

Complaint by the Registrar, President of Academic Affairs and President, Students Union, of Njala University against Standard Times

Three separate complaints were sent to the Commission by the Registrar, President of Academic Affairs and the President of the Students Union respectively of Njala University.

The offending articles were published in the Wednesday 6th of June 2007 edition, as well as the 8th June and 27th June 2007 editions respectively of Standard Times. The articles criticized the programmes, staff status and general activities of Njala University. The University officials and students complained that the articles were tantamount to a smear campaign aimed at tarnishing the image and integrity of the institution without an iota of credible evidence to substantiate the 'spurious allegations' made.

During the hearing in the presence of both the complainant and defendant, the complainants retorted that the article was not only baseless and malicious, but had eroded the integrity of the University.

The hearing of the matter took several months during which the complainant and defendant were cross-examined by the Committee.

In his defense, the Managing Editor said that he was only echoing what the public had been saying about the college. He produced some pamphlets which he claimed were being sold to the students as evidence of some of his allegations. He was prevailed upon by the Board of the IMC to publish a retraction and apology as the pamphlet had nothing to do with the series of allegations made in the article.

Faithfully submitted

Commissioner Bernadette P. Cole	-	Chairperson
Commissioner Anthony Brewah	-	Member
Commissioner Cassandra Davies	-	Member
Commissioner Francis L. Davies	-	Member

Commissioner Christo Johnson	-	Member
Commissioner Dr. Abu Bakarr Kargbo	-	Member
Commissioner Patricia Macauley	-	Member
Commissioner Ade P. Bell	-	Member