

**IMPACT OF CITIZEN JOURNALISM ON PROFESSIONALISM IN UGANDA: A  
CASE STUDY OF ANTI CORRUPTION REPORTS AGAINST UGANDA'S  
PARLIAMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This investigation looked at how citizen journalism affected Ugandan journalism's professionalism and moral standards, with a particular focus on anti-corruption reports pertaining to the Ugandan Parliament from January 2023 to June 2024. The study sought to ascertain how the ethical standards and integrity of the journalism profession were impacted by citizen journalism, especially as it related to social media. The study assessed the legitimacy of citizen journalism by contrasting the truthfulness and precision of reports created by citizens with those released by conventional media channels.

The study also looked at how these citizen reports affected public opinion and Ugandan journalism's general level of credibility. The results shed light on how the media is changing and what that means for the nation's public perception and journalistic standards. The findings demonstrated the important role that citizen journalism plays in influencing public opinion as well as its possible effects on the legitimacy and moral standards of Uganda's journalism industry.

## **DECLARATION**

I, Mariam Jumane hereby declare that this is my original work, is not plagiarized and has not been submitted in any other institution for an award

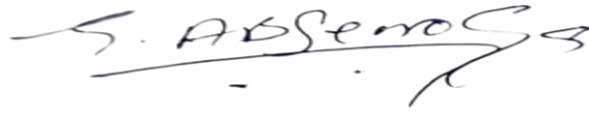
## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research to my Father Mr. Jumanne Sudi Milondomo who has supported me financially in this academic journey

**APPROVAL**

This work has been approved as partial fulfillment for the award of bachelors' degree of arts in Journalism media and communication of Uganda Christian University Mukono by:

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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 Introduction

The study ‘‘Impact of Citizen Journalism on Professionalism in Uganda’’ aimed at investigating the professional and ethical confrontations of citizen journalism in Uganda, establishing its strength and weakness in reporting anti-corruption parliament reports suggest solutions on how to improve it and people’s perceptions of this form of journalism as the study core objectives. Many media organizations in Uganda, at earliest by the time this research was conducted have entrusted the audience which previously the receiving end, to actively get involved in the production and dissemination of news. The journalism profession is directed with the code of conduct but this form of journalism [citizen journalism] is not standardized.

### 1.1 Background

In recent years, the media landscape has undergone significant transformations with the advent of digital technologies and the proliferation of social media platforms. These changes have democratized information dissemination, enabling ordinary citizens to engage in journalism and report on issues of public interest. This phenomenon, known as citizen journalism, has become particularly prevalent in Uganda, where traditional media institutions often operate under constraints such as limited resources and political pressures.

The main goals of the study "Examining the Professional and Ethical Challenges of Citizen Journalism in Uganda" were to determine the professional and ethical conflicts that citizen journalism in Uganda faces, as well as to identify its advantages and disadvantages, recommend ways to strengthen it, and ascertain the public's perceptions of this type of journalism. By the time this research was done, a lot of Ugandan media organizations had already trusted their audience—who had previously been the recipient of news—to actively participate in the creation and distribution of news. Although there is a code of conduct for the journalism profession, citizen journalism is not standardized. This prompted the researcher to launch a study on the ethical and professional difficulties facing citizen journalism.

The media environment in Uganda is historically rooted in the British protectorate era of colonialism. In order to further their imperial goals, the British established media operations in Uganda in 1954 (Lugalambi, 2010). A state-owned organization, the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC) aired local programming alongside BBC material in an effort to counteract

pro-independence and anti-British sentiments that were being pushed by Pan-Africanists in the area. Because black Pan-Africanists used the media to oppose colonial rule, there were severe restrictions on media freedom even during colonial era. In retaliation, the colonial authorities closed down the publications of critical African writers and arrested and imprisoned them (Lugalambi, 2010).

Following its independence on October 9, 1962, Uganda's post-independence government took over the UBC and persisted in its hostile media policy. Under Milton Obote's presidency,

According to Lugalambi, Uganda had two media channels at the time, and the Ministry of Information continued to be in charge of them, employing public servants. The state provided the funding for its management and operations (2010:20). The UBC was essentially the government's mouthpiece for a very long time, showing very little independence in its broadcasting programs. As a result, the idea of public broadcasting became meaningless because there were no legal safeguards for media professionals in their line of work. This entailed significant state coercion and intervention in matters pertaining to national broadcasters. According to Lugalambi (2010), Ugandan radio and television started to represent state power and adopted a biased style of reporting.

Up until the country's economic liberalization in 1993, the Ugandan media had been governed by the government ever since it gained independence. The media industry, which was previously monopolized and beset by inadequate legal protections, faced numerous obstacles, such as state apparatus coercion, intimidation, harassment, and interference (IREX, 2008). Numerous independent media outlets, both print and broadcast, run by private citizens, politicians, religious institutions, and business owners have emerged as a result of the liberalization of media laws (Uganda Communications Commission [UCC], n.d.). The UCC reports that Uganda now has over 200 FM radio stations. Local FM radio stations increased from 14 in December 1996 to 158 by March 2007. In a similar vein, during this time private television stations expanded from four to forty-five, including cable channels (IREX, 2008).

In Uganda, citizen journalism has grown significantly in the last several years, primarily as a result of technology improvements. Nowadays, a variety of platforms allow the public to contribute news and information while also offering new information sources to professional journalists. The

proliferation of mobile phones in Uganda and the emergence of new media technologies like social networking and media-sharing websites have increased the accessibility and prevalence of citizen journalism (IREX, 2008). Determining the legitimacy of citizen contributions to news production and dissemination presents a problem for this ostensibly effective and improved news system. Although the media industry benefits from greater freedom of expression, since 2002 the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government has started to impose limitations on media operations. These limitations have included enacting strict domestic laws against the media and limiting expression and diversity of opinion, among other things (Article 19, 2010; Human Rights Watch [HRW], 2010; Amnesty International, 2011). These laws have been opposed by numerous media outlets, international organizations, civil society organizations, and journalist associations on the grounds that they infringe upon regional, global, and national standards of freedom of expression. According to journalists, the Ugandan government believes that the undermine media freedom and independence.

While citizen journalism is still largely unregulated, professional journalism is usually governed by established codes of ethics or canons of journalism. The researcher's investigation into the ethical and professional ramifications of citizen journalism in Uganda is motivated by this discrepancy. The riots of September 10–12, 2009, greatly increased public participation in news gathering and dissemination, claim Lugalambi and Tabaire (2009). Following a conflict between the authorities of the central government and the Buganda kingdom, there were riots in Kampala that resulted in over 40 fatalities and numerous gunshot wounds. As a reaction, the Broadcasting Council closed down four radio stations: Suubi, Akaboozi ku Bbiri, Central Broadcasting Services (CBS), and Sapientia. They were accused of encouraging sectarianism, inciting violence, opposing the government, and demeaning President Museveni (Lugalambi & Tabaire, 2009).

Due to the threat posed by this action, several of the still-airing stations decided not to cover the story, and others purposefully played music. Variable accounts of similar events were also reported by the print media, leaving a gap in the information about the events as they actually occurred. People who may not have been totally truthful filled this void by stoking the flames of violence. The diaspora of Ugandans was likewise in information desperation. In a state of desperation, a large number of Ugandans started using social media accounts—some on Facebook,

Twitter, and other platforms—to share news and information with the rest of the world. The launch of Luanda news source Agataliiko Nfuufu.

### **Citizen Journalism in Uganda**

Citizen journalism refers to the practice of non-professional individuals collecting, reporting, and disseminating news and information. With the widespread use of smartphones and internet access, Ugandan citizens have increasingly turned to platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to share news and opinions. This grassroots approach to journalism has provided a powerful tool for social advocacy and public engagement, particularly in areas where traditional media may be restricted or biased.

### **The Role of Social Media**

Social media has emerged as a crucial platform for citizen journalists, allowing them to bypass traditional gatekeepers and reach a broad audience. In Uganda, social media has been instrumental in raising awareness about various social, political, and economic issues. Among these, allegations of corruption against public officials and institutions, including the Ugandan Parliament, have gained substantial attention. Citizen journalists have played a vital role in uncovering and publicizing these allegations, often prompting public debates and responses from authorities.

### **Corruption and the Ugandan Parliament**

Corruption remains a pervasive issue in Uganda, undermining governance, economic development, and public trust in institutions. The Ugandan Parliament, as the country's legislative body, has not been immune to such allegations. Reports of corruption involving members of Parliament (MPs), misuse of public funds, and lack of accountability have surfaced on multiple occasions. These reports have been circulated through both traditional media outlets and social media platforms, with citizen journalists contributing significantly to the discourse.

### **The Impact of Citizen Journalism**

While citizen journalism has democratized information dissemination and provided a platform for voicing concerns, it also raises questions about the accuracy, credibility, and professionalism of

the information shared. Unlike traditional journalists, citizen journalists may lack formal training in journalistic ethics and standards, leading to potential issues such as misinformation, sensationalism, and lack of accountability. These challenges necessitate a closer examination of how citizen journalism affects the overall landscape of journalism in Uganda, particularly concerning professionalism and ethical standards.

### **Research Focus**

This study aims to explore the impact of citizen journalism on the professionalism and moral standards of traditional journalism in Uganda, with a specific focus on anti-corruption reports against the Ugandan Parliament from January 2023 to June 2024. By analyzing social media content, traditional media reports, and public perceptions, the study seeks to assess the veracity and accuracy of citizen journalism compared to traditional media and understand its implications for the journalistic profession in Uganda.

### **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Citizen journalism has become more well-known as a substitute for traditional news sources in recent years, especially on social media sites. The emergence of citizen journalism in Uganda has had a major impact on public conversation, particularly when it comes to important topics like corruption. Notably, allegations of corruption against the Ugandan Parliament have appeared on social media on a regular basis, frequently eclipsing traditional media outlets.

Although citizen journalism has given regular people the ability to reveal wrongdoing, its effects on Ugandan journalism's professionalism and reputation are not fully recognized. Citizen journalists frequently disregard the high ethical and professional standards that traditional media outlets operate under. This lack of professionalism has the potential to erode public confidence in both citizen and professional media by fostering the dissemination of false information and biased reporting. The problem is that in the case of the parliamentary anti- corruption social media campaign carried out between Jan 2023-June 2024, there has been no study (as to my knowledge) about how it has been a detraction from professional journalistic standards.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- 1.To identify social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024
- 2.To examine social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024.
- 3.To assess citizen journalists' anti-corruption reports' veracity and accuracy in comparison to traditional media's output.
- 4.To evaluate how citizen journalism has affected Ugandan journalism's professionalism and moral standards in the social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024.

### **1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024?
2. What kind of anti-corruption reports are there on social media against Uganda's Parliament?
3. What is the veracity and accuracy of citizen journalists' anti-corruption reports against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024?
4. How citizen journalism has affected Ugandan journalism's professionalism and moral standards in the social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024?

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study's importance stems from its capacity to improve Ugandan journalism's ethical standards and professional standards by analyzing how citizen journalism affects traditional media, particularly when it comes to covering anti-corruption stories involving the Ugandan Parliament. The results can help policymakers create fair media laws, advise media practitioners on best

practices, and promote scholarly media studies research. The study also seeks to strengthen democratic processes, empower citizens, and advance media literacy by emphasizing the vital role that a diverse and responsible media play in promoting accountability and transparency in government.

## **1.6 GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE**

The study will focus on the people of Uganda

## **1.7 CONTENT SCOPE**

The following topics will be covered by this study:

Identification of Anti-Corruption Reports: From January 2023 to June 2024, compile and examine social media reports that purport to show corruption against the Ugandan Parliament.

Report Content Analysis

Compare social media anti-corruption reports with traditional media coverage to identify differences in content and tone.

## **1.8 TIME SCOPE**

This study's time scope spans the months of January 2023 through June 2024.

## **1.9 THEORITICAL FRAME WORK Introduction**

The theoretical framework establishes the foundation of the study by linking it to relevant theories and concepts that explain the phenomena under investigation. This study examines the impact of citizen journalism on professionalism and ethical standards of traditional journalism in Uganda, with a focus on anti-corruption reports against the Ugandan Parliament which ran on social media from January 2023 to June 2024. This study was guided by two theories namely:

## **Agenda-Setting Theory**

Explanation: This theory posits that the media has the power to influence the public agenda by highlighting certain issues, thus shaping what the public perceives as important.

Application: Understanding how citizen journalists and traditional media prioritize and present anti-corruption reports regarding the Ugandan Parliament

## **Social Responsibility Theory**

This theory emphasizes the ethical obligations of the media to serve the public interest, provide accurate information, and uphold professional standards.

Assessing the extent to which citizen journalists and traditional media adhere to social responsibility principles in their reporting.

## **Framework Structure**

### **Agenda-Setting Theory**

Influence on public perception. Media prioritization, public agenda.

Citizen Journalists may highlight different aspects of corruption compared to traditional media, thus setting a distinct public agenda.

### **Social Responsibility Theory**

Ethical duties and expectations. Public interest, accountability, and accuracy.

The emergence of citizen journalism puts pressure on established media to maintain greater ethical and professional standards.

## **Explanation of the Framework**

The agenda-setting theory explains that media outlets, such as newspapers and TV news, have the power to shape public opinion (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). It implies that while the media doesn't dictate to people what to think, it does influence the subjects that dominate conversation and thought.

For instance, if a certain topic, like pollution, is covered extensively in the news, people may begin to believe that pollution is a serious issue. This is a result of the media giving it a lot of attention, which increases the public's perception of its importance. Thus, the media plays a role in determining the topics that people discuss and think about.

### **Social Responsibility Theory**

According to Siebert, Peterson, and Schramm (1956), the media has an obligation to act responsibly and serve the public interest. This idea is known as social responsibility theory in media studies. According to this theory, the media should present fair and accurate information so that people can make educated decisions. It highlights how crucial it is for journalists to uphold moral standards like objectivity, justice, and balance in order to make sure that the media has a positive social impact.

This theory holds that the media should take the public's welfare into account in addition to profit. It ought to serve as a watchdog, holding the powerful accountable, and give different voices and viewpoints a forum. According to social responsibility theory, rules and moral principles are necessary to guarantee that the media plays its part in fostering an educated and healthy public.

### **1.10 GENERAL PURPOSE**

The study's overall goal is to find out how citizen journalism affects the professionalism and moral standards of journalism in Uganda. It focuses especially on social media reports that expose corruption against the Ugandan parliament between January 2023 and June 2024.

The purpose of the study is to compare the veracity and accuracy of these reports to those published by traditional media, as well as to analyze the ways in which citizen journalism affects public confidence and the general credibility of journalism in Uganda.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

The review of literature examines theoretical stances and recent findings on traditional media, citizen journalism, reporting on corruption, and the implications for journalistic professionalism and ethics. This review will provide readers with a contextual basis for understanding the ways in which citizen journalism impacts the professionalism and moral standards of traditional journalism in Uganda. It focuses on anti-corruption reports against the Ugandan Parliament from January 2023 to June 2024.

### **2.1 Citizen Journalism**

Participatory journalism, also known as citizen journalism, has grown in popularity as digital technologies and social media have advanced. According to Bowman and Willis (2003), citizen journalism is "an act of a citizen, or group of citizens, playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating news and information." This phenomenon is being driven by the accessibility of digital tools, which enable common people to record and distribute news events in real time.

Several studies have highlighted the advantages of citizen journalism (Gillmor, 2004; Allan & Thorsen, 2009). These advantages include the capacity to broaden media diversity, democratize the dissemination of information, and provide a forum for underrepresented voices. When traditional media is limited by censorship or lack of resources, citizen journalism can serve as an alternate source of information, bringing attention to subjects that might otherwise go unreported (Rosen, 2008).

### **2.2 Social Media and Citizen Journalism in Uganda**

Uganda, social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube have become increasingly significant platforms for citizen journalism. Social media gets around established gatekeeping protocols and facilitates instantaneous information dissemination. According to Nassanga, Manyozo, and Lopes (2013), social media has enabled Ugandans to participate in public discourse and advocate for social and political causes. According to research, social media is a crucial instrument for exposing misconduct and holding public employees accountable (Ndavula & Mberia, 2013). For example, reports about corruption

involving members of the Ugandan Parliament have often come from social media, and on occasion, these reports have sparked formal investigations and public discussions. Citizen journalists are instrumental in these endeavors, utilizing digital tools and reporting from the ground up.

### **2.3 Corruption Reporting.**

Corruption remains a serious issue in many countries, including Uganda. Uganda routinely has high levels of perceived corruption, according to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. The Ugandan Parliament has been implicated in a number of corruption scandals involving bribery, embezzlement, and misappropriation of public funds (Tangri & Mwenda, 2013).

Investigating and reporting corruption has historically benefited greatly from the work of traditional media. However, studies show that restrictions like ownership influences, resource limitations, and political pressures are common for media organizations (Banda, 2007). In this context, citizen journalism seems to be a complementing force that heightens the scrutiny and strengthens anti-corruption initiatives.

### **2.4 Professionalism and Ethics in Journalism**

To be taken seriously as professionals, journalists need to adhere to a number of ethical standards, including justice, objectivity, accountability, and accuracy. Conventional journalists typically undergo formal training and work for respectable media organizations that maintain these standards. However, the rise of citizen journalism challenges conventional wisdom regarding professionalism and ethics.

Despite their beneficial contributions to media diversity and public discourse, citizen journalists often lack formal training and may not adhere to professional ethical standards (Singer et al., 2011). This calls into question the accuracy, reliability, and accountability of citizen-generated content. Studies have demonstrated that citizen journalism can exhibit bias, sensationalism, and disinformation—all of which have the potential to undermine public trust in the media (Hermida, 2010; Karlsson, 2011).

## **The Impact of Citizen Journalism on Traditional Journalism**

There are many different facets and a complex interaction between citizen journalism and traditional journalism. According to some academics, citizen journalism enhances traditional media by supplying different viewpoints and completing coverage gaps (Bruns, 2005; Bowman & Willis, 2003). Some argue that it undermines traditional journalism by upending long-standing conventions and norms (Deuze, 2005).

The impact of citizen journalism on Uganda's traditional journalism's professionalism and ethical standards is a topic of increasing interest. This study aims to assess the accuracy and credibility of citizen journalism as well as its influence on the broader journalism landscape. Specifically, it will compare reports from traditional media with social media reports that address corruption.

### **THOSE WHO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Journalists use the media to defend human rights. Barker(2001) defines human rights defenders as journalists,lawyers, activists and politicians who investigate, expose , and publicize ongoing violations of human rights.

### **Organize Public Understanding**

**According to Austin (2006), journalists' media content is valued for its quality,objectivity and authority. In practice, the ethics of this press and television are are tightly linked to homogeneous establishment, which supports the corporation( BBC) is crucial for facilitating power and ideology in societies . The media organizes public knowledge by examining power dynamics and ideology.**

**According to Ansah (1992), journalists used the media to influence political, economic, social and cultural transformation in the society. Ansah believes that journalists play a crucial role in supporting democracy, reducing violence, and driving development in Africa. Ansah argues that single party rule in countries like Kenya requires journalists to facilitate**

**collective discussion and evaluation of options, allowing the public to make informed decisions.**

**According to Baran et al . (2008), journalism began in the eighteenth century and has played a crucial role in propagating ideas outside educational and religious institutions.**

**Additionally, journalists used media to mobilize national protests.**

**According to McLuhan et al.(1964), journalists have a significant impact on politics, culture, and society through the media . Media's ability to convey a powerful message to a large audience is crucial for success. McLuhan et al states that them media is the message .Media including television, radio, and print, effectively convey messages to intended audience.**

**According to Omolo (2005), African journalists use media ownership to promote freedom , justice and equality in their own countries . Aspiring political leaders often rely on the indigenous press to establish political groups, which are often imitated and play a significant role in achieving independence. Journalism is inherently communicative (Carter et al, 2003).**

Barker et al.(2001) define communication as a bridge- building exercise that fosters trust in individual's ability to handle issues. People's participation is founded on their right to selfdetermination and does not require ext anal mobilization.

Barker et al. (2001) claim that society is becoming more and more divided into two domains: the private, which is the intimate world of family and personal interactions, and the public, which refers to the establishment of the state and related political activities. The evolution of media is said to have had a major role in the shift from an absolutist government to a liberal-democratic society. The development of printed literature and other kinds of media has led to the establishment of an intermediate sector known as the bourgeois public sphere (Barker et al., 2001). People can come together in this place to critically analyze, debate, and appraise significant contemporary problems that are very important to them. Chomsky et al. (2002) claim that the media promotes the public's use of reason, which not only serves as a highly visible check on the state but also serves as a spark for the absolutist regime to be replaced with a liberal democratic one.

According to Ansah (1992), media not only opens people's eyes but also completely alters their view of the function it plays in influencing people's daily lives as well as children's beliefs, personalities, and ideals. The truth is that societal change—which many find far more terrifying—is the true culprit, which is why individuals prefer to point the finger at the simple targets. In a similar vein, Tolson (1996) goes on to say that communication's function is to spread technological advances or knowledge from change agents to recipients, thereby fostering a change-loving culture among those working for progress.

According to Tolson (1996), censorship has the ability to restrict press freedom. However, the treatments that have been suggested could worsen the condition because they would come at an unacceptably high cost in terms of undermining the core freedoms of speech. Furthermore, censorship by the government is an inappropriate response to social violence. It is unlawful because it effectively represents the censorship of disagreeable words, images, or ideas—something that occurs anytime some people are successful in forcing their moral or political beliefs on others. What this suggests, though, is that the government may affect media policy by censoring violent content and even imposing its own moral and political beliefs on journalists' reporting.

According to Barker (2008), there has historically been little government control over journalists. However, as media has become more important to modern society, there has been an increase in government interference with media operations as well as attempts to regulate them. According to Althusser (1999), these laws and interventions are detrimental to society because they force the ideology of the governing class and the state upon the whole population. Governments have the authority to prohibit media coverage of certain events due to extreme violence that could have a harmful impact on the audience. Nonetheless, the censorship will result in a lack of information, which will make it difficult for the public and media to influence the government, even though these events might be extremely important to the citizens.

Numerous problems impede the job of journalists, as noted by Carter et al. (2003). These include government intervention through pre-publication licensing, the seizure of objectionable

material, censorship of objectionable material before it is made public, criminal penalties for objectionable matter after publication, the collection of damages in a civil action after publication, the correction of libel and other misstatements after publication, injunctions against the publication of a book or newspaper or of specific content, the requirement of surety bonds against libel or other offenses, the mandatory disclosure of ownership and authority, discrimination in the distribution of communications facilities, taxes, discrimination in subsidies, and other forms of interference with the acquisition, reading, and listening.

According to Ssebbagala (2016), journalism has improved significantly since broadcasting was deregulated in 1994. Ssebbagala claims that entertainment radio and television are still somewhat of a novelty in the nation, despite being radically different from the previous statecontrolled media. With a long history of supporting state-run media, critics of FM radio are particularly critical of the station's excessive focus on music and advertising at the expense of public information and news reporting.

However, Tolson (1996) asserts that the majority of mainstream, dominating media in Africa hardly ever features so-called sensitization campaigns, but rather politicians' pledges to advance human rights and their threats against groups seeking to topple the government. Consequently, entertainment is the only content free from flimsy assurances and ominous warnings (Tolson, 1996).

It's possible that the media in Africa is utilized more for amusement purposes than for informing or teaching people how to exercise their inalienable rights, which runs counter to the goals of the defender advocates and media to promote the enjoyment of human rights.

## **2.5 Potential actions and fixes for the difficulties community media journalists face**

The government broke the long-standing monopoly of state broadcasters Radio Uganda and Uganda Television in 1993 by liberalizing the airways. The first privately owned radio station, Sanyu FM, went on the air in December 1993. Capital Radio followed quickly behind Sanyu

FM in February 1994. Since then, there has been an explosion in FM radio stations, placing Uganda among the nations on the continent with the highest radio penetration (The Press and Journalist Act, 2012).

## **2.6 Response of the media to state regulation**

Secondly, Journalists were alarmed by the government's resolve and easiness in enacting the Press and Journalist Act. First, it was evident that the government was interested in regulating journalistic behavior in particular as well as the media as a whole. Recall that the Act was passed around the same time that editors and journalists, primarily from The Monitor newspaper, were being routinely prosecuted by the government in courts for reports that were either false or seditious, or both. However, the Ugandan Supreme Court ruled in 2004 that disseminating misleading information was an unconstitutional offense.

The 2012 Press and Journalist Act it was evident that the journalists in Uganda lacked organization as a group and were unable to defend media freedom. Apart from voices of a few lawyers, some foreign embassies and isolated civil society groups, there were very few journalism voices being heard whenever government ordered arrests of journalists or came up with policy or legal proposals that had negative implications for media freedom.

### **Need for Independence of Media**

Actually, individuals constantly absorb information from a variety of media sources, including printed and visual media, according to Althursser (1999), who claims that journalism has a huge influence. The issue of media control and their usage as a tool for mass communication naturally comes up under such circumstances. Accordingly, it becomes imperative to emphasize that different people have different opinions about the media and its place in society. But sometimes, journalistic tactics can be downright hostile. In today's world, journalists are

becoming more and more vital. The rise of journalism had a part in the steady shift in the importance of media in today's society. For the media to be free of biases and ideological prejudices, it is necessary for them to be independent from any external influences on the part of the state.

#### Government Censorship of the Media

Thwaites et al. (2002) acknowledge the necessity of media censorship by the government. In order to reduce the amount of violence in the media and, consequently, its detrimental effects on people, the government ought to have the authority and capacity to control it. Since violence typically draws huge audiences and increases media earnings, the government is the most trustworthy organization in this regard because the media is unable to effectively regulate itself. Therefore, it is improbable that it was under the control of a commercial entity, since governmental entities lack the formal authority and power to establish media policy. As a result, as the most powerful and trustworthy organization, the government must restrict the depiction of violence in the media.

#### **Regulation of Ownership from Interfering with Journalism**

Tolson (1996) asserts that there ought to be a crucial relationship between the ownership and control of the media and the media's capacity for independence and freedom. Therefore, the main argument of his thesis is that, in liberal political systems, anyone with the financial means can own the media. This is desirable, he contends, because it frees the media from government interference because it is privately owned.

#### Government Intervention only in Cases of Abuse of Freedom

Opponents of the government's introduction of media censorship claim that it poses a threat to press freedom because, in addition to any potential benefits resulting from the necessary restriction of violence in the media, the censorship may allow the government to abuse its power in ways that could compromise the fundamental democratic values of contemporary society.

**According to Tolson (1996), the fact that media is present everywhere shows without a doubt how much mass media affects people's lives and the lives of society as a whole. In actuality, individuals are continuously inundated with information that journalists provide through a variety of media, which they can access on a timely and frequent basis. It is crucial in this**

**kind of situation to stop the media from potentially harming people. It is common knowledge that media not only shapes but also influences a person's identity. For this reason, it is critical to exercise strict control over the media, particularly when it comes to violent content that has the potential to have a negative impact on people, particularly young people. In this regard, government control of the media is the most effective tool for control.**

Many media observers and journalists in Uganda thought that the Press and Journalist Act's statutory media council would become obsolete or even phase out entirely with the establishment of IMCU. The only thing left was for Parliament to repeal it. That hope was delusional as well as misguided. The government continues to view the statutory council as essential, and it has even taken steps to increase its importance and capabilities. However, we will revisit this at a later time (Lambeth, Edmund IL 2010).

The statutory media council initially attempted to have the term "media council" removed from IMCU's name because it believed that the two terms belonged only to it in law. Even the local press carried statements cautioning the public not to deal with an unlawful media council established by some parties. The fact that IMCU was registered by the Ugandan government's Registrar of Companies without being told to modify its name appears to have fulfilled these threats (Lambeth, Edmund B., Philip E. Meyer and Esther Thorson, 2009).

Meanwhile, the statutory council carries out some of its legally mandated duties, but its efforts are hindered by the government's grudging backing, which limits its ability to hear complaints from the small number of people who bring cases before it. Just ten cases have been heard by the media council in the past year because the government, which is the main complainant against the media, would rather take journalists to criminal courts. For instance, the government has disregarded its own media council and sued at least five journalists from The Monitor newspaper in the past year (Koch, Tom. The News As Myth, 2010).

The National Institute of Journalists of Uganda's (NIJU) malfunction has essentially impeded the media council's other job of registering journalists. Enrolling journalists under the Act is the responsibility of NIJU (Section 16). The enrolled person is then added to the Register of Journalists, OP Uganda, upon presenting the certificate of enrollment (provided by NIJU) to the

media council (Section 26). Since NIJU has been inactive for a number of years, the council is unable to register any enrolled journalists, making this specific role impossible.

However, the media council has had some "moments of glory" in carrying out its legal mandate. One such instance is the way it handled the well-known case involving Red Pepper Publications and Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi, as well as the Queen Mother of Toro Kingdom, Ms. Best Kernigisa. The Red Pepper, a tabloid that specializes in scandalous tales, particularly involving celebrities such as artists, actors, and politicians, released a number of stories in February 2009 claiming that the president of Libya was involved in a romantic relationship with the queen mother. President Gaddafi frequently travels to Uganda and is well-known for having a close relationship with the Toro Kingdom royal family, which includes Lambeth, Edmund B., Philip E. Meyer, and Esther. The one who Meyer and Thorson, 2009; Esther. Attorneys for President Gaddafi filed a criminal charge with the Chief

Richard Tusiime, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, and Francis Mutazindwa, its editor, are being sued by the Magistrates Court in Kampala. Additionally, the lawyers were able to get an injunction against the journal, which effectively prevented any future articles concerning the queen mother and the president of Libya from being published. The case remains pending in court because the Director of Public Prosecutions assumed responsibility for its prosecution as soon as it was scheduled for a hearing.

Meanwhile, the media council received another case pertaining to the same subject from President Gaddafi's lawyers. The media council, chaired by Dr. Goretti Nassanga, a senior lecturer at the Department of Mass Communication at Makerere University, granted President Gaddafi compensation against The Red Pepper Publications Ltd. in October 2009 for defaming the queen mother of Toro Kingdom and the president of Libya. The award was for one million Ugandan shillings, or \$50,000 USD at the time. The media council also reasoned that the newspaper's stories had jeopardized Uganda's relations with Libya. The queen mother and President Gaddafi never showed up at the media council. Not a single Ugandan court has given

out even half as much money . against a media company in a slander lawsuit (Harwood, Richard c, 2009).

Red Pepper Publications has filed two appeals against the media council's decision in this case. The first was filed in the high court, challenging the media council's failure to hear from any of the plaintiffs and its disregard for the newspaper's concerns about potential double jeopardy given that the same information was being presented in a Chief Magistrates Court. The constitutional court is hearing the second appeal on the legitimacy of the media council's infinite rewards.

### **2.7 Reactions to proposed amendments to the Act**

Press and Journalist Act (2012) modifications have, predictably, been widely criticized by the press, opposition parties, foreign embassies, and other human rights advocacy organizations. Given that at least 40% of Uganda's national budget is funded by donors, primarily in the West, the government of Uganda may regard the opinions of foreign diplomatic missions—especially those from Western nations—the most.

The ARTICLE 29 COALITION, a voluntary network of various media organizations and associations founded in 2009 to promote media freedom and professionalism in unrealism, has been the leading force opposing the proposed amendment bill. The group released a strongly worded statement objecting to the proposed amendments to the Act. Thirteen issues of serious concern for Ugandan media were listed in ARTICLE 29, including the minister's expanded authority over the media council and the statutory media council's expanded role and function in newspaper licensing. (Warn boka, Linda Nabusayi, 2012).

### **2.8 Government seeks more powers for the media council**

The government appears to have reaffirmed its faith in this statutory entity, possibly inspired by the media council's position in the Gaddafi case. The government is attempting to impose stricter control over the press through a draft amendment bill called "The Press and Journalist (Amendment) Bill, 2010". This bill includes provisions granting the media council the authority to register and license newspapers (as well as to refuse or revoke licences), regulate foreign media ownership by limiting the involvement of foreign media in the print industry, and regulate print media owners' investments.

Additionally, the original Act states in Section 8, subsection (4) that members shall elect the media council's chairperson from among themselves. The purpose of the amended bill is likely to complete the executive's total control over the council by requiring the Minister to directly designate the chairperson. If the amended bill becomes law, newspaper owners and editors will fear the media council even more because it would be possible to revoke a license on the fairly vague grounds listed below:

publishing content detrimental to the stability, unity, and security of the country;

Publicating artistic content that harms Uganda's relationships with friendly or neighboring nations releasing content akin to economic sabotage; and

There is, of course, an appeals process for violations of any licensing conditions, but past experience has shown that by the time the newspaper files an appeal, the harm has already been done.

Shortly after the amendment bill's contents were made public, Ms. Kabakurnba Matsiko, the State Minister for Information, stated that she believed—as does likely the government she works for—that the media is incapable of self-regulation. She based this statement on recent events, most notably the Kampala riots in September 2009, when multiple radio stations were shut down for inciting violence and airing hate speech. She was quoted by the (mostly) stateowned New Vision newspaper as saying, "Left on their own, there is evidence that some media houses would operate in a way that would be a recipe for incitement, chaos, anarchy and a breeding ground for genocide," on May 3, 2010, during the conference in Kampala to commemorate World Press Freedom Day.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **Design of Research**

With a focus on anti-corruption reports against the Ugandan Parliament from January 2023 to June 2024, this study uses a qualitative method to thoroughly analyze the impact of citizen journalism on the professionalism and ethical standards of traditional journalism in Uganda.

#### **3.1 Data Collection Social Media Content Analysis**

Locating and analyzing reports on social media that accuse the Ugandan Parliament of corruption.

Websites and social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

During the designated period (January 2023 to June 2024), relevant posts and reports will be chosen through purposeful sampling.

Data collection tools: manual searches to find posts, videos, and articles; social media monitoring tools.

### **CONTENT ANALYSIS YOU ARE USING**

#### **Traditional Media Content Analysis**

The goal is to contrast reports from traditional media with those from citizen journalism.

Reputable newspapers, radio shows, television news, and internet news portals are the sources of the data.

Purposive sampling is used to choose pertinent reports and articles from traditional media sources.

Online databases and media archives are useful tools for gathering data.

#### **Interviews**

Goal: To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the opinions of editors, journalists, and media specialists regarding the influence of citizen journalism.

Participants include academics, media specialists, editors, citizen journalists, and traditional journalists.

Sampling: To find and choose participants, use snowball sampling.

Instruments for gathering data: semi-structured interview guides.

## **Surveys**

To evaluate how the general public views and believes in citizen journalism in comparison to traditional journalism.

Members of the public, users of social media, and followers of particular news pages.

To guarantee representation across various demographics, stratified random sampling is used.

Online survey questions are one of the data collection tools.

## **Data Analysis**

### **Content Analysis**

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic analysis to find recurring themes, frames, and storylines in the reports on corruption.

### **Interview Analysis**

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding of interview transcripts to find important themes, trends, and revelations about how citizen journalism affects journalism ethics and professionalism

## **Validation and Reliability**

Verification and Trustworthiness Triangulation of Cross-validating and validating results by using data from various sources (social media, traditional media, interviews, and surveys).

## **Ethical Considerations**

Informed Consent of getting informed consent from each interviewee, making sure they understand the goal of the study, how it will be conducted, and that they have the option to withdraw at any moment.

Confidentiality o Using pseudonyms and safe data storage techniques to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of survey and interview participants

## **3.2 Research Checklist**

1. Social media platforms used by citizen journalists in Uganda.
2. Gather a list of traditional media outlets in Uganda
- 3 .time interest (January 2023 - June 2024).
4. Background information on Ugandan Parliaments anti-corruption reports.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 PRESENTATIONS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction.

This chapter covers the presentation, analysis and discussion of the findings focusing on the main variables of the study which were to; To identify social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024, To examine social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024, To assess citizen journalists' anti-corruption reports' veracity and accuracy in comparison to traditional media's output, To evaluate how citizen journalism has affected Ugandan journalism's professionalism and moral standards in the social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024.

**The study comprised sixty participants in total, spanning various age brackets.  
Respondents' Age Distribution of 2024 research**

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Respondents</b>
20–30	6	10.0%
31–40	27	45.0%
41–50	15	25.0%
51–60	10	16.7%
61 and up	2	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>

The study's results above showed that the age group 31–40, which was represented by 45%, was the most highly represented group. Age group 41–50 was made up of 25%, age group 51–60 was made up of 16.7%, and age group 20–30 was made up of 10%. The age group 61+ was the least represented sample, likely due to their lower energy levels and decreased participation in violent activities.

## **Respondents' Educational Level**

The study also looked for information on educational attainment, and its conclusions are as seen below, Source: Results of Field Research (2024)

According to 33.3% of the sample as a whole had completed their university education, 41.7% had earned diplomas, 16.7% had completed their secondary education, 8.3% had completed their primary education, and the remaining individuals had not attended any school. Since most of the respondents had degrees and diplomas, the researcher claims that they are an educated group that can support people's political rights because they are aware of political violence.

## **4.2 SOURCE FIELD DATA 2024 Social media reports alleging corruption against the Ugandan Parliament between Jan 2023-June 2024**

The study's findings indicate that between January 2023 and June 2024, a number of digital campaigns and social media reports highlighted accusations of corruption against the Parliament, with Speaker Anita Among being the main character accused of misusing public funds for personal gain. Social media platforms, particularly X (formerly Twitter), have played a significant role in holding Parliament accountable, with figures like Dr. Jimmy Spire Ssentongo and Agatha Atuhaire spearheading the charge.

There were rumors in January 2024 that Speaker Anita Among was getting extremely large daily allowances for her international travels. Social media users brought attention to these accusations, which stated that she was allegedly given a daily stipend of \$4,000—much more than her regular \$990. These charges were a part of a larger pattern of financial mismanagement, according to Parliament Watch, in which billions of dollars were misappropriated for private purposes while passing through official channels.

Activists like Dr. Jimmy Spire Ssentongo and Agatha Atuhaire utilized X (formerly Twitter) and other digital platforms to bring these allegations to public attention. They were supported by digital forums like Agora Discourse, which emphasized the need for accountability and transparency in the use of public funds (Kampala Dispatch) (C-News).

Speaker Among came under fire on social media for allegedly preventing discussions about these accusations of corruption from occurring during parliamentary sessions. By concentrating on regular parliamentary business rather than addressing the grave allegations made against her and other members of the Parliamentary Commission (C-News), she was accused of attempting to brush the problems under the rug.

Opposition lawmakers demanded rigorous investigations and responsibility, among them Joel Ssenyonyi, the Leader of the Opposition. Ssenyonyi drew attention to the opaqueness of parliamentary spending, citing instances such the mysterious transfers of monies to employees' accounts intended for community service. Additionally, he brought out the questionable circumstances behind the non-renewal of contracts for parliamentary workers, raising deeper concerns about financial mismanagement (Parliament Watch)

In one significant event, the Speaker was accused of obtaining billions of shillings through a variety of channels, including above-average per diem allowances. According to reports, she was paid about 2.6 billion shillings for trips abroad between September 2023 and January 2024. Additionally, significant amounts were placed into the personal accounts of parliamentary staff members for questionable outreach initiatives (Eagle online) (Parliament Watch).

Furthermore, there was opposition to attempts to address these claims in Parliament. Speaker Among came under fire for allegedly attempting to evade responsibility by obstructing discussions about these allegations of corruption. She denied the claims and failed to offer meaningful comments during parliamentary sessions, in defiance of growing pressure from the public and opposition lawmakers (Kampala Dispatch) (C News).

These accusations fueled by social media and the Parliament's response thereafter underscore the important role that digital activism and citizen journalism play in exposing and combating corruption in Uganda.

### **Social Media Reports Alleging Corruption against the Ugandan Parliament (January 2023 - June 2024)**

According to research Social media was crucial in revealing purported corruption in the Ugandan

Parliament between January 2023 and June 2024. Platforms like X (formerly Twitter) were used by citizen journalists and activists to draw attention to different financial misappropriations and unethical behavior. This is a thorough analysis of these reports.

It was revealed in January 2024 that Speaker Anita Among was given disproportionate daily allowances for her travels abroad. Social media claims indicated she was receiving \$4,000 a day, which is significantly more than the \$990 average (Parliament Watch).

Implications: These accusations brought to light more general worries about financial mismanagement and the parliamentary system's misuse of public funds.

According to multiple reports, parliamentary officials took billions of shillings and used them for their own benefit. Under the pretense of community outreach programs, substantial amounts were transferred to the personal accounts of parliamentary staff in certain cases (Kampala Dispatch; Parliament Watch). Following the social media uproar, activists demanded extensive investigations and calls for accountability and transparency.

Speaker Among came under fire for allegedly attempting to evade accountability by obstructing parliamentary discussions on these charges of corruption (C-News). The public and opposition members alike strongly denounced this action, viewing it as a betrayal of the values of openness and responsible leadership.

### **Anti-corruption reports' veracity and accuracy in comparison to traditional media's output**

According to research Activists and journalists frequently expose unvarnished, raw material, which is essential for exposing covert corruption. Usually, the desire for accountability and transparency drives their reports. Due to a lack of thorough fact-checking and the possibility of relying on unreliable sources, these reports may contain errors or make inflated claims.

According to research traditional media sources have set procedures for confirming information before it is published, guaranteeing a higher level of accuracy. They frequently have access to official sources and are able to offer an impartial viewpoint. These outlets' reporting may be impacted by conflicts of interest, censorship, or political pressure. In addition, their reporting on new issues may be delayed in comparison to social media's instantaneous nature.

Because of their reach and immediacy, social media reports played a critical role in rapidly disseminating information about alleged corruption in the Ugandan Parliament. Citizen journalists and activists were able to quickly mobilize public opinion and demand accountability thanks to platforms like X. While traditional media did cover these allegations as well, they frequently did so after the initial social media flurry and offered more thorough analyses and follow-ups that gave readers a complete picture of the situation.

Reports from social media between January 2023 and June 2024 have been crucial in bringing to light allegations of corruption in the Ugandan Parliament. These reports have brought to light serious concerns about financial mismanagement and accountability, even in light of possible verification issues. The traditional media has confirmed these claims and offered in-depth analyses, which has been a complementary role. By working together, they have established a strong framework for holding public officials responsible and proving the effectiveness of both traditional media and citizen journalism in the fight against corruption.

### **Impact of citizen journalism on professionalism Journalism in Uganda**

Reports about corruption have increased dramatically as a result of citizen journalism, although the veracity of these reports varies greatly. While citizen journalism occasionally deviates from these norms, traditional journalism frequently adheres to stringent verification procedures prior to publication. This disparity may have an impact on the general professionalism of journalism since it may be difficult for readers to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources.

The emergence of citizen journalism in Uganda has put pressure on traditional media outlets to maintain higher standards of professionalism. While a more competitive environment can lead to better reporting, it can also raise public expectations and cause more scrutiny.

Outside of the official regulatory frameworks that traditional media follow, citizen journalism frequently operates. This may lead to moral failings that impact the media landscape as a whole, such as sensationalism or privacy invasion. Nonetheless, a few citizen journalists are devoted to covering ethical news, which can serve as an inspiration to others.

By bringing corruption to light and keeping public servants accountable, citizen journalism has helped to increase accountability. As the public demands more ethical reporting, this greater transparency may also inspire traditional media to adopt higher moral standards.

Citizen journalists' social media reports may occasionally display bias or sensationalism, motivated by attention-seeking or personal agendas. The prioritization of dramatic stories over impartial reporting has the potential to erode moral standards. It may be necessary for traditional journalists to offset this by making sure their own reporting is impartial and fair.

The degree of public trust in traditional media may be impacted by the popularity of citizen journalism. Due to the abundance of false information, some citizens may grow suspicious of journalism in general, while others may see it as a useful informational resource and a counterbalance to official narratives.

In general, citizen journalism affects Ugandan journalism's professionalism and moral standards in both positive and negative ways. Although it has raised public participation and accountability, it has also brought up issues with bias, ethics, and credibility. The way Ugandan traditional media responds to these issues will determine how journalism develops in the future by striking a balance between the advantages of citizen reporting and the requirement for morality and professionalism.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **2.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter covers the summary, conclusions and recommendations of the study findings and made suggestions according to the relationships between variables ie between citizen journalism and professional journalism. These recommendations can help to maintain the ethical standards in journalism.

#### **2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS Journalists and Media practitioners**

- Arrange and take part in seminars and workshops about investigative journalism and journalistic ethics.
- Create mentorship programs for new media practitioners and citizen journalists
- Create and follow a thorough code of conduct with a focus on justice and accuracy.
- Put in place reliable fact-checking procedures to confirm information before it is published.
- Form alliances between citizen journalists and established media outlets.
- Provide unified channels for disseminating research results to guarantee responsibility.
- To use social media and digital tools effectively, spend money on digital literacy training.
- Promote responsible reporting to stop the dissemination of unreliable information.
- Establish systems of support for investigative journalists, such as financing, legal representation, and protection.

#### **Parliamentarians and government officials**

- Make sure all official data and documents are released on time and in full.
- Give reporters covering anti-corruption issues and whistleblowers legal protections.
- Provide institutional and financial backing for projects involving investigative journalism.
- Create and implement stringent ethical standards for public servants in order to thwart corruption.
- Establish reliable systems to keep an eye on and assess compliance with these guidelines.
- Engage media representatives and civil society organizations on a regular basis to promote cooperation and openness.

- Engage in public debates and forums to address issues raised by the public and media coverage of corruption.
- Provide enough funding and assistance to anti-corruption organizations and ensure their effectiveness **General public**
- Keep up with updates on parliamentary proceedings, anti-corruption reports, and reliable news sources on a regular basis.
- Take part in civic education initiatives to learn about your rights and obligations.
- Participate in community meetings, town halls, and open forums to talk about and resolve corruption-related issues.
- Participate in or lend support to neighborhood anti-corruption and civil society organizations.
- Distribute reputable news articles and verified facts regarding corruption and governance.
- Refrain from disseminating unreliable or misleading information that could taint public debate.
- Report any instances of misconduct or corruption you come across through the official channels.
- Encourage those who expose corruption and those who come out against it.
- Give constructive criticism on government initiatives and media cover ages.

### **International organizations and donors**

- Provide money and resources to Ugandan independent journalists and anti- corruption campaigns.
- Provide local institutions and media organizations with technical support and capacitybuilding initiatives.
- Make sure that receiving funds and assistance is contingent upon upholding standards of accountability and transparency.
- To make sure sponsored projects are successfully battling corruption, keep a close eye on their progress and conduct regular evaluations.
- Promote the creation and execution of strong anti-corruption laws and regulations and offer assistance in their implementation.
- Assist oversight and anti-corruption agencies by lending your knowledge and resources.
- To increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives, cooperate with regional media outlets, government agencies, and civil society organizations.
- Encourage projects that create robust networks.

### **2.3 CONCLUSION**

The study's conclusions show how closely citizen journalism and professional journalism are related, highlighting the necessity of cooperation and adherence to moral principles in order to guarantee ethical reporting. To improve journalistic integrity, government agencies and media professionals alike should be proactive in putting in place mentorship programs, training initiatives, and legal safeguards for whistleblowers. Equally important is the public's active participation in anti-corruption campaigns, which foster the development of an informed populace capable of holding government officials responsible. Subsequent investigations ought to center on the practical efficacy of these suggestions, delving into the ways in which citizen journalism might be incorporated into mainstream media while upholding the highest ethical standards. Furthermore, examining how digital literacy affects journalistic quality within the framework of putting these suggestions into practice and investigating ways to incorporate citizen journalism into mainstream media while upholding strict moral principles. Furthermore, looking into how digital literacy affects journalism quality in the context of emerging media platforms would offer insightful information about how to support the dissemination of correct and trustworthy informat.

## Appendix 1: Questionnaire for respondents SECTION

### 1: INTRODUCTION

Dear respondents,

I am a student of Uganda Christian University (UCU), currently pursuing bachelor's degree in journalism. I am carrying out a study on the impact of Citizen Journalism on Professionalism in Uganda a case study of anti-corruption reports against Uganda's Parliament.

You are identified as a suitable respondent to provide your views on the study.

Thank you very much for your valuable time

### SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### A1 AGE

Below 25-35 years       36-45 years       30-39 years      46-55 years

56 years plus

#### A2 SEX

Male       Female

#### A3 Education level

A) Certificate       B) Diploma       C) Bachelors

D) Other specify.....



SECTION D

7. Do you think that citizen journalism affects traditional media's professionalism?

a) Agree

b) Disagree

If so, how?

8. How would you rank Uganda's citizen journalists' ethical standards on a scale of 1 to 5?

10. How would you rank Uganda's traditional journalists' ethical standards on a scale of 1 to 5?

11. How has citizen journalism influenced your trust in traditional media?

12. How has citizen journalism affected your trust in news reports on social media?

13. What changes do you think can be made to both traditional media and citizen journalism to improve accuracy and professionalism?

14. What is citizen journalism, in your opinion?

15. Can you describe any notable examples of anti-corruption reports by citizen journalists?

16. Can you give some examples of anti-corruption reports by citizen journalists?

.....

17. In your perspective, how accurate are citizen journalists' anti-corruption reports compared to those of

Traditional media?

.....  
.....

18. Can you give examples of citizen journalists getting the story right or wrong?

.....

19. How has citizen journalism influenced the professionalism of Ugandan journalists?

.....  
.....

20. Do you believe citizen journalism has any influence on traditional media?

.....

If so, how?

.....





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