

Proposals to CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION from UGANDA
NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (UNEPA)

(1) There should be Freedom of Expression, including freedom to research, receive, hold and impart opinions, information and ideas without interference. This freedom applies to individuals and to the media.

(2) There should be Freedom of Information for the public and the media. They should have access to any government document, as long as it is not classified and as long as it is not an unwarranted intrusion into the privacy of the individual. In any case, classified documents should be automatically declassified and made accessible after 20 years.

(3) There should be no restrictions on the establishment of newspapers, publications, radio stations or television stations other than the normal legal requirements of registration. Neither the state, nor any individual or organisation should exercise a monopoly of ownership or utilisation in area of the media.

(4) The Press should have the right to protect the Source of its information if the source gave that information in confidence, unless it is established in court that disclosure is necessary.

(5) Should the state consider that publication of certain information jeopardise national security or its other interests and prosecutes an individual, newspaper or other media outlet, it shall be sufficient defence to show that publication was in the 'Public Interest'.

(6) Defamation should be a civil and not a criminal offence. The offences of criminal libel (except for obscenity) and defamation of a foreign dignitary should be abolished.

(7) There should be no banning of a newspaper or media body without a court order.

(8) There should no seizure of documents or information from a newspaper or media office, or from a journalist or media worker, without a court order.

(9) The public should enjoy the Right of Reply in the media if they have been the subject of unbalanced criticism.

(10) It shall be a sufficient defence against the charge of Sedition to show that information was published without malice, or was true.

(11) A newspaper or media organisation, including journalists and media workers, should not be charged with sedition or treason for possessing documents in their

	Position	Organisation	
SIGNED DRAKE SEKEBA	EDITOR	THE STAR!	Rde
Pike		<i>editor-in-chief the news</i>	<i>line - li</i>
WAFULA OGUTTU	EDITOR	WEEKLY TOPIC	<i>weekly topic</i>
CHRIS OPIO	EDITOR	THE NEWS ARCADE	<i>the news arcade</i>
Amos Kajoba	EDITOR	Finance & Trade	<i>Finance & Trade</i>
Kyadze Hannington	proprietor	News Forum	<i>News Forum</i>
Deo Byabafumu	Ed/Pub	Echo Publications	<i>Echo Publications</i>
Rashid Mudin	Editor	Soccer World	<i>Soccer World</i>
ISAAC ANGUNANY	M/Editor	Development Digest	<i>Development Digest</i>
Charles Onyango Obbo	D/Editor	Weekly Topic	<i>Weekly Topic</i>
Henry f Msuma	Editor	The Express	<i>The Express</i>
James Tumusiime	D/Editor	The New Vision	<i>The New Vision</i>
James Wamakajo	President		
MIKE MUGWANYA	EDITOR		
MAURICE SEKAWUNGU	EDITOR		
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