

Letter of Protest and Refutation of a Fraud allegation by Mr. Peter O. Koroma against the Managing Editor Standard Times.

Mr. Peter O. Koroma forwarded a letter of complaint to the Chairman of the Independent Media Commission regarding an article published in the Standard Times Newspaper captioned 'Fraud!!!, Principal runs away with 300M.'

The article which was published in the Standard Times Newspaper of Friday 7th December 2007, alleged that Mr. Peter Koroma the former Principal of the Senior Secondary School of the Evangelical Model High School Mission at Wellington was involved in financial irregularities leading to the loss of Le300 million being funds collected from school charges covering students in the JSSI - SSSII. It also reported that the Principal was being investigated for fraudulent disbursement of school funds, anomalies in the school pay roll and sexual harassment.

The Independent Media Commission conducted one hearing on the matter, during which it became obvious that the Managing Editor had published information backed by documents obtained from the school authorities.

The Complaints Committee ultimately decided that since the Ministry of Education had taken up the matter by suspending Mr. Peter O. Koroma and setting up an investigation, the IMC should not deliberate on the complaint as its decision might prejudice the investigation.

Mr. Koroma was however informed that it was the duty of the media to help curb corruption by exposing corrupt practices through naming and shaming of corrupt individuals in the hope that this will serve as a deterrent. The Committee wished him well and hoped that the truth of the publication that he was contesting will be revealed in the investigations being conducted by the Ministry of Education.