

Manila Times Readers Urged to Read the Announcement on New Editorial Standards

The Manila Times has released a set of updated editorial guidelines that will take effect immediately, marking a significant shift in how the newspaper handles sourcing, corrections, and reader submissions. The move comes as part of a broader effort to maintain transparency and trust in an era of rapidly changing media consumption. Readers and industry observers are encouraged to read the announcement in full to understand the specific changes and how they will affect daily reporting.

The new standards focus on three core areas: source verification, correction protocols, and reader engagement. For the first time, the newspaper will require all reporters to use a standardized attribution format for anonymous sources, including a reason for anonymity. This change is intended to reduce the use of unnamed sources while still protecting whistleblowers and vulnerable individuals. The correction policy has also been overhauled. Under the new rules, any factual error that changes the meaning of a story must be corrected within 24 hours, and the correction must appear at the top of the online article. Print corrections will run in a dedicated box on page two of the following day's edition.

Why the Change Now

The decision to update these guidelines was not made in isolation. The Manila Times conducted a six-month internal review of its editorial processes, surveying both staff and a sample of regular readers. The review found that while readers generally trust the newspaper, confidence in the accuracy of individual stories has declined over the past two years. The editorial board determined that a public commitment to higher standards was necessary to reverse this trend. The review also identified a gap in how the newspaper handles reader feedback. Under the new system, every submitted correction or complaint will receive a response within 48 hours, and those that lead to a change will be acknowledged in the article itself. This is a direct response to reader demand for more accountability.

Key Changes at a Glance

- Standardized format for citing anonymous sources, including a mandatory reason for anonymity.
- 24-hour correction window for online articles; print corrections on page two.
- 48-hour response time for all reader-submitted corrections and complaints.
- New digital-first fact-checking team that will review high-profile stories before publication.

- Quarterly public reports on the number and nature of corrections issued.

These changes are not merely procedural. They represent a cultural shift within the newsroom. Reporters and editors have undergone training sessions on the new guidelines over the past month, and the initial feedback has been positive. Many staff members have said they welcome the clarity that the new rules provide, particularly around handling sensitive sources. The newspaper has also invested in a new content management system that will flag potential factual discrepancies before a story is published. The system is currently in beta testing and is expected to be fully operational within 90 days.

Impact on Readers and Subscribers

For the average reader, the most visible change will be the new correction boxes at the top of corrected articles. These boxes will include a brief summary of the error and the corrected information. The newspaper hopes this will reduce confusion and prevent the spread of misinformation based on outdated versions of articles. Subscribers will also receive a monthly email digest highlighting the most significant corrections and clarifications issued during the previous month. This is part of a broader effort to make the editorial process more transparent. The Manila Times has also updated its ethics policy to explicitly prohibit the use of AI-generated text in bylined articles without disclosure. This policy applies to both staff writers and freelance contributors. The newspaper has stated that any violation of this rule will result in immediate termination of the contributor's contract.

Industry analysts have noted that while many newspapers have adopted similar policies piecemeal, few have done so as comprehensively as the Manila Times. The combination of source verification standards, a mandatory correction timeline, and reader engagement protocols is rare in the Philippine media landscape. This could set a new benchmark for other outlets in the region. The newspaper has also announced that it will host a public forum on media ethics in Manila next month, inviting readers, academics, and journalists from other outlets to discuss the new guidelines and their implications. Readers are encouraged to [read the announcement](#) for details on how to attend or submit questions in advance.

Technical Implementation

The new editorial standards are supported by a technical infrastructure that includes a centralized fact-checking database. This database will store all corrections, source verifications, and reader interactions in a searchable format. Reporters will be able to query the database to see if a source has been used before and whether any corrections have been issued regarding that source's information. The database is designed to be tamper-proof, with every entry time-stamped and attributed to a specific editor. The Manila Times has stated that

the database will be made available to academic researchers upon request, further reinforcing its commitment to transparency.

The newspaper has also updated its style guide to reflect the new standards. The style guide now includes detailed instructions on when to grant anonymity, how to word corrections, and how to handle reader complaints. All journalists are required to sign an acknowledgment that they have read and understood the updated guide. The editorial board will review the guide annually and publish any changes. This ensures that the standards evolve with the industry and with reader expectations.

Looking Ahead

The Manila Times has not set a specific timeline for further changes, but the editorial board has indicated that the new guidelines are just the beginning. Future updates may include expanded coverage of under-reported topics, increased use of data journalism, and more interactive features for readers. The newspaper is also exploring partnerships with fact-checking organizations to further strengthen its verification processes. For now, the focus is on implementing the current changes effectively and gathering feedback from readers and staff. The newspaper has set up a dedicated email address for questions and suggestions about the new guidelines. Readers are welcome to write in, and every message will be read by a member of the editorial team. The Manila Times views this as an ongoing conversation, not a one-time announcement.

The editorial board has expressed confidence that these changes will improve the quality and reliability of the newspaper's journalism. While no system is perfect, the board believes that the new standards represent a meaningful step forward. Readers who wish to understand the full scope of the changes are encouraged to read the announcement on the Manila Times website, where the complete text of the updated editorial guidelines is available for download. The newspaper has also published a FAQ section that addresses common questions about the new policies. The response from the public so far has been largely positive, with many readers praising the newspaper for its willingness to be transparent about its processes.