

Re: Complaint against the Editor of African Champion by Mr. Phillip Lukuley,  
Executive Director, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration.

The Commission considered a complaint from Mr. Philip Lukuley, Executive Director of Sierra Leone Maritime Administration in which he stated that in three publications of the African Champion, the newspaper published the following articles Viz. on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007, '**Maritime Director diverts IMF Loan to SLPP campaign**, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007, '**Maritime Boss in Trouble**' and on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007, '**Maritime Director implicated in dubious' deal.** "

The complainant pointed out that the Managing Editor embarked on a spate of bad publicity against his person with a view to tarnishing his character. He said that he had never been involved in any IMF loan affairs as the international Monetary Fund (IMF) only deals with governments. He maintained that he had never found himself in any trouble nor had he been involved in any dubious deal as alleged by the newspaper.

When cross-examined by the Complaints Committee and requested to produce evidence to substantiate the article, the Editor could not do so. He reported that he was out of the country when the article was published by his reporter who had no evidence to authenticate his article. He tendered his unreserved apology to the complainant and subsequently published a front page retraction. The complainant accepted the retraction and apology.