

Youthful legislators oppose new press law

BY NATION REPORTER

A section of youthful MPs has asked President Kenyatta not to sign a Bill that would gag the media if it becomes law.

They said the Kenya Information and Communication Amendment Bill was draconian and would roll back the freedom the media enjoy.

Speaking under the banner of the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association, they also vowed to oppose another law that seeks to police non-governmental organisations.

"We would like to request the President not to assent to the Kenya Information and Communication (Amendment) Bill as it is," they said in a statement read by nominated MP Isaac Mwaura. The association consists of 47 members of the National Assembly and Senate who are under 35 years.

Mr Mwaura was accompanied by Ms Shukran Gure (Garissa County, Wiper), Ms Daisy Nyongesa (nominated Senator, Ford-Kenya),

Mr Agostino Neto (Ndhiwa, ODM), Mr Abdullahi Diriye (Wajir South, ODM), Ms Gladys Wanga (Homa Bay County, ODM) at the press conference at Parliament Buildings.

Mr Mwaura said the Bill was passed in a rush and MPs who were not members of the Energy, Information and Communication Committee had not read the amendments.

Oct 30

Date when the law seeking to regulate foreign funding of NGOs was published

Published on October 30, the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, has proposed to limit foreign funding for NGOs to 15 per cent, with the Cabinet Secretary empowered to allow it to exceed that in "exceptional and compelling circumstances."

"It is not a coincidence that someone wants to regulate NGOs' money," said Mr Mwaura.

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