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## News 24 TV Station Inspected on News Story

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Inspectors from Commissioner for Personal Data Protection paid a visit to News 24 TV on January 17, upon a request made by Audiovisual Media Authority. The aim of the visit was that of an administrative inspection. The inspection resulted from a story the television had broadcast on January 7, featuring the case of a woman that claimed she had been physically abused by her husband and son. The inspectors demanded clarifications on this story, asking to see all necessary documents for the story the TV station had broadcast.

The news department responded that the journalist that did the interview or the TV station did not give out any information without permission and even followed up with an interview when the alleged victim of abuse declared that when the TV asked if she wanted to tell her story on TV and give an interview, she did so with her full will. Hence, the news station considered this inspection in breach of the law.

On January, AMA approved the “Regulation on the procedures of inspection of activity of audiovisual media services providers.” This was with the aim of completing legal framework for audiovisual media. The regulation sets rules for inspection for monitoring and punishing violations on matters such as broadcasting rights, inability to pay dues and meet legal requirements, and failure to meet the standards regarding human rights, privacy, children’s rights, etc. The regulation states that AMA is entitled to control all programs broadcast and request contracts on broadcasting rights and other information that audiovisual media possess. The regulation was meant to reduce the phenomenon of piracy and ethical violations.

For several months after approval of the new law on audiovisual media, AMA has drafted a series of regulations that seek to complete the law and facilitate its implementation in practice. While some of these regulations have been blocked due to the ongoing legal dispute between AMA and digital multiplexes, AMA has carried on with the other

regulations, seeking also opinion of stations and other stakeholders. However, as AMA has emphasized continuously, reaction and feedback has been very scarce. Moreover, in a context when AMA's ability to make decisions in view of the lack of quorum, as the ruling majority claims, the validity of approval of these regulations can also be challenged.

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