

Printing and Publishing Law
(2014, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 13)

2014, March, 14

This Law is enacted by Pyihtaungsu Hluttaw, the Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Chapter (1)

Term and Definition

1. This Law shall be named as Printing and Publishing Law.
2. Words in this law shall have the following meanings:
 - a) Printing Press refers to the machinery of electronic or laser technical print, relevant instruments and another way of print, to use in printing for public communication.
 - b) Publishing House refers to the building or place where printing press or relevant machine, machinery, tools, parts of machine and the business to print a lot of documents and pictures are located.
 - c) Publication refers to hand written script, printed paper, the paper published by electronic system or another technique, as well as the things which has the obvious figure whether it is the same kind or not with the above published papers, or the things which can be known the words or ideas by the way of illustration or form or another, and newspaper, periodical, journal, magazine and books.
 - d) Printer refers to the owner of printing machine or publishing house. In this term, partnership, company, family business, or shareholder, president, managing director, secretary or officer- in – charge who manage relevant organization are included.
 - e) Publisher refers to a person who publishes a paper by taking business interests or not. In this term, partnership, company, family business, or shareholder, president, managing director, secretary or officer- in – charge who manage relevant organization are included.
 - f) News Agency refers to the business, corporation, company or organization which collects the data and information from local and international, and distributes them to media in some way with charge or without charge.
 - g) Website refers to the page broadcasting in internet network to be able to take information and data, related to something.
 - h) Obscene Literature refers to lack of modesty and unacceptable by Myanma Society –
 1. Expression of Sexual things directly or indirectly
 2. Illustrations, writings, photographs and paintings which stimulate the sensual desire to lose the moral behavior
 3. Expression of harsh and obscene usages and pictures

In this term, the things which are needed to express by honest intent in accordance with biological science and medical or tradition and religion are not included.

- i) Certificate of recognition refers to the recommendation given out by Ministry to Printing Person, Publisher and News Agencies by this Law in order to carry out relevant business.
- j) Minister refers to Union Minister of Ministry of Information and Communication of Union Government.

- k) Ministry refers to Ministry of Information and Communication of Union Government.

Chapter (2)

Purposes

3. The purposes of this Law are as follow:
- a) To lead thriving of ethical printing and publishing businesses which is up to the quality in country.
 - b) To enact as a Law of respective business in accordance with the age to be able to carry out the printing and publishing business steadily and strongly.
 - c) To be able to exercise Freedom of Expression systemically according to the relevant laws in doing printing and publishing.

Chapter (3)

Acknowledgement to Printing and Publishing Business

- 4.
- a) The Print Person and Publisher who want to operate the printing and publishing business shall apply with the require data completely and correctly to Ministry in order to get acknowledgement for their business.
 - b) Organization based in abroad or based in local, company or organization who want to open a news agency shall apply with the require data completely and correctly to Ministry in order to get acknowledgement for their business.
5. Ministry shall give out the business certificate during the fixed time to the person who applied after he/she has paid the nominated fees, in accordance with article (4).
6. If the investigation found that the certificate holder applied dishonestly to get that certificate, the Military can withdraw or suspend that certificate by a time- limit.
- 7.
- a) The person who was withdrew or suspended the certificate in a time- limit according to article (6), shall have the allowance to apply to Minister for re-scrutinizing within fixed period.
 - b) The Minister can accept or reject the original decision after re-scrutinizing the application which is in accordance with article

Chapter (4)

Regulations for Printing and Publishing Enterprise

8. A printer or a publisher must not publish the publications which fall under any of the following conditions –
- a) Expressing things which can racially and culturally do violence to each other among ethnic people or citizens.

- b) Showing things which can harass national security, rules of law, public order or the rights of every citizen such as equality, freedom and balance of law.
 - c) Illustration of obscene literature.
 - d) Instigating to commit criminal case, pitilessness, terrorization, gambling case and the act of committing crimes using opium and abusive drugs;
9. In connection with doubtful publishing paper which gets entangled with a rule of Article (8), relevant government department or government organization, or a person or an organization who are assaulted can apply to relevant Division or region which has self-rule, or regional court to announce as illegal publishing paper .The relevant court shall interrogate that application form and pass judgment urgently.
10. The court that has received the application form can do temporary warrant not to distribute the publishing paper in accordance with law, before making any official order as illegal publishing paper.

Chapter (5)

Importing and Exporting of Publications

11. The publications-

- a) The one who imports or exports publications, shall send the names of items and quantity of items concerning with the importing or exporting the publications to the minister by filling up the prescribed form.
- b) If it is domestic publication, the printer must send any publication published by him to the ministry according to the instruction so as to register and to copy rights procedure.

12. One who get hold of certificate of recognition for publisher shall have right to distribute his or her original manuscript via Internet media by using web-sites.

13. Bearer of certificate of recognition of news agency shall have right to distribute information and data which he or she want to do so via Internet media by using web-sites.

14. According to article 12 and 13, the web-sites hosted via Internet media should comply with provisions of article 8.

Chapter (6)

Prohibitions

15. No one shall execute printing, publishing or news agency without having respective certificate of recognition.

16. No one shall execute printing any publish papers, publishing or news agency while the certificate of recognition is revoked or suspended for specific time.

17. No one shall print , publish , distribute or imports any published paper from foreign countries that is implicated with any of the terms and conditions provide by the article 18.

18. No one shall in default of any of responsibility provided by article 11.

Chapter (7)

Offences and penalties

19. Any person who is convicted, beyond reasonable doubt, with the offence of violating any prohibition under Article 15 and 16 shall be punishable with a fine from 2,000,000 Kyats (two million Kyats) up to 5,000,000 Kyats (five million Kyats).

20. Any person who is convicted, beyond reasonable doubt, with the offence of violating any prohibition under Article 17 shall be punishable with a fine from 1,000,000 Kyats (one million Kyats) up to 3,000,000 Kyats (three million Kyats).

21. Any person who is convicted, beyond reasonable doubt, with the offence of violating any prohibition under Article 18 shall be punishable with a fine from 100,000 Kyats (one hundred thousand kyats) up to 300,000 Kyats (three hundred thousand kyats).

Chapter (8)

Miscellaneous

22. From the day, one of the prohibitions provide by this law is violated, within one year, report, taking action or prosecuting must shall be done.

23. The provisions in this Law chapter (3), (5) and article 18 of chapter (6) shall not be applicable to the publications stated hereunder:

- a) specific letters distributed by the organizations and departments at states and regions of union level, at autonomous divisions or autonomous regions of national level, or at a subordinate level thereof, which are stemmed from three pillars of government, i.e., the legislature, the executive and the judiciary;
- b) specific letters distributed by the authorized commission and sub commissions in association with general election;
- c) specific letters made by registered political parties for carrying out their own office works;
- d) specific letters distributed by the members of parliament for the public of his constituency;
- e) specific letters made, in carrying out their own office works, by foreign embassies in Myanmar, the United Nations' organizations, international nongovernmental organizations and international organizations which are implementing a project in conjunction with an agreement made with the Myanmar government;
- f) specified letters made, in implementing their own works, by universities, colleges, schools, banks, municipal organizations, civil society organizations which are established by law, voluntary organizations and non-governmental organizations;
- g) announcements and invitation letters issued for the joyous social occasions and bereavement ceremonies.

24. The validity period of the affidavit certificate of registration issued in accordance with the Printers and Publishers Registration Law of 1962 is reaffirmed for the period already granted. When such granted period expires and if the party wants to continue the enterprise, the party must apply for the extension of the validity in accordance with the stated regulations.

25. In carrying out the provisions of this Law, the Ministry can:

- a) declare the necessary rules and regulations upon agreement with the Union Government;
- b) make necessary declarations, order, directions, or procedures.

26. This Act repeals the following Laws:

- a) The Press (Emergency Powers) Act
- b) The Printers and Publishers Registration Law of 1962

I hereby sign under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

(Sd.) Thein Sein
President of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar