



Optimization of the Press in Building Public Legal Awareness in Indonesia

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Abstract. The term "Press" is derived from the Dutch word "Pers," which translates to "Press" in English. Literally, it refers to printed publications. Etymologically, "Pers" (Dutch), "Press" (English), and "Presse" (French) all mean press or print, originating from the Latin "Pressare," meaning to press. In terminology, it denotes print media, including newspapers and magazines, and often encompasses journalists. According to Article 1 point (1) of Law No. 40 of 1999 on the Press, the press is defined as a social institution and a vehicle for mass communication engaged in journalistic activities. These activities include gathering, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing, and disseminating information in various forms, such as writing, sound, images, data, and graphics across different media platforms. This law indicates that the press in Indonesia is a community institution, not a private or government entity. Therefore, it should not serve as a mouthpiece for the government, political parties, or specific groups. It must remain independent and not be used for personal interests, especially to hide facts or the truth. The concept of the press has broadened over time. In a broad sense, it includes all forms of publications, such as electronic mass media, radio, and television broadcasts. In a narrow sense, it is limited to printed mass media, such as newspapers, magazines, and news bulletins. The inclusion of radio and television is evident during press conferences, where news coverage is provided not only by newspaper and magazine journalists but also by radio and television reporters.

Keywords: Legal Awareness, The Role of the Press.

1 Introduction

The term Press comes from the Dutch language, which in English means Press. Literally the press means print and literally means printed publication or printed publication. Etymologically the word Pers (Dutch), Press (English), Presse (French) means press or print. Derived from Latin, Pressare from the word Premere (press). The definition of terminology is print media, abbreviated as print media. Dutch is drupes, English is printed media or printing press. The term press is commonly interpreted as a newspaper (news paper) or magazine (magazine) often includes the meaning of journalists in it. The press is defined as the aggregate of publications issuing from the press, or the publication giving to one's sentiments and opinions though the medium of printing.

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Meanwhile, Article 1 point (1) of Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press defines "the press" as a social institution and vehicle for mass communication that carries out journalistic activities, including seeking, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing and conveying information in the form of writing, sound, images, voice and images, as well as data. and graphics and electronic media, and all available channels. From the definition of the press mentioned in the Press Law, it can be understood that the press in Indonesia is a social or community institution and not a private institution or institution, let alone the government, so the press is not a mouthpiece for the government, groups, groups or political parties. The press must not be used by certain people or groups for their own interests, especially to hide facts and truth.

In its development, the press has two meanings, namely in the broad sense and the press in the narrow sense. The press in a broad sense includes all publications, even including electronic mass media, broadcast radio and broadcast television, while the press in a narrow sense is only limited to printed mass media, namely newspapers, magazines and news agency bulletins. Radio and television are included in the scope of the press, it can be seen that if a press conference is held, those who cover the news at the meeting are not only newspaper, magazine and news agency reporters, but also radio and television journalists. This is because on radio and television there are journalistic activities which result in the formation of news as published in the newspaper media. Indeed, before Law No. 40 . 1999 concerning the birth of the Press, what is meant by journalists is reporters for print media only, while people who seek news for radio and television are not commonly called journalists. This is why the members of the Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI) consist of print media journalists. Before the reform took place in Indonesia, there was only one organization for journalists (single forum), namely PWI, but after President Soeharto stepped down from his presidential throne, there were many organizations where journalists gathered, such as the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), Indonesian Journalists Association (IWI), Association of Journalists Indonesian Muslims (HIWAMI), Television Journalists Association Indonesia (IJTI) and others. When signing the Decree on the Coordination Meeting of the Press Council with journalists' organizations on 5-7 August 1999 alone, there were already 26 journalists' organizations in Indonesia. Seeing its development again, this journalist organization continues to grow like mushrooms grow in the rainy season, but this journalist organization is also selected naturally like leaves that fall in summer. Regarding the role of the press, Law no. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press regulates it in Article 6 which, if detailed, consists of:

1. Fulfilling the public's right to know
 2. Uphold the basic values of democracy
 3. Encouraging the establishment of the rule of law and human rights
 4. Respect diversity
 5. Develop public opinion
 6. Supervise, criticize, correct and suggest
 7. Fighting for justice and truth
- Similarly, the function of the press is also regulated in this Press Law, namely as a medium for information, education, entertainment and social control as well as functioning as an economic institution. A society that takes

off towards a modern standard of living will not be separated from progress in the field of journalism.

In a transaction phase like this, journalists are agents of modernization. As Herbert Passin said, in a real sense, modernization includes the rise of the professional communicator class, which includes opinion leaders and innovation leaders (in Indonesia, perhaps, political leaders and technocrats can be included).

According to Widodo, there are various functions of the press in society, namely:

1. To Inform. The press has the function of providing information or news to the public or readers, through regular writing, broadcasts and broadcasts to the public. The press provides various kinds of information.
2. To Educate. The press functions as an educator, through various kinds of writing or the messages it gives, the press can educate its reading public.
3. To Controle. The press in the midst of society has the role of providing social control through constructive criticism and input. Reporting on deviations and acts of violating regulations committed by some community groups or officials is a form of contribution in controlling the community and government officials.
4. To Bridge. The press has a function as a liaison or bridge between the public and the government or vice versa. Aspirations that cannot be channeled through existing channels or institutions can be conveyed through the press.
5. To Entertain. The press can provide entertainment to the public, entertaining here is not only in terms of funny things but can be in the form of satisfaction and pleasure from the support of the press.

The press is needed according to its function, both for a person, organization, institution or institution, not only to obtain information but more than that because the press can shape public opinion.

According to Florangel Rosario Braid, the press can be a facilitator, liaison, catalyst and interpreter to become a dialogue forum between the government (officials) and the people.

2 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problems in this journal are:

- a. What are the roles and functions of the press (journalists) for today's society, especially in the field of law?
- b. How is the implementation of Law no. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press Article 6 ?

3 Research Methods

The type of research used is normative juridical research which emphasizes and leads to a literature review in order to collect data from various literature related to the legal issues studied. The research approach used in this writing is:

- a. Legislative Approach (Statute Approach) The statutory approach is an approach that is taken by examining all laws and regulations that are related to the legal issues being handled (Peter Machmud. 2011: 93).

- b. **Theoretical Approach** The conceptual approach is an approach that departs from the views and doctrines that have developed in the science of law, in order to find ideas that give rise to relevant understandings, concepts and legal principles, as a basis in building a legal argument in solving the legal issues at hand. (Peter Mahmud Marzuki, 2008: 95).

With this conceptual approach, it is expected to be able to make legal arguments to answer the legal content material which is the starting point in this research. The data used in this study is cumulative data obtained from books, journals, and various other information. originating from print and electronic media related to the research being carried out.

4 Discussion

4.1 The Role and Functions of the Press (Journalists) for Today's Society, Especially in the Field of Law

The term Press comes from the Dutch language, which in English means Press. Literally the press means print and literally means printed publication or printed publication. Etymologically the word Pers (Dutch), Press (English), Presse (French) means press or print. Derived from Latin, Pressare from the word Premere (press). The definition of terminology is print media, abbreviated as print media. Dutch is drupes, English is printed media or printing press. The term press is commonly interpreted as a newspaper (news paper) or magazine (magazine) often includes the meaning of journalists in it. The press is defined as the aggregate of publications issuing from the press, or the publication giving to one's sentiments and opinions though the medium of printing.

Meanwhile, Article 1 point (1) of Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press defines "the press" as a social institution and vehicle for mass communication that carries out journalistic activities, including seeking, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing and conveying information in the form of writing, sound, images, sound and images, as well as data. and graphics and electronic media, and all available channels.

From the definition of the press mentioned in the Press Law, it can be understood that the press in Indonesia is a social or community institution and not a private institution or institution, let alone the government, so the press is not a mouthpiece for the government, groups, groups or political parties. The press must not be used by certain people or groups for their own interests, especially to hide facts and truth.

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- 7) Fight for justice and truth

Likewise, the functions of the press are also regulated in this Press Law, namely as a medium for information, education, entertainment, and social control as well as functioning as an economic institution. A society that takes off towards a modern standard of living will not be separated from progress in the field of journalism.

In a transaction phase like this, journalists are agents of modernization. As Herbert Passin said, in a real sense, modernization includes the rise of the professional communicator class, which includes opinion leaders and innovation leaders (in Indonesia, perhaps, political leaders and technocrats can be included). According to Widodo, there are various functions of the press in society, namely:

- a. To Inform. The press has the function of providing information or news to the public or readers, through regular writing, broadcasts and broadcasts to the public. The press provides various kinds of information.
- b. To Educate. The press functions as an educator, through various kinds of writing or the messages it gives, the press can educate its reading public.
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- d. To Bridge. The press has a function as a liaison or bridge between the public and the government or vice versa. Aspirations that cannot be channeled through existing channels or institutions can be conveyed through the press.
- e. To Entertain. The press can provide entertainment to the public, entertaining here is not only in terms of funny things but can be in the form of satisfaction and pleasure from the support of the press.

4.2 Implementation of Law Number 40 of 1999 Concerning the Press Article 6

Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press defines "the press" as a social institution and vehicle for mass communication that carries out journalistic activities, including seeking, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing and conveying information in the form of writing, sound, images, sound and images, as well as data. and graphics and electronic media, and all available channels.

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Discussion of the birth of Law no. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press was very fast, even super fast so that it was recorded as one of the fastest deliberations of a law in Indonesia, which was only two weeks. It was discussed for the first time on 20 August 1999, the law was discussed and approved on 13 September 1999. Then on 23 September 1999 it was passed as law and on that day it was also promulgated in the State Gazette of 1999 No. 1666.

In fact, according to Muhammad Yunus Yosfiah, who was the minister of information at the time and led the government's discussion of the process of making this law, the effective time for deliberating the bill was only ten days! This law is the result of a government proposal. Originally Law no. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press is only one of the contents of the Draft Law (RUU) on Mass Media, namely content materials on broadcasting, film and the press.

But because the merger was deemed inappropriate, in the end the three content materials in the Bill on Mass Media were separated one by one and submitted to the DPR separately into three Draft Laws (RUU), namely the Bill on the Press, the Bill on Broadcasting and the Bill on Films. All three bills have now become law, but the Bill on the Press was the first to be proposed and passed as law.

5 Conclusion

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