

**A LEGAL STUDY ON MEDIA OWNERSHIP LAW IN MALAYSIA WITH SPECIFIC
REFERENCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN LEGAL POSITION**

By

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The Students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

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ABSTRACT

This is study on Media Ownership Regulations in the Communication and Multimedia Act (CMA) 1998 and other statutes which is completed as a fulfillment of the study of the Bachelor of Legal Studies (Hons). The study concerns mainly in the media ownership of the numerous media stations in Malaysia and its impact on democracy and economy. The research is done on the basis of the national objectives under the CMA 1998 which calls for establishing Malaysia as a major global centre and also the hub for communications, multimedia information and content services.

This research addressed the issue of the current media ownership in Malaysia being highly concentrated in the hands of a few and it is linked to political parties. This may endanger the democracy of people and media information may be influence by certain political views. The objective of this research is to study the existing laws in Malaysia (CMA 1998) and other statutes in regulating media ownership and the effects of politically-influenced media to the mindsets of the public, to study the media ownership regulations in Australia for comparative analysis and to give recommendations on how to solve the problem of media ownership that influences the political views of the public.

This research discovers that the structure of media ownership regulations are not suitable to be adapted into the Malaysian media industry due to factors such as the size of the market and lack of media players. Thus, recommendations are given to improve the situation of the current media in Malaysia as an alternative to the structure of media ownership regulations.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will discuss the overall background of the research. This chapter would attempt to provide information concerning the background of media ownership in Malaysia, the regulations on media ownership in the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, highlighting the objectives of the research and delimitating the scope of the research. The significance of the study, research methodology and expected contributions of the research are also disclosed at the later stage of this chapter.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The availability of information nowadays is an important determinant of the efficiency of political and economic markets. This inevitably makes the media an important medium to reach out to the public. Thus, it is imperative for the media to be free from certain influences or control by certain entities to ensure impartial and unbiased reporting of information to the people. This view is permeated in a quotation from British Government's media policy document which was written in 1995,

“a free and diverse media are an indispensable part of the democratic process. They provide the multiplicity of voices and opinion that informs the public, influences opinion, and engenders political debate. They promote the culture of