

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
MEDIA IN ZIMBABWE (IJM 1113)
FEBRUARY 2010 EXAMINATIONS
TIME ALLOWED: 3HRS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- i) Section A is **compulsory**.
- ii) Answer any **three** questions in Section B.
- iii) Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised.

SECTION A

Question 1

“Early after independence, government said that the newly – acquired media should act as a “mirror” of Zimbabwean society, reflecting the needs and interests of the people and establishing a two – way communication link between the government and the people (Saunders: 1999; 23).”

Critically evaluate the level to which the government managed to achieve this goal in the period between 1980 and 1995. **[40 Marks]**

SECTION B

Question 2

How does *Annexure 1* show the crisis bedeviling Zimbabwe’s print media at present and how is this crisis similar to that which affected the print media between the 1950s and 1960s? Discuss the factors that have contributed to the growth of this crisis.

[20 Marks]

Question 3 – Refer to Annexure 2

- a) Discuss the factors that encouraged the growth of ‘pirate’ radio stations in Zimbabwe, and critique the role that these stations have been playing in the country to date. **[10 Marks]**

- b) To what extent are these factors similar to those that led to the growth and development of nationalistic ‘pirate’ radio broadcasts in the late 1950s and 1970s? **[10 Marks]**

Question 4

Using an example of a Zimbabwean news agency that you know, as well as your knowledge of the operations of the media in Zimbabwe, evaluate the merits of establishing a commercial news agency? **[20 Marks]**

Question 5

“Censorship and harassment of the media were central to the RF’s political survival. Laws were repeatedly tightened to restrict reporting which did not support the RF and its “official” view of events. Most of these laws remained after 1980 (Saunders, R: 1999; 8)”.

Critically evaluate the validity of this assertion by Saunders. **[20 Marks]**

Question 6

The same reasons that led to the rise of the radical black press in the colonial period contributed to the rise of the private press and online news media in Zimbabwe. Discuss. **[20 Marks]**

ANNEXURE 1

Letters – *The Chronicle*, Thursday 5 November 2009

Western double standards exposed

Editor – The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has emerged as the best in the world for its upholding of the constitutional process which provides for a run – off between the two candidates if none receives more than 50 percent of the votes.

In March 2008 during the harmonised elections, the preferred Western MDC – T candidate failed to get more than 50 percent of the votes and refused to go for a run – off and instead ran away from the country to various Western countries. The presidential election run – off went ahead and the President RG Mugabe won overwhelmingly.

Britain and America claimed that the President’s election and swearing – in were illegitimate. Even after the formation of the inclusive government they still want regime change and do not want to remove illegal sanctions.

The main reason is the President and Zanu- PF’s stance on and redistribution, 51 percent requirement for indigenous investors in mines and youth economic empowerment.

In Afghanistan recently the Western sponsored fraudulent election commission could not disband or cancel the run – off elections. It has declared Hamid Karzai President of Afghanistan and he has been recognized by the British and American governments. Afghans are in arms against this decision but as usual, they will be silenced by guns. President Mugabe once said, “might does not mean right.”

The British, American and other Western governments should stop their double standards, lift economic sanctions on our nations to enable us to build our nation, and to make the Inclusive Government work. They must stop infiltrating foreign workers and to master mind any disengagements. No Zimbabwean or foreigners can be allowed to work at the US State Department, White House or No 10 Downing Street but these countries’ citizens are busy interfering in our internal affairs.

Dr Sikhanyiso Duke Ndlovu, Secretary for Education in the Politburo, Zanu PF.

SMS the ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENT – *The Zimbabwe Independent*, September 25 to October 1, 2009.

Robert Mugabe should not think that we are the people are fools. We are very aware of the fact he and his henchmen destroyed the economy. The MDC is trying by all means possible to e rectify this and yet the former are trying to block progress from all angles. He must remember that he is now forcing himself on the people because we rejected him and voted him out. Why should we be forced to eat a dish we have rejected? We are fed up! **Amai Zimba.**

ANNEXURE 2

Column - *The Zimbabwe Independent*, September 25 to October 1, 2009)

Generals plot to defend Zim from radio stations

Our political army generals were at it again last week and on Monday. Commander of the Zimbabwe National Army, Lieutenant – General Philip Valerio Sibanda and the head of 2 Brigade, Brigadier – General Douglas Nyikayaramba, last week claimed that Zimbabwe was undergoing an asymmetrical warfare aimed at regime change.

The belligerents, Sibanda and Nyikayaramba claimed, were foreign based pirate stations and NGOs; and pirate radio stations; and the generals said the army should remain on guard.

“Our country is undergoing asymmetric-type of war where all means are used to achieve set objectives by our detractors,” Sibanda told a study seminar of the army in Harare last Monday. “Zimbabweans must be aware and clearly understand that war is not only about guns and bullets. Zimbabwe’s detractors are using some NGOs and private radio stations to spread false hood and hate messages that will lead to rioting, despondency and eventually cause war...”