

**FREEDOM OF PRESS: NEWSPAPER REPORTING IN RELATION TO  
PRINTING PRESSES AND PUBLICATIONS ACT 1984**

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons.)

**FACULTY OF LAW  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**OCTOBER 2006**

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.

## ABSTRACT

Freedom of press is a branch of freedom of speech and expression enshrined in Article 10(1)(a) of the Federal Constitution. Although embodied in the Constitution the practice of it has been ambiguous to media practitioners, the newspaper journalists in particular. Furthermore, the laws regulating the media are aplenty and as such it is bound for confusion to occur.

This research concentrates on the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 as one of the major laws governing the media fraternity. The Act grants absolute power to the Minister concerned to revoke, suspend a licence and permit given to the newspaper companies. Moreover, the decision made by the Minister is final and conclusive, as such even the court could not intervene and review the decision.

The motive of the project paper is to shed light on the possibility of abuse of power on the part of the Minister in granting, revoking and suspending the licence and permit of any newspaper companies. In addition, this research is aimed to probe on whether the general public believes that the media should be given more elbow room to perform their obligations towards the public in informing truthful reports. In granting more freedom to the editors and journalist alike, the issue of self-regulation is a matter that needs to be addressed.

The significance of the research is to provide an alternative to the current state of affairs with regard to newspaper reporting. Concurrently, it is also hoped that the severity of the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 would be dealt with particularly on the issue of discretionary power of Minister in issuance of licence and permit.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, all praise to Allah S.W.T for all the blessing and guidance which was bestowed upon us in accomplishing this project paper.

The success in accomplishing this research is not without the aid and help of many people. To begin with, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation towards our supervisor, Prof. Madya Dr. Musrifah Sapardi, who is also the Dean of Faculty of Law. Without her generosity and guidance, the task of completing this research would have been at a loss.

To all the interviewees and respondents of the questionnaire, we owe them much gratitude for their time and effort.

In the course of doing this project paper we are also indebted to our beloved families and friends for their understanding and support. Last but not least, we would like to thank everyone who has helped us in many ways. Thank you and may God bless all of you always.

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