

Who Dictates the Pace of Modern Journalism: The Journalist or the Citizen

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ABSTRACT: Focus of this study is "Who dictates the pace of modern journalism: The journalist or the citizen?". This is a controversial question that has continued to generate hot argument /debates across 'the modern society. Under this descriptive and analytical study, 'the research tried to clear confusion created by the controversial research question. The study adopted, historical research method which involves broad review of secondary source of knowledge. Theoretical framework of the study is Democratic Participant Media Theory. principles of the theoretical framework were critically re-examined and discussion made relation to (he focus of tile study. After a systematic and in-depth analysis of necessary issues and facts based on the theoretical foundation, the study revealed, that the pace of modern journalism in our society is directly and indirectly dictated or determined, by both the journalist and the citizen. Under some circumstances, either of the two rival parties may have upper hands in dictating the pace, However, due to inherent advantages of their positions in the media systems', journalists have more opportunities to dictate the pace. This implies that, the pace of modern journalism is dictated by the journalist more than the citizen. Based on some findings, that is the stand of this study. In view of that position, the study recommends among Bother things that both the journalist and the citizen should patriotically respect journalistic ethics, rules and regulations while trying to dictate pace of journalism directly or indirectly wider various/capacities and conditions

Keywords: Pace, Modern Journalism, Journalist and Citizen.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the modern society there are debates and controversies on "Who dictates the pace of modern journalism: That is the topic of this study. This descriptive study has come to clear the air, using various vital preliminaries of work contain abstract, introduction background, theoretical framework, research methodology and objectives of the study. After preliminaries comes the literature review which was done under the following sub-titles: what journalist?, Qualifies of a professional arid non-professional journalist, Who is a Citizen?, Laws and ethics of journalism in [1,2,3,4,5,6,7]. Nigeria: A relational analysis, Principles and practice of modern journalism: A Critical reviews, opportunities/advantages enjoyed by Nigerian journalists under current democracy, problems faced by Nigerian journalists under current democracy, How journalists dictate the pace of modern journalism • in Nigeria ways through, which Nigerian citizens dictate / determine pace of journalism in the country and how both journalists and citizens can collaborate to improve quality of journalism in Nigeria. Then after critical discussions under above sub-tittles of literature review, therearesummary and conclusion of the work, followed by recommendations and references/ suggested further studies [8,9,10].

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The following are objectives of this study:

- a. To examine the pace of modern journalism in Nigeria;
- b. To compare and contrast the past with what was obtainable in the past era of journalism;
- c. To identify whether the journalist or the citizen have contributed towards determination of the modern pace in Nigeria.;
- d. To X-ray the good and bad things which the modern pace of journalism has contributed to the modern society;
- e. To see if there is anything that can be done to improve modern journalism for the betterment of our modern society.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the process of this descriptive/analytical study, the researcher followed historical research method which involves broad review of secondary sources of knowledge. According to [11], historical research aims "...at establishing the validity or authenticity of past event for possible acceptance, reconstruction or outright rejection." However, secondary source of knowledge "refers to other materials from which information or data

is obtained," [12]. In the field of research, such sources refer to works of other persons, reports or events already documented which are more detailed and better organized, most of the time than primary sources, [13].

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPANT-MEDIA THEORY: This is the sixth nominative theory of the press. It is applicable to liberal democratic society as the theory is a reaction against the exclusion of audience majority in such society from active participation in the process of producing mass media contents. The major principle of the theory derives from the needs, interests and aspirations of the active, 'receiver' in a political society and has to do with the right to relevant information, the right to answer back, the right to use the means of communication for interaction, [13] The reason for the development of the theory was reaction, against communication and monopoly of privately owned media or monopoly journalism, centralism and bureaucratization of government owned media/institutions. [14] critically pointed out that there is a mixture of libertarianism, utopianism, socialism, egalitarianism environmentalism and localism in this theory.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Related literatures are reviewed on the following headings:

What journalism is all about

In tracing what journalism is all about, [15] conceptually pointed out that it is the study of writing for communications media. He also reveals, that "in English-speaking world journalism developed around 1700, when the first newspapers and periodicals were published. Today it also encompasses reporting and commentary on television and increasingly, the internet." [16] adds that journalism deals with disseminating information for the purpose of informing the people. To him too, journalism is an art of earning one's living through writing for the print and electronic media (p.94). He as well unveils that the two major fields of journalism include print journalism and broadcast journalism; where the former embraces newspaper etc while the latter covers radio and television [17]. In the same vein, [18] opines that journalism is a form of communication based on asking and answering, the questions who? What? How? Where? When? She further adds that journalism is anything that contributes in some way in gathering, selection, processing of news and current affairs for the press, radio, television, film, cable, internet etc.; pointing out that, journalism is a discipline of collecting, analyzing, verifying and presenting news regarding current events trends, issues and people. To her, the word "journalism" is derived from the French word "journal" which in its turn comes from the Latin, term "diurna" or "daily". Citing Mcquail, she discloses that journalism is paid, writing for public media with reference to actual and ongoing events of public relevance. [19] sees journalism as report of things as they appear at the moment of writing, not a definite study of a situation. [20] concurs that: journalism, involves writing--and transmission of news; it has to do with, gathering of news by reporter, the proofreading by proofreaders or editors and finally, the disseminating of the news through the mass media like radio, television, newspaper, magazine etc. It is an account that is entertaining as well as news worthy. A person who writes for sheer entertainment cannot be said to be practicing journalism. In journalism, there is an element of timeliness not usually present in the mere leisurely types of writing of books. [21] emphasizes that journalism practice deals with waiting contemporary reports of the changing scene intended to inform reader of what is happening around them. She further asserts that research has showed that, the impact of journalism can and often does not influence the course of events being reported because it brings public opinion into focus and sometimes created it. Journalism these days is seen in our society as the fourth estate of the realm. It is a renowned profession in mass communication that performs three major functions such as:

To inform, entertain and educate people largely scattered in the globe irrespective of their races, professions, conditions and many others. Scholars have as well accepted that journalism has a wide connotation as it extends beyond just printed materials or journals, that is it includes: broadcasting, advertising, public relations and book publishing. Therefore, anyone taking journalism as a profession or career should know that he or she would be afforded the opportunity of being exposed to any of these courses. As a dominant profession in mass communication, journalism does not mean one who is a broadcaster or reporter alone, as being thought by people. Journalism is regarded as that which can make or mar the society. This implies that adequate preparation, is necessary for the profession touches every aspect of human disciplines and society at large; bearing in mind that the responsibilities of journalists must be put into work [21, 22].

Who is a journalist?

[5,8] see journalist as a person who writes for or edits a newspaper, etc. It is one who keeps a diary. [8] defines journalists as those who engaged or employed in the occupation of gathering, editing, proofreading and finally disseminating of news through mass media. [2] admits that those who practice journalism, "that is the discipline of collecting, processing, analyzing, verifying and presenting news regarding current events, trends, issues and people or society are known as journalists. Journalists collect and edit news for

presentation through mass-media. They can be seen as the fourth estate of the realm, reporters, correspondents, editors, broadcasters, presenters, news writers, among others. However, [8] hints thus:

What therefore, is journalism? Journalism is an art of earning one's living through writing for the print and electronic media. Those who contribute occasional articles to newspaper or electronic media are not journalists. At best, they are mere writers.

He then traced to the 16th century, when, the journalism profession was not recognised and full-time reporters, who derived their living from writing for the newspaper, had not emerged. In those early days, news was gathered by more or less anonymous writers, agents and couriers who preferred to stay at home and offered their comments on events. In England, where the idea of print journalism was quickly accepted, it was personalized. Individual journalists wrote or printed news bulletins and circulated them to the reading public. By the end of the 17th century, the earliest form of journalism practice started. The press began, to perform the role of a mouth piece for the public by projecting the problems, their needs and aspirations. The new posture of the press was 'not satisfactory to the people, in authority; that journalism was made liable to suppression, and publishers began to call for freedom of operation and liberty, which had also spread to America, one of the British colonies. Meaning that as the journalism advances as a profession or business of news writing, for radio, television, newspaper, magazine etc. it provides citizens with the information about government and society at large. The journalists inform citizens about, events in their locality, community, country and the world-over. Hence, journalism helps to create what McLuhan has called "global village", [6]. Throughout the world, journalists gather, write, edit and report news for thousands of readers, listeners and viewers. In cities, towns and rural areas, reporters prowl government agencies, the courts, tourist centres, government houses, air and seaports sports arena, 'local stories of interest [5]. [9] sees journalist as a mass communicator. To him, "the mass communicator is (the person of a well trained journalist who dines and wines with the heads of states and world celebrities, "whom he interviews and questions at press interviews and conferences. He gets his seat reserved for him at vantage positions to enable him cover the goings-on on important social and state occasions for his media establishment. He has opportunity to travel to every part of the world at the expense of his establishment and be comfortably accommodated -all through such trips. Of course all these depend on how big and well established is the outfit for which he works etc. He is equally a very well known person in the community: seeing that he/she is ever exposed before the public view whether in the studios, or on the television screen or through his voice on radio. Where he/she does as well as expected, he receives much love from the audience, but where he/she does not he is visited with their dislike. In all indications, the above views therefore show that a journalist is expected to be well trained as effective communication requires that the mass communicator-such as a journalist must be intelligent, understanding, confident, logical, penetrating and responsible.- In short, he/she should be; of healthy disposition not only in body but much more so in mind. The adage, "sana mens in sano corpore" (a sound mind in sound body) most properly applies here.

Qualities of a professional (good) and Non-professional journalist

To clearly differentiate the professional (good) journalists from the non-professionals, it is pertinent to take a look at what is all about "profession." [14] views "profession as a type of job that requires special training or skills, especially one that needs a high level of education; adding that profession differs from mere occupation, vocation, employment or trade which is more of a mental or administrative work as opposed to engaging in a physical, work. To [8] profession refers to occupation requiring specialized knowledge which often long and involves intensive academic preparation. By implication, a profession must 'be a course or career that is independent involving a long training period or an intensive academic preparation with an organized body that regulates its activities in that society to ensure quality and standard both in certificate and practice. Without digression, it entails that a professional is a member of a vocation founded upon specialized educational training. It can as well mean a person who obtained a degree in professional field [6]. On the other hand a non-professional can be seen as charlatan, quack, untrained and mere person that invades or joins the professionals in their field or trade. Scholars have enlisted various qualities of a good or professional journalists; such journalists can be referred to as journalists of conscience or trained and credibly performing practicing journalists in their trade or course. Owing to the fact that journalism has been variously described as a sacred profession, the fourth estate of the realm, a discipline, strictly for social crusaders, a pen profession and the pen is said to be mightier than the sword; among other names, journalism is highly revered by those (journalist) who know her worth, [9] concurs that the professional, journalists are the journalists of conscience. Such journalists are classified as the real journalists. Professional journalists are usually the agenda setters, fearless writers who can play unique and immense roles in a nation's march towards political, social and economic maturity. According to Uchem, these classes of journalists are usually independent of any social, religious and political forces. They're unmoved by pride of opinion, or greed of power. They are admirably and constructively tolerant, prolific and respected of their readers, listeners and viewers. They are equally quick and indignant in their reactions to cheating, corruption and injustice. Often, they are poor but they keep their head

high. They are profoundly patriotic but they are not swayed by terror, victimization or appeal of the privileged. Infact, they are the ideal or model of what a journalist suppose to be [14]. In the contrary, Uchem describes the non-professional journalist whom he sub-classifies as the cocktail journalists, journalists of next-of-kin., journalists of the general order. They are journalists who, after being heavily drunk and-feel, go back to the newsroom with heavily dress-up and coloured news item of what did not really happen. Journalists that are known as next-of-kin journalist are good in selling their consciences for money and fringe, benefits.

To Uchem, they are journalists who would suppress the news because their big relatives are involved. They colour the news; make-up news where there is no news; they dream up fietious stories and present forged and or redundant documents to support their sensationalism and reckless journalism.... They write editorials and present cartoons out of the souls; and not with their souls they continue to debase the society with rumour reporting instead of news reporting...However, the General order journalists according to Uchem are the errand - boys and girls of men in authority and government. For him they were no more than " press release journalists." This secures them names like "information officers", propagandist, briefcase carriers, yes-sir- yes-sir journalists among other names as derogatory as the style of journalism they practised. They are so constrained by the t provision of the general order which stipulate and regulate the expected behavior of public servants. At this point, the qualities of professional and non-professional journalist can be easily sub-stemed clearly since [12] citing Mclead and Havncy stated eight criteria that must be satisfied for any occupation to qualify as a profession. They include:

- a. It must perform a unique and essential service.
- b. It must emphasize intellectual techniques
- c. Its must have a long period of specialized training to acquire a systematic body of knowledge based on research.
- d. It must be given a broad range of autonomy or organized body.
- e. Its practitioners must accept broad responsibility for judgments and actions.
- f. It must place greater emphasis on services than, on private economic gain.
- g. It must develop a comprehensive self-governing organization and
- h. It must have code of ethics, which has been classified and interpreted by concrete cases.

These imply that professional journalist must have acquired the requisite skill, knowledge, ability and experience through formal education and training which- usually elapse for a long period, of time, And be adherent to the media laws and ethics observed in journalism profession with high sense of responsibilities and dedication, to duties, works, obligations, practices or services needed in their field and society at large, Moreover, the non-professional journalists qualities can be easily seen as the opposite to the professional ones as all-they could be noticed for are being untrained, unskilled, nuisance arid devoid of the professional laws or ethics in the Held practice and lack curiosity, creativity, commitments and courage towards professional practice.

Who is a citizen?

[4,6,8] see citizen as a member of a city, state or nation. [9] asserts that a citizen is a legal member of a state with full constitutional or legal rights in the country in which he or she resides. He enjoys certain right and privileges and owes certain responsibilities and obligations to the state. He further underscores that a citizen acquire citizenship of any state or nation by birth naturalization, marriage or registration, due, citizenship and honorary citizenship; emphasizing that every citizen is endowed with certain rights known as the fundamental human rights-life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. In the same vein, the 1999 constitution of the Nigeria defines citizen of Nigeria as: every person born in Nigeria before the date,-of independence, either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents belongs or belonged to

- a. community indigenus to Nigeria. Provided that a person shall not become a citizen of Nigeria by virtue of this section if neither of his parents nor any of whose grandparents was born in Nigeria;
- b. Every person born in Nigeria after the date of independence either of whose* parents or any of whose grandparents is a citizen of Nigeria either of whose parents is a citizen of Nigeria; bearing' in mind that the date of independent means the first day of October 1960.

The above explanation entails that a citizens is a person who has full rights as a member of a country either by birth or by being given such rights which no other person shall deny him or her of them except when falls short of the law or rules of laws of the inhabited state or nation/ country.

Laws and ethics of journalism in Nigeria: A Relational Analysis

Scholars in the field of Journalism have emphasized much on the need to keep-laws and ethics of journalism in order to sustain professionalism in the field both in training and practice. However, in carrying out journalistic functions of receiving and disseminating ideas and information, some journalists sometimes act illegally. [8] explains that the role of the press or media laws is to define and reconcile the right of individual

communicator and the press on one hand, the rights of the private individual' and the nation which may be affected by publications on the other hand, and afford remedy to the relevant part, where there has been, a breach of a duty. In a bit further, Malami notes that press law which can be seen as law of journalism is the law governing the receiving and dissemination of ideas and information, the media of mass communication, role of the press/journalists and the communicating public, their right and duties to the private individual and the state in general. In very simple words, it is the law relating to and concerned with

1. The receiving and dissemination of ideas and information
2. The right of freedom of expression and the press.
3. The media of mass communication
4. The role of the press and the self expressing and communicating public.
5. The responsibility of the press and the self-expressing and communicating public to the private individual and the state in general and;
6. The provision of remedy for an aggrieved party whose right has been breached (p.2-3),

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MODERN JOURNALISM: A CRITICAL REVIEW

All codes have certain fundamental elements in common. These are the ideals and goals which the Virtuous' Journalist daily strive to attain as a professional. The grand element which encompasses all other, is the notion of **Truth**... In the attempt at realizing truth, journalists put a lot of stress on accuracy, objectivity, fairness, balance and comprehensiveness [5]. This means that journalists, should imbibe the principles of a never ending search for truth, to meet needs of the changing" times instead- of waiting to be over taken by them, to perform services of some consequence and significance to mankind and maintain, a steadfast independence in his trade. [9] recommends that, in journalistic writing or news reporting balance and even-handedness in presenting different sides of issue must be put in place. Accuracy and realism in reporting must be ensured including presenting all main relevant points, separating facts from opinion but treating opinion as relevant, minimizing the influence of the writers own attitude, opinion or involvement and avoidance of slant or devious purposes. She further adds that both sides of a story must be looked into, assessing conflicting claims, assessing the credibility of sources, looking for the evidence not publishing anything believed to be untrue as the journalists should endeavour to see if the story stands up and sound.

The import of all these principles is that the practice of modern journalism in our society demands exclusive analytical interpretation, subtle investigation, constructive criticism and sincere association with the grassroots rather with the elite. Modern journalism rejects the 'main stream' style approach to news and news values. It argues that 'main stream' journalism is submissive to government and private business interests. This journalism also aims at upholding, supporting and justifying confidence in the status quo. The main-bites-dog approach to journalism promotes sensationalism, elitism and conservatism, and thus indirectly suppresses the voice of the silent and oppressed, majority (Hasan 2013, p. 189). She further asserts thus: One of the many distressing things about modern journalism is the way liars creep and pathetic frauds are rewarded for being themselves. Some journalists who were caught plagiarizing, fabricating quotes or simply inventing people because they were too lazy to go out and do their work are rewarded for it. Reporting facts out of context or fishing for facts that support a desired conclusion in defiance of reality is no I; so easily forgiven. A journalist's mission is to present concrete, objective facts based on their experience in judging what; is important to their audience., A journalist presents fact that anyone would see if they could stand in the journalist's shoes themselves. If the facts being reported, are controversial, journalists are expected, to report as much. Yet it is not the job of the journalist to support particular beliefs. Journalists serve as the eyes and ears of their audience, but not their mind, it is left for the reader to draw, whatever conclusions' are appropriate from the news- not to the reporters. [14] hints as well that the three Bokian steps can be employed by Journalists to ensure standard in journalism practice.

To him, the first step is to consult your conscience, second is to seek alternatives, and the third step is to hold an imaginary ethical dialogue with everyone involved. He also accepts that apart from the Bokian model other ethical principles worth considering as signposts to journalistic excellence include:

1. John Staut Mill's principle of utility: This exposes the greatest happiness for the greatest number. This implies that journalists should report news or event that a great number of people may likely to read, watch, view or hear.

2. Aristotle's Golden mean principle: This center on moderation and conclusion in the context of the fact that; moral virtue is appropriate location between two extremes.

3. Kant's categorical imperative principle: The enjoins journalists to "act in that maxim which you will become a universal laws". This principal is an extension, of Aristotle's Golden mean, principle.

Opportunities/Advantages enjoyed by Nigerian journalists under current Democracy

The press, radio, television, and other agencies of the mass media, shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in the Nigeria constitution as amended in 2011 and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the Government to the people 'as the obligation of the mass media operated by the journalist under the current democracy. This particular section of the Nigeria constitution has served as advantageous right to the Nigerian journalists in their trade as far as democratic government is in invoke. It is for that reason that [5] indicates that these: obligations were expressed in the words 'informative', 'truth', 'accuracy', 'objective', and, balance'. She further adds that Siebert writer, that the goal of the social responsibility system is that mass media as a whole is pluralized, emphasizing, that a reflection of the diversity of society as well as access to various points of view.' From the proceedings, it is obvious that Nigeria journalists have various opportunities to work in a newspaper, magazine, radio " or television industry as a reporter, correspondent, editor, publisher, proof reader, advert manager, marketer, consultant and. of- course a member of media regulatory body or lecturer. Journalism as a profession has a multi-dimensional opportunities where the people into the calling can enjoy and make life worth-living and emulative by the prospective journalists. As an aspect of mass communication, journalism undoubtedly provides job the professional and non-professional.

As an aspect of mass communication, journalism undoubtedly provides job opportunities for people even for both the professionals and non-professional. [8] concur that mass communication also provides job opportunities for people. The various fields in the calling offer numerous career opportunities to diverse cadre of professionals and non-professional, yet another critical function of the enviable field. [9] supports that this is so because there is no single field of human endeavour in which communication does not play important roles. Also, there is no single human (e.g organizations, families, communities, professions, institutions, countries, regions and global systems, that can exist without communication. The main reason for all these is because man has always been and will always be a communicating animal and it is men that make-up these groups. In fact, it is a well known fact that the comparative effectiveness or ineffectiveness of these groups is directly connected with the comparative effectiveness or ineffectiveness of communication in these groups. It is also well known, that peace, harmony, understanding and stability which are sine qua non for development in any group can only exists when there is effective communication in that group. Meanwhile, the beauty, of embracing journalism especially under democracy is¹ not only because of its open doors of many opportunities but also the guaranteed right/obligation to serve as the fourth Estate of the Realm, the people's parliament, the mouth piece of the nation, the eyes and ears of the people .and many others including its befitting or advantageous functions played in various disciplines in the society.

Problems Faced By Nigerian Journalists Under Current Democracy

Under current democracy, the Nigerian journalist have many problems facing them which range from government manipulation of news transfer, killing, intimidation, beating, poor remuneration, vandalization of media house by the government, license, and ethical problems in their profession, etc. Owing to the problems faced by Nigerian Journalists under current democracy, [9] stated that: The imperative of the freedom of the press and expression in Nigeria are analogous to that of a long journey, only the initial hesitating steps have yet been taken. Charts for this voyage do exist, but in clarity and precisions, they resemble those, which guided the first explorers to the Western Hemisphere. It is, perhaps, this very vagueness and uncertainty together \with the promised,-gpal that stimulate the imagination and senses of commitment of those choosing to embark in this adventure. He also advised that the government of Nigeria must evolve a tradition of respect for press freedom and as a matter of policy recognize the fundamental rights of Nigerian citizens of access to information about how they are governed. From above backdrop, the rampant existence of adulteration of news story which has constantly led to media controversy message transfer is no doubt a problem normally geared in by the government sacred cows. Despite that, limitation and censorship have been used to reduce objective reporting, true journalism, most media practitioners have therein employed sycophancy, sensationalism and moon lighting as a means of pleasing the most sacred cows, boost economy of the media and the practitioner themselves. This implies that the problems faced by the Nigerian journalists have seriously posed threat and gradually devaluing the laws and ethical standard of the profession and as well the Nigerian polity

How Journalists Dictate the pace of Modern Journalism in Nigeria: Earlier in. this work, it is noted that to dictate is to direct or determine; where as journalism in respect ,to this study usage, refers to die role towards the evolvement of the contemporary journalism in the society. But some mass communication scholars have averred that the determination, of news begins, with the reporters (journalists), owing to a fact that it is a journalist that goes out to source out information worth publishing or broadcasting either in newspaper, magazine or radio', television. This particular function/role invokes what scholars in mass communication call gate-keeping in journalism profession. Gate-keeping is seen as the control of the flow of information. The personnel in charge in this information flow control is known as a gate-keeper. It is left for the gate-keepers, i.e. the journalists to choose to accept or reject a piece of information for publishers, editors and reporter, television producers, radio station owners and broadcasting executives have been cited as examples of media gate-keepers but the

professional journalists run the news- gate- keeping in advanced society [12]. [13] Stipulated below: Indeed, the power of gatekeepers to determine the type and amount of information we receive is- enormous. In addition, gatekeeping involves setting certain standards and limitations that serve as guidelines for both content development and delivery of a mass communication message [11]. There upon, we can see that journalists who majorly play the role of gatekeepers greatly dictate the pace of modern journalism in our country. Their power- according to Hiebert and his colleague's in Okunna (1999, p.24-25) manifest thus-: All mass media have a large number of gatekeepers. They perform a variety of functions' and play several roles. They can delete a message or they can modify a message. They can stop a message by refusing to open a gate. The broadcast standard department of a TV network can do this .by simply refusing a proposed script. Local stations can also delete content or refuse to clear a network program.....All these gate-keeping decisions affect the ability of an audience to receive specific media experiences; therefore, deleting or stopping a message is the gatekeeper's most roles.

Ways through which Nigerian citizens Dictate/determine pace of Journalism in the country

Scholars postulate that the government policy of the country determines the operation of media system in that country. The policy¹ itself is always formulated and implemented by the leaders entrusted by the entire citizens of the country. Thus, the entire citizens should be subject, to (lie government policy to avoid the rot of the law of the country. Against the backdrop, S. 39 of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 constitution as amended asserts thus:

1. Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interferences.,
2. without prejudice to the generality of subsection. (1) of this, every person, shall be entitled to own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions: provided that no person, other than the government' of the federation or of a state or any other person or body authorized by the president on the fulfillment of conditions laid down by an Act of the National Assembly, shall own, establish, or operate a television or wireless broadcasting station for any person whatsoever. From the proceeding explanations, we can easily understand that the constitution guarantees both Nigerian journalists and the rest of citizens the right, to freedom of expression and information or press; limiting them operate under the government watch". However, the ways through which Nigerian citizens dictate/ determine the pace of modern journalism in the country is another contextual issue; and of course from the explanations above clarity is becoming obvious. It is because both individuals and organizations do gate keeping which is a unique characteristic to mass communication or journalism perse. In the words of [8] gate-keeping is again a characteristic unique to mass -communication. The enormous scope of mass communication and demands some control over the selection and editing of the messages that are constantly transmitted to the mass audience. Both individuals organizations do gate-keeping. Whether done by Individuals or organizations, gate-keeping involves setting certain standards and limitations that serve as guidelines for both content development and delivery of mass communication message. Meanwhile, Nigerian citizens dictate pace of journalism through government policy, sourcing of information, establishment of media house, publicity and advertising control, etc.

How both journalists and citizens can collaborate to improve quality of journalism in Nigeria

To establish a strong rapport between journalists and citizens, as a result of the complexities of modern society and the importance of communication in everyday life, it is right to say that society depends so much on the mass media for its survival and growth, [12] By implication, journalists have a lot of roles to play in information dissemination more, than citizens in the society. And, there is need in determination of what could constitute the contents of the media to be their professional duty other than entire citizens. But to maintain friendly environment, both journalists and citizens have to respect the government policy. Apart from that, it is quite demanding that the citizens should be sincere and have the society at safety heart in sourcing out reliable information to journalists. Also every medium of mass communication should keep to law, ethical values in journalism regardless of the owner or the expert. Pressure or influence normally brought into media operation due to publicity and advert placement should -be ethical and diplomatic handled by the media practitioners. So, to develop and maintain excellence in journalism practice in Nigeria, journalists and other citizens need to work together with the spirit of patriotism.

IV. CONCLUSION

The pace of modern journalism is determined by both the journalists and the citizens. But the journalists have a greater role to play in the determination of media messages as far as media law and ethics including the professional roles are concerned. Therefore, to ensure favourable communication environment information transfer should be highly esteemed by the journalists and entire citizens; both parties should contribute responsibly for the proper determination of the pace of journalism in our society. Arguably

journalists have a greater role to play than citizens in determining the pace of modern journalism in Nigeria. Supporting this, [8] stated that it is because information is so central to life and living especially social life, and that as a result of such societal expectations of journalists are very high. These expectations find expression in some of those epithets given to media men, e.g "the fourth estate of the realm," the watchdog of society," "the gatekeepers of information," etc. These coinages place on the shoulders of journalist a lot of responsibility and the failure in this regard has the opposite effect on the given society. It is because their failure would lead to confusion, lack of direction social upheavals, deterioration and other problems which the entire citizens may find unbearable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings of this study, it obvious that if the press decides to be committed, it can help Nigeria to rid itself of such crimes and criminals, as armed robbery, official dishonesties, misappropriation of public funds and misdemeanours as well as lead to the reformation of our police force and political ideas in the country. The researcher therefore, recommends that the Nigerian, journalists should show serious commitment to their responsibilities/duties. Also, both journalists and citizens of Nigeria must respect the country's rules/policies with especially in regard to right to freedom of expression and press. More so, government personnel and privileged citizens including the top media men, publishers and other members of the media industry should avoid manipulation of news story and other forms of corruption that injure the future of the nation.

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