

PUBLIC NOTICES

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THE NEWSPAPERS ACT
(Cap. 111)

THE NEWSPAPERS REGISTRATION RULES, 1980

Short title.

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 11 of the Newspapers Act, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting hereby makes the following Rules:—

1. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

“Minister” means the Minister for the time being charged with the responsibility for Information and Broadcasting.

2. (1) For the purpose of these Rules, the Minister shall appoint an Advisory Committee, to be known as the Newspaper Advisory Committee, (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”). Constitution of a Newspaper Advisory Committee.

(2) The Committee of nine members shall consist of—

(a) two members from the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, one of whom shall be the President of the Association;

(b) the Solicitor-General or his representative;

(c) a member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association;

(d) the Director-General and Head of the Media, or his representative; and

(e) four members of the Public.

(3) The Minister shall appoint one of the members of the Committee as Chairman.

(4) A member of the Committee shall hold office for a period of three years, and may, on ceasing to be a member, be eligible for re-appointment.

(5) The Committee shall regulate its procedure at meetings.

(6) If the Minister is satisfied that any member of the Committee is incapacitated by infirmity of mind or body from discharging the duties of his office or is otherwise unsuited to continue to discharge such duties, the Minister may terminate his appointment and appoint another member to such Committee:

Provided, however, that a member appointed in place of a member who is removed from or otherwise vacates office shall hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds unless the member so appointed is either removed from or otherwise vacates office.

(7) All or any of the members of the Committee may be paid such remuneration as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance.

Functions
of the
Committee.

3. (1) The functions of the Committee shall be—

(a) to advise the Minister on registration or renewal of a newspaper or on the suspension or cancellation of a certificate of registration already granted;

(b) to ascertain and recommend ways and means of improving journalism in Sierra Leone; and

(c) to perform any other functions so connected with the preceding functions.

(2) Any member of the Committee who is directly or indirectly employed as Editor or in any other capacity or has any proprietary interest in a Newspaper which forms the subject of consideration under paragraph (a) of sub-rule (1), shall disclose his nature of interest to the Committee and such member shall not take part in any deliberations in respect of such matter.

Requisite
qualifica-
tions and
experience
of an Editor
of a News-
paper.

4. No proprietor shall carry on the business of a newspaper unless the Editor of such a newspaper has obtained satisfactory qualifications in journalism or is a holder of a University degree with four years experience in journalism or has any other qualification or experience, which the Minister in consultation with the Committee shall consider to be adequate for the purposes of this rule.

Application
for regis-
tration or
renewal.

5. (1) Every proprietor shall make an application for registration or renewal to the Minister, and such application shall be delivered by registered post in triplicate to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for transmission to the Minister.

(2) Every application for registration—

(a) shall be in writing;

(b) shall be in the Form and shall contain the particulars as specified in the Schedule to these Rules; and

(c) shall be signed by the Proprietor.

(3) Where the Proprietor is a company, the form aforesaid shall be signed by the Managing Director and Secretary of the Company.

6. (1) Upon the receipt of an application for registration or renewal, the Minister may allow the application and inform the proprietors of his decision by notice certified under his hand. Disposal of application for registration by the Minister.

(2) Where the Minister allows such application he shall cause a copy of the notice of his decision to be served on the Registrar for the registration of such proprietor in the Register of Proprietors with particulars relating to the proprietor.

(3) On receipt of the notice of approval, the proprietor shall be entitled to obtain the certificate of registration from the Registrar on payment of the appropriate fee.

7. (1) An application by a proprietor for registration or renewal of the certificate of registration already granted may be rejected or cancelled or suspended, as the case may be, by the Minister— Grounds on which an application for registration or renewal may be rejected.

(a) if the application is not made under and in accordance with the provisions of these Rules; or

(b) if the application contains false particulars; or

(c) on grounds specified in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 15 of the Constitution. Act No. 12 of 1978.

(2) No such application shall be rejected or the certificate of registration already granted cancelled by the Minister except in accordance with sub-rule (1).

(3) Before the Minister rejects an application for registration or renewal or suspends or cancels the certificate of registration under sub-rule (1), a proprietor or Counsel representing him shall be entitled to be heard by the Minister.

(4) In the event of an application for registration or renewal being rejected or the certificate of registration being suspended or cancelled by the Minister, it shall be the duty of the Minister to inform the proprietor in writing that such application has been rejected or the certificate of registration cancelled.

(5) Every such written information to a proprietor under the preceding rule shall include a statement in summary form of the grounds for such rejection, suspension or cancellation.

Appeal
from the
decision of
the Minister.

8. A proprietor whose application for registration has been rejected or whose certificate of registration has been suspended or cancelled may appeal to the High Court within 30 days from the issue of the written information by the Minister for such rejection of the application or cancellation or suspension of the certificate of registration.

THE SCHEDULE

(Rule 5 (2) (b))

Application Form for Registration or Renewal

Title of Newspaper.....

Name (s) of Proprietor (s).....

Occupation (s) of Proprietor (s)

Place (s) of Business of Proprietor (s)

Place (s) of Residence of Proprietor (s)

Qualifications of the Editor.....

MADE this 1st day of August, 1980.

Issued under my hand.

I. M. FOFANA,
Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Rules but is intended to indicate their general purpose).

The purpose of these Rules is to regulate the method and form of application to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and also to establish a Newspaper Advisory Committee for the purpose of improving the standard of journalism in Sierra Leone.