

Here is what NMG Uganda will live and die for

A key issue that has dominated discourse at the Africa Editors' Congress 2026 ongoing in Nairobi, Kenya, is the "multi-faceted crisis" afflicting the media industry.

The fault lines include commercial pressures amid dwindling revenues, threats by State actors, and an eroded trust in an information ecosystem saturated with players, misinformation and disinformation.

This paradigm not only makes audiences sceptical of the truthfulness of content that the media produces, but also births uncertainty about the future of journal-

ism, which Philip L. Graham, the former publisher of *The Washington Post*, in 1963, baptised as "the first rough draft of history".

The discussion at the congress in Nairobi mirrors a global picture, but the manifestations differ from continent to continent, region to region, and country to country.

Whatever the nuances, a journalism that is mistrusted by its consumers cannot clone history in its image.

Similarly, a journalism that yields to difficulty, whether commercial pressure or repression and intimidation by State and

non-State actors, betrays public trust and erodes democracy.

This is why for us at the Nation Media Group in Uganda, the pursuit of bold and independent journalism remains our hallmark across our print, broadcast and digital platforms.

The NMG Editorial Policy, which is a public document against which our journalism can, and must be evaluated and faulted, exhorts us to be fair, balanced and accurate. It also obligates us to contribute to building a more open and democratic society.

We pride in having an internal Ombudsman whose task is to hold us accountable and ensure our journalism complies with the provisions of the in-house Editorial Policy.

It means we are held to the same high standards that we ask of others. Put another way, we don't preach water, then drink wine.

Therefore, our work is a threat only to those who are undemocratic or simply anti-free press.

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Here is what we will live and die for

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Article 29 of Uganda's Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, including that of speech, press and other media.

Besides being the public's eyes and ears and the voice of the voiceless, journalism exposes the concealed, spotlights injustices, and empowers citizens with accurate information to make informed choices in personal and public affairs.

As the Fourth Estate, it undergirds democracy, which is why Thomas Jefferson noted: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

This is how seminal journalism is. We understand the weight of this responsibility and have dutifully exercised the power of our pen to positively influence society.

What this media house lives and will die for, as co-founder Charles Onyango Obbo noted in 2007, is telling the truth. Its tagline, Truth Every day, is not decorative.

The issue:

Media rights and freedoms.

Our view:

We are, of course, not perfect. We make mistakes. But we do not do so out of malice or at the behest of external actors or hidden interests. We are proudly Ugandan.

We are aware of the risks, but Monitor Publications Limited, publisher of the Daily Monitor, has since its inception in 1992, taken many bullets, including two closures – in 2002 and 2013. The NTV also faced the same at infancy in 2007 but remains unshaken.

The media outlet remains at the frontline of promoting and defending freedoms and human rights, democracy and good governance. The information we provide empowers citizens in making civic, economic, social, cultural and educational decisions.

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These past encroachments by the State have not muted our voices or dulled our journalistic zeal, and will not stymie our pursuit of the truth that our readers, viewers and listeners expect and deserve across our platforms.

We are profoundly grateful for your trust and support. For as long as we exist, you can count on us to hold the powerful accountable, provide a platform for public discourse on important matters, and contribute to Uganda's development.

We are not proxies or mercenaries, or ingratiate to power for survival. We know independent journalism has a price, which we are willing to pay so that Uganda is better for us all today and future generations.

And for that reason, we are here to stay. We invite you to continue supporting all our platforms, including *Daily Monitor*, *NTV*, *Spark TV*, *Dembe FM*, *Enyanda*, *The East African*, and all our affiliate digital platforms, by subscribing to prime content and lending a hand through donations.