

Ethical Issue of Brown Envelopes and Corruptible tendencies in the Practice of Journalism in Nigeria

Josephine Omoruyi

Abstract Ethical issue of brown envelopes and corruptible tendencies in the practice of journalism in Nigeria is the focus of this study. The researcher opines that professional journalist should be guided by ethical principles and accountability in performing his/her duties. She refers to section 22 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution that gives the function of the press as upholding the responsibility and accountability of the government to the people. She says that the press role is to “watch and check, gate-keep and to uncover and never to cover-up”. It is concluded that the journalists today are clearly better educated than the pioneer newspaper men most of who learnt to practice journalism on the job.

Key word: Ethical issues, Brown envelopes, Corruptible tendencies, Nigerian constitution, Press role

Introduction

Today as the law says anyone claiming to be a journalist must have a minimum of diploma in Journalism or Mass Communication this some practitioners acquire after being trained in other disciplines. In furtherance of this course of professionalism journalism practitioners need to maintain certain standards of integrity and be blameless all ways. The *West African Pilot* published by the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe in the 1940s puts it that: “show the light – and the people will find the way”. The journalist that is the touch bearer of the people is expected to give the people the impression that *its house is in order* that is, he knows and adheres