

The Paucity And Irregularity Of Anglophone Newspapers In Cameroon, Muluh Henri

The English-language press or Anglophone newspapers in Cameroon are few and irregular. This paper examines the shortcomings of Anglophone papers, their constraints and the implications to the English speaking community in Cameroon.

First of all it traces the history of the press in Cameroon dating back to the colonial era. This historical analysis attempts to find out why after more than fifty years of the existence of the Anglophone newspaper in Cameroon there is no Anglophone daily, Anglophone newspapers are few and irregular.

The findings suggest that Anglophone newspapers are financially handicapped. Secondly as a result of a very small advertising pool, Anglophone newspapers depend solely on retail outlets and classified adverts for their income, which is insufficient. The study further reveals that the lack of competition between Anglophone and Francophone newspapers with most Anglophone newspaper readers situated where business is less keen adversely affects the Anglophone newspapers. Moreover, Anglophone newspapers indulge in a lot of advocacy journalism and report only issues concerning Anglophones, who form the minority.

The implications are that Anglophones in all parts of the national territory are not rationally informed because the few newspaper houses that exist can not print copies sufficient enough to be distributed over the ten provinces of the country.