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# Myanmar's first sex education magazine banned

WITH its photos of scantily clad women and advice on bedroom secrets, Myanmar's first sex education magazine has proven a step too far for the country's censors who have banned it from publication.

*Hnyo* was pulled after just one issue because it was deemed to have ventured beyond its remit as a "fashion" magazine, its editor Ko Oo Swe said yesterday.

It is the first publication to have its licence revoked since the end of decades of military rule in early 2011.

*Hnyo* — which translates as "enchant" or "hypnotise" — was among the more risqué publications to emerge after the abolition in August of pre-publication censorship that was a hallmark of life under the former junta.

Information Minister Aung Kyi said *Hnyo* had gone too far by publishing "near pornography", according to the *New Light of Myanmar*, an official English-language daily.

A further six publications — *Media One*, *The Farmer*, *Ad World*, *Myanandar*, *High Speed Car*, *New Blood* and *Aesthetics* — were warned



DISALLOW: 'Hnyo' has got the usually demure nation hot under the collar as it cashes in on new-found cultural freedom — AFPpic

that some of their content was "irrelevant" and would be monitored for one month, the report said.

Myanmar's media have begun to blossom under a new quasi-civilian government, feeding huge demand from a population hungry for information after years of restrictions.

Private newspapers will be allowed to publish daily from April 1, further easing a censorship regime that until

last year required everything from fairytales to song lyrics to be submitted in advance for scrutiny.

Ko plans to appeal the censor's decision. He hopes to boost his magazine's social content with a greater focus on issues such as HIV prevention, prostitution and tackling violence against women.

"I am now trying to apply for a new licence as a health magazine," he said. — AFP