

Unofficial translated

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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National Assembly

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Media Law

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1. Objectives

The objectives of this media law are to determine the principles, regulations and measures for implementation, activities, development, management, and monitoring of media organizations in order to promote the role and improve the quality of the media, and to secure the right to freedom of expression on the part of the citizen. The law will also contribute to the protection and development of the country.

Article 2. Media

The media is a stage for disseminating information from media organizations, including print media, electronic media and media products. These media organizations have multiple roles as the voice of party, state and social organizations in order to propagate and educate on the direction of party and rule of law of the government.

The organizations encourage the involvement of the people in national patriotism and provide information about politics, economics, science, technology and entertainment to society. They also contribute to the prevention of social obstructions and distortion of facts, and are a stage to promote democracy and the rights of ethnic people throughout the nation.

Article 3. Interpretation of terms

The terms used in this law have the following meanings:

Media vehicle: print media, electronic media and media products;

Media product: newspapers, news bulletins, periodic letters, magazines, radio or television programmes, loudspeaker programmes, Internet websites, cassettes, CDs and DVDs etc;

Editor: a person who edits content of news or feature stories and programmes;

Journalist: staff of a media organization, who has a duty to seek information within or outside the country and write news or feature stories and reports for print or electronic media organizations;

Internet: a global system of interconnected computer networks linked by a broad array of electronic and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries a vast array of

information, signals, voices and images via cable or wireless transmission. These data are sent to links on websites.

The Web: is a system of interlinked hypertext documents contained on the Internet. With a web browser, one can view web pages that may contain text, images, videos, and other multimedia and navigate between them by using hyperlinks. The web is created by individuals or organizations within or outside the country and viewed on a computer, digital television or mobile phone.

Periodical distribution: a media product that publishes twice daily, daily, weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly bi-yearly or yearly etc.

Article 4. The policy of the state on media

The state promotes and develops media organizations to expand widely and be of strength and good quality by implementing policies such as establishing and providing staff, funds, vehicles, modern equipment and technology.

The state instigates organizations and individuals within and outside the country to involve themselves in the development of Lao media by providing vehicles, equipment, funds and other items.

The state has a policy to promote organizations and individuals to become involved in media operation under the law.

The state bestows the responsibility to the media to produce, disseminate and distribute media products nationwide and distribute them within and outside the country correctly and suitably at their convenience and under the law.

The state encourages and protects those owners of Lao media organizations, journalists, media partners and technicians, who operate under the law.

The state secures Lao citizens in using their rights and obligations on media, creating conditions, facilitation and providing protection to information providers, giving comments and points of view, and will criticize through media organizations those that operate against the law, causing loss of benefits to the nation and people.

Article 5. International cooperation

The state encourages media organisations to cooperate with foreign media organizations in the region and the world by promoting technical activities, sharing lessons, data, science, technology and human resources development, supporting and helping in order to modernize and improve quality while respecting one another's independence and democracy with a win-win approach.

Charter II

Types and characteristics of media

Article 6. Type of media

The media is divided into types: Print media and electronic media. The media publishes in the dominant Lao and phonetic ethnic languages, and also in foreign languages.

Article 7. Print media

Print media is published data and information in the form of letters and images on paper. The print media publishes periodically or daily, including daily newspapers, magazines, news bulletins and periodic letters.

Article 8. Electronic media

Electronic media creates programmes for radio, television and the Internet for broadcast through cable or on air. The electronic media includes television, radio, loud speakers and the Internet.

Article 9. Characteristics of the Lao media

The Lao media bears the characteristics of truth, education, advocacy, and defence.

Article 10. The characteristics of truth

The content and outlines of all types of Lao media organizations must be logical, true, exact, fast, timely and conformable to the benefits of the people and nation.

Article 11. The characteristics of education

The content and outlines of all types of Lao media organizations should focus on educating and disseminating party policies, the rule of law and other such knowledge. They also promote outstanding persons; mobilize patriotism; harmonize the people; preserve fine traditions and culture; and protect and develop the nation.

Article 12. The characteristics of advocacy

The content and outlines of all types of Lao media organizations should focus on mobilizing, implementing and guiding the masses to implement the policies of party and government, such as those set by laws and socio-economic development plans. Media organizations introduce, explain and clarify events happening within society clearly and accurately.

Article 13. The characteristics of defence

The content and outlines of all types of Lao media organizations have a duty to protect the policies of the party and the rule of law, as well as to criticize phenomena and social setbacks that occur within society. These media organizations also condemn and denounce groups who distort the facts and are derogatory and defamatory toward our nation and people.

Charter III

The rights and freedoms of Lao citizens on media

Article 14. The rights of Lao citizens on media

Lao citizens have the right to comment, give opinions and points of view on the media that are not against the laws or interests of the nation and people. Citizens have the right to receive information about current situations within the country and in other countries, and seek knowledge, entertainment and information on useful issues from the media.

Article 15. The rights of Lao citizens to comment

Lao citizens have the right to comment through media organizations on issues such as: the creation and implementation of party policies, laws, socio-economic development projects and state budget; and the right to give points of view on situations within the country and in other countries; and criticize individuals and organizations constructively.

Article 16. The rights of Lao citizens on news information

The Lao citizens have the right to receive news information through media organizations as follows:

Access and receive information about situations within the country and from other countries, view various sources of knowledge, entertainment etc; and to provide information to media organizations correctly, exactly, timely and responsibly under the law.

Article 17. Implementation of the rights and freedoms of Lao citizens

Lao citizens are secure in implementation of their rights and freedoms through media organizations by printing or disseminating news, opinion, feature stories, images and answering questions, seeking points of interest through media, individual organizations and related persons.

In cases where views cannot be printed, disseminated or answered, media organizations must give an official explanation.

Charter IV Media work

Article 18. The work of the media

The media carries out the following tasks:

Searching for and collecting information; providing information to society; disseminating news, feature stories and other notices; answering questions; correcting errors; providing services and entertainment.

Article 19. Searching and collecting information

The media has to actively seek and collect news information widely, correctly, quickly, and in a timely manner to clarify and write news stories, features and other notices.

Article 20. Receiving information from the public

The media has the right to receive information from organizations and individuals to consider and publish suitably.

In case of receiving unlawful or obstructive information, media organizations are enabled to inform the relevant organization or official concerned for further consideration.

For information related to a case that is under investigation, or a case that is not yet decided or adjudicated, the relevant organization has the right to preserve information in order to further the investigation. However, the media organizations have a right to publish information under the law if this information is from a credible source and it would be beneficial to the public, unless prohibited or cancelled from publication by the relevant organisation.

The media shall not reveal the name of an information source if it will damage the source, unless the media organization is publishing according to the application of an investigating organization, or the public prosecution office or people's court.

Article 21. Publishing features, news stories and notices

When a media organization collects or receives information from the public, it has to consider carefully whether the story is good for the nation and people before publishing it as a news or feature story, notice or programme to be timely published nationwide through the media organization.

Article 22. Response

Media organizations have the right to ask relevant organizations or individuals to answer or clarify questions raised by Lao citizens or organizations. When the relevant individuals or organizations are required, they have to answer immediately and responsibly with the content of their response.

Lao citizens or organizations have the right to ask the media organization to ratify news published by the media organization if it is not clear, and the media organization has to answer quickly.

Article 23. Correction of errors

The organization or individual has the right to ask a media organization to correct an error which was published by the media organization.

A media organization which publishes incorrect information, that based on no evidence, or that which is defamatory to the role and reputation of organizations or individuals, has to correct the error and apologize through the media organization according to the law.

In cases where a media organization does not correct the error or corrects it in an unsuitable way, the relevant organization or individual has the right to question the media management organization or sue by sending a petition to the people's court when consequences of the error are evident.

Article 24. Services

The service of media organizations is also advertising or serving customer's products paid by charging service fees.

All types of media organizations are able to advertise or serve customers, but they have to gain authorisation from the relevant media management organization.

The content of advertisements for goods or services can be published through all types of media organization, which must be realistic of its quality, and not magnify or exaggerate the quality of the products or services. These advertisements have to be approved by the relevant media management organization.

The publishing of advertisements or services fees through the media are determined separately in another regulation.

Article 25. Entertainment

Part of the work of media organizations is to create atmosphere and entertain the public. It also propagates, educates, introduces and mobilizes citizens to be involved in the protection and development of the nation.

The entertainment published in the media includes art performances, popular songs, traditional songs, opera, other music, drama, callisthenics, literature and other forms. These are to conform with party policy, laws and the traditions, culture and fine art forms of our nation and of ethnic peoples for integration with regional and international cultures.

Charter V.

Organizations and personnel within the media

Article 26. Organization of the media

The organization of the media consists of:

The owners of media organizations

Media organizations

Lao Journalists' Association

Article 27. The owners of Media organizations

The owners of media organizations are the party, state, Lao Front for National Construction, mass organizations, social organizations, and individuals who are allowed to establish media organizations and operate under the law.

Article 28. Duties and rights of owners of media organizations

The owner of a media organization has the main duties of:

Setting the direction, objectives, target groups and amount of printed copies, distribution area of copies or the power of the transmitter, frequency, time of broadcast, coverage area of telecast, voice and language.

The media organization is able to create its own structure to assist, develop human resources, guide, manage, monitor the implementation of roles, duty, rights, direction, plan and other activities; to create the conditions and conveniences for its operation; operate under the law according to the role, duty and rights of its organization.

The owner of a media organization has the right to do as follows:

1. Apply to establish and disband his/her media organization;
2. Adopt the direction, plan and activities of his/her organization;
3. Appoint or remove from their position a director or deputy director of his/her media organization according to regulations;
4. Monitor and inspect activities of his/her media organization;
5. Attend meetings related to media work within the country and other countries according to assignment;
6. Cooperate and collaborate with international media organizations according to the law.

Article 29. Media organizations

A media organization is one in which the owner carries out their work as mentioned in article 6 of this law.

Article 30. Duty and rights of media organizations

Media organizations have duties to:

1. Propagate, spread and protect methods, policy plans, policies, and laws and contribute to protection of political, social and economic stability, as well as protecting and encouraging traditional patriotism and the fundamental solidarity of the national family;
2. Disseminate information on science, technology, techniques, knowledge, and entertainment and promote education in order to upgrade the knowledge of the people, preserve and promote fine culture and traditions of ethnic people, promote gender equality, protect the rights and interests of women and children;
3. Promote outstanding individuals and give guidance on social phenomena;
4. Correctly use Lao language and the ethnic languages of the Lao PDR.
5. Promote relations, collaboration, and understanding between friendly countries and other nations and support the movement of nations toward peace, national independence, democracy and social prosperity.
6. Run printing businesses and deliver print media products, disseminate images, voices and languages, as determined in the approval of established form;
7. Manage assisted structure, create human capital, and implement roles, duties, rights, direction, and its activity plans, regularly report activities to the owner of the media organization and media management organization;
8. Secure implementation by the media organization on citizen's freedom of expression,
9. Be responsible for following laws and the owner of the media organization within its activities.

A media organization has the following rights:

1. To publish accurate news stories about the current situation within the country and in foreign countries, which are beneficial to the nation and people;
2. To constructively criticize on implementation of illegal activities and negative social phenomena such as: corruption and narcotic drug activity;
3. To respond to any denouncement that accuses unjustly or distorts facts in a way that is detrimental to the nation and people;
4. To develop, strengthen, modernize and progress;
5. To consider the content and outline of its media products;
6. To present, comment and report to the governing body about its media activities.
7. To be protected by law in its legal working activities;

8. To create a positive atmosphere for society;
9. To attend meetings related to media within the country and in other countries according to the assignment;
10. To cooperate and collaborate with international media organizations in accordance with the agreement of the owner of the media organization and laws.

Article 31. Lao Journalists' Association

The Lao Journalists' association is a political, social and professional organization for journalists with the role to educate and maintain solidarity with rights to protect the righteous benefits of its members and persons who have worked with media organizations, to participate in the implementation of party direction, policy, laws and media policy.

The duty and rights of the Lao Journalists' Association are determined under their particular regulation.

Article 32. Personnel of media organizations

The personnel of media organizations consist of the director, deputy directors, journalists, media technicians and correspondents.

Article 33. Director and deputy directors of media organizations

In print media are referred to as: Editor in Chief and deputy editor in chief.

In electronic media are referred to as: Director and deputy director.

The appointment, transference or removal of directors and deputy directors of media organizations will be based on the agreement of the owners of media organizations in collaboration with the relevant media management organization or based on the presentation of a proposal to the related organisation with the right to consider such action in accordance with the regulations.

Article 34. The standardization of directors and deputy directors of media organizations

The directors and deputy directors of the media organization shall conform to the following standards:

Have permanent residency in the Lao PDR;

Hold Lao citizenship and be over 23 years old;

Hold a degree above diploma level, have media experience, have ability in media management; have a revolutionary attitude, serious political adherence, good health and be able to communicate in foreign languages.

Article 35. Duties and rights of directors and deputy directors of media organizations

The Director leads and manages all activities of the media organization, has the duty and rights to consider and approve news and feature stories to publish in the print media, radio and television programmes, as well as being responsible for all advertising content published by the media organization.

Deputy directors have a duty and right to assist the director and take the role of acting director when the director is absent in accordance with assignment.

Article 36. Standardization of journalists

The Lao journalist shall conform to the following standards:

Have permanent residency in the Lao PDR, hold Lao nationality; be over 18 years old, adhere to serious journalism ethics; hold at least an intermediate certificate or letter of reference, have ability, experience and intelligence on media, and have good health.

Article 37. The duties and rights of journalists

The journalist has the following main duties:

Seek knowledge, collect data and information for writing news, feature stories and advertisements to publish in the media; write stories accurately and clearly about arising situations in Laos and other countries, which are of national benefit and reflect the righteous desires of people; disseminate direction, policy, rule of law, search for and encourage progressive motives, fight ideas that are against the rule of law, respond to any news and information that distorts facts or makes unjust accusation, damaging the reputation and creating loss to the nation and benefits of the people; Search, learn and practice individually in order to upgrade general knowledge, including politics, qualifications, ethics, professionalism, foreign languages etc; Clarify errors and apologize when a mistaken story or incorrect information is published; receive comments from the public, take responsibility for all contents of news, feature stories and errors under the rule of law and direction of the media organization.

Journalists have the following main rights:

Receive a media card entitling them, work with a media organization; Report within and outside the country in accordance with their assignment; Cooperate and collaborate with partners regularly; Search, collect and receive information in accordance with laws, analyze, write news, feature stories, take photographs, produce constructive, good quality media products; the name of the author shall be applied to the work, which can be a real name or pseudonym; to apply for and receive scholarships, upgrade political knowledge and media professionalism, receive honours, bonuses or other awards; to prioritize operating within the media organization in accordance with the laws; to receive the protection from laws of rightful and professional media operations.

Article 38. Media technicians

A media technician is a person who works for a media organization, including novelists, poets, writers, announcers, presenters, disc jockeys, masters of performance, graphic and layout designers, artists, decorators, and other technicians.

The duties and rights of media technicians are determined in the particular regulations of each media organization.

Article 39. Freelancers

A freelancer is a person who does not work permanently with any media organization but he/she regularly sends news or feature stories, or photographs to a media organization, receiving writing fees or other awards in return.

The duty and right of freelancers are determined in a separate regulation.

Charter VI

The establishment and activity of media organizations

Article 40. Conditions for establishment of media organizations

The conditions to establish a media organization are as follows:

Define name of the media organization, objectives, target audience and circulation of print media. Define the capacity of the radio transmitter, frequency, coverage areas of radio signals and languages used. A media organization needs to establish its administration structure, have qualified personnel as defined in article 34, 36 and 38 of this law; the media organization has to have an office, equipment and capital to ensure operation of the media activities and must gain permission from the media management authority.

Article 41. The establishment of media correspondent offices

The government authorizes the establishment of Lao media correspondent offices to foreign countries and foreign media organizations to be stationed within the host country or establishment of foreign media correspondent offices in the Lao PDR.

The journalists, media technicians and media committee members who are responsible for foreign media operations in the Lao PDR must respect the laws of the Lao PDR. The regulation for establishment of Lao and foreign media organizations shall be determined in a separate regulation.

Article 42 . Publication and distribution

Publications are encouraged to be printed in the Lao PDR. Any Publications that wish to be printed and distributed overseas must gain permission from the relevant authorities. Media organizations are able to carry out distribution by themselves or transfer to other agencies or individuals as necessary.

Local and foreign individuals and organizations wishing to import publications to sell in the Lao PDR have to seek permission from the media management authorities concerned.

Article 43. Increment of publication pages

Media operators wishing to increase number of printed copies and pages by inserting supplements or printing special newsletters are able to do so but have to seek permission from the media management authority concerned.

Article 44. Increment of radio and television programmes

TV and radio stations wanting to add any **programmes** need to ask permission from the media management authority concerned.

Article 45. Radio and TV programmes

Radio and TV programmes of Lao media operators have to be produced and broadcast within the territory of the Lao PDR. In cases where media operators want programmes to be broadcast from overseas, they have to ask permission from the media management authority concerned.

Foreign media operators, wishing to broadcast Radio and TV programmes in Laos have to gain permission from government of the Lao PDR.

Article 46. Media usage through Internet

Internet usage and that of media services through the Internet have to be permitted by the authorities concerned and users must adhere strictly to regulations and the law.

Article 47. Record of media products.

All types of media products are copyright reserved, and records have to be kept in good condition for at least 25 years.

Article 48. Organizing press conferences

Organizations or individuals wishing to conduct a press conference concerning any issue have to gain permission from the media management authorities.

Article 49. Budget for media organizations

Money for the state media is sourced from state budget, income from media operations, or from organizations, individuals within the country and foreign assistance.

The media organizations enable the creation of the media development fund, which is in line with the financial regulations and law.

Financial management, usage of money and the state media development fund is determined in a particular regulation. This regulation has to conform to the law on state budget and other laws concerned.

The media organization has the right to operate its business to earn money, in accordance with the law.

VII Chapter VII. Prohibitions

Article 50. Prohibitions for media organizations

The media is prohibited from the following:

Inspiring and promoting activities which would damage the interests of the nation and people; revealing national and state secrets; breaking unity and creating hatred among ethnic groups and damaging relations among nations; promoting violence and propagating information that backs all types of war or invasion; disseminating groundless news which affects the honour of organizations and individuals; inspiring and encouraging crimes and all paths which lead to destruction such as drug abuse, gambling, gangster activities, misconduct; advertising alcoholic products, superstitions and other anti-social behaviour; disseminating news, feature articles and programmes that are prohibited or withheld and other prohibitions as determined in other laws.

Article 51. Prohibitions for media staff

Journalists, media co-workers, and media technicians are prohibited from creating information that contradicts the ethics of Lao journalists, such as using mixed language, rude words, as well as following the prohibitions determined in article 50 of this law. TV announcers and presenters are prohibited from wearing impolite dress while they are announcing on television.

Article 52. Prohibitions for other organizations and individuals

The prohibitions for other organizations and individuals are as follows:

Obstructing the movement of journalists and interfering with the lawful content of news, feature articles and programmes;

Obstructing the process of media production and dissemination of all types of lawful media products; Producing or importing and distributing media products without permission.

Bribing reporters or media organizations to disseminate owned news and feature stories.

Using violence, forcing, threatening, maligning, insulting, condemning or using rude words with reporters and media organizations.

Chapter VIII

Media management and inspection

Article 53. Media management organizations

The government manages centrally and equally media organizations nationwide by assigning the Ministry of Information and Culture in collaboration with ministries, organizations concerned and other local administrations to directly manage the media.

Media management organizations consist of:

The Ministry of Information and Culture; Provincial and municipal Departments of Information and Culture; District and city offices of Information and Culture.

Article 54. Duties and rights of the Ministry of Information and Culture

To manage media organizations, the Ministry of Information and Culture acts as a general headquarters to the government with the following duties and rights:

Draft laws, policies, strategic plans, action plans and media development plans and propose to the government for consideration and approval; conduct, manage and advise on media activities nationwide; create, train and upgrade knowledge of media personnel on political, professional skills and media ethics; research, determine the standard of equipment and the usage of science and advanced technologies in the media sector;

research, consider and give permission or revoke permission of media operations certificates, authorise live broadcasting and frequency use for the electronic media; authorise and revoke permission for the importation of all types of media products; manage print media and copies of media products in the scope of its work; implement policies and measures for media organizations and staff within its responsibility; reject or approve proposals, solve illegal activities by the media in accordance with its roles; coordinate with related sectors and provincial and municipal administration offices to manage Lao media that cooperate with foreign media and manage foreign media activities in Laos.

Follow and summarise the results of advertisements and statements of media organizations in each period, collect and make analysis on foreign news that talks about the Lao PDR and report regularly to the government; cooperate and collaborate with foreign news agencies as per assignment; implement its duties and rights about media management as determined in the law.

Article 55. Duties and rights of provincial and municipal Information and Culture departments

Provincial and municipal information and culture departments have the following duties and rights on media management:

Research, disseminate and implement policies, work plans, action plans, laws, orders and guidelines, notices relating to the media;
research and issue directions, propaganda plans to guide the media in each time period ;
manage and guide the media in accordance with its responsibilities; create plans to manage, improve and expand the media network within the provinces and capital in order to serve the public and ensure information dissemination reaches the people quickly, sharply and effectively;

manage both domestic and foreign media in the provinces and capital; manage print media and import of all types of media products in accordance with its responsibilities; propose to establish or dismiss media organisations under its management to the Ministry of Information and Culture for consideration according to the agreement of provincial and municipal administrations; introduce, mobilise and encourage relevant organizations and individuals to collect news and provide news information to the media; approve the application and implementation of policies and measures on media organizations and individuals in accordance with its responsibilities.

Monitor, summarise and evaluate media activities and report regularly to provincial governors, Vientiane mayor and the Minister of information and Culture. Cooperate and collaborate with the foreign agencies in accordance with assignments from the relevant sectors and implement media management in accordance with duties and rights as determined in the law.

Article 56. Duties and rights of district and municipal offices of Information and Culture

The district and municipal offices have the following duties and rights:

1. Disseminate and implement laws, orders, instructions and notices, relating to the media within each office's respective district or municipality;
2. Introduce, encourage and mobilise grass roots organizations within the districts and municipalities to provide news and information to the media.
3. Manage media equipment and those who cover the news within districts and municipalities;
4. Oversee the activities of foreign and local journalists in districts and municipalities.
5. Oversee the import and export all kinds of media products, in accordance with responsibilities.

6. Monitor, summarise and evaluate media activities and report to the district governors and municipal mayors and heads of provincial and municipal Information and Culture departments.
7. Implement other duties and rights in media management as determined in the media law.

Article 57. Duties and rights of divisions and sectors

Other divisions, organizations and relevant sectors have duties and rights to coordinate with the information and culture sector in managing, promoting and developing media work, in accordance with respective duties.

Article 58. Media inspection organizations

The media inspection organizations consist of: the internal inspection organization, which is annexed within the media management organization as determined in article 53 of this law.

External inspection organizations are the owners of media organizations, ad hoc committees and other relevant sectors.

Article 59. Duties and rights of the media inspection organization.

The duties and rights of media inspection organizations are as follows:

Inspect media organizations to assess whether they operate under media law;

Oversee media activities to assess whether they operate within their scope of work and responsibilities;

Issue orders, instructions and notices for media organizations under its management to improve, change or cease activities which infringe upon the laws;

Propose to the relevant sectors to issue orders, instructions and notices to media organizations to improve, change or cease activities which infringe upon the laws as determined in articles 50, 51 and 52 of this law;

Coordinate with other sectors in central and local organizations in implementing inspection tasks; evaluate activities of the media organizations and report regularly the results of inspections in each period to the higher organization; and implement other duties and rights within their scope of work as determined in the law.

Article 60. Contents to be inspected

Contents to be inspected are as follows:

Inspect the creation and implementation of media and the plans and projects in each period;

Check contents, publishing and broadcasting in the print and electronic media;

Oversee policies of the media agencies relating to improving the professional skills of media staff;

Inspect the usage of technology, equipment and budget by media agencies.

Article 61. Forms of inspection

The inspections are carried out in three forms as follows:

Regular inspections;

Early informed inspections;

Immediate inspections

Regular inspections follow a plan, so they happen at an exact time as defined.

Early informed inspections are outside of the plan, and media agencies are informed beforehand so that they know they will be inspected.

Immediate inspections are urgent checks without informing the media agencies.

The inspection organizations must strictly follow their roles and rights as defined in the law.

Chapter IX

Media Day, Symbol, and seal of the media

Article 62. Media Day

August 13 is National Media Day, and each media organization also has its own day to review and celebrate achievements.

Article 63. Symbol and seal of the media

Each type of media organization has its own symbol and seal to use in implementing its duty. These are issued by the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Chapter X

Policies towards outstanding achievements and measures against violators

Article 64. Policies towards productive staff

Individuals or organisations that give excellent results in contribution to the development of the media will be rewarded, including the awarding of the Labour Order, Labour medal, certificates of congratulation, titles, and other rewards in accordance with suitability.

Article 65. Measures against violators

Individuals or organizations that violate the media law and its prohibitions, determined in Article 50, 51 and 52 of this law, will be punished depending on gravity of the case, including: re-education, warnings, fines, temporary cancellation of operations; withdrawal of establishment and operation licenses, journalist cards or media technician certificates; ordered to pay compensation according to civil law or punished according to penal law.

Chapter XI
Final provisions

Article 66. Implementation

The government of the Lao PDR shall implement this law.

Article 67. Effectiveness

This law shall enter into force after 60 days from the date of the promulgating decree issued by the President of the Lao PDR.

All provisions and regulations that contravene this law are null and void.

Vientiane, 25 July 2008

President of the National Assembly