

**UNVEILING THE ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM: A  
CASE STUDY OF THE NEW VISION UGANDA**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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## **ABSTRACT**

This study explores the ethical dilemmas faced by investigative journalists in Uganda and focuses on the potential harm this reporting can cause to individuals as well as how these ethical challenges are reconciled. Through a case study of the New Vision, a prominent media house in Uganda, this study examines the extent to which journalists risk infringing on privacy of persons as well as causing harm in their pursuit of public interest stories. It investigates which strategies are used by investigative journalists to mitigate these harms and the justifications they have to balance these ethical dilemmas with the goal of informing the public. Qualitative methods are used in this research including interviews with some of New Vision's prominent investigative journalists, analysis of published stories and a review of general ethical guidelines. The findings reveal the complexities between the responsibilities of investigative journalists and the reality of exposing wrongdoing, highlighting the difficult decisions these journalists must take in navigating ethical dilemmas. This study contributes to an understanding of the difficulties investigative journalist face in carrying out their work, a broader discourse in media ethics, and an overview of the opportunities, challenges, responsibilities and ways to grow investigative journalism in this era.

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work presented in this dissertation is my own work conducted under the supervision of Mr. Geoffrey Ssenoga at Uganda Christian University. All sources of information and data utilized in this dissertation have been appropriately acknowledged and cited.

I confirm that this dissertation has not been submitted, either in whole or in part, for any other degree or qualification at this or any other institution. I accept full responsibility for the contents of this dissertation and the conclusions drawn herein.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Geoffrey Ssenoga', written in a cursive style.

Name:

Date:

**APPROVAL**

*G. Ssenoga*

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02. Aug. 2024

**MR. GEOFFREY SSENOGA  
SUPERVISOR**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation to my loving sister Immelda Alikaya, whose reliance, guidance and love has given me the strength to persevere in the journey of education. I also dedicate this to my other sisters, loving family and most especially God, for all the love and support they have given me.

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I am also grateful to my family and friends for providing me the financial mental and physical support to carry out this research and present it for an award of a bachelor's degree in mass communication and journalism.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the study

Undercover journalism treads a particularly thin but necessary line between the institutionally censored and the ethical-legal in societies where journalism faces constant threats of tighter government control (Rodny-Gumede & Chasi, 2016). Its necessity however should never be doubted as per its contributions to knowledge, a fourth estate and public interest in society.

According to Theodore L Gasser, 'Investigative journalism may oversee the reinforcement and legitimation of enduring or dominant moral values'(Glasser & Ettema, 1989). Hence, there is not much to know about how ethically correct investigative journalists behave in the field unless more research is actually done on this subject. This study will thus unveil the ethical dilemmas of investigative journalism, the importance of ethics, and the potential harm it poses to individuals, its justification and trajectory that can be taken to improve the matter within the field itself.

It will involve case study of New Vision Uganda's investigative journalists as well as content analysis of some of its dynamic published stories.

#### 1.2 Research Problem.

Professional codes of conduct or practice are doomed to failure (Taket, 1994). Should they not be addressed, especially for a profession that prides itself in being based on truth; then the profession is doomed.

Also according to C. Nathan, people can make themselves liable to deception and manipulation (Nathan, 2017). The desire to know more about men who have committed serious and harmful offenses is set against the possibility of a researcher not disclosing previously unknown sensitive information that relates to the risk of someone being harmed(Cowburn, 2005).

Hence the major research problem ' to what extent does investigative journalists risk harming individuals in their pursuit of public interest, and how do they justify or solve these dilemmas.

### **1.3 Purpose of the study.**

The major purpose of this study is to inform, contribute to, and aid in the understanding of investigative journalism. It also aims to show the difficulties Investigative journalists encounter when it comes to pursuit of the truth. This study could also be used for further research on the ever evolving and diverse field of investigative journalism.

### **1.4 Specific Objectives.**

- To identify to what extent how investigative journalism can cause harm to individuals involved or not or how they can be affected by this kind reporting.
- To explore how journalists mitigate, reconcile or handle this potential harm while balancing service to public interest.
- To propose recommendations for these

dilemmas. **1.5 Research questions**

RQ1: Does investigative journalism pose both predictable and unpredictable harm to individuals?

RQ2: How do investigative journalists balance the ethical dilemma of potential harm to individuals with serving the public interest?

RQ3: How do investigative journalists confront and justify the ethical dilemma of potentially harming individuals while balancing public interest with individual rights.

### **1.6 The scope of the study.**

The following are the parameters in which my study will follow. **1.6.1 Geographical scope.**

This study will focus on the ethical dilemmas of investigative journalism within the country of Uganda. Specifically, this will be a case study of New Vision, focusing on a mix of some of the more prominent Investigative Journalists and those still fresh. Certain things may not

be considered ethical dilemmas if they are not presented as one within the law of this country.

### **1.6.2 Content scope**

This will explore the practical dilemmas investigative journalists face when it comes to this particular practice. As well, elaboration on cases where they comprised the safety of individuals directly or indirectly will be discussed. The official code of conduct and ethical guidelines of New Vision journalists will also be referred to in this research. The methods this media house employs to train and deal with predictable and unpredictable cases will also be examined alongside published stories where the above problem has seen take domination.

### **1.6.3 Time scope**

This research will cover content and work done from investigative journalists from as far as the past 20 years. It will include recent developments and stories in investigative journalism. The study will also encompass content analysis from the past 5 to 15 years.

### **1.7 Justification of the study.**

There is a gap in knowledge on the extent to which ethical dilemmas in investigative journalism has potential harm to individuals and just how the journalists and media houses reconcile these dilemmas when they occur. As well, just as every investigative story is unique, so is the potential harm caused or ethical dilemmas a journalist may encounter. Hence this study aims to explore these areas.

Undercover reporting is not a separate world ('Undercover Reporting', 2013). Hence it is vital for us as citizens of this country to understand the harms directly or indirectly poses to us, the justification and dilemmas investigative journalists face while trying to serve our public interest, and the areas of improvement both parties can work on.

### **1.8 Significance of the study**

The results of this study are significant on several fronts which include:

- The Enhancement of public knowledge on investigative journalism.
- A general understanding of Investigative Journalistic practices and decisions.
- An advancement and modern day debate of journalism ethics.
- An Improvement, accountability and reconciliation of Investigative journalists with affected parties and public who lack understanding.
- Guide decision-making of future investigative journalists.
- Empower journalists to combatting dilemmas efficiently.

- Maintain the integrity of investigative journalists.

#### Theoretical Framework/Conceptual

Framework/Hypothesis This study was situated within the theory;

- Ethical egoism. This suggests that actions are morally right if they promote the individual's self-interest (Machan, 2015).
- Consequentialism. This suggests that the morality of an action is based solely on its consequences (Mason, 2009)
- Dirty hand ethics. People are wronged in pursuit of a necessary good in undercover policing(Cramwinckelet al., 2013)
- Rights-based ethics. This suggests that individuals have certain fundamental rights that should be respected meaning that undercover reporting may be violating certain rights(Kapoor, 2019)

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

Today's world is one where information is both a necessity and a luxury. People want to know things while others don't want people to know things. Especially on a mainstream. It's a perplexing black hole of madness in which investigative journalism is a gliding along its sides. For the matter of unveiling ethical dilemmas in investigative journalism, and the potential harms it poses to individuals, presented is a critical exploration into the intersection of getting the story, what it means to get it, and what it could mean to others.

#### 2.2 The concept of development

This literature review seeks to not only showcase modern-day ethical considerations made by investigative journalists but to also trace their evolution over time, especially in one of Uganda's biggest media houses - the New Vision.

One can accredit the beginnings of investigative journalism to the muckraking era in 19th-century America under the leadership of President Roosevelt. "Muckraking," as an epithet for investigatory journalism was birthed from the mouth of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 in the midst of one of the golden ages of investigative journalism. The President first used the term "muckraker" during a speech delivered at the Gridiron Club, and again the next day at the laying of the cornerstone at the House of Representatives. He began his speech by praising "every writer ... in book, magazine, or newspaper" who exposed "evil" in business and politics, so long as that writer does it with absolute truthfulness (Roosevelt, 1961, p. 59). (Klein, 2015)

The President called for continued "unsparing exposure of, the politician who betrays his trust, of the big businessman who makes or spends his fortune in illegitimate or corrupt

ways." Nevertheless, journalists must remember "that even in the case of crime, if it is attacked in sensational, lurid and untruthful fashion, the attack may do more damage to the public mind than the crime itself ..." (Roosevelt, 1961, p. 59). (Klein, 2015). This has provided us a basic understanding of the origins of investigative journalism.

Since its inception in 1986 March, according to Wikipedia, the New Vision has dived into thousands of investigative stories and remains one of the top outlets in the country. Investigative journalists under this hub have contributed to the growth of its popularity.

#### Rural Development

It's important to note that through the exploration of undercover reporting emerges the web of issues lying in local communities, especially in Uganda.

In 2007 the New Vision awarded Gerald Tenywa a video camera for his story 'AESCOUL pollutes water, untreated water worries residents'. Richard Kayiira of Bukedde won several national awards for his story on the Mityana murders published in Bukedde ku Ssande and Michael Wambi was the overall winner for his story 'Tortured and deformed' aired on Voice of Teso(New Vision Journalists Win Awards, n.d.). All these stories contributed to rural voices being heard and their stories being told which in turn caused legal repercussions, public uproar, and even financial aid to the victims.

In 2005 The Danish International Development Assistance, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and the Department for International Development set up a scholarship fund worth 880m shs to train investigative journalists in Uganda (Nakagwa & Vision, 2005). With this Uganda now has an array of investigative journalists such as Canary Mugume and Solomon Serwanjja who are both prominent investigative journalists in the country and produce stories and aid as well as raise public awareness.

#### Development and Culture

In Uganda, the number of internet users was estimated to be 18,5 million individuals as of June 2018. In Africa the internet is considerably more politicized than in other parts of the world(Kakungulu-Mayambala& Rukundo, 2019). The internet has however greatly served as the base for investigative journalism as it has created a greater research gate, information

center, and overall message distributor on investigative work done. However, given the political situation in Uganda, it has at times been restricted.

A study by a United States (US) company, Portland Communications, on the use of the social media platform Twitter in Africa found that in 2018 almost half of the most popular African hashtags related to political issues. 4 Ugandans, like their African counterparts, use the internet and other electronic technologies to engage in various forms of activism(Kakungulu- Mayambala& Rukundo, 2019). Twitter, now X, has also become a ground basis where investigative journalists can interact with thousands of Ugandans all over the country, raise concerns, and awareness and find new projects to investigate. It is an endless source and tool for journalists in this country.

The ‘Save Mabira’ campaign (2007 and 2011); the ‘Walk-to-work’ campaign (2011) and the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)’s campaign to replace the National Resistance Movement government in the 2015/2016 elections(Chibita, 2016) are all historical developments in digital activism with the country.

### Communication

At this point in our dissemination, we now shift our focus onto the communication aspect i.e. Media channels, the impact this brings on the discourse of the public as well as the voices

that do so. This review aims to explore the intersection of investigative reporting, communication strategies, and channels and the impact they have had on Uganda’s development and cultural evolution.

African governments and their development partners often tend to extrapolate communication models from the developed world and apply them wholesale in local environments in Africa that are unique(Mushengyezi, 2003). We use an array of communication media channels within Uganda today such as social media, print media i.e. Newspapers and magazines, and visual audio channels such as televisions and radios. These also serve as channels of communication for investigative journalists as well as aid their respective work.

Development communication.

Development communication becomes clearer with our examination of complex interactions between investigative journalism, development, culture, and communication in Uganda. As a potent kind of communication, investigative reporting can act as a catalyst for the spread of knowledge that goes beyond simple disclosure, promoting constructive social change and assisting in the long-term growth of local communities. This analysis of the literature aims to disentangle the complex dance between development communication and investigative journalism, looking at how these components come together to impact policy, create stories, and strengthen communities in Uganda's dynamic

Historical evolution of development communication.

As we begin our exploration is essential to follow the development of development communication historically as we go into an investigation of investigative journalism, culture, development, and communication in Uganda. Knowing this evolution—from the early days of one-way information dissemination to the modern era of interactive and participatory communication strategies—allows us to see how investigative reporting has

transformed development narratives and how powerfully. In addition to attempting to explain

the current situation, this literature study aims to chart the historical course that has led to the current dynamic nexus between development communication and investigative journalism in Uganda. Tracing the historical progression of development is essential to understanding investigative journalism, culture, communication, and development in Uganda.

The role of investigative journalism in development.

Since investigative journalism acts as a watchdog, a change agent, and a voice for the voiceless, it is essential to development. Here are some features of its developmental role:

Exposing Corruption and Injustices: Investigative journalism reveals hidden facts, highlights injustices that could impede progress, and exposes corruption. By making these problems public, it raises awareness and puts pressure on the relevant authorities to take action.

**Promoting Policy Change:** By drawing attention to problems that call for legislative or regulatory reforms, investigative journalism can have an impact on the formulation of policies. This advocacy helps to foster change and growth of the law.

**Empowering Communities:** By providing communities with access to knowledge that impacts their daily lives, investigative journalism gives the power back to the people. It gives voices a forum that they might not otherwise have or has been taken away from them.

**Characteristics of Investigative Journalism.**

This specialist area involves a reporter going undercover, frequently adopting a false identity, to obtain information and reveal secrets. The following are some essential elements of undercover journalism:

**Secrecy and Deception:** The use of secrecy and deception is the most unique aspect. Undercover journalists assume false identities to obtain access to situations or information that would not be available to them otherwise.

**Study and Investigation:** Before going undercover, undercover reporters must conduct in-depth studies and investigations. Investigating hidden stories requires preparation and subject expertise on the part of journalists.

**Danger and Danger:** Reporting underground has some inherent danger. If a journalist's true identity is discovered during an inquiry, they could be at risk physically, face legal repercussions, or suffer harm to their reputation in the media.

**Historical development of investigative journalism / undercover reporting.**

Investigative journalism has a long history dating back to the 19th century, and it has seen substantial evolution. Here is a quick rundown of significant turning points in its history:

**Muckrakers of the 19th Century:** President Theodore Roosevelt first used the term "muckraker" to describe investigative journalists who brought attention to social issues. Investigative journalists such as Nellie Bly and Ida B. Wells went underground to expose social injustice, abuse, and corruption(Klein, 2015)

Early 20th Century: Using undercover methods to uncover corporate and governmental malfeasance, investigative reporting developed further in this period thanks to the work of journalists such as Upton Sinclair and Lincoln Steffens. (Klein, 2015)

1920s–1930s: Undercover reporting found a fertile footing during the American Prohibition era(Klein, 2015)

Previous studies

Brooke Kroeger's, "Undercover Reporting: The Truth About Deception" (2012)

"The Watchdog That Didn't Bark: The Financial Crisis and the Disappearance of

Investigative Journalism" written by Dean Starkman (2014)

Johan Lidberg's 2014 book "The Journalist as Actor: Roles and Strategies in Reporting"

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This study wishes to incorporate a methodological framework based on my comprehensive literature review and case study to paint the broadest picture possible of the ethical dilemmas that are faced in line with undercover reporting/ investigative journalism and the potential harm it poses to individuals. Not only will this show analyzed data but also shed some light into a field that is operated within in the dark.

#### **3.2 The Research design**

The case study design

This research will focus its case study on the New Vision, a major media house in Uganda. The New Vision has availed several investigative/ undercover reporters as well as published thousands of investigative journalistic pieces in their highlight-distributed newspapers and online media channels such as their website. This will give an authentic and interesting entry point into this topic and answer the questions earlier relayed in Chapter One most efficiently.

### Advantages of Case Studies

Case study design can help answer specific research questions (Crowe et al., 2011). This is according to Sarah Crowe's paper on this approach in methodology.

Case studies can be used effectively in developing management skills (Rees & Porter, 2002). Case study research can be useful in a wide variety of contexts (Otley & Berry, 1994).

Case studies are skills involved in writing case studies, their use in assessment, and cross-cultural issues. (Rees & Porter, 2002)

Case study research can be used, research design, data collection, and data analysis (Rowley, 2002)

### Disadvantages of case studies

Case studies are most useful for generating hypotheses (Flyvbjerg, 2006)

Common criticisms of the case study method are based on conceptual confusion (Runyan, 1982)

Case-based research is often criticized for having a biased sample of cases (Siggelkow, 2007) Justification of Case Study

- Easy access to information. Because of the proximity, New Vision and its investigative journalists will be a perfect choice for this topic.
- Prominence in Ugandan Journalism. This is a prominent topic in Uganda's media and journalism scene hence matching it to a prominent organization adds depth to the study.
- Diversity in investigative reporting instances. New Vision has an array of investigative reporters as well as investigative stories hence making the best possible case study option.
- Relevant. Journalism ethics are a very relevant topic in the profession, as is New Vision the perfect case study.
- Impact. This case study could be quite impactful as it will use relevant and real-

time examples of journalists who have been in this field.

- Identification and sorting of ethical challenges. Real-time challenges will be sorted out and addressed by this study.
- Mirror to Uganda's media scene. With this case study, we will be able to look into the mirror as journalists and understand our ethical challenges and solutions.

### **3.3 Research technique**

Qualitative research technique. Qualitative research covers a very broad range of philosophical underpinnings and methodological approaches(Seers, 2012). This technique will enable us to properly describe, understand, and explore the ethical dilemmas investigative journalists face and the potential harm to individuals it poses and has posed. It will involve factors such as one on one interviews with New Vision Investigative Journalists and as well as analyzation of published stories.

### **3.4 Focus group discussion**

For this, several journalists from New Vision who have done investigative journalism will be used to discuss the ethical challenges they have faced while in the field as well as the potential harms and harms they caused to individuals.

Advantages of focus group discussion

Focus groups are focused interviews exploring interactions between participants(Mansell et al., 2004)

Focus groups have an established history in applied research and evaluation(Massey, 2011) Focus groups are a fashionable research technique(Acocella, 2012)

Interviews.

These will include Journalists like from New Vision who have conducted several undercover/investigative stories and faced these ethical dilemmas.

Advantages of these key informants.

- Relevance. They will be able to properly discuss the ethical challenges they have

faced while conducting their work and the potential harm they posed to individuals.

- Relatability. They relate to the Ugandan media scene intensely and have worked for New Vision, which is our case study for this research topic.
- Impact. They would generate more impact as future investigative journalists can learn from their stories as well as inspire others to join the field of investigative journalism. They will also be able to serve as an example to other undercover reporters on how to conduct themselves while still getting the story.

Disadvantages of Key Informants.

- Time factor. Due to how busy their schedules can be, it may be difficult to get time to conduct interviews with them.
- Limited information. Due to perhaps company policy or the situation of an investigative story conducted, the key informants may not be very willing to disclose information on certain matters for the research such as the use of illegal methods.

### **3.5 Sampling.**

For this research, different investigative journalists who have conducted investigations on different matters across various fields such as corruption in the business, health, or even education fields will be used. About 5 will be used in the sample and the various ethics they have maintained or disregarded in line with their work will be discussed and worked on.

### **3.6 Sampling techniques**

- Convenience sampling. Participants will be selected according to their accessibility and convenience.
- Snowball sampling. Participants used for this research will then proceed to refer other participants who fit the right criteria for this research.

### **3.7 Data collection.**

- Expert interviews. The participants that will be used for this research are

experienced journalists in the world of investigative journalism.

- Document analysis. Relevant documents are to be analyzed such as investigation reports, published cases and business, legal work, and the code of ethics for journalists to add more depth to the research.

### **3.8 Data analysis**

To analyze the data received I will be comparing the different ethical challenges faced by the journalists with the ethical code of conduct at New Vision and discuss their choices. I will analyze their situations and justifications for breaking or maintaining ethics as well as the potential harms it caused people.

Quality control.

This entails how the accuracy, reliability, and validity of my collected data will be maintained. It will be done according to the following ways;

- Interviewing only journalists who have done investigative journalism and worked for New Vision.
- Verification of journalists belonging to New Vision. This will be done through consultation of trusted New Vision staff.
- Verification of investigative work. Their work will be searched for and referenced from the New Vision website as well as the Hamu Mukasa Library array of New Vision newspaper copies. Legalities and all entailed will be collected from e-resources and cases on journalism and the media.
- Information from the investigative journalists will be repeatedly checked for alternation or lack of truthfulness regarding this research. Inconsistency will mark the journalist as untruthful and hence enable them unethical. Their information will not be used for this research.

#### **Reliability.**

The reliability of this research on unveiling the ethical dilemmas of

undercover/investigative journalism will carefully be supervised and indulged in by my supervisor who is well acquainted with New Vision and its staff. Validity and reliability are key aspects of all research(Brink, 1993).

### **Validity**

Validity is dependent on the purpose and context of the research(FitzPatrick, 2019) The major purpose of this research is to unveil the ethical dilemmas that journalists do in fact experience while carrying out investigative journalism. There is not much to know about this on the Ugandan media landscape, but several interviewees, cases, and legalities ensued when it comes to this topic.

### **3.9 Ethical considerations.**

As the researcher, I went through several research approval processes and was approved to propose this document by Uganda Christian University and my lecturer. I will as well not disclose any information revealed to me confidentially by my sources upon their request.

### **3.10 Limitations of this study**

- Bias according to organization. The ethical dilemmas investigative journalists from New Vision face may not be the same as those in Daily Monitor due to conflicting loyalties, especially to the government.
- Limited access to inside information. The journalists may be unable to fully disclose every fraction of their investigative work hence limitation.
- Subjectivity in interpretation. Different journalists may interpret different ethical matters differently since it's a subjective matter among individuals.
- External factors. Factors such as laws that are ever-evolving may change the outcome or perception of a certain ethical matter.
- Time constraints. There may be constraints in terms of interview time, publishing of work, and access to information and journalists.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION.**

In this chapter we will explore the ethical dilemmas investigative journalists face ,how it can potentially harm individuals ,as well as how this is addressed. This study answered three research questions i.e. RQ1 Does investigative journalism pose both predictable and unpredictable harm to individuals? RQ2 How do investigative journalists balance the ethical dilemma of potential harm to individuals with serving the public interest? and RQ3 How do investigative journalists confront and justify the ethical dilemma of potentially harming individuals while balancing public interest with individual rights.

Retrospective of the research questions set forth, necessary data was collected from in-depth interviews from New Vision Investigative Journalists as well as analyzation of some new vision investigative stories, placing much emphasis on e-paper 'E-Vision'. Therefore this chapter highlights the research findings.

## **4.2 Data presentation**

### Overview of interviews

The study targeted 6 New Vision Investigative Journalists. 5 were interviewed with fully structured in depth questions. This implies that 99% of respondents participated in this study. Therefore the researcher, me, deemed the response rate amiable for the information of this study.

The interviewees were;

- Mr. Gerald Tenywa
- Mr. Ruhweza Ibrahim
- Mr. Charles Etukuri
- Mr. Simon Masaba
- Mr. Ivan Tsebani

The key topics covered in the interviews were mainly based on the participants personal experiences in the investigative journalism field, circumstances where they caused potential and actual harm to individuals, circumstances where they evaded use of ethics, their justifications and related follow up questions.

Presentation of Findings according to the Research questions and main topics. Potential harm to individuals following investigative journalism work.

All interviews expressed the 100% likelihood of harm (both predicted and unpredicted)

happening to the people involved in the story that is covered. All of them admitted to seeing this happen in stories they have covered and published both anonymously and with their real names.

In this context, Mr. Gerald Tenywa, the winner of the esteemed 2012 CNN Multichoice Journalist award and a renowned New Vision Investigative Journalist explained that he has seen both the predicted and unpredicted potential harm to people from his stories. When Tenywa broke the stories on the degradation of Mabira forest after having camped at the site for 2 weeks, it prompted massive demonstrations in town from people unhappy with the degradation of the greeny treasure. This led to the unpredicted death of several Asians who were subjected to violence from these crowds due to Asian governments spearheading these degradations.

"It was an indirect consequence of my reporting. And I wondered, is it worth it?" Explained Tenywa.

In the case of Ruhweza Ibrahim the second interviewee, he has dealt with cases where his own personal friends are the culprits. He has thus risked not only caused potential harm to their general lives, but to their friendship. Ibrahim covered a recent story on how car fuel is being mixed with kerosene which affects the engine of a car for profit. He discovered one of his friends was fraudulent in this act, leading to loss of trust between the two.

Another journalist Ivan Tsebani, did a story on child trafficking for labor at the Kenyan border in partnership with Emerging situations Africa. This story led to several workers unaware of this secret trade being attacked by the public as well as threats to children recovered or involved. He believes he is yet to experience a more severe case of people being greatly harmed from his stories such as by violence, death or loss of work.

Mr. Simon Masaba has watched people lose their jobs. A story he did on the overhauling of a road by Uganda National Roads Authority prompted a massive fire of people who contributed in any way to the story by the culprits. This has affected people and thier families, especially in this dire economy.

Hence all participants have in some form posed potential harm to individuals both intentionally and unintentionally.

Published stories.

4 stories were selected to add onto this research;

- ‘Police holds suspected Chinese traffickers by Gerald Tenywa 2013.
- Uganda tops in counterfeit products by Henry Mukasa 2009
- ‘Why we did Mulago investigation’ by Babra Kaija 2024
- Ugandan Journalism seized following crime reporting by Committee to protect journalists 2018 publishing.

#### **4.3 Ethical dilemmas in investigative journalism.**

All participants stated that they have faced different kinds of ethical dilemmas when it came to their work. For Ivan Tsebani and Charles Etukuri, they stated that they have both faced a dilemma in trying to conceal the image or protect the life of a source. Mr. Masaba has faced a dilemma when it comes to stories that involve suicide. As per company policies, suicide stories are not published, regardless of how good the story is relating to the matter. Ibrahim has faced the dilemma of choosing between friendship and the story. Mr. Tenywa has faced the dilemma of picking between bigger and smaller good, which has in turn affected the smaller good.

Balancing public interest with potential harm.

All participants have stated the harm, both potential and actual, has been greater to their lives than to others. All participants have at one-point experienced intense danger to their lives while carrying out investigative journalism. Mr. Masaba stated that he has received threats from known and unknown individuals. At times he and other New Vision journalists can leave office to find their personal belongings have been vandalized. However, all the journalists stated that it is worth it especially in the pursuit of public interest.

“To keep quiet is to kill the nation.” said Mr. Gerald Tenywa who has personally almost pulled out of doing some stories due to personal safety reasons but continued in pursuit of public interest. Mr. Ibrahim has as well-chosen public interest over friendships stating he would take no side when it came to investigative journalism. All other participants

were in agreement and supported in doing the utmost for the public interest.

Strategies for mitigating harm.

The participants stated similar strategies for mitigating harm both on a personal level and being practiced by the body they are under the New Vision. All participants are required by the New Vision to work hand in hand with the legal team, collect all valuable evidence eg documents, photographs and interviews as well as work hand in hand with a team when pursuing investigative journalism stories. All factors are considered and weighed, such as potential harm to individuals, protection of the journalist, overall impact of the story and so forth.

Mr. Tsebani stated he always ensures;

- He sticks to the truth and only the truth.
- Keeps records.
- He seeks permission from sources
- And he practices fairness e.g. hiding identities of minors, getting both sides of the story and protecting reputation of others in derogatory cases eg rape.

Mr. Masaba ensures that;

- He always gets the right facts.
- Gathers as much information and possible.
- Works closely with his editor updating him/her on actions such as his whereabouts, his actions, and new updates.

Mr Ibrahim ensures that;

- He looks at the impact of a story
- Chooses no side
- Gathers empirical evidence
- Minds his steps when doing a

story. Mr Tenywa ensures that;

- He follows all the ethical guidelines
- He only report based on facts
- Sticks to ethical codes of conduct and practice
- Gets the actual story
- Chooses no side
- Devises careful methods of getting information
- Proves to viewers that the greater good was necessary

Mr Etukuri ensures that;

- Examines the circumstances around the subject matter
- Gathers all the necessary documentation from sources
- Ensures confidentiality of sources
- Meet sources within office
- Follows ethical guidelines.

Overall other points from the participants cut across, especially the use of established ethics already taught and known to them by their organization.

Decision making process

The decision-making process varied regarding ethical dilemmas varied among the journalists. Mr. Etukuri stated that a lot is determined by a committee and legal team for example on cases where they risk exposing their sources. However, it is not always the case as this can change for example, he once published a story due to the pressure of the public on social media exposing government rule and a perpetrator of a crime. The overriding public interest led to the publishing of a story with the victim's name leading to tons of support for the victim. In certain circumstances hence, it works out.

Whereas for journalists like Ibrahim, who made the precise decision along with his editor to camp outside a place of suspicion, it almost ended in him losing his life after nearly being shot.

#### **4.4 Data analysis**

Thematic analysis

The data from the interviews was analyzed by use of thematic analysis. The information from the interviews was studied to gather recurring statements, unique circumstances and overriding ideas. The Information was then grouped into general larger themes such as ethical dilemmas of investigative journalists, potential harm to victims, mitigation strategies for harm and decision making processes. The thematic method helped to systematically organize the data and draw out key insights.

Cross comparison of Interviewees responses.

A cross comparison of the responses revealed similarities and differences in how journalists approach ethical dilemmas. For instance, all journalists agreed on the necessity of protecting individuals and sources for their stories but differed in methods. Mr. Etukuri emphasized how he involves the legal team in his work to weigh options and understand the factors whereas others like Mr. Tenywa and Mr. Ibrahim explained that they consider factors such as impact and the greater good first when dealing with these circumstances.

#### **4.5 Discussion**

Interpretation of findings.

These findings suggest that the journalists are very aware of the ethical dilemmas they face particularly in undercover reporting and potential harm to individuals. These findings align with existing literature such as “The limitation of privacy rights.”

“Privacy rights are often at the heart of information privacy and data protection laws.

Although rights are an important component of privacy regulation, they are often asked to do far more work than they are capable of doing. Rights can only give individuals a small amount of power.” (Solove, Daniel J, 2023). Hence leaning towards a tension caused.

However, the several strategies for mitigating harm prevents a new kind of landscape, not documented before. One that shows a constant evolution in ethical decision making and constant growth in the field.

According to all of the participants, the impact justifies this dilemma.

“There is always a bigger good and a smaller good,” said Tenywa. He highlighted that it is important to save the bigger interest which many may find to be unethical. However, he stated that as long as all proper ethics and guidelines followed then one the potential harm to individuals could be avoided.

All four other participants also stated that they a story is what mattered and the overall impact that it would display.

However, they all agreed that their own lives have been put in far more danger than others in their pursuit of public interest.

Findings according to published articles.

Through my analysis of these different articles, one thing was majorly highlighted. The complex situations journalists go through in order to serve the public interest. For instance, according to the 2018 article on Etukuri, his crime fighting stories earned him some enemies resulting in a terrifying abduction by military men. As Etukuri stated in his interview ‘I have faced more harm than the potential harm individuals could have faced.’

His resilience

showed the complex line between ethical dilemmas and harm to oneself in the name of public interest.

As well following Tenywa’s story, he considered ethics by taking into count the concealment of his sources who were familiar with the trafficking of wildlife to Asia. They could have faced potential harm for spilling the beans, but Tenywa protected his sources against all odds, putting himself into danger by writing the story and digging for info.

As well, New Vision’s deep story dive into the corruption at Mulago hospital was in full service of the public, as well as Mukasa’s story on the counterfeit goods. In summary, new vision journalists' definitely risk a big part of their lives to public service while still doing their best to consider ethical considerations.

#### **4.5 Ethical considerations.**

The ethical considerations of the journalists show the complexity of investigative journalism as a whole. While the ethical guidelines provide a framework for journalists to work in, there is still a difference when it comes to real world application of these rules and conduct - with certain circumstances sometimes proving that these principles can be overed by the journalists. There is a need for flexible ethical standards that can adapt to unpredictable and a variety of situations these journalists often find themselves in.

##### - Implications of findings for journalistic practice

The practical implications of these findings are significant for both investigative journalist in, out and thinking about joining the field, media outlets and overall study of the field. There is need for more in depth training and adjustable and adaptable guidelines. To add, the reliance on personal judgment of these investigative journalists and power they hold to potentially harm or control society shows the need to cultivate a strong moral and ethical compass in these journalists supported by strong editorial and legal oversight.

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

In summary, this data reveals the complex dynamics between ethical considerations and investigative journalism. While investigative journalists are striving to serve the public interest, they are also keenly aware of the potential harm they can cause to individuals. These findings highlight the importance of both individual and institutional judgment in navigating these challenges.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction.

This chapter will encompass the summary of my findings, the limitations faced in my research, practical recommendations to the topic as well recommendations for further research.

#### 5.1 Summary of study

- The potential harm to individuals is definitely possible, both predictably and unpredictably. All the journalists explained circumstances where their reporting caused an unpredictable case such as violence and strikes in the case of Tenywa, or loss of innocents' jobs affecting their families for the case of Mr. Masaba.
- Investigative journalists do however risk harm to themselves more than to other individuals, with several of these participants having had stared death in the face.
- There are several ethical guidelines and considerations journalists already have, but they do not always have certainty in some situations due to the difference and uniqueness.
- New Vision, which has dominated the media space for some time, is working very hard to combat ethical dilemmas as well as protect individuals from harm, however it can still improve.

#### 5.2 Limitations of study

- The sample size was smaller due to the difficulty to access of these journalist's time.
- Scheduling as these people had busy jobs.
- Sharing of information as some was found to be confidential.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

- Sharing of more information of what investigative journalists go through to the public for acknowledgement
- Counselling for journalists when they cause unsuspected harm to individuals
- Outreach help programs to individual's innocent and suffering
- Flexible and new guidelines for adaptability.

### **5.4 Suggestions for further research**

- In depth areas that highlight harm to people caused and how they can avoid it should be further researched about.
- The role of media houses in protecting the mental health of investigative journalists should also be assessed.

### **5.5 Conclusion**

This study has contributed to an in-depth understanding of this topic in the field of Journalism and communication. One can now understand the extent to which ethical dilemmas can affect individuals and contribute to potential harm. These findings can contribute both to research and further research.

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## **APPENDICES**

**Picture of the New Vision journalism codes of conduct**

**Published New Vision stories analyzed**

**Video screenshots of some of the interviews.**

# Journalism Code of Ethics

## PREAMBLE

We the media practitioners in Uganda  
Conscious of the central role of the press freedom in a free and democratic Uganda;  
Aware that an independent and honourable profession is indispensable to the maintenance of press freedom;  
Recognising our role in the presentation of democracy in Uganda;  
Resolute to have the Code of Ethics to govern the conduct and practices of all media practitioners, media owners and media institutions and as a basis for adjudication of disputes between the press, the public and government in Uganda by the Independent Media Council of Uganda.

## 1. Scope

This code shall apply to media practitioners involved in all stages of sourcing, processing media content for print, graphic and electronic platforms.

## 2. Professional Integrity

- 2.1 A journalist shall assist and participate in establishing, maintaining, enforcing and observing high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the profession is preserved.
- 2.2 A journalist shall always identify him/herself and the media house where he/she works. Use of undercover or subterfuge methods to gain entry into restricted places or access to information shall be done only as matter of public interest and with the permission of the editor.
- 2.3 A journalist shall not tape or record anyone without the person's knowledge. An exception may be made only if the recording is necessary to protect the journalist in a legal action or for some other compelling reason.
- 2.4 A journalist shall not solicit, accept gifts or any form of inducement meant to bend or influence professional performance. However, facilitation by third parties to enable a journalist to perform a bonafide assignment in specific situations shall not be deemed as an inducement provided that the assigning editor sanctions such facilitation.

## 3. Conflict of Interest

- 3.1 A journalist shall always declare to the editor any conflict of interest that arises in the execution of duty and from such assignment to avoid the conflict.
- 3.2 A journalist shall endeavour to remain free of associations and activities that compromises personal integrity or undermines the reputation of the profession.

## 4. Accuracy, Fairness and Balance

- 4.1 A journalist has the responsibility for the accuracy of the information he/she disseminates. The journalist shall also ensure that such information is fair and balanced. Journalists shall not indulge in unfair comment, falsification, distortion or misrepresentation of facts.
- 4.2 A journalist and the employing media house shall endeavour to thoroughly investigate allegations affecting individuals and institutions before disseminating them.
- 4.3 In the spirit of fairness and balance, the journalist shall endeavour to seek and include comment from the affected individuals or institutions in the same story or as quickly as practicable. Fairness shall also include reporting facts in the proper context. Where the affected party declines to comment or where the media house genuinely tries but fails to extract a comment, such position shall be explained in the story published or broadcast.
- 4.4 Whenever it is realised that an inaccurate, misleading or distorted story has been published or broadcast, it shall be corrected or clarified promptly, without waiting for a complaint to be raised first.
- 4.5 Corrections should also be reasonably proportional to the error in terms of impact.
- 4.6 Corrections shall be clear and shall carry an apology to affected parties. For purposes of clarity, corrections shall apply to errors of fact and inaccuracies while clarifications shall apply to misleading or distorted information.

## 5. Right of Reply

- 5.1 Media houses shall accord aggrieved parties the right of reply to material published or broadcast about them.
- 5.2 Journalists shall distinguish clearly in their reports between comment, conjecture and fact. News shall remain objective but a journalist may be partisan in commentaries and opinion pieces.
- 5.3 A comment shall be a genuine expression of opinion relating to fact. Comment or conjecture shall not be presented in such a way as to create the impression that it is an established fact.

## 6. Social Responsibility

- 6.1 A journalist shall, in the dissemination of information, bear in mind his/her responsibility of educating and informing the public on matters affecting them and their responsibility in society. The journalist's responsibility shall include monitoring government and other centres of influence and power on behalf of the public and this responsibility shall not be abused for whatever reason.
- 6.2 A media practitioner shall at all times defend the principle of the freedom of the press and other mass media by striving to eliminate unjustified news suppression and censorship.

## 7. Respect for privacy and human dignity

- 7.1 The public's right to know shall always be weighed vis-à-vis the individual's right to privacy.
- 7.2 Publications about the private lives of individuals, without their consent, are not acceptable except where public interest overrides the right of privacy.
- 7.3 It is justified to publish information about individuals where this is for: detecting or exposing criminal conduct; detecting or exposing seriously anti-social conduct; protecting public health and safety; and preventing the public from being misled by some statement or action of that individual where such a person is doing something in private which he or she is publicly condemning.
- 7.4 Journalists shall seek to understand the boundaries of public and private space. In this regard, journalists can legitimately report about activities of individuals in a public place but not in a private environment.

## 8. Letters to the Editor

- 8.1 For purposes of the Code, Letters to the Editor shall include normal letters sent physically or electronically.
- 8.2 An editor who decides to open columns on a controversial subject is not obliged to publish all the letters received in regard to that subject. The Editor may select and publish only some of them either in their entirety or the gist thereof. The Editor shall, however, present a fair balance between the pros and cons of the principal issue and reserve the discretion to decide at which point to close the debate.
- 8.3 In case of radio and TV discussion programmes, hosts shall make reasonable effort to reach out for comment from persons mentioned. Hosts shall also encourage and balance comments from the audience sent by any of the modern means of interactivity.

## 9. Plagiarism

- 9.1 No media practitioner shall engage in plagiarism. Plagiarism consists of making use of another person's material or ideas without proper acknowledgement and attribution of the source of those ideas or material.
- 9.2 Words directly quoted from sources other than the writer's own reporting shall be attributed. In general, when the work is used as the source of ideas for stylistic inspiration the final report shall be clearly different from the original work.
- 9.3 The editor shall take final responsibility to ensure that published or broadcast content in stories or programs does not contain plagiarised material and that any borrowed content is properly attributed to the rightful author.

## 10. Non-disclosure

- 10.1 A journalist shall protect the confidentiality of his/her sources of information and shall only divulge them at the demand of a competent court of law.
- 10.2 Journalists shall follow the in-house rules and get the editor's consent before granting confidentiality. Once such confidentiality has been granted, both the journalist and the media house shall honour it. It shall be the ultimate responsibility of the Editor to ensure that such protection is granted and guaranteed.

## 10.3 In order to have the clarity of mind and the confidence, the editor, being the final editorial authority, shall have the right to demand of the journalist the source of the story, but the editor shall order no dissemination details for the said source to a third party.

- 10.4 The Editor shall also have the privilege to read use of any story which he/she deems the journalist's interest.
- 10.5 For the sake of the integrity and security of the profession, journalists shall not serve any other person or institution in the investigation of crime simply because of the promise of money. Journalists who have such an arrangement shall be considered as such compliance would erode the trust of the public in the profession of journalism.

## 11. Intrusion into grief

- 11.1 Journalists shall not intrude into personal grief. Stories and pictures that they exaggerate grief or cause distress to relatives and friends of the dead shall not be published. Any reports about the death and grief shall be carried out with utmost discretion and due sympathy.
- 11.2 Journalists and media houses shall not profane from deliberate exploitation of the misfortune of those affected by the death. The media shall also avoid re-use of the pictures of situations of death and grave breaches of graves that are required to distress among relatives and friends.

## 12. Involvement relatives and friends

- 12.1 The media shall generally avoid identifying relatives or friends of persons convicted or accused of crime except for reference to the same necessary for the full, fair and accurate reporting on the crime or legal proceedings and where such identification adds value to the story.

## 13. Victims of sex crimes

- 13.1 Media Institutions shall not identify victims of sexual assaults or publish or broadcast names of victims unless such identification is necessary for the full, fair and accurate reporting on the crime or legal proceedings and where such identification adds value to the story.
- 13.2 A journalist shall endeavour to explain to the concerned person the implications of such disclosure. In cases where consent is given subject to certain conditions, then such conditions shall be respected.
- 13.3 The journalists need to understand that ordinary such publication does not serve any legitimate journalistic or public need and may bring social ostracism (public disgrace and shame) to the victims and social embarrassment to their relatives, family, friends, community, religious order or the institutions to which they belong.
- 13.4 Children shall particularly not be identified as victims, however remotely.

## 14. Protection of children

- 14.1 Children shall not be identified in cases concerning sexual offences, whether as victims, witnesses, or defendants or photograph children on subjects involving their personal welfare in the absence of, or without the consent of a parent or other adult who is responsible for the children.
- 14.2 Except in matters of public interest, e.g. cases of child abuse or abandonment, journalists shall not normally interview or photograph children on subjects involving their personal welfare in the absence of, or without the consent of a parent or other adult who is responsible for the children.
- 14.3 Children shall not be approached or photographed while in a formal institution without the permission of the institution's authority.

## 15. Children in criminal cases

- 15.1 Media institutions shall not publish or broadcast the names of any underage offenders (below 18 years) arrested by Police or tried in the criminal courts. Where such identification must be made, the media house shall explain the overriding reasons that led to such an editorial decision.

## 16. Publication of adult-only material

- 16.1 Out of respect to values of common decency, the media shall take extra care when dealing with adult-only material.
- 16.2 A media house, which publishes or broadcast adult-only material, shall ensure such material is not accessible to underage (minors) and shall provide restricted places or time where willing adults can access such material.
- 16.3 Television stations shall also schedule adult moves later at night when children are in bed. Such programs shall be properly labelled with appropriate advisories including in the TV schedules published in newspapers.
- 16.4 Radio stations shall air adult-only programs late at night when children are in bed and they shall make appropriate promotional advisories to that effect.

## 17. Use of pictures

- 17.1 The Media must exercise due caution when using pictures. Choice and use of pictures should not cause unnecessary harm to persons concerned e.g. exploiting minors and people with disabilities. Special care shall be taken when using pictures of disasters.
- 17.2 The use of grisly, grotesque and gruesome pictures should be avoided except where there is overriding public interest. Illustrations accompanying stories of adult material shall be measured both in content and in caption.

## 18. Hatred

- 18.1 Media Institutions shall not publish or broadcast material that is intended or is likely to cause hostility or hatred towards persons on the grounds of their race, ethnic origins, nationality, religion or political affiliation.
- 18.2 Media institutions shall take utmost care to avoid contributing to the spread of ethnic hatred when reporting events and commentaries of this nature.
- 18.3 Media shall endeavour to regulate and balance debate and discussion of sensitive issues, like corruption, nepotism, favouritism so that they do not degenerate into hate literature.

## 19. Disadvantaged and marginalized groups

- 19.1 The media shall not publish material that is intended to ridicule, or emote ridicule of persons on grounds of their gender or physical disabilities.
- 19.2 The media shall also take steps to ensure that content for publication or broadcast, including paid-for content, is free of such contemptuous material.

## 20. Covering conflicts

- 20.1 The media shall exercise a high sense of individual and corporate citizen responsibility when covering conflict and while commenting on sectarian disputes. Covering conflict shall be done in a manner that is conducive to the creation of an atmosphere congenial to national harmony, amity and peace.
- 20.2 News, views and comments shall be backed by facts and measured in language and tone. But it shall be the responsibility of the media to highlight potential conflicts before they explode and seek to help smoothly heal wounds where they do.

## 21. Undue pressure or influence

- 21.1 Media owners, publishers and practitioners shall not suppress or distort information which the public has a right to know because of undue pressure or influence from external public or political interest.

## 22. Payment for information

- 22.1 Media Owners, Publishers and Practitioners shall not publish, broadcast or suppress an editorial report or omit or alter vital facts in that report in return for payment of money or for any other gift or reward.
- 22.2 They shall, however, not apply to advertisements or advertorial. Media institutions shall clearly distinguish between editorial content and advertisements or advertorial.
- 22.3 Media owners, publishers and media practitioners shall not promise to disclose information solely in return for a payment of money or any other gift or reward. There is a public interest in the information.

## 23. Sponsorships

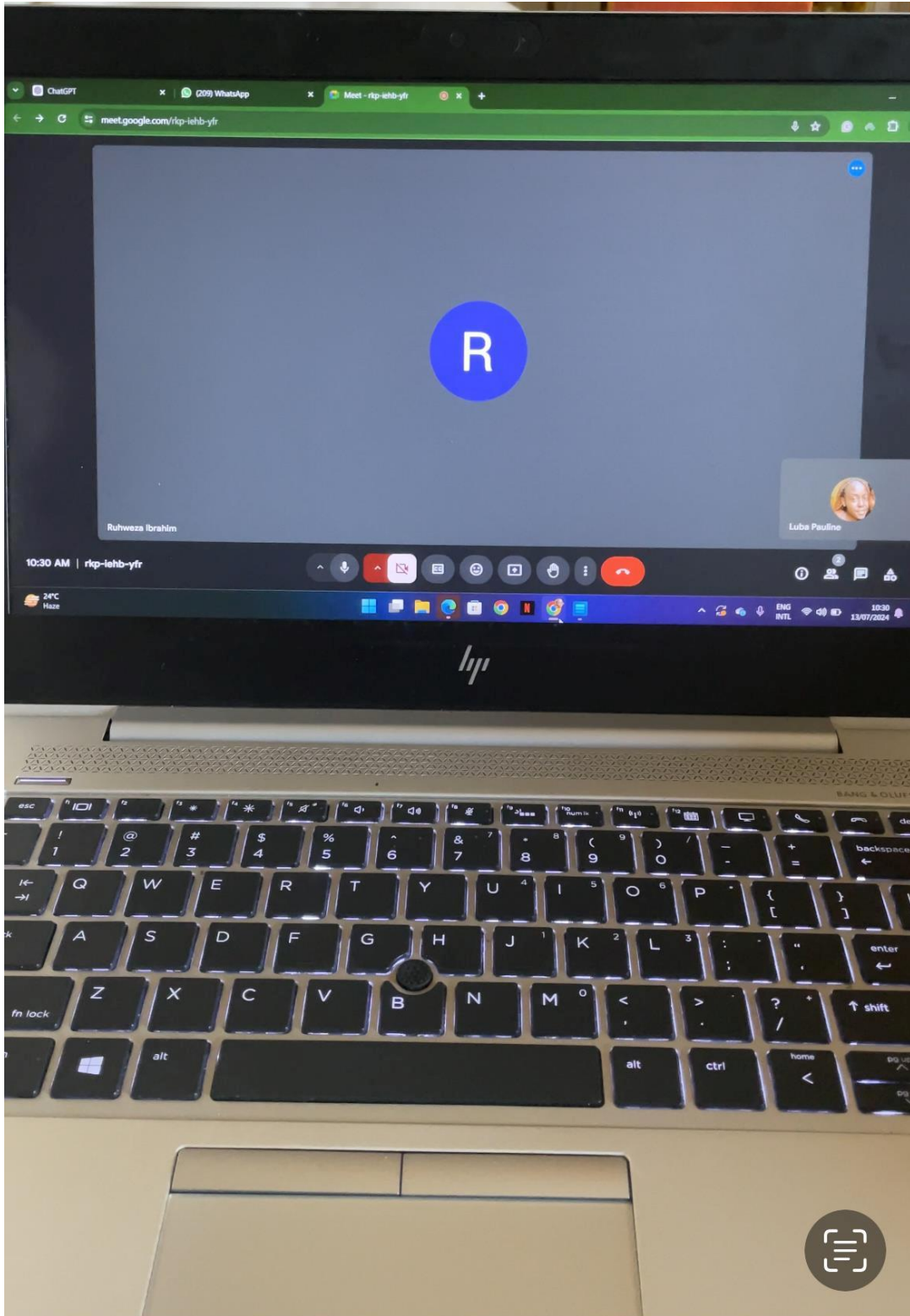
- 23.1 The media shall strive to preserve the sanctity and impartiality of news. As such media houses shall not allow news bulletins to be sponsored.
- 23.2 Journalists shall always be seen to remain independent and shall not dress in corporate branded wear when presenting programs or covering sponsored events.

## INDEPENDENT MEDIA COUNCIL OF UGANDA

Promoting Ethics In The Media

Plot 29/33 Kampala Rd., Amber House, 3rd Floor, Block B, Km 8309  
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# Ugandan journalist seized in Kampala following investigative report

6 years ago



A general view shows the capital city of Kampala in Uganda, in July 2016. Five unidentified men dressed in military camouflage seized journalist Charles Etukuri outside the newspaper's office in Kampala on February 13, 2018. (Reuters/James Akena)

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Nairobi, February 14, 2018—Ugandan authorities must make every effort to secure the safe release

Nairobi, February 14, 2018—Ugandan authorities must make every effort to secure the safe release of Charles Etukuri, an investigative journalist for the state-owned *New Vision* newspaper, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today. Five unidentified men dressed in military camouflage **seized** Etukuri outside the newspaper's office in Kampala yesterday, days after he published an investigation into the murder of a foreign national in Uganda, the paper's editor John Kakande and the Independent Media Council of Uganda executive secretary, Haruna Kanaabi, told CPJ.

Several eyewitnesses, including two *New Vision* employees, reported that the men were waiting in a white car and forced Etukuri into the vehicle when he left the building for lunch at approximately 2 p.m., said Kakande.

Soon after, Etukuri called his supervisor, who CPJ has not named for safety reasons, to say that he was "safe," and that the seizure was related to his recent articles, Kakande told CPJ. The journalist has been unreachable since this phone call, according to the paper's editor.

~~New Vision's management today requested~~

# Why We Did Mulago Investigation

🕒 Feb 16, 2024

The New Vision was given the latitude to support government programmes and policies but point out any weaknesses and failures of any public policy. We are also obliged to voice public opinion and criticism, constructively, fairly, and objectively.

(New Vision/File)

**Barbara Kaija**  
Editor-in-Chief, Vision Group  
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#Investigation

#Mulago hospital

#Corruption



629 views

No Comment

**Over the last two weeks, New Vision has published a series of stories resulting from an undercover investigation done at Mulago National Referral Hospital by our reporter.**

The investigation followed a public outcry regarding systematic corruption and poor service delivery at the hospital.

We received from whistleblowers allegations of gross corruption by workers, bribery, including doctors and nurses openly asking for bribes, theft of drugs from the wards and extortion in the radiology department, among other failures.

The investigation that stretched over three months sought to verify these claims. We wish to point out, that this investigation was done professionally and in accordance with the Vision Group editorial standards.

# Uganda Tops In Counterfeit

🕒 Jul 09, 2009

Uganda is one of the largest recipients of counterfeit products in the region, according to a survey by the East African Community (EAC).

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**By Henry Mukasa**

Uganda is one of the largest recipients of counterfeit products in the region, according to a survey by the East African Community (EAC).

It reckons that local companies like Nice House of Plastics lose up to \$2m (sh4b) annually to the trade in fake goods.

These were some of the findings by consultants from Mohammed Muingai Advocates, contracted by the East African Community Secretariat to draft an FAC

The report gives examples of the trade in fake drugs, adulterated cement (cement mixed with either sand or ash) and counterfeit electric cables, which lead to health risks, the collapse of buildings and outbreaks of fire.

The consultants listed the industries most hit by counterfeits as cosmetics, detergents, food, beverages, cooking fats, construction materials, electrical products, alcohol, juices, pharmaceuticals, computer software, music and videos.

“Many of these products are packaged in ways that consumers are unlikely to differentiate between the counterfeit and genuine products.”

In his opening remarks, Odhiambo attributed the growing problem in developing countries to lack of laws and enforcement mechanisms, poverty, corruption and under-supply of original products. “The situation is even made worse by globalisation and liberalisation efforts by governments.”

# Police Holds Suspected Chinese Traffickers

🕒 Oct 01, 2013

Police is holding two Chinese nationals after they were intercepted last week with wildlife trophies at Entebbe International Airport.

By Gerald Tenywa

**Police is holding two Chinese nationals after they were intercepted last week with wildlife trophies at Entebbe International Airport.**

According to Moses Olinga, the law enforcement at the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the trophies included pieces of ivory that had been worked on into ornaments such as bangles, necklaces and decorations.

Also recovered from the suspected

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not knowing that they were purchasing contraband items.

According to CITES, elephants are endangered species meaning that if nothing is done to protect them or their habitats they are likely to be wiped off the face of the earth.

The trade elephant ivory, which is flourishing as a result of increasing demand for status symbols crafted out of ivory in Asian countries particularly China.

Sources say pangolin scales and hippo teeth are also highly demanded to make valuable items such chop sticks, necklaces, bracelets, ear rings and bangles.

Currently estimated at 5,000, Uganda's elephant population had declined to only

