



PRESS COUNCIL NEPAL

KEY PROGRESS REPORT FROM APRIL 2010 (CHAITRA 2066) TO PRESENT

Audit Bureau of Circulation

Newspaper Audit Bureau of Circulation was formed in accordance with the Press Council Act, 1992. Accordingly, the evaluation and grading (categorization) of newspapers and magazines published from all over Nepal for the year 2065/66 has reached its final stage. For this fiscal year, 114 dailies, 4 bi-weeklies, 495 weeklies, 18 fortnightlies and 29 literary magazines had filled up their forms for grading, amounting to 738 newspapers and magazines in total.

The Government of Nepal has been providing grants in the form of advertisements for public welfare in accordance to the grades set by the Audit Bureau of Circulation.

Assessment of Journalist Code of Conduct

Press Council Nepal has been reviewing the Journalist Code of Conduct in various Nepali print media. If they are found to have violated the code of conduct, the Council asked for explanation from such news media, warned them and recommended consequently for the suspension of press pass. The Council has also been investigating and taking action against those who have case lodged against them at the Council.

Assessment of Electronic Media

The development of electronic media alongside print media is taking place in rapid pace. It has become necessary for the Council to take into special consideration the electronic media and not just focus on print media. But because there is no arrangement for Council to assess the electronic media in the current Act, there seems to be a lack of knowledge on how to take this work forward. The government also seems unconcerned towards the issue. There has been no action into the proposal for ammendment in the Council Act, 1992 so that electronic media could also be included in it's work area for the Council to perform on a wider range.

Media Talk Programs

Council has been organizing media talk programs on contemporary issues raised in the media with the participation of concerned agencies. Following are the details on programs organized during this period:

S. No	Date	Place	Name of Program	Remarks
1.	24 March 2010	Press Council	Role of Media and Code of Conduct	
2.	4 April 2010	Nepalgunj	State of literary journalism in mid-western region and direction hereforth	
3.	22 July 2010	Press Council	Role of Press Council in the implementation of Working Journalist Act	
4.	7 Aug 2010	Department of Information	Problems faced by small papers	
5.	9 Aug 2010	Kusma, Parbat	Journalist Code of Conduct and Media Development Fund	
6.	3 Sept 2010	Department of Information	What should the future Press Council be like?	
7.	22 Sept 2010	Department of Information	The past and the present of Press Council	

Publications:

Press Council has been regularly publishing and distributing Sanhita Journal, a quarterly publication on the issues of journalism, journalist code of conduct and the activities of the Council. In this period, two issues of the publication were published and distributed. The Council has also published a book in this period on the Right to Privacy and Press Freedom.

Media Development Fund

The Council has granted debt assistance of Nepali Rs 40,40,46.97 (Forty lakh, forty thousand, four hundred sixty rupees and ninety-seven paisa) to 15 newspapers outside Kathmandu through the Media Development Fund from the starting year to the fiscal year 2066/67. It has also issued debt grant of Nepali Rs 15,23,517.62 (Fifteen lakh, twenty-three thousand, five hundred seventeen rupees and sixty-two paisa) to seven FM radio stations to buy necessary equipments. According to the policy of the Fund to issue debt grant for the bank loan to buy desktop equipments necessary for managing the newspapers and magazines, the Council has issued Nepali Rs 3,96,189.25 (Three lakh, ninety-six thousand, one hundred eighty-nine rupees and twenty-five paisa) to 13 newspapers and magazines. The Council has also issued assistance of Nepali Rs 47,27,083.20 (Forty-seven lakh, twenty-seven thousand, eighty-three rupees and twenty paisa) for the equipments for establishment of Communication Centers in 33 district branch offices of Nepalese Federation of Journalists. Similarly, the Council has also granted assistance of Nepali Rs 1,44,667.00 (One lakh, forty-four thousand, six hundred and sixty-seven rupees) to 17 journalists for essential equipments for news dissemination. Thus, Media Development Fund has so far issued, in total, an grant assistance of Nepali

Rs 1,08,31,918.04 (One crore, eight lakh, thirty-one thousand, nine hundred eighteen rupees and four paise) for the development of professional journalism outside the capital.

Long-term Preservation of Newspapers and Magazines (CD ROM Technology)

Old and new newspapers and magazines published from Nepal have been scanned and saved in CD ROM technology for the long-term preservation at the Council. So far, around 23-lakh pages have been scanned and preserved in CD ROM.

Journalist Welfare Fund

The Council has been providing financial support to journalists who are ill for their medicine and treatment through the Journalism Welfare Fund, which is under the Council jurisdiction. In the fiscal year 2066/67, seven journalists were provided financial assistance of 45 thousand Nepali rupees.

Press Clipping Service

The Council has been offering the service of providing news clippings, articles and features published in different newspapers and magazines to various customers. The number of customers has reached 44, as of now.

Case lodged against the violation of Code of Conduct, investigation and action take by Press Council.

1. Shanta Neupane lodged case against Crime Today monthly on 2066.12.03 (16 March 2010) (Claimed to have negative effect on personal life)
 - a. Correspondence with Crime Today monthly on 2066.12.15 (28 March 2010) to produce a written explanation
 - b. Correspondence on 2066.12.15 (28 March 2010) with Shanta Neupane to be present for further information
 - c. Reply to the clarification by Crime Today monthly on 2066.12.29 (11 April 2010)
 - d. Correspondence on 2067.1.8 (21 April 2010) with the editor of Crime Today monthly requesting him to present himself
 - e. Reply asking to elaborate on the reasons requesting him to present himself that said he could not be present because of his official trip outside the valley
 - f. Reply by the Council on 2067.6.7 (23 September 2010) asking for a written reply for the reason mentioning unclear address of the office, full name of himself and others
2. Prof Dr Pashupatinath Jha lodged case against Mithila dot com daily and Janakpur Today daily, received on 2066.11.22 (24 Feb 2010)

- a. Correspondence with Mithila dot com daily on 2066.11.26 (10 March 2010)
- b. Correspondence with Janakpur Today daily regarding corrigendum on 2066.11.23 (7 March 2010)
3. Minister of Local Administration lodged case against Naya Patrika national daily on 2066.12.4 (17 March 2010)
 - a. Correspondence with Naya Patrika national daily regarding corrigendum on 2066.12.5 (18 March 2010)
4. Case lodged by Murari Raj Sharma (former Nepalese ambassador to UK) against Naya Patrika national daily received by email on 2066.12.27
 - a. Correspondence with the paper regarding corrigendum on 2066.12.30
5. Armed Police Force Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Chhatkuli lodged case against Margadarshan monthly on 2066.12.25
 - a. Correspondence by Council with Margadarshan monthly asking the issue of the case and statement and reaction on 2066.12.26
 - b. Correspondence with the monthly on 2067.1.8 asking to provide related materials quoting the times of clarification to the Press Council, with regards to the answer by the monthly received on 2067.1.2 saying clarifications have been made time and again on the news published related to APF IGP Sanat Basnet.
 - c. Correspondence with Ajay Chhatkuli asking him to write back addressing the editor of the concerned paper on the complaint or clarification on 2067.1.8
 - d. Correspondence with Margadarshan monthly to publish corrigendum
6. Case lodged by Dabur Nepal on 2067.4.11 against Sagarmatha Television for broadcasting materials on the title of Real Incident of Real Juice
 - a. Correspondence on 2067.4.13 with Sagarmatha Television on reaction on whether the materials broadcasted were against the code of conduct
7. Case lodged by Astrologer Pandit Rudranath Adhikari on 2067.5.1 against News 24 Television regarding news report titled Dance of a Tantrik broadcasted on 2067.4.28
 - a. Correspondence by Council on 2067.5.1 asking for a written reply on the reasons and facts for the broadcasting of the report along with basis and proofs.
 - b. Received reply on 2067.5.3 from the News 24 Television which said the news was presented as an actuality without bending any fact and saddened by the fact that the caselodger feels that way about the broadcasted piece.
 - c. Application by the caselodger received at the Council on 2067.6.1 asking to broadcast the truth

- d. Correspondence on 2067.6.1 asking to broadcast clarification
 - e. Received correspondence from News 24 Television on the same kind
 - f. Correspondence to both the defendant and plaintiff to discuss with each other and inform the Council on the development on 2-67.6.15
8. Case lodged against Janauddhar Weekly on 2067.4.25 by Govinda Prasad Satyal saying the report hurt his religious activities and the faith and belief of Bhaisnavs.
 - a. Correspondence by the Council on 2067.4.25 on what happened regarding the issue
 - b. Correspondence followed on 2067.5.6 and 2067.5.14 since no reply was received from the concerned paper.
 9. Case lodged against Kantipur Television by Dabur Nepal (Real Juice Incident) on 2067.5.11
 - a. Correspondence to Kantipur Television on 2067.5.11
 10. Case against Budhabar weekly by Sarita Giri on 2067.5.14 (Claim on defamation)
 - a. Correspondence with Budhabar weekly on 2067.5.15
 11. Case lodged by Maina Dhital against Sanghu weekly on 2067.5.20 (Claim on defamation)
 - a. Correspondence with Sanghu weekly on 2067.5.20
 - b. Correspondence to the plaintiff regarding sending corrigendum and to the related paper on publishing the corrigendum on 2067.6.7
 12. Case against Nawa Jana Prahar weekly by Ram Kumar Giri on 2067.5.15 (Claim on defamation)
 - a. Correspondence with Nawa Jana Prahar weekly on 2067.5.20
 - b. Re-application by the plaintiff on 2067.5.30
 - c. Correspondence on 2067.5.31 with the editor of Nawa Jana Prahar weekly to be present
 - d. Correspondence on 2067.6.15 with the plaintiff and concerned editor to be present at the Council
 13. Case lodged against Naya Patrika by Dabur Nepal on 2067.5.26 (Real Juice Incident)
 - a. Correspondence by the Council on 2067.5.31

(Note: Apart from these, many cases lodged at the Press Council with regards to Code of Conduct Assessment has been dealt with, in process, through phone and necessary warning issued through phone.)