corruption is an anti-social behaviour conferring improper benefits contrary to legal and moral norms, and which undermine the authorities' efforts to improve the living conditions of the people. Corruption is efforts to secure wealth or power through illegal means, private gain at public expense or a misuse of public power for private benefit [15]. This definition includes such behaviour as bribery, nepotism and misappropriation [16].

In 1998 and 1999, the German NGO, Transparency International, gave top spot to Cameroon in its ranking of the world's most corrupt countries. That shaming honour came as a wake-up call to the Cameroonian authorities, who then decided to hit the nail on the head in order to weed out the scourge. Notwithstanding, key findings of a survey by the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) of Transparency International (TI) for 2013 indicate that 46 per cent of Cameroonians believe the canker worm has increased while 24 per cent think it has not changed. Sectors like the police, judiciary, education, political parties, military, medical corps, parliament, religious bodies and media have been singled out as the most corrupt in the country. The survey also showed that the public is increasingly willing to engage in the eradication of the curse [17]. Despite the case, Cameroon still ranks as one of most corrupt countries in the world occupying

the 136th position out of 175 countries sampled (Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), 2014). The judiciary, police, custom service and educational sector are still rife with corruption [1]. Abdul adds that the case of police force is extremely pathetic and lamented on the predominance of corruption practice by citing the former US Ambassador to Cameroon, Neils Marquardt (2004-2007) who acknowledged that no institution seems to be immune from this scourge and corruption is being practiced and condoned by ordinary people including children, their parents, their grandparents, ordinary civil servants, the clergy and virtually everyone. However, analysts say worsening corruption in Cameroon society is primarily linked to poor pay for government workers. Civil servants' salaries were slashed by over 70% in 1993, when the International Monetary Fund demanded cuts in government spending. Analysts believe this encouraged the practice of dipping into the state coffers to make up for financial shortfalls [1]. In order for the government to fight such corrupt practices; the media have a great role to play. Corruption has a negative repercussion on the honour of the country hence, the government embarked in the fight against corruption by implementing structures to crush this cankerworm. According to Sections 134 and 134 (a) of the Penal code of Cameroon: « Any public servant or government employee who for himself or for a third party solicits, accepts or receives any offer, promise, gift or present in order to perform, refrain from performing or postpone any act of his office» or who receives any reward «as remuneration for having already performed or refrained from any such act» shall be punished. The corrupter who is also punishable under section 134 (a) is any person who slakes promises, offers, gifts and presents in order to obtain either the performance, postponement or abstention from an act. Other frameworks targeting the fight against corruption in Cameroon by the government include:

- Decree No. 098/273 of October 1998 creating the ministry in charge of the Supreme State Audit. This aimed at winning a threefold battle, dealing with the ethical behaviour of managers and public bookkeepers; achieving the good management of public affairs; and the fight against corruption.
- Article 66 of the constitution requires that all those overseeing public funds, the President, Ministers, Managers of Government Parastatal Companies, elected officials declare their possessions and assets
- The National Governance Programme that came into effect on 31 August 2000 and aims, among other things, to consolidate the rule of law and to fight corruption.
- The National Anti-Corruption Observatory also created in 2000 and intended to educate Cameroonians on the need to stop corruption.

- The anti-corruption cells within ministries created in 2001 by former Prime Minister Mafany Musonge.
- The Court of Auditors of the Supreme Court governed by Law No. 2003/005. It is equivalent to a court of accounts and reviews the accounts of certified public and other practicing accountants.
- The National Agency for Financial Investigation (ANIF), created by Decree No. 2005/087 of May 2005, following the regulation aimed at eradicating and preventing money laundering in Central Africa.
- In March 2006, the drive against corruption followed the creation of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), which is the last mechanism to be established and add its voice to the others. It is the main anti-corruption agency in Cameroon and was established by Decree No. 2006/088, replacing the National Corruption Observatory in May 2007.

The framework put in place to combat corruption is understandable. Corruption affects investment, economic growth, and government expenditure choices; it also reduces private investment (Pezullo, 1998). Corruption simply annihilates the value of justice and its men. Justice becomes diluted, partial and unjust. Judgment rendered is no longer equal for equal causes. In the absence of confidence in justice, people resource to other means to obtain satisfaction. It is because of this that certain practices such as mob justice have developed [18].

In a system where most of the fabric is rotten, where each one gains from cheating; it is not surprising that the whole country has continued to sink deeper. Since corruption reduces the volume of national revenue, it renders the state incapable of playing its role towards its people; such that schools, health facilities and roads cannot be provided. Corruption is a violation of human rights, because by preventing people from enjoying the fruits of economic growth, it is the permanent negation of the right to development [18].

‘Corruption increases the costs of transactions as well as uncertainty. It generally leads to inefficient economic performance. It is harmful to foreign and domestic investment in the long-term, results in a poor distribution of talents in favour of research activities and as well as in the choice of technological projects (public contracts for major defence projects receiving preference over the building of dispensaries in rural areas for preventive healthcare). It draws firms into the underground economy, which diminishes public revenue, such that heavy taxes are increasingly levied on fewer tax payers. The state then becomes incapable of providing the essential collective services and especially ensuring the rule of the law. This can result

in a vicious circle of growing corruption and illicit economic activities. Corruption is unjust. It imposes a regressive tax, which is particularly heavy on the commercial activities and services of small enterprises. Corruption undermines the legitimacy of the State’ (Banques d’ Afrique, issue n° 17 of July 1998, p. 19)

Corruption does not only kill the nation economically. It also has a sociocidal effect because it prevents the building of a solid society, founded on the valorisation of the individual. Corruption opens to anyone the door to any position, with the faint hope that the necessary skills will be acquired “on-the-job”. Unfortunately, the miraculous acquisition of these skills never occurs [18]. Schools lose their value, Children, the most vulnerable members of society, adopt as a way of life, and as the only way to succeed, the practice of intrigues, cheating and corruption of teachers. A teacher, who, as a student, corrupted his teachers to pass from one class to the other, sees nothing abnormal in soliciting his students for gifts and otherwise. The school thus hatches a society of incompetence, ill-prepared to face the international intellectual competition of the third millennium

Corruption and the Media

In “The Media’s Role in Curbing Corruption” Rick Stapenhurst provides a useful list of tangible and intangible effects that aggressive and independent journalism can have on corruption [5]. He asserts that tangible effects are those that can be readily attributed to a particular news story or series of news stories. For example: the launching of investigations by the parliament or other authorities into allegations of corruption; the censure, impeachment, or forced resignation of corrupt politicians; the firing of public officers; the launching of judicial proceedings; the issuing of public recommendations by a watchdog body; the scrapping of a law or policy that creates an environment conducive or even contributing to corruption. Media coverage of corruption might also contribute to shape public hostility towards corrupt behaviour that might result in the electoral defeat of individual politicians or of an entire government and in public pressure to reform policies and laws that otherwise create the conditions for corrupt behaviour. News stories assessing the work and exposing flaws, weaknesses and even corruption in accountability institutions (such as courts, police and anti-corruption agencies) might lead to public pressure to reform these institutions. The by-products of all these actions might be to increase the costs of corrupt behaviour among public officials; to raise the standards of public accountability; to enhance the legitimacy of watchdog bodies and their independence from vested interests within the power structure that might otherwise interfere with their work; and to encourage witnesses of corruption to come forward. Media aggressive reporting

on corruption might also prompt pre-emptive responses by authorities eager to protect their reputation and the public image of their institution before any allegation is aired.

More intangible and indirect effects of media reporting on corruption have to be seen in the context of the broader role that media play in society, particularly in the contexts of weak political competition. In these contexts, aggressive and independent journalism acts as an indirect check on the sort of corruption that would otherwise flourish in the absence of political competition. By simply informing the public and presenting a variety of points of view, media can promote public debate and enhance political and economic competition. Such competition might enhance accountability, open up alternatives to dealing with corrupt networks, and create incentives for political leaders to move against corruption. It might also encourage public participation and inform the debate by taking the lead in pressing for enhanced civil liberties such as freedom of expression. By disseminating knowledge about public decisions and procedures beyond a small elite group of decision-makers, media can also play a major role in undermining a precondition to corruption, which is the “shared knowledge” among a restricted circle of beneficiaries of corruption

The influence of the mass media extends to almost every segment of the society that is exposed to their programmes. In other words, the press serves as an agent of change, and as the watchdog of the society, it is expected to play a part in ensuring transparency and accountability in government as well as contribute to the efforts of crime – fighting institutions to curb corruption in the country [19, 20]. Private ownership is often associated with higher levels of government accountability and performance (Nogara, 2009). A study carried out by Simon Djankov [21] in 98 countries researched the effects of media ownership on a variety of social and economic policy outcomes, including government accountability and corruption. The study found strong correlations between media ownership and a whole range of policy outcomes, with a greater negative correlation between state ownership of newspapers and “good” outcomes. Countries with higher state ownership of the media also exhibit lower quality of regulations, with government media

monopolies associated with particularly poor outcomes. The study concludes that government ownership of media restricts information flows to the public with negative effect on citizens’ rights, government effectiveness, and corruption; alternatively, increased private ownership of the media through privatization or encouragement of entry can advance political and economic goals. Competition from private media assures that alternative views are supplied to voters and prevents state-owned media from distorting the information they supply too heavily so that voters obtain, on average, unbiased and accurate information [21].

METHODOLOGY

Content analysis was used to study The Post and Cameroon Tribune newspapers in order to determine quantitatively the nature of media coverage of corruption practices in Cameroon. Carley [22] defines content analysis as any technique for making inferences by objectivity and systematically identifying specified characteristics of messages. Its uniqueness in comparing media content to the real world, describing communication content in relation to typography and layout of newspapers and magazines makes it an indispensable research method for this study [23]. The population of study are issues of The Post Newspaper and Cameroon Tribune from July 2014 to December 2014. The Post Newspaper (bi-weekly) and Cameroon Tribune (daily) were used for the study. The Post is a private newspaper and Cameroon tribune, a public newspaper. Also, a balance view about the state of corruption can be obtained since one paper is critical (The Post) and the other less critical (Cameroon Tribune) of government action. It was estimated that the population frame would constitute about $2 \times 4 \times 6 = 48$ issues of the Post plus $5 \times 4 \times 6 = 120$ issues of Cameroon Tribune, giving a total of 168 issues. However, in order to create a representative sample, issues of both newspapers produced on Mondays and Thursdays were purposively used for the study. Hence, giving a sample population of $2 \text{ issues} \times 2 \text{ media} \times 4 \text{ weeks (per month)} \times 6 \text{ months} = 96$ issues, which were randomly selected from the 168 issues. Eight coders were trained to code and enter data for the study hence increasing inter-coder reliability. The unit of analysis was a story. A data sheet was used in collecting the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Prominence of stories of corruption on newspapers

Name of Newspaper	Placement of article				Total
	Front Page	Middle Page	Back Page	Other Pages	
The Post	8 (88.9%)	2 (100%)	1 (100%)	13 (59.1%)	24(70.6%)
Cameroon Tribune	1 (11.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (1005)	9 (40.9%)	10 (29.4%)
Total	9 (100%)	2 (100%)	100%	22 (100%)	34 (100%)

Findings reveal that The Post newspaper covered more stories on corruption (70.6%) than Cameroon Tribune (29.4%). The Post newspaper gave prominence on corruption stories (88.9%), front page placement to Cameroon Tribune(11.1%). This finding is supported by Tanjong [9] findings in his study ‘Media fight against corruption in Cameroon: Public assessment’ where he concluded that the private media

in Cameroon has been the most active sector in the fight against corruption in in the country. Furthermore, table (2) below distributes the proportion of coverage of stories on corruption and reveals that more space was allotted for the coverage of corruption in The Post newspaper than in Cameroon Tribune. Hence, in terms of quantity, The Post covered issues pertaining to corruption better than Cameroon Tribune.

Table 2: Space allocation for corruption stories

Name of Newspaper	Total space allocated to story (in pages)					Total
	less than ¼ page	¼ page	1/2 Page	3/4 Page	Full Page	
The Post	4 (57.1%)	11(84.6%)	6 (60%)	1(100%)	2 (66.7%)	24 (70.6%)
Cameroon Tribune	3 (42.9%)	2 (15.4%)	4 (40%)	0 (0%)	1 (33.3%)	10 (29.4%)
Total	7 (100%)	13 (100%)	10 (100%)	1(100%)	3 (100%)	34 (100%)

Table 3: Direction of news coverage on corruption

Name of Newspaper	Angle of Article							Total
	Investigations of authorities	Accusation of corrupt practice on public officials,	Forced resignation of corrupt authority	legal proceeding on corruption,	revelation of corruption in public sector	Human right abuse	Others	
The Post	6 (85.7%)	11 (78.6%)	1 (100%)	2 (25%)	2 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	24 (70.6%)
Cameroon Tribune	1 (14.3%)	3 (21.4%)	0 (0%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (29.4%)
Total	7 (100%)	14 (100%)	1(100%)	8(100%)	2(100%)	1(100%)	1(100%)	34 (100%)

Notwithstanding, table 3 reveals that The Post coverage on corruption mostly centred on the investigation of authorities (85.7%) and accusation of corrupt practice on public officials (78.6%) while Cameroon Tribune centred on legal proceeding on corruption (75%). This is because, the private media have a more liberal editorial policy which enables them to be more critical in their reports other than the public media which serves to promote government policies. In

addition, table 4 depicts a high coverage of corruption practices in the South West region for The Post with a corresponding high coverage in the centre region for Cameroon Tribune. This finding is supported by the fact that the regions specified by both papers are the head quarters of the publication and due to proximity, most corrupted incidence are easily covered by the papers.

Table 4: Regional Coverage of Corruption Cases

Name of Newspaper	Region of corruption occurrence					Total
	SW	NW	Littoral	Center	North	
The Post	9 (100%)	4 (100%)	4 (57.1%)	7 (53.8%)	0 (0%)	24 (70.6%)
Cameroon Tribune	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (42.9%)	6 (46.2%)	1 (100%)	10 (29.4%)
Total	9(100%)	4(100%)	7 (100%)	13 (100%)	1 (100%)	34 (100%)

Table 5: Media Coverage of Forms of corruption practiced in Cameroon.

Name of Newspaper	Type of corruption						Total
	Embezzlement	Nepotism (Favouritism)	Fraud	Misappropriation	Human right abuse (torture, abuse of power)	Others	
The Post	7 (46.7%)	1 (100%)	11(100%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (100%)	3 (100%)	24 (70.6%)
Cameroon Tribune	8 (53.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (66.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (29.4%)
Total	15 (100%)	1(100%)	11(100%)	3(100%)	1(100%)	3(100%)	34 (100%)

Out of the 34 stories covered on corruption by both papers over the period of 6 months, fraud (100%) and embezzlement (46.7%) was heavily highlighted by The Post newspaper while Cameroon Tribune mainly covered corruption issues pertaining to embezzlement (53.3%). This is because Cameroon Tribune focused on cases pertaining to operation sparrow hawk, which is one of Presidents Biya policies of curbing corruption in the country. The Post on the other hand is more

proactive in the coverage of corruption practices which gives it an upper edge in reporting the different corrupt practices carried out by bureaucratic officials. Notwithstanding, The Post mainly carried pictures of personalities either accused of corruption or the like (100%) while Cameroon Tribune with the view of supporting government policy mainly carried pictures of personalities in court (100%).

Table 6: Pictorial representation of corruption

Name of Newspaper	Nature of pictorial representation accompanying story					Total
	Civilians	Personalities	Personality in court	Others	Not mentioned	
The Post	2 (100%)	11(100%)	0 (0%)	2 (66.7%)	9 (75%)	24 (70.6%)
Cameroon Tribune	(0%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)	1 (33.3%)	3(25%)	10 (29.4%)
Total	2(100%)	11(100%)	6(100%)	3(100%)	12 (100%)	34 (100%)

CONCLUSION

This study sought to find out the corruption issues *The Post and Cameroon Tribune newspapers* mostly focus on as well as their direction of coverage. The study concludes that the private press is more proactive in the fight against corruption in Cameroon as purported by Tanjong [9]. However, though the public media is engaged in the fight against corruption, most of its concern is directed towards government policy such as the operation sparrow hawk. The private media on its part seeks to identify corrupt officials, corrupt practices in order to direct public concerns on them thereby setting public agenda and influencing public policy. The recommendation is that the media need to be objective, balanced and fair in the coverage of corruption issues in order to win public concern and support for this course.

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