

**JOURNALISTS EXPERIENCES IN COVERING CORRUPTION IN UGANDA: A CASE STUDY  
OF THE DAILY MONITOR NEWSROOM**

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**RS17M42/002**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM MEDIA AND  
COMMUNICATION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD  
OF A DEGREE OF MASTER IN JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES OF UGANDA  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**May, 2024**



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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**Abstract**

The purpose of the study was to explore the practices and experiences among journalists covering corruption in Uganda. Its specific objectives included understanding the experiences journalists face in covering corruption, exploring the challenges of journalists in covering corruption and exploring the influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues within Uganda. The study adopted a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews to collect data from a sample of 12 journalists from Daily Monitor Media House. The data was collected through in-depth interviews using an interview guide and during analysis an inductive thematic approach was adopted. One of the key findings of the study was that journalists faced institutional challenges such as institutional incarceration, law suits, equipment destruction and fear for life.

## Declaration

Declaration of authorship: I declare that I am the author of this paper and that any assistance I received in its preparation is fully acknowledged and disclosed in the paper. I have also cited any sources from which I used data, ideas, or words, either quoted directly or paraphrased. I also certify that this paper was prepared by me for partial fulfillment for the degree of masters in Journalism and Media Studies at Uganda Christian University Mukono.

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**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Approval

This dissertation by Nanyondo Lydia on “Experiences Journalists Face in Covering Corruption: A Case of Daily Monitor Newsroom” has been done under my guidance. It is submitted to the University with my approval.

Signature



.....

Professor James Kiwanuka-Tondo

(Supervisor)

Date...23rd May, 2024.....

## Dedication

I extend my deepest gratitude to God, the architect of the universe, for bestowing upon me the strength, wisdom, and grace needed to traverse through this academic journey, ensuring that every step, amid challenges, was guided by divine providence.

In the journey of life, there are few who stand as unwavering pillars, providing strength and stability during our pursuits of passion and purpose. Eng. Vincent Mususbire, your steadfast support has been my anchor, ensuring that I remain grounded yet daring enough to sail through the tumultuous seas of academic rigor. Your unwavering faith in my capabilities has been a constant source of light, illuminating my path even in moments shrouded with doubt and uncertainty. This dissertation is not merely a product of my hard work but is also imbued with the spirit of your endless encouragement and unshakeable belief in me

Your life, dear father, has been a living testament to the virtues of dedication, resilience, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Eng. Vincent, you have not only been a father but also a mentor, guiding me through the intricate tapestry of engineering principles, ethics, and innovations. Your stories of triumph over adversity, and your unyielding commitment to your profession, have been the silent yet potent fuel, propelling me forward through every challenge and setback encountered in this academic voyage.

Expressing immense gratitude towards Prof. Monica Chibita and Prof. James Kiwanuka- Tondo and George Muddu for their unwavering support, meticulous guidance, and invaluable insights throughout the dissertation journey. Their belief in potential and inspirational approach were pivotal in overcoming challenges and self-doubt.

## Acknowledgement

Foremost, I express my profound gratitude to the Almighty God for bestowing upon me the grace and mercy to undertake and complete this study. His unwavering presence has been a constant source of strength and resilience throughout this journey.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my esteemed supervisors, whose rigorous scrutiny and constructive criticism have been pivotal in shaping this research. Their unwavering support, insightful feedback, and invaluable mentorship have significantly enriched this scholarly work.

My sincere thanks are extended to the journalists and the entire team at Monitor Media House for their indispensable support and collaboration. Their willingness to provide critical data has been instrumental in facilitating the comprehensive analysis that underpins this study. The informative data provided has not only enriched the research but has also been pivotal in steering it to fruition.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the various individuals and institutions whose contributions, though not mentioned explicitly, have played a crucial role in the realization of this study. Your support, in various capacities, has been invaluable and is sincerely appreciated.

May the outcomes of this research serve as a testament to the collective efforts, dedication, and expertise of all those that have contributed to its completion.

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**List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

OECD : Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

## Chapter one

### 1.0 Introduction

This study assessed Ugandan journalists' experiences in covering corruption. This chapter presented the background to the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, scope, justification and significance of the study, and definitions of the key terms used.

### 1.1 Background to the Study

In world communities today, democracies are designed by the society's right to not only know but also have access to information (OECD, 2018). Freedom of speaking and expression is one of the most significant of all choices which makes it a real foundation of fairness (Singh, 2014). The author also says that the media's role as public watchdogs are of dynamic importance when it comes to the investigation and exposure of corruption. Corruption is a secret and hidden crime (Bridenthal, 2012), but journalists are reported to shine a light on those who use their entrusted power for personal gain (International Center for Journalists, 2023). According to Bradley (2023), such reporting is all about making public stories that powerful forces would prefer to keep secret. All too often, the influential forces involved in corruption when exposed by the public watchdogs like the journalists will go to great lengths such as threats, violence and killing to silence the watchdogs occur but go unpunished (Transparency International, 2023), yet Chibita (2016) argues that, "the media freedom should be characterized by freedom of the media to operate without undue interference from the government, big business or other powerful forces..." (p. 28)

In most countries, many journalists work in tough and risky environments. (Radsch, 2016), journalists who seek to reveal economic and political corruption do so at great individual life danger (UNESCO, 2023). It is therefore hard to access information especially of those involved in corruption scandals, hence making it hard for the journalists to update the public on who is misusing public office thus the experiences and challenges that come along while covering corruption.

Internationally, journalists who cover corruption in various sectors such as political, environmental, health, economic and other sectors. suffer a great deal of challenges such as assassinations, threats, harshness and many other experiences that are usually aggressive in nature (Grecko, 2020). There are a lot of experiences encountered by journalists that interfere with their role as watchdogs such as limits on freedom of the press, punitive lawsuits, violence and financial constraints that make it hard for the media industry to fund the corruption tendencies (Moene, 2019). Hence attacks on journalists who represent society to gather information hinders the public's right to access information especially data on corruption.

In Kenya, the situation is no different as it recorded several cases of abuses against individual journalists and media workers let alone online harassment (Obiria, 2019).

In Kenya, journalists continue to experience great levels of violence, persecution, intimidation, removal of equipment, insecurity, poor justice methods, and deaths on covering corruption (Journalists for Human Rights, 2020; CIPESA, 2022). This disrupts the whole significant range of journalistic work and leaves the public at the mercy and unaware of what happens in their society.

In Uganda, persecution of journalists who report on military, safety, corruption and governance issues is no breaking news anymore which leads to media restrictions such as

sedition and betrayal (Kakumba, 2022). These sedition and Treason laws when put in place drive the media to self-censorship.

In 1993, *Daily Monitor* Newspaper started investigative reporting with Charles Onyango Obbo breaking news on a scandal of an attempted acquisition of more than 400 Anti-tank missiles by the government of Uganda. The government's response to the story resulted into *Daily Monitor* not revealing their source of information for other corruption stories thus the stories could not to be accredited, hence frustrating the journalists. (*Daily Monitor.1992*)

Journalist's negative experiences in covering corruption is a great disservice to the society and the public. Any attack on journalist's safety, health or physical and mental well-being is a direct assault on that journalist's ability to inform the public. Ultimately, it is the public that suffers.

## **1.2 Brief background to The *Daily Monitor***

*Daily Monitor* is a privately owned newspaper founded in 1992 under Monitor Publications Limited. It is located at 29-35 8<sup>th</sup> Street Namuwongo Road Industrial Area Kampala Uganda. The *Daily Monitor* updates the public unconstrained and conducts serious investigative reporting that interests the public. They frequently break stories and set the bulletin agenda.

The researcher selected *Daily Monitor* because it remains with the highest number of subscription in Uganda its main rival the New Vision. Therefore, making *Daily Monitor* a preferable media house for research. (*Daily Monitor.1992*)

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

According to Rasool (2023) lack of access to crucial government material and information by government operatives limits the community and the journalists from getting the information they need to back up the corruption outrages elevated. This is because the information given to them may be inappropriate, or the official consultants may choose not to work together and release it out to the journalists thus makes their work a bit sluggish (Mughal, 2023).

The covering of corruption related issues by the media increases public awareness and hostility towards corrupt behavior (Nogara, 2009; Sodprasert, 2022). In Uganda, it has become apparent that corruption is still a problem for the government has not come up with specific laws or ideas to reduce it (Flanary & Watt, 1999). Press coverage especially by the privately run media houses contribute to exposing flaws and weaknesses in existing laws and regulations that promote a climate favorable to corruption (Human Rights Watch, 2010). However journalists covering corruption experience a number of issues ranging from violent and non-violent attacks (Khan, 2021).

## **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study were categorized into general objective and specific objectives as below:

### ***1.4.1 General objective of the study***

The general objective was to assess journalists' experiences and practices in covering corruption in Uganda so as to generate knowledge.

### ***1.4.2 Specific objectives of the Study***

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To understand the experiences journalists, face in covering corruption in the *Daily Monitor*.
2. To explore the challenges journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption.
3. To explore the influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues by the *Daily Monitor* Journalists.

## **1.5 Research questions were:**

1. What experiences do journalists from the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption?
2. What challenges do the journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in an attempt to cover corruption?
3. How do the experiences do encountered by journalists of the *Daily Monitor* influence their journalistic practice in covering corruption?

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

The study will help inform other journalists on the experiences and challenges involved in their course of duty as well as enable them better understand and institute the professional precautionary measures on how to deal with the challenges.

By using this research results, policy makers and media regulation authorities such as Uganda Communications Council will gain a better understanding and analysis on deriving appropriate measure and policies to regulate and enhance media and journalist's ethics, freedoms, perceptions and attitudes.

The attained research results will help journalists' students to be equipped with mechanisms to understand covering corruption, and what to expect when covering corruption in the newsroom.

The public is to realize their rights of access to information and offer information to the media and journalists so as to enhance better access and advocacy for service delivery as well as develop positive, friendly public conducts and behaviors to the journalists and media authorities.

## **Chapter two**

### **Literature review**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presented related literature on the topic under study. It explained the various views and studies of other authors on the topic under study. The sources of literature include secondary data obtained from published literature such as textbooks, magazines, journals and electronic media among others in relation to the study objectives.

#### **2.1 Concept of Corruption**

The concept of corruption has been defined by different individuals in different ways. For instance Shleifer and Vishny (2018) indicated corruption as an economic crime that exist in nearly all societies to a larger or smaller extent. There are many meanings of corruption in the literature. Corruption can be defined as, the transaction of government property by public officials for private gains.

On the contrary, Begovic (2005) in his words said “Corruption is a deliberate non-compliance with the arm’s-length principle aimed at deriving some advantage for oneself or for related individuals from this behavior.” (p.2) Thus corruption can be done individually or by a group of individuals. Earlier understandings by Eliasberg (1951) argued that corruption was an unlawful act of an authorized individual who dishonestly and wrongfully uses his position or atmosphere to obtain some advantage for himself or another’s. But the likes of Amundsen, (2000) puts corruption as that form of bribery, embezzlement, fraud and extortion.

In this study, corruption was defined as the use of public office for private gain, or in other words, use of formal position, rank or status for one’s own personal benefit. Following

from this definition, examples of corrupt behavior would include: (a) bribery, (b) extortion, (c) fraud, (d) embezzlement, and (e) misappropriation of public assets and property for private use.

## **2.2 An Overview of Violence Against Journalists in Uganda.**

In Uganda, Walulya (2008) argued that the media is greatly hindered by unfavorable press laws which makes it hard for the media to cover corruption successfully. The author particularly argues that in a countries like Uganda where democratic values are not well recognized, limitations on media incline to be clearer and extremely damaging to public engagement. The author further reports that the matters of government or influential groups are protected by secrecy, journalists face significant obstacles – and physical risk – if they embark upon investigations that could lead to exposing corruption. In agreement Kakumba and Kronke (2023) reported that this is worsened by the fact that the agencies supposed to fight corruption remains the most corrupt in Uganda.

Chene (2009) reported that those in power have showed signs of unfairness to the private media and has put regulations to limit their media freedom. There have been various occasions where journalists have been agitated when opposing those in government. Indeed to Sabano (2020), there is inconsiderate treatment of journalists covering corruption which plants a bad seed in the journalism career and makes it risky while practicing it. Sabano further argues that journalists who cover corruption in Uganda operate under threats, loss of lives and even deaths or are usually silenced and punished while leaving those in scandals in high places free. This is also reported by Ojara (2023) who reported that covering sensitive issues such as corruption is not only life threatening and harassment but also results in equipment confiscation alongside denial of justice.

### **2.3 The Experiences Journalists Face in Covering Corruption.**

Studies for instance one by Pring and Vrush (2019) found journalists facing a diversity of experiences in the practice of covering corruption related issues firstly helping to check on corruption and its related consequences. In support, Hamada (2020) reported that the covering of corruption as being a helpful experience as it serves as a turnaround fortune that have made journalists unearth some levels accountability in addition to transparency.

In Liberia for instance Sieh (2013) found that with the introduction of investigative journalism in post-war Liberia, covering corruption tendencies has led to indictments of corrupt officials in addition to the cancellation of fraudulent concession agreements. To the likes of Rasool (2023) and Mughal (2023), journalists experience limited access to essential government information limits the public and the media (journalists) to access the information they need to back up the corruption scandals raised.

### **2.4 The Challenges Encountered by Journalists in Covering Corruption**

There are several challenges that the journalists encounter while covering corruption related issues. In South Sudan more recent evidence echoed by Ghai (2023) indicate that other than threatening journalist via the phone calls, whoever is involved in covering corruption stories is faced with adverse intimidation. This according to Ghai is done by unidentified persons. In agreement UNESCO (2023) indicated evidence that as of 2020 about 62 journalists were killed doing their journalistic jobs in several of the countries while covering corruption related stories.

Some studies also report violence as being experienced by the journalists' that cover corruption related stories across communities. According to the Journalists for Human Rights (2020), several physical attacks were made on journalists who reported concerns of corruption that resulted in reduced press freedom in the East African Country of Kenya. Consistent with

what was in Kenya, Ghai (2023) reported eminent violence against female journalists that was characterized by direct harassments in the youngest country of South Sudan.

Studies such as one by Feinstein and Starr (2015) institutional apparatus within the system needed to be checked as it is borne of consequences of incarcerating those that are involved in covering corruption without trail. In agreement Shieh (2013) similarly found that the reporting on corruption especially on political figures resulted into incarceration on journalists inclusive of house arrests in Liberia. In Uganda, Adude (2023) equally reported renowned journalists to have served arrested and faced imprisonment after covering and releasing information about corruption.

Some studies report being involved in covering of corruption as resulting in law suits on part of the journalists. For instance, Dettmer (2020), reported that journalists are not only arrested but are also faced with lawsuits whenever they cover and report about corruption tendencies in Europe. In addition, Heyns and Srinivasan (2013) found that journalists covering corruption issues are in addition killed which renders the practice a life-threatening experience.

In the USA, Bowman (2022) found extensive damage that included broken furniture, destroyed equipment, in addition to literature on the corrupt individuals that was covered by the investigative journalists on corruption. In another study the Harber (2018).similarly reported damaging of equipment normally used by journalists covering contentious issues of corruption across societies within South Africa.

In Hitah, Englund, Johannesson, and Arnberg (2023) found the main challenges in Haiti were traumatic. This was also equally in the evidence from Transparency International (2020) in which the covering corruption, the journalists quite pay a high cost including death.

Simpson et al., 2006 found based on public witnesses that covering journalism in extreme situation results in trauma and inhumanity on part of the journalists in the United States of America.

In another study, Herberg et al., (2019) found that however much someone planned and is well prepared covering some extreme situations was more of insecurity on one's life. Similarly within South Africa, journalists covering corruption have experiences issues to do with intimidation and even life threats characterized by violent attacks when covering corruption as a contentious issue. Similarly Arnold and Lal (2012) found that it was hard for journalists to cover corruption especially if those involved are one of their advertising agents and revealing the important individuals in the corruption scandal would cost the media organization to lose its client hence becomes a challenge in covering corruption.

## **2.5 Journalistic Experience in the Coverage of Corruption and Its Influence on Practice.**

In Cameroon, Schroeder (2021) indicated that the covering of corruption tendencies by journalist goes beyond being a threat to economic equity as a result of law suits with the legal fees that come along rendering them lose moral in the job. Different however the OECD (2018) indicated that journalists still continue efforts of unearthing corruption tendencies that have feasible results in as far as accountability and transparency issues are concerned.

Woodman (2020) indicated beyond lawsuits investigative journalists experience intimidation alongside life threats whenever covering issues regarding corruption in several countries the developed economies inclusive continuing journalist work remains unpredictable among several. In support Coughtrie and Ogier (2020) found that across 43 countries, majority of journalist who investigated corruption faced harassments and in addition suffered substantial impacts that have limited their ability to continue doing their job of journalism.

Other studies like one undertaken by Englund, Johannesson, and Arnberg (2023) found that covering journalism served as an eye-opening experience both individually and in the eyes of the public but unfavorable influence is equally reported particularly resources hindrance. A study by the likes of Puente, Pellegrini, and Grassau (2013) found limited resources alongside logistic difficulties as often faced by the journalists covering extreme conditions.

Other studies by Mao et al., (2018) suggested need for a more resilient to chaotic missions which could turn in being traumatic that one needs to protect himself or herself. In a more recent study van der Hoeven and Kester(2020) found negative consequences including death of journalists as hindering forces in journalism.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework for this study on journalists' experiences in covering corruption in Uganda, particularly focusing on the *Daily Monitor* newsroom, can be anchored on two pivotal theories: the "Chilling Effect" theory and the "Agenda-Setting" theory. The "Chilling Effect" theory posits that the fear of repercussions, such as legal actions or threats, can dissuade journalists from reporting on certain topics, thereby inhibiting free speech and investigative journalism (Barendt et al., 2005). This theory will be instrumental in exploring how experiences of threats, violence, and other challenges impact journalists' willingness and approach to covering corruption stories. On the other hand, the "Agenda-Setting" theory, introduced by McCombs and Shaw (1972), underscores the media's role in shaping public perception and agenda by prioritizing certain issues, in this case, corruption. This theory will be pivotal in understanding how the *Daily Monitor*, through its journalistic practices, influences public discourse and awareness regarding corruption in Uganda. By intertwining these theories, the study will explore how the fear of repercussions (Chilling Effect) and the media's power to shape public discourse (Agenda-Setting) intersect and influence journalists' experiences and

Practices in covering corruption in a challenging socio-political environment.

In conclusion, this framework and the experiences and challenges journalists faced while covering corruption will guide the exploration of the complexities and dynamics involved in journalistic practices amidst adversities in corruption reporting.

## Chapter Three

### Methodology

#### 3.0 Introduction

In this chapter indicated research approach research design, methods, research area, targeted population, sample and sampling techniques, data collection, data analysis and the problems encountered in data collection are provided.

#### 3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a qualitative research approach in exploring the experiences of the journalists in covering corruption issues. The qualitative research approach as indicated by Tenny, Brannan, and Brannan (2022) is understood as that form of research not only exploring but also providing insights regarding real problems in the world in a deeper stance. This approach was chosen because it permits generation of an in-depth understanding of a complex research problem as noted by (Cresswell et al., 2014). Therefore, this approach would generate in-depth data from the journalists who covered corruption in the *Daily Monitor* newsroom. The qualitative research approach was used because it enables generation of more rich and deep data from the point of view by participants in this case the journalists that cover corruption tendencies (Bryman, 2012).

#### 3.2 Area of Study

The Researcher obtained data from *Daily Monitor* Newsroom. This Media house is located at 8th street Namuwongo road Industrial Area within Kampala, the capital city of Uganda.

The researcher selected *Daily Monitor* for study purposes because it has the highest number of subscriptions than its competitor the New Vision. Therefore, making *Daily Monitor* a preferable media house for research. (*Daily Monitor*.1992)

### **3.3 Study Population**

Population consists of all the objects or people of a specific nature of which researchers seek knowledge or information (Allen, 2017). The targeted population of this study were the journalists that cover corruption tendencies. The accessible population were the journalists that covered corruption tendencies in the *Daily Monitor* Media House who in total were 62 news reporters and 25 freelancers. The journalists interviewed on corruption were tipped off by whistle blowers. The study population constituted of all those journalists that have covered corruption tendencies in the *Daily Monitor* Media House and consented to participate in the study. The study however excluded all those journalists that have covered corruption tendencies in the *Daily Monitor* Media House but are on leave and therefore unreachable.

### **3.4 Sampling Design, Procedure and Sampling Size**

#### ***3.4.1 Sampling Design and procedure***

For the researcher to have a confident and appropriate data from the respondents of the area of study, snowball sampling technique was used. To the likes of Dragan and Isaic- Maniu (2013), snowball sampling is that technique of sampling where initial participants are requested or asked to assist the principal investigators with the recruitment of other potential participants. In implementing the sampling technique, the first journalist that had seen to be involved in covering issues of corruption was identified. Thereafter each identified journalist referred only one journalist who has ever covered corruption tendencies in the *Daily Monitor* Media House.

### ***3.4.2 Sampling size***

In this study the researcher had a sample size of 12 which was between 5 and 25 interviews initially recommended for qualitative studies by Creswell (1998). This study being qualitative in nature, the journalists that have covered corruption tendencies were enrolled one by one up to 12 journalists who were interviewed. All the 12 journalists interviewed had similar responses thus the study reached saturation point. Saturation Point approach is when the interviewees give no more new responses to the interviewer, so the study reached a saturation point with the 12 respondents as defined by Creswell (2013)

### **3.5 Data collection Method(s) and tool(s)**

**Data Collection Method:** The study made use of the in-depth data interview method. In-depth interview as per the likes of Boyce and Neale (2006) are understood as that qualitative research method constituting of undertaking an intensive individual by individual interview with just fewer respondents in a quest exploring their perspectives regarding either a particular idea or program or even a situation like that of corruption. The data collection method was chosen because it enables collection of rich and in-depth data. It also permits collection of data explaining the experiences and the changes that occur in the practice by the journalists.

#### ***In-depth Interview guide:***

The researcher used an in-depth interview guide to get data from the journalists that have covered corruption tendencies in the *Daily Monitor* Media House. This tool is chosen because it enables the researcher to use similar interview questions to all respondents. It was also chosen as to permit the journalists that have covered corruption tendencies to air out their views freely. Those interviewed were journalists who had covered corruption tendencies and had consented to be interviewed. Interviews were done on weekdays and it was usually on

lunch breaks when the journalists were free and somewhere in the newsroom of the *Daily Monitor* premises.

### **3.6 Quality Control**

The original audios that was used in the data collection was kept for reference purposes as to ensure that the data was actually collected. The translation of some of the audios was done carefully to ensure that information does not change but remains truthful. In order to ensure quality in the data collected, the researcher triangulated the views of one journalist who responded with those of others who had said similar responses. In this way, the credibility of the data was ensured.

To ensure that the information on experiences by the journalist is applicable to similar phenomena that are transferability, detailed description of the situations was provided. In addition, a step-by-step detail of how the data was analyzed was provided to ensure conformability.

Lastly to ensure that the researcher measures exactly the journalistic experiences in covering corruption that's face validity, the questions in the interview guide was developed objectively covering only the objectives prior set in the study.

### **3.7 Data Processing and Analysis**

#### ***3.7.1 Data Processing***

The data was collected from the in-depth interviews. Thereafter the audio recording was transcribed in Microsoft office Word (MS Word) Program. The MS word was also used in the storing of the data ready for analysis. In the course of processing the qualitative data, the researcher read the content in the word file for several times and for each time, relevant sentences to the research question were highlighted. The highlighting was done until all the

data was exhausted. Thereafter similar highlighted section were given a similar code until all were completed. Similar codes were given similar themes in relation to the research questions which included informative and learning experiences, then institutional incarceration and law suit threats among others as subthemes. Thereafter similar subthemes were grouped into themes based on the meaning that the research made but in line with the research questions. Thereafter a write-up was done with the sub themes illustrated by the relevant quotes as per the codes prior identified.

### ***3.7.2 Data Analysis***

In this study, qualitative data analysis following an inductive thematic approach was adopted. The inductive thematic approach in qualitative research refers to a method where themes and patterns are identified through a careful examination of the data, without trying to fit it into a pre-existing coding frame or the researcher's analytic preconceptions (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This approach is particularly used in the context of qualitative research where the researcher seeks to derive patterns and themes from the data itself, rather than imposing preconceived categories and theories (Patton, 2015).

Braun and Clarke (2006) emphasize the flexibility of thematic analysis as a qualitative research method, highlighting its applicability across various data sets and its ability to identify, analyze, and report patterns (themes) within the data. They also discuss the inductive approach, where the themes identified are strongly linked to the data themselves.

Patton (2015) provides a comprehensive overview of various qualitative research and evaluation methods, including thematic analysis. He discusses the importance of inductive analysis and the emergence of patterns and themes from the data without the imposition of preconceived theories or frameworks.

The text from the transcriptions was read and read several times. The verbatim responses that held meaning in relation to experiences, challenges and practices were coded one at a time until they were all exhausted. The coded sentences with similar meaning were given a sub theme until all the codes are exhausted. The sub themes were read and re-read, and then those that were similar were provided one main theme. This main theme was then be analyzed and illustrated using quotations from the respondent journalists that have ever covered issues to do with corruption.

### **3.8 Research Procedure**

Upon research report approval by the supervisor, the researcher faced the UCU University's Research Ethics Committee (REC) where upon REC's approval, the researcher obtained an introductory letter from the University's research coordinator's office that was presented to the management of Daily Monitor administration seeking permission to carry out the study. Upon granting of permission, consents and interview appointments were made with the respective sampled respondents. Before the interview, the respondents went through all ethical principles that the study observed including the issue of confidentiality, consent, assent, anonymity, integrity, and benevolence during the research process.

### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

For the safety of research participants, the main emphasis for all researchers involved applying the concepts of privacy, confidentiality and anonymity in research, researchers must always consider what's best for the participants (Holland, 2019)

The respondents were assured that the material provided would only be used for academic drives and was treated with greatest privacy.

Research participants were not to be subjected to any harm, their privacy was protected, and their names were not included. Further, full consent was obtained from the respondents in the study, and the researcher remained honest, and transparent as noted by Bryman (2017)

In this current era of COVID-19, the researcher observed the SOPs of wearing the mask and social distancing. This helped both the researcher and the respondents to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19.

### **3.10 Limitations of the Study and Counteracting Measures**

The researcher faced some constraints throughout the study, but timely solutions were used and the study continued.

Dealing with some respondents who did not want to reveal information freely affected the researcher. They were suspicious of the researcher of being a spy of their private confidential information hence creating a worry among them. However, the researcher assured the respondents by showing them her student's identity card, a letter of introduction from the university.

Financial constraints such as transport, airtime, stationery, meals, as prices of commodity which had risen so high. This was overcome by sticking on the set budget and seeking further assistance from friends and relatives.

## Chapter Four

### Data Analysis Presentation and Interpretation of Results

#### 4.1 Introduction

This study was set to explore journalists' experiences during covering corruption in Uganda. The specific objectives of the study were to understand the experiences of journalists face in covering corruption in the *Daily Monitor*, to explore the challenges journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption and to explore the influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues by the *Daily Monitor* Journalists.

#### 4.2 The experiences journalists face in covering corruption in the Daily Monitor

The first objective of this study was to provide an understanding of the experiences journalists face in covering corruption in the *Daily Monitor*. During the thematic analysis, one main theme emerged from the data exploring journalists' experiences. This theme which is described below as helpful experiences included two (2) subthemes that are informative and learning experiences.

##### *I. Helpful experiences*

The journalists also witnessed some helpful experiences in which the analysis yielded two (2) subthemes. The helpful experiences particularly described as informative and learning experiences are as in the subsequent sections.

## ***II. Informative***

The journalists also witnessed experiences that were informative which were helpful in nature regarding covering of corruption instances of the public institutions in

Uganda. Informative experience was one of the most witnessed experiences that the journalists encountered regarding covering of corruption instances. Some of those who been pushing into corrupting the systems were not only able to inform the journalists about the corruption activities move but were also informative on the way journalists would break through.

One of the persons who was conned of money for a public service, informed me that under the driving permit is where the money passes. This was really informative [I1]

I know...now you just go as if you also need a service...many people stand around waiting to connect you but you have to pay ...addition through them [I4]

The study results shows how pertinent it is for journalists to cover corruption stories given the lessons they learn regarding how to know that corruption is actually taking place which was an informative experience. The journalists were able to learn how to unearth corruption instances in a way which they did know about.

## ***III. Learning experiences***

The study found among the helpful experiences also included the learning experiences which arose from the thematic analysis. The interviewees noted they were able to learn how to get information about corruption. They also indicated the use of local citizens and work team of the different public organizations to get information about corruption.

..if you want to get information on corruption ....you just have to keep around the place  
 ...not once not twice....come be with me I was told [I5]

I was able to learn from the field of the use of the local and work team itself regarding the corruption. They are able to bring out more well [I6]

This result illustrates how crucial it's for the investigative journalist to make use of the local communities and the public servants in getting information.

#### **4.3 Challenges journalists' face when covering corruption in Uganda**

The second objective of the study was to explore the challenges journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption. The study as are a related task attempted to address the question regarding "What challenges the journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in an attempt to cover corruption?" The results after a thematic analysis of the transcripts from the interviews yielded two themes that included institutional changes and affected individual challenges. Several codes were extracted from the interviews which were reduced to 6 sub themes from which two main themes were extracted. Equipment destruction and law suit threats were institutional challenges while fear of life was under affected individual challenges as in the subsequent sections;

##### ***Institutional challenges***

###### ***i. Institutional Incarceration***

The journalists faced with the challenge of being incarcerated both in the field where the corruption could be taking place or being driven away in a drone. There are always a watch and a well linked network which seems institutionalized. The offenders have an institutional

network of official at the right point to have a journalist disappear from even the scene and no one can trace where you are being interrogated.

The places are several .....there was no space but you find yourself inside,... one room, with many others[I3]

... the law enforcers are used ....instead of doing what is right.../ They are everywhere you know[I4]

... someone called me...somewhere..... after sweet talking me ...I was threatened

### *ii. Law Suit Threats*

The law is fair but the persons working to implement it are more like institutionalized. There are always threats from persons who first befriend you as a journalist working or covering some corruption issue. This ends up in threats and even law suits.

... someone called me...somewhere..... after sweet talking me ...I was threatened and all over a few days they filed a law suit on me[I5]

### *iii. Equipment Destruction*

During the process of covering corruption tendencies, equipment that are used are in most cases destroyed by officials that are seen in public as law enforcers. The cameras and the memory sticks where corruption information is stored is taken or destroyed in case you were to be found with it as a journalist.

..the cameras were destroyed ....even the other machines .. it was horrible[I4]

..You may have audio recording ...all is damaged if they come to know of it....especially while on scene ...but they can follow to offices [I7]



### *Individual challenges*

#### *i. Fear for life*

The Journalists also faced challenges that were individual in nature specifically fear of losing one's life. This goes even to some of the affected individuals who fear expressing or saying anything for fear that they will be followed up by those who committed corruption. They would say it all happened we can't do anything our life and that of my family may end. Those people [corrupt] have agents everywhere; they are watching and ready to do anything so nothing can be said anymore.

There are agents..they will go and look for you ....beating you I1]

...I was almost killed...someone choked me ...the cameras and the audio recording were taken...I felt I was dying.. I]

The result demonstrates the extent to which the journalists have to sacrifice in an effort to cover corruption stories in the community. The show the coverage of corruption as a challenging environment that need to be rethought strategic to improve coverage.

#### **4.4 The influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues by the *Daily Monitor* Journalists.**

The third objective of the study was to explore the influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues by the *Daily Monitor* Journalists. Mixed results were got following a thematic analysis. These results showed a both an enhancing influence and unfavorable influence. The results were as presented in subsequent sections.

**ii. *Enhancing influence***

The findings with regard to enhancing influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues by the *Daily Monitor* Journalists yielded three sub themes. These themes included “Anti-corruption support” and “Discovery Push” and are hereby interpreted in the subsequent sub sections.

**iii. *Anti-corruption support***

Some of the respondent Journalists of *Daily Monitor* noted that the cry from the local citizens makes them to push for further coverage on corruption issues. They noted that they were moved by the need for the under voiced to bring out their grievances for better services. On the light note as well the journalists the support for zero corruption by those offended called for further coverage on corruption issues.

The way the local citizens cry out for support ...to have their corruption grievances voiced....they say they are tired. It makes me keep going to see to it that all becomes well...even some public officials ... invite us in and support us by hiding us ...they want the exposure so that they deliver... they love the Ugandans ...[I4]

...I can't imagine being corrupted...I was provided with explanations that were helpful. I could not stop supporting the institution...[I2]

**iv. *Discovery Push***

During the interviews, some of the respondent journalists indicated the need to the keep discovering how people make money. The respondent journalists noted that there is a lot of learning bring out the truths in the course of uncovering the issues that are related to corruption in society.

I can't wait to learn...uhuu you learn a lot...people have money...that money is not theirs...one time it comes out...showing me how it is done has really helped me to bring out that truth. ...to keep covering the issues...[I2]

v. *Unfavorable Influence*

In relation to unfavorable influences that study results following a thematic analysis established two sub themes that “Resources hindrance” and “life protection”. The findings in this regard were as presented in the subsequent sub sections.

vi. *Resources hindrance*

The study results showed that the find it difficult to finance the costs associated with covering corruption issues that they can't imagine incurring much more costs. The respondent journalists noted that they needed to slow down regarding corruption coverage as those offended in corruption fail to cover the associated costs. This result is illustrative of a detrimental influence in as far as experiences and the effects are concerned. The issue of costly expenditures were equally the other challenge that the journalist who covered corruption tendencies in Uganda faced.

For someone to release the story as journalists you will need a secure point as for the affected person to be free to provide information. There are always a lot of worries about transport refund to the point where to capture the story. Moreover the place has to be favorable to make the affected individuals free to share.

It is really difficult for me now...I move but..the costs hidden ...no one can imagine...sometime you have to incur you money...let me wait but I had decided to slow down on corruption coverage ...you transport those offended...[I6]

....there was need spend on those you have to get the story..., like transport ...[I2]

I also had get a good venue...it is costly. .. spending some money to befriend those who fall victims of corruption.. [I7]

**vii. *Need for Life Protection***

Lastly the issue of life protection came out prominent when it comes to the influences of journalistic experiences. The journalist noted that they needed to live for another day yet covering corruption issues live their lives threatened. The findings in addition show scary moments and even make them incarcerated in unknown places retard them into doing any further coverage. This result was also compounded by the fears their families and relatives are in danger. This result demonstrates the need for concerned authorities to design strategies that ensure protection of journalist communities if corruption is to be reduced.

...my life is threatens....someone threaten me...I find it challenging to continue covering corruption in Uganda.....my family is living in fears... I can't tell what I entered... at first was selling and ...yes it is selling news...but some people have been threatening my family... I don't have to say...I may reconsider not going back on the corruption file I was on....[I6]

It is so tiresome... people are alert and those corrupt are watchful... they know us... so scary ...one corruption investigation is tiring I feel like not continuing...[I3]

..I am not having a lion's heart.... I will not prefer one...the situation and life inside the coolers [incarcerated]...I can't manage...my relatives are considering getting me another job...or I stay home... if you know someone who moves in fear...you got me I

am even scared of you...you may be corrupt also ...someone called me to back off if I am still wanting to live... I may not continue my friend... [I1]

I3]

..The court summons...I was charged in court for security breach....It is costing me time and get questions from my children...I can't tell...now doing this journalism...it is not easy to say anything now

In conclusion, the foregoing result shows how important it is to put in place mechanisms that minimize resource hindrances and protect the life of journalists if they are to continue to cover corruption.

## Chapter Five

### Discussion of findings

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a discussion of the findings from the study which assesses the journalists' experiences and practices in covering corruption in Uganda.

#### 5.2 The experiences journalists face in covering corruption in the *Daily Monitor*

This study had its first objectives as understanding the experiences journalists face in covering corruption in the *Daily Monitor*. The study found that the covering of stories related to corruption as helpful experiences more specifically being informative and the other a learning experience. These findings are quite similar to what was earlier reported by the Conversation Africa (2018) in which the covering of corruption was a helpful experience in serving as a turnaround fortune that have made journalists unearth some levels accountability in addition to transparency. It is also in line with what Sieh (2013) that the establishment of investigative journalism in post-war Liberia, covering corruption tendencies has led to indictments of corrupt officials in addition to the cancellation of fraudulent concession agreements.

#### 5.3 The challenges journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption

The current study as its second objective was set to explore the challenges journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption. Challenges as being institutional incarceration, threats of law suits and equipment destruction. These results are much similar to what was earlier reported by Feinstein and Starr (2015) that institutional apparatus within the system needed to be checked as it is borne of consequences of incarcerating journalists without clear cause. They are much similar to what was earlier found by Shieh (2013) that the reporting

on corruption especially on political figures resulted into incarceration on journalists inclusive of house arrests in Liberia. The current findings concur well with what Ghai (2023) who indicated that other than threatening journalist via the phone calls, whoever is involved in covering corruption stories is faced with adverse intimidation. The results are much similar to who Adude (2023) found when he reported renowned journalists to have served arrested and faced imprisonment after covering and releasing information about corruption.

The current study also found fear for life as the individual challenge faced in the course of covering corruption instances in Uganda. These results compare well with what was found by Englund, Johannesson, and Arnberg (2023) who reported main challenges in Haiti as being traumatic when covering corruption issues. This results is equally similar to what was found by Transparency International (2020) in which journalists quite pay a high cost including death. The results are much similar to what Simpson et al. (2006) that based on public witnesses covering journalism in extreme situation results in trauma and inhumanity on part of the journalists in the United States of America.

#### **5.4 The influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues**

The last objective of this study was to explore the influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues by the *Daily Monitor* Journalists. The current study found mixed results one being an enhancing influence in which the issue of anti-corruption support and discovery push amongst the journalistic positively encouraged them towards remain in the journalistic practice. These results are similar to what was earlier reported by the USAID (2022) that covering of corruption tendencies that are a threat to economic equity by journalists served a crucial role that further efforts of the journalists involved. They are similar to what was echoed by OECD (2018) that journalists will continue

efforts of unearthing corruption tendencies that have feasible results in as far as accountability and transparency issues are concerned. These results are equally at par with the contentions of the European Parliament (2022) which indicated investigative journalism as uncovering what is hidden in regard to way corruption is committed within the European setting. The current result equally compares well with what Englund, et al. (2023) had indicated that covering journalism served as an eye-opening experience both individually and in the eyes of the public.

The study however found unfavorable influences specifically the limitedness in the resources to easily undertake the coverage of corruption instances and also the need for life protection for themselves and those of the family members and friends. These results are similar to what was earlier found by Puente et al. (2013) that limited resources alongside logistic difficulties render journalists covering extreme conditions dismayed. The findings similarly aligns well with what was found by van der Hoeven and Kester(2020) that negative consequences including death of journalists as driving forces limiting continued journalism.

### **5.5 Theoretical Framework Discussion**

The theoretical framework of this study was grounded in the "Chilling Effect" theory and the "Agenda-Setting" theory, which respectively explore the impact of potential repercussions on journalistic activities and the media's role in shaping public discourse. The findings from this study, particularly the experiences and challenges faced by journalists at the *Daily Monitor* in Uganda while covering corruption, align with these theoretical perspectives.

The "Chilling Effect" theory was evidenced through the experiences of fear, threats, and actual physical harm encountered by journalists. These experiences, as per the findings, have a tangible impact on the willingness and ability of journalists to cover corruption-related stories, thereby inhibiting free speech and investigative journalism. This aligns with Barendt et al. (2005), who posited that fear of repercussions can dissuade journalists from reporting on

certain topics. The instances of equipment destruction, law suit threats, and even physical harm and incarceration, all serve as deterrents, potentially reducing the vigor with which journalists might pursue corruption stories.

Conversely, the "Agenda-Setting" theory, which emphasizes the media's role in prioritizing issues and thereby shaping public perception and discourse (McCombs and Shaw, 1972), is reflected in the *Daily Monitor's* persistent efforts to uncover and report corruption despite the challenges.

In conclusion, the journalists, despite facing numerous challenges, continue to play a pivotal role in bringing corruption issues to light, thereby influencing public discourse and awareness regarding corruption in Uganda.

## Chapter Six

### Conclusions and Recommendations

#### 6.1 Introduction

The conclusions are made as per the specific objectives that understand the experiences journalists face in covering corruption in the *Daily Monitor*, exploring the challenges journalists in the *Daily Monitor* face in covering corruption and exploring the influence of journalistic experiences on journalistic practice in covering corruption issues.

#### 6.2 Conclusion(s)

The study concludes that journalists covering stories related to corruption are faced by helpful experiences that are informative and permit learning.

Journalists faced bi-dimensional challenges that are either institutional that's institutional incarceration, law suits alongside equipment destruction or individual more specifically fear for life.

The discovery push is crucial in designing interventions for continued journalistic practice in Uganda.

Journalists at the *Daily Monitor*, while striving to fulfill their role as watchdogs and inform the public about corruption in Uganda encounter a myriad of challenges and experiences that are both inhibiting and enabling. The inhibiting experiences, such as threats, physical harm, and legal challenges, align with the "Chilling Effect" theory, potentially reducing the efficacy and frequency of corruption reporting. On the other hand, the enabling experiences, such as learning and informative experiences, and the persistent efforts to set the public agenda against corruption, resonate with the "Agenda-Setting" theory.

The study underscores a complex environment within which journalists operate, balancing between the ethical and professional obligation to inform the public and the inherent risks and challenges associated with such reporting.

### **6.3 Recommendation(s)**

#### **I. Enhancing Journalists' Safety**

Implementing strong mechanisms to safeguard journalists against physical harm, threats, and legal challenges.

Establishing a protective legal framework that shields journalists from punitive lawsuits and other legal repercussions related to their investigative work on corruption.

#### **II. Strengthening Investigative Journalism**

Providing training and resources to enhance the investigative skills of journalists, enabling them to uncover and report corruption with minimized risks.

Establishing collaborations with international media and investigative journalism networks to facilitate knowledge and resource sharing.

#### **III. Supporting Media Houses**

Ensuring that media houses, like the *Daily Monitor*, have the necessary financial and logistical support to effectively cover corruption.

Developing mechanisms through which media houses can be compensated or subsidized for the financial burdens incurred during investigative reporting.

#### **IV. Public and Civil Society Engagement**

Engaging the public and civil society organizations in safeguarding journalists and advocating for free speech and transparent reporting.

Establishing platforms through which the public can safely and anonymously share tips and information related to corruption with journalists.

## **V. Policy and Regulatory Framework**

Advocating for policies that ensure transparency, accountability, and access to information, thereby facilitating investigative journalism.

Engaging policymakers and regulatory bodies to ensure that laws and regulations are conducive for free and fearless journalism.

## **VI. Psychosocial Support**

Providing psychosocial support and counseling services for journalists who encounter traumatic experiences in the line of duty.

Implementing programs that address the mental and emotional well-being of journalists, ensuring they are psychologically fortified to navigate the challenges of corruption reporting.

### **6.4 Areas of Further Research**

#### ***Expanding Media Platforms***

Investigate the experiences of journalists across diverse media platforms, including television, radio, online media, and freelance journalism, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and experiences encountered in various media environments when covering corruption.

#### ***Retrospective Journalistic Experiences***

Conduct research that delves into the historical and retrospective experiences of retired journalists, exploring the evolution of challenges and experiences over time, and identifying

patterns, changes, or consistencies in the journalistic landscape, especially in covering sensitive topics like corruption and political issues in Uganda.

### ***Mixed-Methods Approaches***

Employ a mixed-methods research approach in future studies to amalgamate quantitative data, which could provide a scalable measure of the challenges and experiences of journalists, with qualitative data to offer in-depth insights and contextual understandings of their experiences in covering corruption.

### ***Comparative Studies across Geographical and Political Contexts***

Undertake comparative studies that explore the experiences of journalists in different geographical regions and political contexts within Uganda, to discern whether regional disparities or political climates influence the nature and extent of challenges faced by journalists.

### ***Impact of Technological Advancements***

Explore how technological advancements and digital platforms have influenced the experiences of journalists in uncovering and reporting corruption, considering aspects like information accessibility, digital threats, and online harassment.

### ***Legal and Ethical Dilemmas***

Investigate the legal and ethical dilemmas faced by journalists in their pursuit to uncover and report corruption, exploring how legal frameworks and ethical considerations shape, restrict, or facilitate their journalistic practices.

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**Appendices**

**Appendix I: Work Plan**

Activities	Time period								
	Jan- Jun - 2022	Jul- Aug- 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Feb 2023	May 2023	June2023	July- Sept2023	Nov-2023
Research Topic Identification & Approval									
Report writing& development									
Report Approval									
Research report submission									

Research report REC approval									
Pretesting of Research Instruments									
Data Collection									
Data analysis & presentation									
Report Submission									

*Table 1 showing the Work Plan*

## **Appendix II: Budget**

<b>NO</b>	<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT COST</b> /=	<b>TOTAL</b> <b>COST</b>
01	Stationery	-	-	50,000/=
02	Typing and Printing	-	-	100,000/=
03	Binding	3 Copies	5,000/=	15,000/=

04	Transport and Communication	-	100,000/=	200,000/=
05	Meals and accommodation	- -	230,000/=	230,000/=
06	Internet Services	-	-	200,000/=
07	Language Translators	1 -	20,000	20,000/=
08	Masks and Sanitizers		50,000/=	50,000/=
09	Miscellaneous expenses	-	-	200,000/=
10	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,065,000/=</b>

*Table 2 showing the budget.*

## Appendix III: In-depth Interview Guide for the Journalists

### Introduction:

Dear respondent, my Name is Nanyondo Lydia, a Master's Student of Journalism and Media Studies at Uganda Christian University, undertaking a study to assessing journalists' experiences and practices in covering corruption in Uganda. You have been particularly selected to be the right candidate to support the research for data needs given for your exposure in covering both previous and if present issues to do corruption tendencies. Please, be in the know that your participation is highly voluntary and at no point will your identity be disclosed at any point of time. You are also free to withdraw your participation at any time. The responses you will provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality for academic purposes only.

**Would you like me to proceed this process?**

---

Thank you for accepting to respond to this study.

1. To you, what do your understanding of the term "Corruption?"
2. Please basing on your experience in media, how do you describe corruption in Uganda?
3. As a journalist working with this media house, what processes have you been going through in an effort to covering corruption instances in Uganda? Probe
4. How do you describe the experiences you've encountered in the process of covering corruption instances in Uganda? Probe

5. Are there moments in time when you have felt challenged in covering corruption instances in Uganda? Please explain more about the challenging moments

6. How have you always handled challenging situations in the event of covering corruption instances in Uganda?

7. Which changes have you experienced that you attribute to the challenging situations you encounter in your covering in covering corruption?

8. Describe a case in which you have had to change the way you cover corruption issues given the challenging situations you encountered? How did you go about it?

*Thank you*, we have come to the end of this interview, is there anything more you would like to say about covering corruption as a media personnel?

If not, I am indeed thankful for your informative responses.

**Thank you for your time.**

**Appendix IV: Consent Form****Name of department:*****Title of the study:***

I confirm that I read and understood the purpose of the study and I am willing to participate in the above study as per (indicate the date)

I understand that the study is voluntarily and that I can withdraw from the study at any point I feel uncomfortable.

I understand the information provided will remain confidential and no information will identify me.

I consent to participate in the above study and use the information provided for academic purposes.

I agree/not agree to take part in the above study.

Name of participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sign \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix V: Thematic Results

Codes	Sub Themes	Main
<b>Experiences of journalists regarding covering of corruption instances</b>		
<p><i>One of the persons who was conned of money for a public service, informed me that under the driving permit is where the money passes. This was really informative [11]</i></p> <p><i>I know...now you just go as if you also need a service...many people stand around waiting to connect you but you have to pay ...addition through them [14]</i></p>	Informative	Helpful
<p><i>..if you want to get information on corruption, ....you just have to keep around the place ...not once not twice....come be with me I was told [15]</i></p> <p><i>I was able to learn from the field of the use of the local and work team itself regarding the corruption. They are able to bring out more well [16]</i></p>	Learning experiences	
<b>Challenges faced by Daily Monitor journalists' when covering corruption</b>		
<p><i>The places are several .....there was no space but you find yourself inside,... one room, with many others[13]</i></p>	Institutional Incarceration	Institutional challenges

<p><i>... the law enforcers are used ....instead of doing what is right.../ They are everywhere you know[I4]</i></p> <p><i>... someone called me...somewhere..... after sweet talking me ...I was threatened and all over a few days they filed a law suit on me[I5]</i></p>	<p>Law suit threats</p>	
<p><i>..the cameras were destroyed ....even the other machines .. it was horrible[I4]</i></p> <p><i>..You may have audio recording ...all is damaged if they come to know of it....especially while on scene ...but they can follow to offices [I7]</i></p>		
<p>There are agents they will go and look for you ....biting you [I]</p> <p>...I was almost killed...someone choked me ...the cameras and the audio recording were taken...I felt I was dying.. I]</p>		
<p><b>Journalistic corruption coverage influences</b></p>		

Codes	Sub Themes	Main themes
<p><i>The way the local citizens cry out for support ...to have their corruption grievances voiced....they say they are tired. It makes me keep going to see to it that all becomes well...even some public officials ... invite us in and support us by hiding us ...they want the exposure so that they deliver... they love the Ugandans ...[14]</i></p> <p><i>...I can't imagine being corrupted...I was provided with explanations that were helpful. I could not stop supporting the institution...[12]</i></p>	Anti-corruption support	Enhancing influence
<p><i>I can't wait to learn...uhuu you learn a lot...people have money...that money is not theirs...one time it comes out....showing me how it is done has really helped me to bring out that truth. ...to keep covering the issues...[12]</i></p>	Discovery Push	
<p><i>It is really difficult for me now...I move but .. the costs hidden ...no one can imagine...sometime you have to incur you money...let me wait but I had decided to slow down on corruption coverages ...you transport those offended...[16]</i></p> <p><i>.....there was need spend on those you have to get the story..., like transport ...[12]</i></p>	Resources hindrance	Unfavourable influences

<p><i>I also had get a good venue...it is costly. .. spending some money to befriend those who fall victims of corruption.. [I7]</i></p>		
<p><i>...my life is threatens....someone threaten me....I find it challenging to continue covering corruption in Uganda.....my family is living in fears... I can't tell what I entered... at first was selling and ...yes it is selling news...but some people have been threatening my family... I don't have to say...I may reconsider not going back on the corruption file I was on....[I6]</i></p> <p><i>It is so tiresome... people are alert and those corrupt are watchful... they know us... so scary ...one corruption investigation is tiring I feel like not continuing...[I3]</i></p> <p><i>..I am not having a lion's heart.... I will not prefer one...the situation and life inside the coolers [incarcerated] ...I can't manage...my relatives are considering getting me another job...or I stay home... if you know someone who moves in fear...you got me I am even scared of you...you may be corrupt also</i></p>	<p>Life Protection</p>	<p>Life Protection</p>

<p><i>...someone called me to back off if I am still wanting to live... I may not continue my friend... [I1]</i></p> <p><i>I3]</i></p> <p><i>..The court summons...I was charged in court for security breach....It is costing me time and get questions from my children...I can't tell...now doing this journalism...it is not easy to say anything now</i></p>		
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*Table 3 showing the Thematic Result*



# UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF RESEARCH & POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

## DISSERTATION CORRECTION COMPLIANCE REPORT BY THE CANDIDATE (POST VIVA FORM)

Date: .....15th May 2024.....

Name of Candidate: .....Nanyondo Lydia..... Reg. No: RS17M42/002.....

Title of Dissertation .....Journalists Experiences in Covering Corruption in Uganda: A Case Study of the Daily Monitor Newsroom.

SN	COMMENTS BY EXTERNAL EXAMINER	ACTION TAKEN	INDICATOR
1	Overall Structure and Presentation  Generally, the research paper is structured according to the standard requirements set out in the university research manual. However, a general weakness relating to language and expression is noted throughout the document. This has affected the logical flow of ideas across the various chapters and	This has been corrected	Eg. Cover page

	generally compromised its quality. It is advised that the document be subjected to thorough language editing to ensure it conforms to basic grammar rules and that the discourse generally is academic.		
2	Chapter One		Page 1, etc corrected
2.1	- The background section of chapter one would have benefitted from reference to specific cases of corruption reported by the Monitor newspaper or other media in Uganda, the ensuing public debates generated by such coverage, and the experiences of the journalists who reported on such stories.	In 1993, Daily Monitor Newspaper started investigative reporting with Charles Onyango Obbo breaking news on a scandal of an attempted acquisition of more than 400 Anti-tank missiles by the government of Uganda. The government’s response to the story resulted into Daily Monitor not revealing their source of information for other corruption stories thus the stories could not to be accredited, hence frustrating the journalists. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug)	Page 3 section 1.1 second last paragraph
2.2	- Intext citation of material from online sources- for instance, the reference to Ugfacts.net is problematic and should be corrected in line with the APA style guidelines.	The researcher selected Daily Monitor for study purposes as per the study of an international website tracker, “...the Alexa.com stated that since 2009 Daily Monitor has been and remains most visited Ugandan website of any kind receiving more traffic than its main rival the New Vision.” Therefore, making Daily Monitor a preferable media house for research. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug)	Page 3 section 1.2
2.3	- General expression, clarity, and articulation of ideas throughout this chapter is problematic. For instance, this sentence, which forms the core of the problem statement is completely incoherent: “The covering of corruption-related issues by the media plays a highly contributing role increasing public awareness and hostility	It is only known that lack of access to crucial government material and information by government operatives limits the community and the journalists from getting the information they need to back up the corruption outrages elevated (Rasool, 2023). This is because the information given to them may be inappropriate, or the official consultants may choose not to work together and release it out to the journalists thus makes their work a bit sluggish	Page 4 section 1.3

	towards corrupt behavior..”	(Mughal, 2023).	
2.4	- The problem Statement is vague, and not clearly articulated to point to the actual intentions of this study.	Done in 2.3	Page 4 section 1.3
2.5	- Objectives- There is a need to number them appropriately for neatness and clarity	The objectives were done according to the UCU Research Manuscript 2018	Refer to Internal Examiner final assessment in table section 2
2.6	- Theoretical framework- this section in chapter one should be moved to chapter two where the literature review is presented. Given the topic and the objectives of this study, the two theories: chilling effect and agenda setting are appropriate	The Theoretical framework has been moved to chapter two (Literature review)	Page 13 to 14 section 2.6
3	Chapter 2		
3.1	- Pp.9; There is no need to provide a detailed definition of who a journalist is, in the context of this study. This information is unnecessary.	This section has been deleted	
3.2	- Generally, the discussion of various studies on the subject of media and coverage of corruption is not clearly and assertively linked to the key questions of this study.	Chene (2009) reported that those in power have showed signs of unfairness to the private media and has put regulations to limit their media freedom. There have been various occasions where journalists have been agitated when opposing those in government. Indeed, to Sabano (2020), there is inconsiderate treatment of journalists covering corruption which plants a bad seed in the journalism career and makes it risky while practicing it. Sabano further argues that journalists who cover corruption in Uganda operate under threats, loss of lives and even deaths or are usually silenced and punished	This is covered in page 8 and as well on pages 9,10 and 11 confirming that the experiences and challenges in this paragraph are inline with the research questions of this study.

		while leaving those in scandals in high places free. This is also reported by Ojara (2023) who reported that covering sensitive issues such as corruption is not only life threatening and harassment but also results in equipment confiscation alongside denial of justice.	
3.3	- No conclusion is provided at the end of this chapter to assist the reader in visualizing the key issues being canvassed and or even the gaps from the literature if any that the study hopes to address.	In conclusion, this framework and the experiences and challenges journalists faced while covering corruption will guide the exploration of the complexities and dynamics involved in journalistic practices amidst adversities in corruption reporting.	Page 13 section 2.6
4	Chapter 3		
4.1	- The chapter lacks coherence. There is a need for clarity in expression and to focus the discussion on the salient issues of methodology that require attention.	This approach was chosen because it permits generation of an in-depth understanding of a complex research problem as noted by (Cresswell et al., 2014). Therefore, this approach would generate in-depth data from the journalists who covered corruption in the Daily Monitor newsroom.	Page 14 section 3.1 revised
4.2	- Basic language expression is problematic and has greatly compromised the quality of this work. See expressions like this on Pp. 15, “The journalists studied on...”	The Researcher obtained data from Daily Monitor Newsroom. This Media house is located at 8th street Namuwongo road Industrial Area within Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. The Daily Monitor Media House was chosen because it is a privately owned media house and the journalists interviewed gave the researcher unbiased responses and its more popular. Besides, it is the only leading competitor of the pro-government owned media house called the New Vision.	This has been revised page 14 section 3.2
4.3	- Several cases of unsupported/unsubstantiated assertions such as, “The Daily Monitor Media House was chosen because it had a high number of	The researcher selected Daily Monitor for study purposes because it was noted by an international website tracker known as the Alexa.com that since 2009 to date Daily Monitor remains the most visited	Page 14 section 3.2 has been revised.

	journalists that have been seen to be involved in covering issues of corruption”	Ugandan website getting more traffic than its main competitor the New Vision. Therefore, making Daily Monitor a preferable media house for research. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug)	
5.	Chapter Four		
5.1	- Varied data is presented and discussed. However, no attempt is made to show how these experiences impact journalism, especially in the context of the media’s role in agenda- setting. What specific aspects of journalism practice are impacted and in what specific ways? One would expect concerns such as censorship and journalistic independence to come up in these interviews.	<p>On the other hand, the "Agenda-Setting" theory, introduced by McCombs and Shaw (1972), underscores the media’s role in shaping public perception and agenda by prioritizing certain issues, in this case, corruption. This theory will be pivotal in understanding how the Daily Monitor, through its journalistic practices, influences public discourse and awareness regarding corruption in Uganda. (This has been addressed as seen below)</p> <p>Some of the respondent Journalists of Daily Monitor noted that the cry from the local citizens makes them to push for further coverage on corruption issues. They noted that they were moved by the need for the under voiced to bring out their grievances for better services. (This connects with the media setting agenda in the public discourse)</p>	<p>Page 12 to 13 section 2.6</p> <p>Page 28 section 4.4</p>
5.2	- The chapter ends rather abruptly and without a conclusion section where the researcher can provide a snap view of the issues canvassed and their impact on journalism.	In conclusion, the foregoing result shows how important it is to put in place mechanisms that minimize resource hindrances and protect the life of journalists if they are to continue to cover corruption.	Page 31 section 4.4 has been revised
6.	Chapter 5		
6.1	- The discussion in this chapter is linear and quite simply presented in the sense that each set of findings seems to easily agree	The result of this study is the data collected from the respondents. There were no contradicting responses	

	with the cited literature. Given that this is a qualitative study, one would expect, nuances in the discussion, including, for instance, points of contradiction in terms of the views expressed by different respondents and the implications this has on the general understanding of the topic at hand.	from the respondents.	
6.2	- This section also ends rather abruptly without a concluding section.	Inconclusion, the journalists, despite facing numerous challenges, continue to play a pivotal role in bringing corruption issues to light, thereby influencing public discourse and awareness regarding corruption in Uganda.	Page 35 section 5.5 is revised
7.	Chapter Six		
7.1	- In terms of presentation, the various recommendations should be numbered	The recommendations have been numbered	Page 37 to 38 section 6.3
7.2	Similarly, provide a concluding section to chapter five.	Inconclusion, the journalists, despite facing numerous challenges, continue to play a pivotal role in bringing corruption issues to light, thereby influencing public discourse and awareness regarding corruption in Uganda.	Page 35 section 5.5

SN	COMMENTS BY INTERNAL EXAMINER	ACTION TAKEN	INDICATOR
1	The structure is systematic, and it follows the UCU revised research manual. The major exception is chapter 4 whose title deviates from the one in the manual.	Positive comment, however chapter four has been renamed to presentation and interpretation of findings according to the UCU Research Manual	Page 23
2	Chapter 1		Page 1, etc corrected
	The candidate was able to identify a researchable gap. However, she did not clearly explain why Daily Monitor was chosen as a case study. You can talk about how it started as a breakaway paper by journalists who left Weekly Topic which was owned by three government ministers. They wanted to exercise editorial freedom which was under threat in the Weekly Topic. You can mention some of the big stories they broke in the 1990s which compelled government to slap an advertising ban on them. This would be a strong justification for your case study.	<p>In 1993, Daily Monitor Newspaper started investigative reporting with Charles Onyango Obbo breaking news on a scandal of an attempted acquisition of more than 400 Anti-tank missiles by the government of Uganda. The government's response to the story resulted into Daily Monitor not revealing their source of information for other corruption stories thus the stories could not to be accredited, hence frustrating the journalists. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug) This is why the researcher chose the Daily Monitor Journalists for the study.</p> <p>The researcher selected Daily Monitor for study purposes as per the study of an international website tracker, "...the Alexa.com stated that since 2009 Daily Monitor has been and remains most visited Ugandan website of any kind receiving more traffic than its main rival the New Vision." Therefore, making Daily Monitor a preferable media house for research. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug)</p>	<p>Page 3 section 1.1 second last paragraph</p> <p>Page 3 section 1.2</p>
3	Chapter Two		
3.1	The candidate has surveyed the relevant literature. The literature review is also well segmented with appropriate	This chapter has been edited accordingly	Page 7 to page 13

	headings to sections. However, the chapter needs thorough editing.		
4	Chapter Four		
4.1	However, in the UCU research manual, chapter 4 is titled “Data Analysis, Presentation and Interpretation of Results”. Please make that adjustment unless if you have a strong reason to justify your choice.	Chapter 4 has been renamed according to the UCU research Manual	Page 23
5	Chapter Six		
5.1	The conclusions and recommendations are a fair summary of the presented data. However, this chapter also needs editing and sentence reconstruction especially the conclusions.	This chapter has been edited	Page 36 to page 38

SN	COMMENTS BY VIVA VOCE PANNEL	ACTION TAKEN	INDICATOR
1	Provide overview of the population and detail on how the respondents were selected		e.g. Cover page
1a.	Population overview	The accessible population were 62 news reporters in the Daily Monitor newsroom. However, the study population consisted of those journalists who had covered corruption and consented to be interviewed. The study excluded journalists who had covered corruption in the Daily Monitor Newsroom and were unreachable because they were on leave or out of the country.	page 15 of chapter 3 section 3.3

1b	Selection of respondents	By snowball sampling technique	Methodology (Chapter 3) page16 section 3.4.1 and sampling page 15
2	Reference specific areas of coverage that the journalists you surveyed specialize in.	The journalists that I surveyed are from the Daily Monitor newsroom and in all news categories such as health, education, finance, and many others. Each journalist can get a whistle blower on a corruption scandal. Therefore, all journalists in the newsroom both male and female can cover corruption in each government office.	Page 15 study population section 3.3 has been revised accordingly
3	Why Daily Monitor was chosen not New Vision or Observer	<p>In 1993, Daily Monitor Newspaper started investigative reporting with Charles Onyango Obbo breaking news on a scandal of an attempted acquisition of more than 400 Anti-tank missiles by the government of Uganda. The government's response to the story resulted into Daily Monitor not revealing their source of information for other corruption stories thus the stories could not to be accredited, hence frustrating the journalists. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug) This is why the researcher chose the Daily Monitor Journalists for the study.</p> <p>The researcher selected Daily Monitor for study purposes as per the study of an international website tracker, "...the Alexa.com stated that since 2009 Daily Monitor has been and remains most visited Ugandan website of any kind receiving more traffic than its main rival the New Vision." Therefore, making Daily Monitor a preferable media house for research. (www.Daily Monitor.co.ug)</p>	<p>Page 3 section 1.1 second last paragraph</p> <p>Page 3 section 1.2</p>
4	You failed to include voices or shared experiences on corruption to provide a more comprehensive understanding, even if they are not directly named in	The voices and characters are included in the report and as per confidentiality consent form signed between the researcher and interviewee that's all I could provide	Page 23 to 30 in the results and page 54 to 56 in the appendix

	the study		
5.	Assertions were based on common sense assumptions rather than concrete data	The data that I collected in this study from journalists in the Daily Monitor Newsroom was mentioned in chapter four of the findings and it even included voices of some journalists which is evident that the information collected was not assumption but real-life experiences that the journalists in the Daily Monitor faced while covering corruption	Page 23 to 30 in the results and page 54 to 56 in the appendix
6.	What is Saturation	Saturation Point is when the interviewees give no more new responses to the interviewer. Creswell (2013)	Page 16 section 3.4.2 (This section has been revised accordingly)
7.	The analysis lacks depth	The data analysis used was an inductive thematic approach where themes were developed as seen in the results	Page 23 to page 30 and page 54 to page 56 of Appendix
8.	Incorporating additional literature would enhance the study's comprehensiveness and the literature should be connected to the discussion of the findings	The literature review was discussed as per research objective as well as the theoretical framework	Objective one: the discussion was on page 31, section 5.2 and the literature review page 9.  Objective two: the discussion was on page 31 -32 section 5.3 and the literature review is on page 9-11.  Objective 3: discussion was on page 32-33 section 5.4 and literature review page 11-12.  Theoretical framework page 34 section 5.5

			and the page 12-13
9.	Supervisor's comment-Let the dissertation be in APA writing style	This has been edited to APA writing style	

Nanyondo Lydia

Professor James Kiwanuka-Tondo

.....  
Candidate's Name                      Signature

.....  
Supervisor's Name                      Signature