

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES
BSC IN JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES II
MEDIA, HUMAN RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY (IJM 2211)
MAY 2012 EXAMINATIONS
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- (i) Answer **THREE** questions, **ONE** from Section A and any **TWO** questions in Section B
- (ii) Poor spelling and grammar will be penalised
- (iii) Do not repeat material used in answering another question

SECTION A

Question 1

“... the media in this country, having to negotiate a veritable minefield of legislation with all sorts of things not going for them, could be said in many ways to have been the midwife of our democracy of our democracy. We have had some quite outstanding journalism. (...) It was the journalists in this country, facing all those incredible odds, who ... kept before the nation the vision and the dream of a different kind of society. Without them, what we see today, this miracle, would have been impossible.”

(Archbishop Desmond Tutu in a speech at the African Media Forum in 1996).

With reference to this statement, critically discuss the role media should play in bringing about democracy paying particular attention to the role played by the media in conflict situations in **TWO** African countries of your choice (with the exception of Zimbabwe). Use concrete examples in your answer. **[50 marks]**

SECTION B

Question 2

“I am Ndebele and a member of the ruling party. I am obviously concerned over allegations that security forces want to wipe out the Ndebeles. If that was the truth how could I be a member of that party,” Cde (Enos) Nkala (Minister of National Supplies) asked. ... Callistus Ndlovu was named as one of those ex-ZAPU members who had answered Cde Nkala’s ‘call in the wilderness’ urging Ndebeles to join the ruling (ZANU PF) party (Chronicle 29 April 1984).

Using this quotation from the Chronicle, critically discuss the intrinsic relationship between the media and human rights, paying particular attention to the role of the public media in fostering ethnic hatred in Zimbabwe. **[25 marks]**

Question 3

Discuss the view that it is wrong to isolate the struggle for human rights from that of social, political and economic development of societies. **[25 marks]**

Question 4

Discuss the assertion that producing media in all of the languages found in a country is fundamental in so far as the role of the media in championing for human rights and democracy is concerned. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

As Africa democratises there is considerable concern that the liberties of democracy will unleash ethnic rivalries whose embers are forever smouldering in African conditions and destroy the fragile unity of African countries (Claude Ake, 2000: 92). Paying particular attention to the interface of democratization and ethnic conflict in Africa, discuss this statement showing the role of the media in all this. Give concrete examples in your answer. **[25 marks]**