

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

BY

Batul Binti Sabbir

2004261633

Noor Nadira Binti Noordin

2004261969

Aizuddin Bin Arshad

2004261459

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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.

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Batul binti Sabbir

Noor Nadira binti Noordin

Aizuddin bin Arshad

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
Table of contents	iii
List of cases and statutes	v

INTRODUCTION 1

Chapter 1 : INTRODUCTION ON PRESS FREEDOM

1.0	Introduction	2
1.1	Problem Statement	3
1.2	Objectives of the Study	5
1.3	Literature Review	6
1.4	Research Methodology	10
1.5	Limitation	11
1.6	Significance of the Study	12

Chapter 2 : ANALYSIS OF PRINTING PRESSES AND PUBLICATIONS

ACT 1984 AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

2.1	Analysis of Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984	13
	2.1.1 Introduction	13
	2.1.2 Provisions in Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984	14
	2.1.3 Critical Analysis on Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984	15
	2.1.4 Conclusion	22
2.2	Analysis of newspaper articles	23

Chapter 3 : ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEWS AND QUESTIONNAIRES

3.0	Analysis of interviews and questionnaires	28
3.1	Analysis of interviews	28
3.1.1	Conclusion	35
3.2	Analysis of questionnaires	36
3.2.1	Part A	36
3.2.2	Part B	39
3.2.3	Conclusion	50

Chapter 4 : CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0	Conclusion and recommendations	52
4.1	Conclusion	52
4.2	Recommendations	53

Bibliography	56
Appendices	58
Appendix A : Interview questions	58
Appendix B : Analysis of interview answers	60
Appendix C : Sample of questionnaire	72
Appendix D : Section 10 of Federal Constitution	73
Appendix E : Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984	74
Appendix F : Pictures of newspaper articles	76