Constitutional Court Ruling No. 18 - 19/2563 (2020)

President of the House of Representatives 41 Members of the House of Representatives

Applicant

Respondents

Constitution, section 98(3) and section 101(6).

Section 98(3) of the Constitution prohibited an owner or shareholder of a newspaper or mass media business from exercising the right to apply for candidacy in an election of Members of the House of Representatives, and section 101(6) provided that the membership of a Member of the House of Representatives terminated if a person had a prohibited characteristic under section 98. On the day of application for candidacy in the election of Members of the House of Representatives, the businesses of 29 respondents were not businesses of providing media for transmission of news, messages and contents to the public which were capable of conveying meaningful materials to the general public. The 29 respondents therefore did not engage in a newspaper or any mass media business pursuant to section 98(3) of the Constitution. Hence, the House of Representatives membership of all 29 respondents did not terminate under section 101(6) in conjunction with section 98(3) of the Constitution.