CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1   CONCLUSION

Not only that, the prolonged ethno-religious conflicts that have plagued this country for over three decades, but have adversely exposed the fact that the media professionals were mostly influenced by their ethnic and religious divides. Their professional ethics were jettisoned in favour of parochial, ethnic, religious, ideological, political and commercial interests. The rise of religious sentiments and the urge to defend "one's religion" has coloured the way news about religious crises are reported in the Nigerian mass media. During ethno-religious conflicts in the country, the news that one reads in newspapers and magazines, listens to over the radio and on television are as varied as the state of faith of the reporters. In order to properly propagate, articulate and defend their religious views, many religious organizations in some instances establish their own media outfits. Therefore, from these few examples, it is clear that in as much as the mass media influence conflicts situations, conflict in turn do affect media operations adversely. Once the media practitioners are able to understand various issues and intricacies of ethno-religious conflicts, they will engage in objective and responsible reportage for a peaceful society which will lead to national development. Therefore, peaceful co-existence among adherents of various religions in Nigeria, especially Muslims and Christians, can best be promoted by the mass media for national development. National development on the other hand cannot take place in the face of incessant ethno-religious conflicts with their attendant destruction of lives and property.

5.2   Limitation of the Study

The inappropriate and careless storage of newspapers, magazines and journals in libraries in Nigeria is a major undoing of this research work. The ability of the researcher to assemble all the publications is not only arduous but tasking. These were setbacks the researcher encountered in the course of this research.

5.3   RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of what is happening in our society, the study suggests that:

The society, especially the mass media should carry out their functions responsibly towards a peaceful society.

The media should be objective and open without attaching personal bias while carrying out their duties.

Inappropriate and inaccurate reportage during conflict should be avoided.

Mass media executives and members of the press should work hand in hand with the government to maintain peace and stability in the country.

Government should use the media to sensitise and educate the people on the dangers of ethno-religious conflicts to national development.

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