MONITORING THE NON-COMPLIANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES ON ISSUE-FOCUSED CAMPAIGNS

Mini-Situation Room Report

(30th SEPTEMBER 2022 - 13th JANARY2023)

NATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE

THE KUKAH CENTRE
FAITH ▪ LEADERSHIP ▪ PUBLIC POLICY

NPC SECRETARIAT

www.nationalpeacecommittee.org

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INTRODUCTION

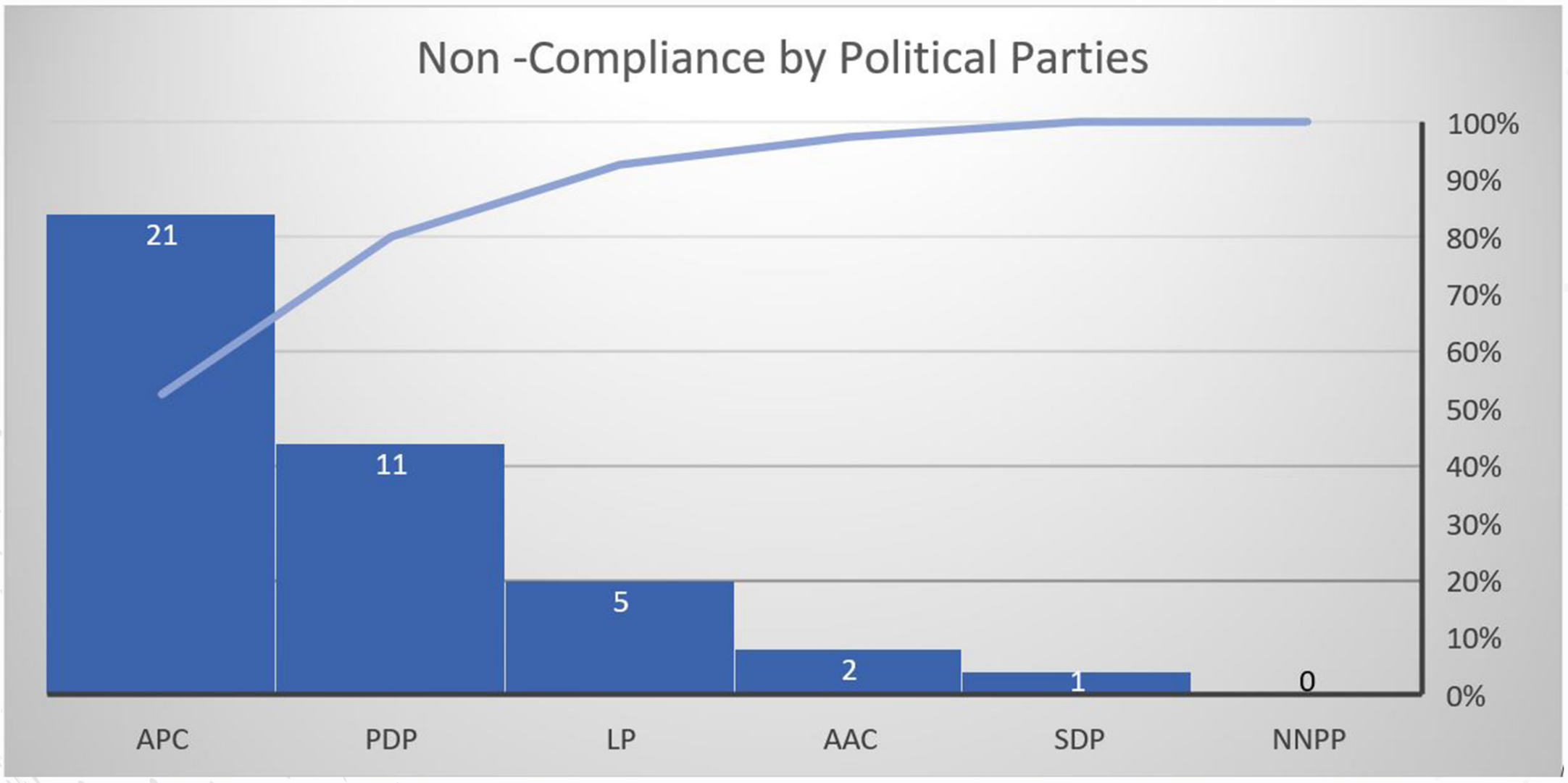
The Mini-Situation Room of the National Peace Committee has observed that after the signing of the first National Peace Accord by 15 political parties on the 29th of October 2022 ahead of the general elections, offline and online campaigns by the supporters of political parties were laced with incidents of violent clash at campaign rallies, personal attacks on social media and political statements that are not issue-based which have flared up aspersions, hate speeches, misinformation, and vile comments.

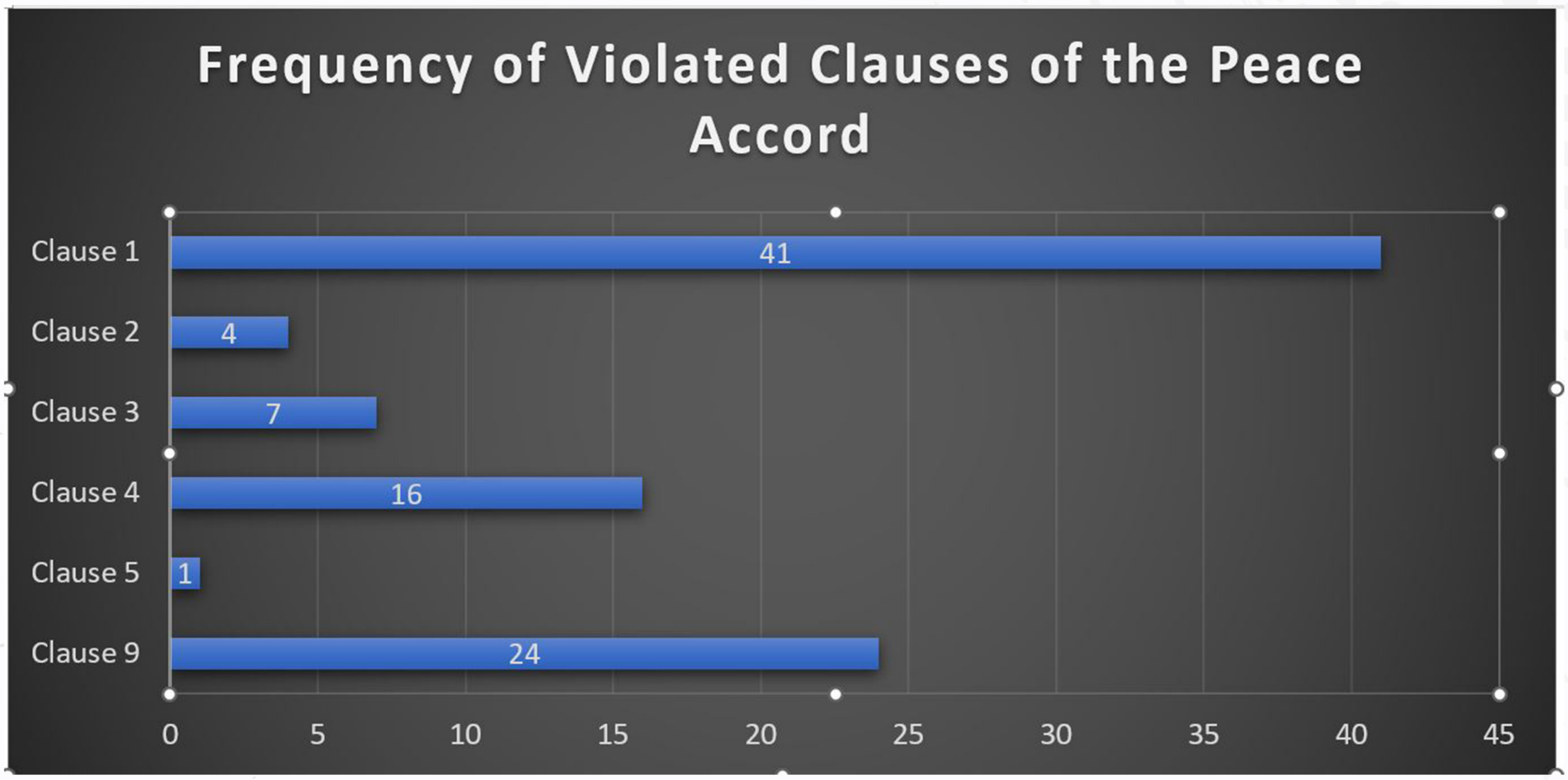
From the 30th of September 2022 to the 13th January 2023 the Mini-situation room tracked some verified and confirmed incidents of violations by some political parties.

Non-Compliance of the National Peace Accord by Political Parties

Political Parties	Clause 1	Clause 2	Clause 3	Clause 4	Clause 5	Clause 6	Clause 7	Clause 8	Clause 9	Sub Total
A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
AA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
AAC	2	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	**4**
ADP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
APC	21	3	1	8	*	*	*	*	15	**48**
APGA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
APM	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
APP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
BP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
LP	5	*	1	2	*	*	*	*	3	**8**
NNPP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
NRM	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8	*	
PDP	11	1	5	7	1			1	6	**35**
PRP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
SDP	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	**1**
YPP	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	
ZLP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Grand Total										96

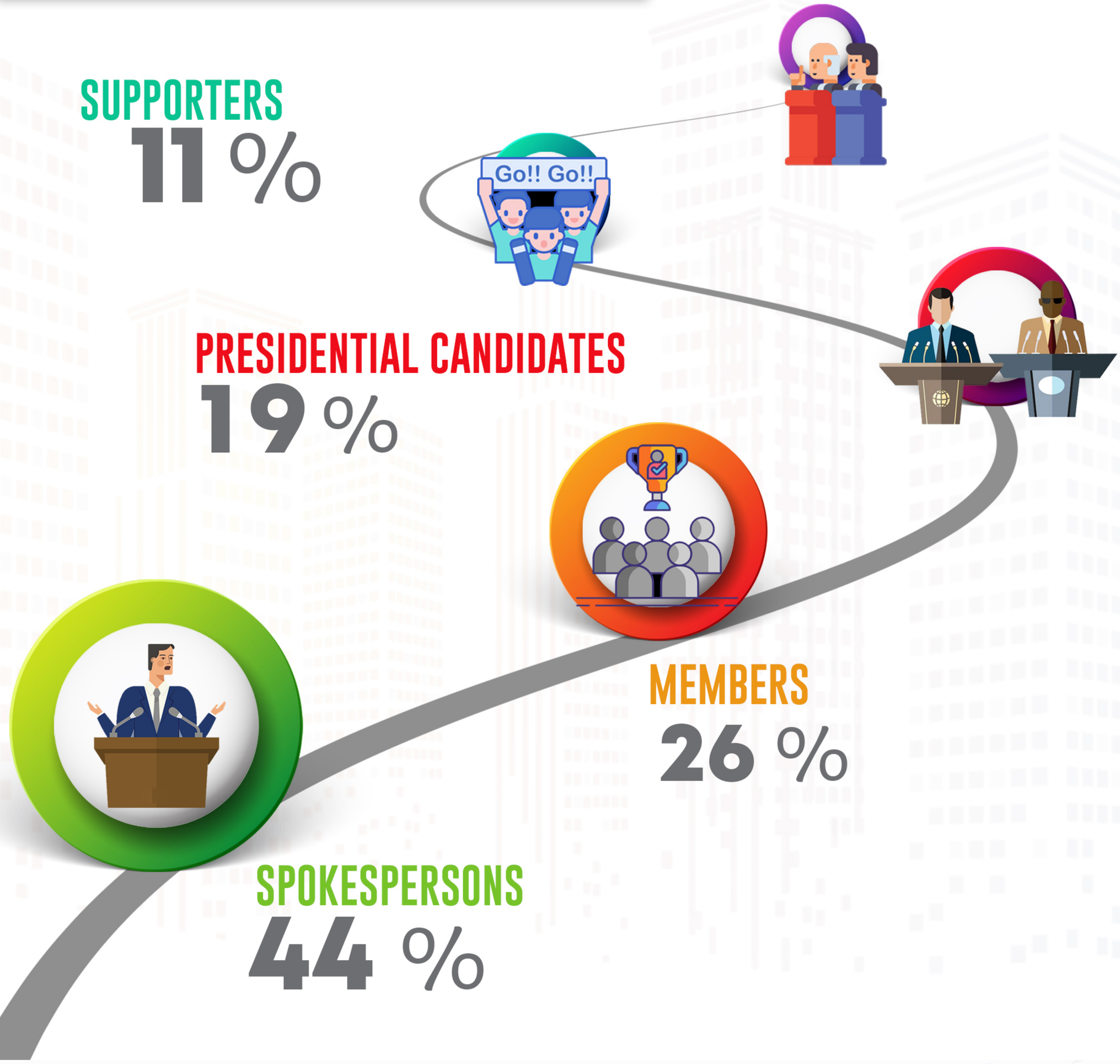
96 violations of the Clauses of the 1st National Peace Accord from 54 verified incidents





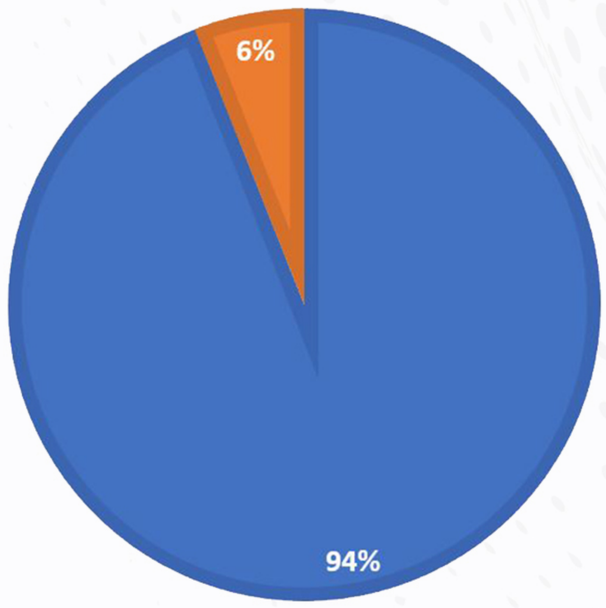
Based on the incidents documented within the period under review, six (6) clauses of the National Peace Accord were violated with clause one (1) most frequently violated. Overall, these violations are tied to three (3) broad thematic issues of the National Peace Accord: a) Issue-based and non-violent campaigns, b) Spread of fake and unverified news, misinformation, and disinformation, c) Support to government institutions and the NPC for peaceful and credible campaigns.

Non-Compliance of the National Peace Accord by Political Portfolio



Chairmen, presidential candidates and their spokespersons, together with the members and supporters of political parties have not sustained issue-based campaigns. This has heated the polity both online and offline.

Categories of Violation During Campaigns



- INCITEFUL COMMENTS
- VIOLENT CLASHES

Consequently, this has led to violent clashes and inciteful comments on social media, during campaign rallies, at radio/TV interviews, press statements and other public appearances.

PLARFORMS FOR NON- COMPLIANCE OF THE ACCORD



7%
PRESS STATEMENTS



13%
INTERVIEWS/ FORA



13%
CAMPAIGN/ RALLIES



67%
SOCIAL MEDIA

PLAUSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS

- The top contending political parties are not fully committed to issue-based campaigns ahead of the general elections.
- The social media is misused and 'weaponised' by spokespersons, members and supporters of political parties by way of personal attacks, hate speech, allegations, and spread of unverified information.
- Campaign rallies are susceptible to violent clash among political parties.

CONCLUSION

Considering Nigeria's multi-cultural and multi-religious composition, the need to promote issue-based campaigns ahead of the 2023 general elections cannot be overemphasized. Campaigns of ethnicity and personal attacks, vile comments on social, misinformation and the spread of unchecked and unverified information are abating the chances of having peaceful elections in Nigeria.

Nigeria's political landscape is volatile and thus needs politicians to focus on issues rather than personalities and sentiments. From observations, the effects of violations of the Peace Accord outweigh the compliance. This calls on the need for the National Peace Committee to continuously work closely with INEC, political parties, and other stakeholders to ensure a peaceful election process and outcome in 2023.

NATIONAL PEACE COMMITTEE

2022 NATIONAL PEACE ACCORD

On the Prevention of Violence and Promotion of Issue-focused Campaigns by Presidential Candidates and Chairpersons of Political Parties Contesting the 2023 General Elections

Under the Auspices of the National Peace Committee (NPC)

We the undersigned Presidential Candidates and Chairpersons of the under-listed political parties contesting in the 2023 General Election;

Reaffirming our commitment to taking proactive measures towards the creation of a conducive environment for the conduct of a credible fair, transparent, and verifiable electoral process;

Cognisant of the need to maintain a peaceful environment before, during, and after the 2023 General Election;

Reaffirming our commitment to fully abide by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to respect the rules and regulations as laid down in the legal framework for elections in Nigeria, and to adhere to best international standards and best practices of our democratic process;

Desirous of sustaining and promoting the unity and corporate existence of Nigeria as an indivisible entity;

Determined to avoid any conduct or behaviour that will endanger the political stability and national security of Nigeria;

Mindful of our responsibility towards the Nigerian citizens and their democratic rights; and determined to place national interest above personal and partisan concerns;

Hereby commit ourselves and our parties to the following:

1. *To conduct our campaigns in a manner that focuses on policy issues and the promotion of our party manifestos.*

2. *To ensure that we, our spokespersons, members, and supporters refrain from insults, intimidations, incitement, bribery, extortion, and violence. Our conduct will be in accordance with the rule of law both online and offline, throughout the electoral process;*

3. *To ensure that we, our spokespersons, party members and supporters refrain from disseminating fake news, misinformation, disinformation throughout our campaign engagements both online and offline;*

4. *To engage in authentic campaigning practices, including responsible use of genuine and official online social media accounts for our campaigns and avoiding disinformation and misinformation or the use of fake/parody accounts or unverified networks;*

5. *To ensure that in our parties, women, youths, and persons with disability are protected from assaults, violence, and discrimination throughout the campaign period and beyond;*

6. *To condemn both publicly and privately, instigators and perpetrators of all acts of discrimination and violence based on gender, ethnicity, belief, age, and political affiliation;*

7. *To support all institutions of government involved in conducting or securing the elections – in particular the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the security agencies – to act with professionalism, impartiality, and transparency;*

8. *To discourage state agencies, institutions, and public officers from supporting partisan interests in any form, incitement to violence or other offenses that may threaten the integrity of the electoral process. This includes vote-trading and any action that endangers the security of Nigerians and non-Nigerians before, during and after the elections;*

9. *To use peaceful, inclusive, respectful, culturally sensitive, educative, and issue-based communications, devoid of personal attacks, character assassination throughout the electoral process;*

10. *To fully collaborate with the* ***National Peace Committee****–made up of respected statesmen and women, traditional and religious leaders–in its mission to monitor the adherence to this Accord;*

11. *To abide by the letter and spirit of this Accord, and if my actions and utterances, or those of any party and that of my party violate the principles of this Accord, we accept to be held accountable according to the laws and constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

12. *We agree to the full application of national and international laws against any subversion of the electoral process;*



Montoring the Non-compliance of Political Parties on Issue-based Campaigns

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SECRETARIAT: FLAT C3, American Specialist Complex, 1 Launda Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja Nigeria
npc.nigeria@yaho.com info@nationalpeacecommittee.com
ww.nationalpeacecommittee.org
+234 (0) 9031149816. . +234 (0) 810 9528 466