

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN PUBLISHING
PART II SECOND SEMESTER MAY 2011 EXAMINATIONS
IPU 2202 ADVOCACY GROUPS: THEIR ROLE IN BOOK DEVELOPMENT
TIME: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER THREE(3) QUESTIONS BELOW
2. QUESTION ONE CARRIES 40 MARKS AND THE REST 20 MARKS EACH.
3. IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED TO ACCURACY, CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND LEGIBLE HANDWRITING.

QUESTION 1

Publishing advocacy groups protest!!

The following is a joint statement to Parliament. Four publishing advocacy organizations have signed the petition. There is still need for more advocacy groups to sign up so that it carries more weight.

The year 2006 began with amendments to the Law on Mass Media. As a result, the Information Ministry, along with local executive bodies, was given the power to supervise and control the publishing industry including media. The publishing community has therefore expressed concerns over the continued attempts by the Ministry of Culture and Information to destroy freedom of expression, in spite of the guarantee in the Constitution.

The end of 2006 is marked by another draft law, proposed by the ministry, "on Publishing Activities." Its preamble stipulates that the draft "will ensure favorable conditions for developing (the) publishing domain and for its professional participants." However, the draft lacks any mechanism to reach this goal. A number of provisions in it that were taken from other laws could not hide the fact that they were undoubtedly aimed at limiting the publishing market and fostering political censorship.

These days, as long as there are many private publishing companies, publishers face no problems in publishing the quantity of copies needed, especially newspapers. The proposed draft brings us back to the time when independent publishers had to use their own printing devices, or publish abroad, or just cease existence. Among other provisions, the draft proposes to begin licensing printing companies that provide services to publishers and media outlets. This virtually makes the printing companies more dependent on

state bodies and restricts the right to freely receive and distribute information, as set in the Constitution and UN Declaration of Human Rights.

The provision was first proposed in the Ministry's draft law in mid 2006, but was later removed by the lower House of Assembly, who saw the need to reduce, rather than increase, the number of activities that require licensing, as well as to ensure that the business sector is allowed to develop freely. The ministry is now proposing this provision again, maybe in the hope that the House had forgotten that fact.

NGOs have issued a statement underlining the need to liberalize national publishing and media legislation saying that, the ministry's attempts to "bury" the draft law on Mass Media that had been proposed by public organizations and the minister's intentions to limit the segment of the Internet should not be allowed. These amendments to the media law, initiated by the Information Ministry in June 2006 have been sharply criticized by local journalists and the international community.

1. Answer the following questions:
 - (a) State which four advocacy groups would protest against the draft law "on Publishing Activities" and why. Elaborate on the issues each of the four groups would want to challenge in the proposed law. **(20 Marks)**
 - (b) What political censorship do you think could be fostered by the proposed law and how would it affect the publishing industry? **(10 Marks)**
 - (c) As a publisher, discuss what you would like to see included in the proposed law to enhance the profession and productivity. **(10 Marks)**
2. Justify why a booksellers' association is important for the publishing industry. Use examples from a book publishing industry of your choice.
3. In most developing countries, the role of libraries is usually undermined. Comment on the role of libraries and the need to form a library association in book development.
4. Discuss how the electronic age has impacted on the Reproduction Rights Organizations' activities world wide.
5. Justify the need for an association of authors in a developing world. Give examples of authors associations you are familiar with and their activities.
6. Critique the role played by Book Publishers' Associations in book development. Use examples from the publishing industry across the world.

END OF PAPER