

Nigerian Press Council and Issue of Ethical Regulation for Journalism Practice

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Abstract Many codes of conduct or ethics had so far been produced respectively by Nigerian Union of Journalists [NUJ], Nigerian Guild of Editors [NGE] and the Nigerian Press Council in collaboration with the Nigerian Press Organization [NPO] all geared towards the regulation of the conduct of journalists as members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm. But there has been little or nothing to show that compliance has taken the place of breaches of these codes. Instead what we have is that there is the phobia for strict enforcement of the various ethical codes by journalists who often thwart the efforts of bodies set up to check their conduct. This study is a review of the different Press Codes for professional conduct and their composition, the differences in the laws and various provisions that were opposed by the Nigerian Press. It also attempted to bring to the fore the constraints on the effective operation of the other codes.

Key words: Ethical codes, Press code, Professional conduct, Nigerian press, Press council

Introduction

On April 21, 1962 a move was made to produce a code of ethics for journalists by the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) during a meeting held at the defunct National Press Club,