

## National Media Commission (NMC)

The appointment of the National Media Commission (NMC) as an oversight body for the media is regulated by the Ghanaian constitution, Article 166:

“There shall be established by Act of Parliament [...] a National Media Commission which shall consist of fifteen members...”

On July 7th, 1993, the NMC was set up by an Act of Parliament (National Media Commission Act 1993). It is composed of members of several groups of “civil society” such as the Ghana Journalists Association, the Trades Union Congress and the Association of Private Broadcasters.

Its functions are:

- To promote and ensure the freedom and independence of the media,
- to promote and ensure high journalistic standards,
- to investigate, mediate and settle complaints made against or by the media,
- to insulate state-owned media from government control,
- to make regulations for the registration of newspapers and other publications.

## Collaboration with FES

Freedom of information, media rights and the adherence to professional and ethical standards are a major focus of FES’ activities in Ghana.

In the recent past, the cooperation of the NMC and FES on these issues has been rather intensive. Several workshops and seminars are organized jointly, every year.

Most of them were concerned with the work of the National Reconciliation Commission (NRC). The Commission, in discharging its task of promoting higher journalistic standards, arranged training programmes for journalists as well.

Another success of this cooperation is the reappearance of the “Media Monitor”, a quarterly magazine that is concerned with media performance and press freedom in Ghana. Initially started in the mid 1990s by the School of Communication Studies (SCS), the highest communication-training institute in Ghana, and published for the NMC with support from FES, the publication did however cease to exist for some time due to technical reasons. It has however, been revived and reappeared with three editions already published in 2004.

In Addition, a Media Monitoring Center of the NMC’ could be established and technically equipped through this cooperation, in August 2004, on time for the crucial monitoring on fair, objective and balanced election and campaign reporting.

The following joint publications of the NMC and FES should be listed:

- “Guidelines on Political Reporting” (1996)
- “Broadcasting Standards” (2000)
- “National Media Policy” (2000)
- “Guidelines for the Publication of Rejoinders” (2000)
- “Print Media Guidelines” (2003)
- “National Media Policy” (2005)

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