<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>AMIC-TAF Seminar on Constitutional Law, the Media, and the Electoral Process In ASEAN: 18-20 April 1990, Singapore: [notes]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Nani Yamin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10220/1665">http://hdl.handle.net/10220/1665</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes

By

Nani Yamin
Background

Indonesia's guidelines of state policy among others state that to succeed in the national development, information activities and the role of the mass media need to be enhanced. In this scheme, information and the mass media serve to arouse the spirit of devotion and the struggle of the nation, to strengthen national unity and integrity, to popularise the Indonesian culture and identity, and also to encourage the participation of the people in development activities. Information and the mass media, as national development means, should be able to fortify Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in all aspects of community life, and to enhance national awareness of the entire Indonesian people. In this context the role of information and the mass media to popularise the Guide to Comprehension and Practical Application of Pancasila.

The Media and the Press in particular

Information policies are emphasised on the equitable dissemination of information to cover even the remotest places through information and commu-
nunication media like face-to-face communication, radio, television, films, the "newspaper in the villages" programme and through other available media.

The role played by the Indonesian press is in disseminating objective information, exerting constructive social control, channeling people's aspirations, bridging communication between the Government and the public at large and mobilising the people's participation in the process of nation building.

The press in Indonesia is a free-and-responsible press based on Pancasila. This national press has now grown towards a stage where it has gained weight and importance in its role in the midst of the nation's life.

The press in Indonesia is also supporting Government efforts, particularly with regard to the escalation of the dissemination of news and information.

Facilities provided by the Government for the development of a free and responsible press include investments for press enterprises, press printings, the provision of import duties, facilities for the import of basic printing materials, printing machines, spareparts and newsprints.

The Indonesian Situation

The Indonesian media have been asked by the government to be responsible for all their presentations. Being responsible would mean they shall be careful in addressing sensitive issues so as not to cause
disturbances especially in the areas of security and defence. National stability should be maintained at all cost for it is the key to successes in other endeavors.

However, views have many times been expressed that there should be more room for people to express themselves freely especially considering their legal obligations and rights. The importance of placing emphasis on obligations before the rights is quite obvious in view of the situation in most of the developing countries where people should be made aware of their duties before asking for the exercise of their rights.

People living in a developing country should be guaranteed of their right to enjoy peace. However, this privilege should always be coupled with the ability to exercise their right to information. Greater access to information would require of the government the willingness to allow more exchanges of information and greater involvement of the public.

At the same time freer exchanges of information and greater involvement of the public in such exercises would properly reject the allegation that governments in the developing countries are often tempted to resort to authoritarian ways of solving problems.

Some tips on working successfully

What is important in our work to promote the legal
awareness of the general public is as far as possible to avoid coming into conflicts with the authorities. For instance, we very seldom use the expression "for the sake of law enforcement" in our presentation especially on TV, but would rather say "to improve people's awareness and knowledge of law".

People with different opinions would find it not easy to operate for they must be skillful in using words and expressing themselves.

To be effective as a person "much involved in promoting citizenship education and participation", one should

- have a name as a public figure
- have good working relationship with reporters and leaders of the mass media and maintain an elegant contact with these people especially with key personalities in TV management.
- have a wide variety of knowledge on political, social or religious issues so that his news could be termed as original and unique.

It would help for the person to get invited to various meetings like seminars etc, where his opinions would be quoted by reporters.

In my case, because of my exposure to issues, I am already in a position to express views for the knowledge of the general public, like those
concerning weaknesses of the Marriage Law or government regulations relating to it. When such views are presented on TV many people would become aware.

When presenting programs on radio or TV, they should be quite interesting and involve people already known to the public as pleasant and well respected personalities. A recent example should be well taken note of, involving an Indonesian TV newsreader who had been quite popular but was blacked out from TVRI and the Indonesian Presidential Palace because of her unrespectable personal life having appeared in the media.

What we do on TV

Our presentations in the Indonesian TV have been quite successful. We employ such systems as role-play, drama and comedy.

Normally I would prepare the script myself and the players are experts on the subject and therefore we have not found any problems in developing the theme.

The language we use is also popular and the personalities involved in the presentation are well known to the general public.

Conclusion

Having come up with the points I raised in the preceding, I would like to offer the following
conclusions:

- First we must have the basic mission to be carried by the mass-media in our country.
- To be free and responsible mass-media would be to keep a balance between obligations and rights.
- In making media presentations one should be aware of the various sensitive areas which he should avoid coming into conflict with.
- Several techniques of media presentations should be mastered with a view to pleasing the public but at the same also trying to educate the masses of the people.