

# MONGOLIAN MEDIA SITUATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> Central Asia Media Conference

Ms. Gunjidmaa Gongor CEO of the Media Council of Mongolia <u>gunjidmaa@mediacouncil.mn</u>

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### **BRIEF CONTENT**

- Mongolian media situation overview
- Media regulatory framework (positive and negative impacts)
- Media Freedom in times of the COVID-19 crisis
- Effects of Media self-regulation, best practices, and challenges



# Mongolians are guaranteed ...

- Freedom of expression
- Free and open media system
- Diversity and Privatization
- Media mandatory legislation

BUT!!!



### **MEDIA DIVERSITY**



Newspapers 84 /8 daily/



**Magazines 73** 



Television channels 140



News website 140



Radio 51



Facebook users 1.2 million

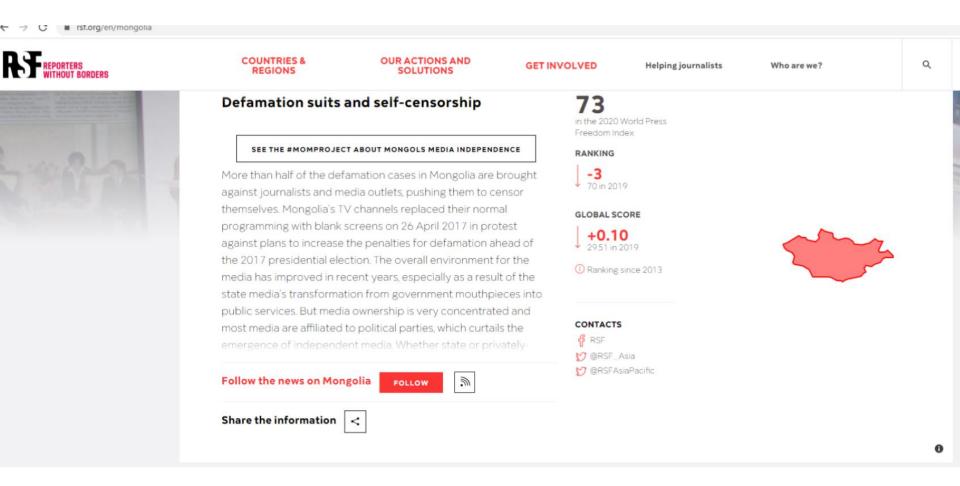


## MEDIA PRIVATIZATION

## MEDIA OWNERSHIP



# Mongolia is one of the countries that NOTICEABLE PROBLEM as for Press Freedom Index (Rank 73/180)





# LEGAL ENVIRONMENT IN MONGOLIA



### Positive outcomes;

- The constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression and information
- Media Freedom Law 1998
- Public Service Broadcasting Law 2005
- Freedom of Information Law 2011
- Broadcast Law 2019
- National Anti-corruption Program: legal protection of journalists and confidential journalistic sources between 2017-2023



# LEGAL ENVIRONMENT IN MONGOLIA

### Negative outcomes; expectations;

- No restrictions regarding media concentration and media ownership
- Dissemination of false information is a criminal offense
- No legal guarantee of editorial independence
- No regulations concerning the protection of confidential sources of journalists
- Excessive secrecy provisions



### LEGAL REGULATIONS IN TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC

- ☐ Criminal Law: 13.14 Dissemination of False Information (Jan 13, 2020)
- □ Law on the Prevention and Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic and Decreasing negative impact on society and economy (Apr 29, 2020)
- □ Law Amendments on the Extreme Situation and Law on Disaster Prevention (May 4, 2020)
- ☐ Law Amendment on Administrative Offence (May 2020)



## A CHILIING EFFECT ON THE MEDIA FREEDOM

- **The COVID law** prohibits to disseminate "false information" and obliges "true and objective information" from a reliable source" (Art. 14.2)
- **Law on Disaster Prevention** prohibits the dissemination of obviously false information through both Journalistic Media and Social Networks (Art. 10.4.13)
- If breaching those laws shall be responsible under the Criminal Law and Law Administrative Offence (Art. 5.13)
  - Punishment: fine (app.USD 175 -1750)
- Criminal Law 13.14 "Dissemination of False Information"
  - Punishment: fine (app.USD 250 -460), community service works (240-720 hours) and restriction of right to travel (1-3 months)



#### "Does Covid-19 restrain freedom of media?"



### Free information flow during the COVID-19

Case 1. Mongolian Government's Daily COVID-19 Press Briefing Since January till today



# Election Campaign amid of COVID-19





Case 2. Monitoring on Election Candidates' Facebook Promotion during the Election Campaign

June 02-22, 2020

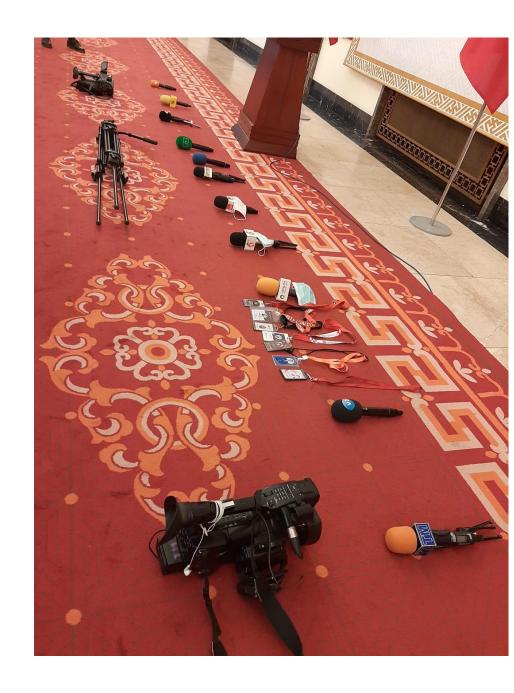




# Lack of access to information

Case 3. The group of journalists' struggle for press freedom and the right of access to information during the COVID-19 crisis.

August 26, 2020





# Case 4. A unit to combat false information might be set up at the General Office of Police

## "Дутуу ойлгосноо цахим орчинд тараадаг байдлыг таслана"





### EFFECTS OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION IN MONGOLIA



GREETING I REPORT I ABOUT I



HOME

CODES AND PRINCIPLES ♥

REGULATIONS

MAKE A COMPLAINT ~

**RULINGS** ~

**CONTACT US** 

#### MEDIA COUNCIL OF MONGOLIA ESTABLISHED

Established in early 2015, as result of the successful collaboration of journalists, media houses, industry, journalist associations and professional media organizations, the Media Council of Mongolia (MCM) is the independent regulator for the printed press, broadcast media and journalistic online media in Mongolia. We uphold the highest standards of journalism by monitoring and maintaining the standards set out in the Mongolian Media Ethics Principles. Central to the core aims of the MCM is to support freedom of the media by assisting media houses and journalists follow professional and ethical journalistic standards in order to serve the public interest. We do this principally by providing a free and impartial complaints process for the citizens of Mongolia.





Continue

#### NEWS





ЕС ЗҮЙН ХОРОО ШИЙДВЭРЭЭ ГАРГАЛАА



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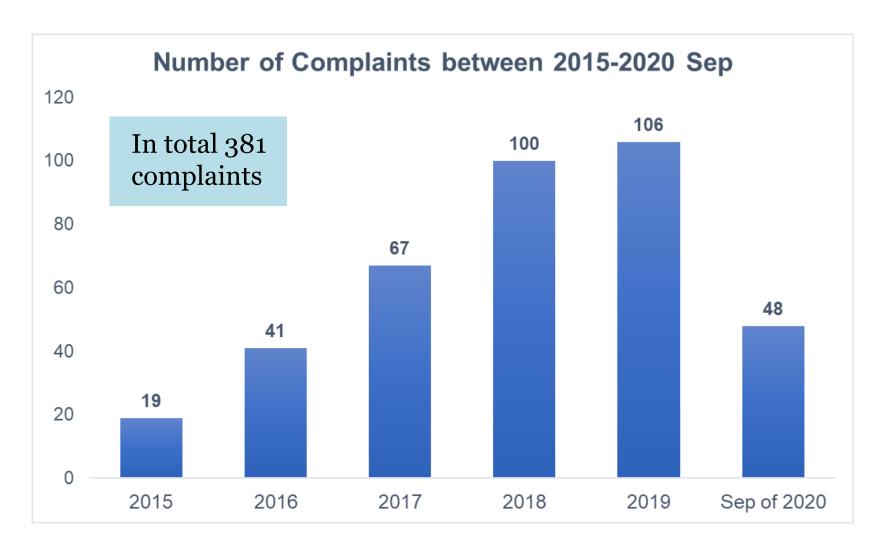
#### **BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION:**

### a) Promotion of Code of Ethics



- (Code Art. 1) Ethical
   principles always remind
   Mongolia's journalists of
   their obligation to check
   the accuracy of the
   information they distribute
   and to exercise care to
   avoid accidental errors
- (Code Art. 2) Journalists should name their sources whenever feasible and check their reliability

## **BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION: b) MCM's Complaint Resolution and Correction**



### **BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION:**

### c) Editorial Guidelines for News Rooms



Editorial Policy Guideline on Online Platforms includes in;

- Hate Speech
- Social Media
- Dis/misinformation
- Fact-Checking

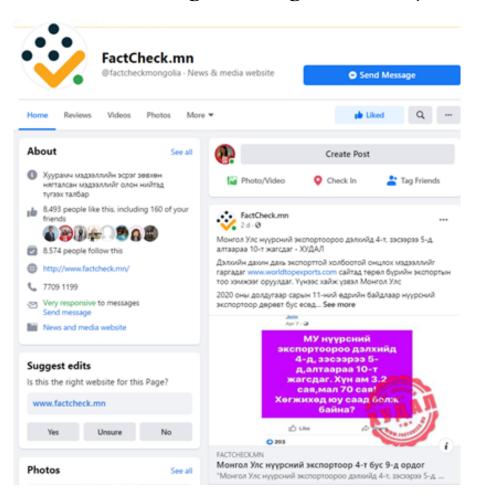


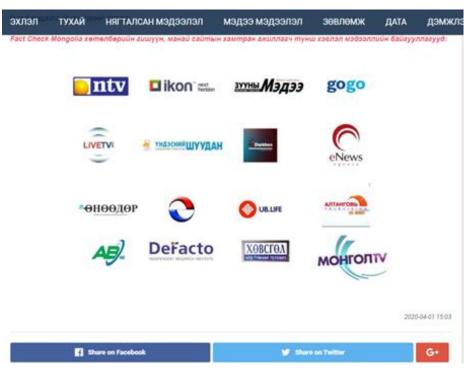
Editorial Policy Guideline on Ethical Election Reporting includes in;

- Ethical Reporting
- Right to Know
- Balanced Reporting
- Legal Framework

### BEST PRACTICE OF MEDIA SELF-REGULATION: d) Alliance of Fact Check Mongolia

Can Mongolians fight with dis/misinformation through self-regulation?







### CHALLENGES FOR MEDIA SELF-REGULATION DEVELOPMENT

- Understanding the significance of media self-regulation for decision-makers and journalists
- Strengthening of public awareness
- Attempts of legalizing media self-regulation body
- Accepting of complaint decisions for media houses
- Ensuring financial sustainability



# Thank you for your attention!

#### **Contact with us:**

Website: www.mediacouncil.mn

Email: <u>info@mediacouncil.mn</u>

FB account: Хэвлэл мэдээллийн зөвлөл

**Contact:** 976-11-70000160