

MISA ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Mission Statement

MISA is a dynamic, member driven regional organization with national chapters coordinated by a professional regional secretariat which seeks – through monitoring, training, capacity building, research and the distribution of information- to foster free, independent and diverse media throughout southern Africa in the service of democracy and development as stated in the Windhoek Declaration and the African Charter on Broadcasting.

Vision Statement

MISA's vision is of a southern African region in which the media enjoys freedom of expression, independent from political, economic and commercial interests, pluralism of views and opinions. Our vision is of a region where members of society, individually or collectively are free to express themselves through any media of their choice without hindrance of any kind. A region too, where access to information must be unhindered and where information is readily available.

The MISA vision is:

- A media that is free, independent, diverse and pluralistic
- Access to the media and information by all sectors of society
- Media workers who are competent, critical, accountable, sensitive to gender issues and are aware of their responsibility to society
- Legislation, regulations and policy environments that support media independence, diversity and pluralism
- Citizens in the SADC region that are empowered to claim information as a basic right.



GLOSSARY

CREDITS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summery	4
Freedom of Expression & Right to Information.....	6
Media Freedom Monitoring	9
Broadcasting and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)	23
Media Support.....	31
Media Law and Policy.....	40
Communication and Dissemination.....	44
Implementation and Monitoring.....	50
Financial Report (DRAFT)	53



EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

MISA was created over 15 years ago with the mandate to fight for freedom of expression and media rights in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This mission has not changed. Now in the second year of the Strategic Partnership Programme 2 (SPP2), MISA has made significant progress in each programme towards the attainment of a more plural, diverse and independent media environment.

The call for the Right to Information took center stage in MISA at both national and regional levels in the past year. The most notable milestone in the campaign for the Right to Information was the greater awareness and growing understanding of the indispensability of the Right to Information by policy makers. The Right to Information has become a recurring or indeed a pending item on the law reform agenda and whose urgency can not simply be wished away. The Right to Information permeated policy discussions and legal processes within civil society and government, attested in countries like Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania. This is a major positive shift compared to previous years where the call for the right to information was detested and brushed aside under the veneer of national security concerns and in conflict with privacy rights. MISA noted an increase in interest and understanding of Access to Information as an essential tool for effective governance, particularly for those countries (all in theory) in the fight against corruption in public institutions.

However, the biggest draw back constituted sudden unexplained indecisiveness and cold feet from policymakers in moving the process from political rhetoric to concrete tangible actions. This was the cases in Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi where suddenly the legislative process stalled. In Zimbabwe despite our vigorous battle to repeal AIPPA, the situation remained stagnant if not worse.

MISA intensified its campaign for diversity and liberalisation of the airwaves in Southern Africa under the Broadcasting and ICTs programme. The major challenge of state ownership and control of national broadcasters in the region saw the focus of the campaign being the transformation of such broadcasters into public service broadcasters. The highlight of this transformation initiative were national conferences which brought together stakeholders and policy makers and set the tone for lobbying. The campaign was also enriched by research on the state broadcasting sector and news content analysis in some state broadcasters which provided direction on where to focus the broadcasting reform initiatives.

MISA's campaign efforts registered successes in countries like Botswana and Swaziland. In Botswana the regulatory authority awarded three more national broadcasting licenses, ending the monopoly of the state broadcasters. Legislators also sent back a draft broadcasting bill which did not fully guarantee transformation. In Swaziland, the government drafted a very progressive Public Service Broadcasting bill which gave a lot of optimism for transformation in that country.

MISA also continued its support for community media. Highlights of this campaign included the South African



Chapter drafting a handbook on community television; the Lubombo Community Radio Initiative broadcasting for two days on a special license in Swaziland; and two community radio initiatives registered as trusts in Zimbabwe.

At policy level MISA continued to lobby for the drafting of democratic broadcasting legislation and policies, independent regulatory authorities, access to information communication technologies by ordinary members of the public, and support for broadcasters in readiness for Digital Migration from analogue

MISA made some progress towards self regulation in SADC. The Malawi chapter managed to revive the country's media council and launched it in February 2007 after it had been dormant for almost 10 year. The media alliance of Zimbabwe of which MISA is a member managed to launch the Media council of Zimbabwe at the end of the year under review although with threats from the government.

The fight for freedom of expression is not solely on the political or legal arena. HIV/AIDS also affects journalists and media practitioners and their ability to realize their freedoms and rights. Stigma associated with this disease is still very present in the media industry in southern Africa. Thus, MISA has designed and begun implementing its Regional HIV/AIDS policy. The policy is now being adopted by each of our eleven Chapters and will be integrated into MISA's organizational structures. It will ultimately be recommended to media houses in the region. This will help to ensure that journalists themselves are taken care of if affected or infected by HIV/AIDS. It will also help journalists understand the necessity of increasing coverage on HIV/AIDS related issues.

With all the above mentioned initiatives at government and social levels, MISA needs strong communication (internal and external), and publicity strategies. The communication and disseminations strategy received was strengthened at the end of the reporting year when the Communication Policy was approved. The policy will further augment the organization's internal and external communication activities. The website is regularly updated with Media Alerts on freedom of expression violations across SADC and other information relevant to our various stakeholders. Mailing lists have grown and therefore reach a wider group of stakeholders. MISA continued to publicize media freedom and freedom of expression issues through the mainstream print and electronic media, and through its various publications both at national and regional level.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & RIGHT TO INFORMATION



Members of civil society and the public in Namibia marching to the Zimbabwean Embassy in the country's capital Windhoek to present a petition condemning brutal attacks on journalists, opposition and civil society leaders who were attempting to attend a scheduled prayer meeting in Harare in March 2007.

“All information held by public bodies
is public in principle”
OSJI

1. Freedom of Expression & Right to Information

1.1 The Right to Know in 2006

Inaction and ambiguity would best describe most governments' attitude towards the right to information in 2006 in Southern Africa. Zambia and Malawi are examples where the right to information legislative halted after a sudden unexplained sluggishness from government. This lassitude is also witnessed in Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique. In fact a former Zambian information minister is on record bragging that Zambia was in no hurry to pass the freedom of information bill when Britain an ancient democracy had just passed theirs as recent as 2005.

The Tanzanian government introduced an ambiguous Freedom of Information Draft bill in December 2006 which was unanimously rejected by Tanzanian civil society, describing it as 'fraudulent and not in the interest of access to information'. If passed into law, which government was very keen on, it will join the ranks of Zimbabwe's AIPPA of 'Maximum exemption, minimum disclosure'

On a positive note, the Namibian government was a breath of fresh air when it drafted an information policy at the end of January 2007, a progressive document with provisions to amend the constitution to guarantee the right to information. The information policy recognizes the right to information not only as a fundamental right, as well as a tool for fighting corruption. In Botswana the call for right to information legislation is gaining momentum and receiving attention from policy makers

1.2 Milestones

1.2.1. Greater awareness

One of the major highlights for the right to information campaign for the period in review has been the growing awareness of the right to information by policy makers and civil society. There has been a growing understanding of the indispensability of access to information in advancing good governance, fighting corruption and participatory democracy. This is a big development compared to 2003 where access to information was hardly known and perceived as anti government and in conflict with national security and rights of individual privacy.

1.2.2. Support from MPs

The right to information received overwhelming support from members of parliament from both ruling and opposition parties. This was the case in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. A prominent Zambian opposition party went as far as promising to enact right to information legislation within 90 days if voted into power during the 2006 elections.

1.2.3. Influencing Law Drafting Process

The Right to Information featured prominently on the law reform agenda of several countries. The Namibian government developed a progressive information policy committed to right to information and invited greater input from civil society. The rejection of the Tanzanian government Freedom of Information draft bill of December 2006 by civil society led the government to form a task force to review the draft bill. A critique of the Swaziland Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Draft Bill was presented at meetings with stakeholders and government, a re-draft of the bill is currently underway with technical support from the commonwealth secretariat.



1.2.4. International Right to Know Day

MISA for the first time joined the rest of the world to celebrate the international right to know day on September 28. MISA Mozambique and Swaziland used the day to launch a review of the state of right to information in the respective countries.

1.3 Lessons Learnt

1.3.1. Weaknesses

A research was undertaken in 2006 to assess and review lessons learnt during the three year pilot of MISA's Right to Information campaign formerly known as the ASK campaign. Except for Angola, all 10 countries in which MISA operates were reviewed. One of the listed major weaknesses of the campaign was the lack of a coherent advocacy strategy, limited resources and inadequate organizational capacity to carry an effective campaign. Furthermore the campaign's narrow focus of Right to Information being a political Right could not draw a wider support from public and civil society. Right to information was perceived as a concern for the media rather than a social economic issue affecting all citizens. (For further information on the findings a full copy of the review is available in hard copy.)

1.3.2. Opportunities & Threats

The findings of the study provided MISA a great opportunity to redesign a new advocacy strategy to include greater public participation by shifting emphasis of the Right to Information to a social-economic right affecting people's access to other rights like health, education and employment. The biggest threat and challenge to the campaign are lukewarm commitment from policy makers and deep engrained culture of government secrecy. The former points to the lack of belief and reluctance of policy makers to enact right to information legislation, perhaps due to insufficient resources and capacity or most likely the fear that such a law will result in their inherent loss of power.

1.4 Way forward

The right to information remains one of MISA's highest priorities for 2007/2008. The biggest challenge for the campaign is to build public pressure on the call for the right to information. This will only happen when we convince the man on the street that the poor education system, the bad roads, the poor public services, corruption, the shortage of medicine, the poverty surrounding him are due to lack of access to information and that unless the right to access information is legislated, life will remain the same.



MEDIA FREEDOM MONITORING



Formers Chairperson of MISA Zambia, Kellys Kaunda, looking through a copy of the So This Is Democracy?: State of Media Freedom in Southern Africa 2006 after its launch.

“For the capacity of people, to express their opinion
freely, the media is very important”
Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa

2. Programme Objectives

The media in southern Africa emerged battered and bruised from a year of sustained pressure. A new level of vigilance for the protection of media freedoms and fundamental free expression rights was required of the media during 2006, particularly in South Africa where not a single month passed without the media having to go to the courts to defend its right to keep the public informed.

The murders of two Angolan journalists, Augusto Sebastiao Domingos Pedro of the state-owned Jornal de Angola and Benicio Wedeinge of Televisão Pública de Angola, remain unsolved. Official investigations are slow and, while authorities are convinced that these are random incidents unrelated to the work of the journalists, the incidents have left an indelible mark on the psyche of Angolan journalists.

Therefore, in response to the ongoing onslaught on media freedoms and free expression in the SADC region, MISA continues to implement its monitoring strategies focuses fundamentally on exposing such violations and developing rapid mechanisms for practical response on targeting campaigns.

2.1 Media Freedom Monitoring

The Media Freedom Monitoring programme has developed a sharper programme focus on direct support to media workers and institutions that fall victim to media freedom violations. Whilst the active work of monitoring from a gender perspective, documenting and exposing media freedom violations will continue, much more emphasis is being placed on pro-active engagement with civil society, governmental and inter-governmental actors to ensure that a more conducive environment is created where journalists can practice their profession without fear of intimidation.

In so doing, the Programme has implemented a two-pronged strategy, i.e. raise consciousness on the role of the media, the need for civil society actors to respect and protect media and freedom of expression rights, whilst also equipping journalists with skills on how to optimally fulfil their role.

A fundamental strategy of MISA's advocacy work in this programme is to monitor violations of media freedom and the right to information and expose the violations with the aim of galvanising support from national, regional and international organisations that support and fight for media freedom. Over the past twelve years (since 1994) MISA has monitored and produced publications on media violations.

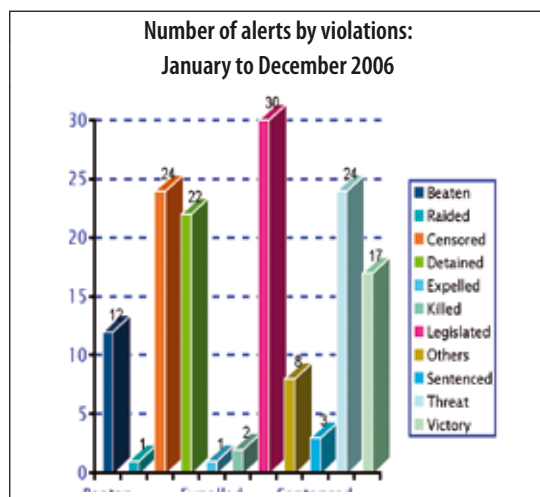
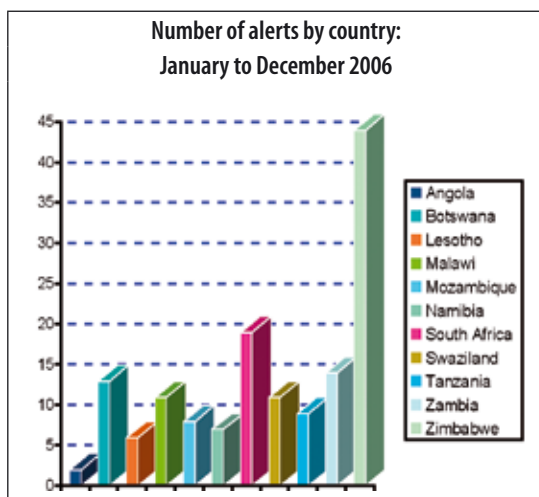
In its efforts to monitor and expose media freedom violations, MISA has over the years developed strong ties with important regional and international partner organisations that have provided support, exchange of ideas and solidarity. Many media freedom organisations hail MISA's success in the field and rely on MISA for the action alerts it issues.

2.1.1 Media Freedom Monitoring Statistics

In 2006 the state of media freedom in southern Africa varied: there were positive steps in Malawi, but a gradual deepening of oppression in Zimbabwe. In most of the 11 Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) chapter countries a status quo of either a generally free media environment or restricted media was maintained.



Between January and December 2006 MISA recorded a total of 144 media freedom and freedom of expression violations against individual journalists and institutions in the SADC region. This represented a decrease by 11 (or 7,6 per cent) from the previous year's 155.



2.1.2 Trends in 2006

Since the turn of the 21st century, Zimbabwe has led the pack in terms of the number of violations recorded. The status quo remained intact in 2006 despite an initial optimism following the departure of Professor Jonathan Moyo, the architect of Zimbabwe's harsh media laws. It soon became apparent, however, that Moyo's successor, Dr Tichaona Jekonya, was not an agent for change. In fact at the time of his sudden death in July 2006, he had filed an affidavit opposing the application for registration of the Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe (ANZ), publishers of the banned Daily News and Daily News on Sunday.

Unlike previous years, there was a significant increase in violations in South Africa, largely due to a number of high profile court battles that captured the attention of the region.

The epic Jacob Zuma trial received unprecedented media coverage and commentary, which did not go unnoticed by the presiding Judge Willem van der Merwe, who in his judgment chastised those who had breached the subjudice rule.

"I have no problem with fair comment and the media's duty to keep the public informed of important matters," he said. "What is, however, disconcerting, is the fact that some pressure groups, organizations and individuals found the accused guilty ... without knowing what the evidence is and long before all the evidence was presented."

In so doing, Judge Van der Merwe set the tone for what was to follow: a barrage of civil defamation claims by Zuma against a long list of publishers, editors, newspaper titles, reporters and a cartoonist for their coverage and comment on his rape trial.

2.1.2. Free speech or hate speech?

During 2006 cartoons, as a form of social commentary, stirred great controversy throughout the region, especially in South Africa and Mozambique.

In an unfortunate judgement for media freedom, the Johannesburg High Court granted an interim interdict against the Sunday Times and Independent Newspapers, prohibiting the publication of controversial Danish cartoons that depicted the Prophet Mohammed.

The court ruled that the cartoons should not be published because they would harm the dignity of Muslims and of Mohammed. Analysts warn that by granting relief not to identifiable individuals, but to a group of persons distinguishable only by their religion, the court gave unprecedented and potentially dangerous recognition to a concept of "group defamation" that had not been adopted previously in South African law.

Whilst the issue did not reach the courts in Mozambique, the Supreme Mass Media Council (CSCS), the watchdog body established under the Mozambican constitution and the 1991 press law, pronounced that the publication of the cartoons in the Savana newspaper was in breach of the Mozambican Press Law.

The CSCS based its conclusion on Article 4, which states that the media should contribute to national unity, to the defence of national interests and to the promotion of democracy and social justice. It also cited article 28, which calls on journalists to respect the rights and freedoms of citizens, and not to incite, directly or indirectly, hatred, racism, intolerance, crime and violence.

Although Savana issued a formal apology for any offence the publication of the cartoons may have caused, Moslem leaders continued to demand the sacking of the paper's director, Kok Nam, and its editor, Fernando Goncalves.

In the final analysis, even many of those outraged by the cartoons unwittingly made a powerful point in favour of free speech by disseminating chain e-mails with the cartoons attached, to illustrate just how offensive the cartoons were. This shows the folly of banning the publication of the cartoons: what better way to highlight the racism of the Danish authors of the cartoons than by allowing the cartoons to be freely disseminated and commented upon?

2.1.3 Legislation

All countries in southern Africa are at some stage of media law reform. Such developments are painfully slow and have not always yielded the envisaged results. In view of this journalists and media freedom activists are compelled to be even more vigilant in promoting and protecting media freedom and free expression rights.

In an already repressive media environment where such laws as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) remain firmly entrenched in the statutes, Zimbabwean authorities tabled the Interception of Communications Bill 2006 (passed in June 2007). It empowers the chief of defense intelligence, the director-general of the Central Intelligence Organization, the Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner General of the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority to intercept telephonic, e-mail and cellular telephone messages.



In a similar move the Botswana government indicated its plans to bring to parliament a Bill on Intelligence and Security Services. Free expression advocates have already raised alarm that the draft bill concentrates power in the head of state, which many view as dangerous for the country's democracy.

On February 2 2006, Angola's National Assembly approved a new press law, which entered into force on May 15. The law regulates the activity of media companies and professionals in television and radio broadcasting and in the written and electronic press.

Given the Angolan government's poor record in protecting freedom of expression, the press law is especially crucial in the current pre-election period to ensure that the press can report freely in the run-up to national elections, tentatively scheduled for 2007.

Notwithstanding this, the new law still contains elements that fall short of international human rights standards. It defines certain conduct as "criminal" in unclear and sweeping terms, and establishes excessive penalties for those crimes, including defamation; it includes provisions that may result in excessive limitations on media freedom; and it provides for the establishment of licensing procedures for private television and radio broadcasters that are largely subject to the discretion of governmental bodies.

In addition, too many key principles and procedures of the law are left for further implementing laws and regulations and no transitional arrangements are defined to address problems that may arise in the application of the law pending adoption of the implementing legislation. The lack of such laws and regulations makes several provisions of the new press law largely inoperable.

The debate around South Africa's Film and Publications Act is set to proceed in 2007. Media freedom watchdogs have warned that print and broadcast media could be the subject of strict censorship if changes to the act proposed by the home affairs department became law.

The Film and Publications Act regulates films and publications by censorship, and currently has a clause that exempts the news media from its provisions, enabling print and broadcast news to operate without interference.

The proposed amendment includes bringing news media under the act, which means both print and broadcast media would be subjected to the dictates of the Film and Publications Board, a censorship body. As such the effect of the amendment would be the subjection of the media to prepublication censorship.

2.1.4 Putting our houses in order

The preoccupation of governments in SADC with perceived declining professional media standards — a clear attempt to exert more control over the media — was reported throughout the region. Such threats were most evident in Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland and, while they should not translate into a frantic rush for the formulation of codes of ethics and establishment of self-regulatory bodies, such mechanisms do ultimately benefit the media and potentially regain deteriorating levels of public confidence in the sector.

In Zimbabwe, despite attempts by the government to impede the launch of a voluntary media council, journalists have expressed their commitment to a process that began in 2005, spearheaded by the Zimbabwean Union of Jour-



nalists (ZUJ) under the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ). The MAZ alliance unites MISA Zimbabwe, the Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe and the National Editors Forum and ZUJ.

In contrast, the prospects for unity over issues like a code of ethics and a media council remains in doubt in Namibia. This despite recurring indications by government that it would consider legal controls if the media did not 'put its house in order'. In order to head off further calls for controls on the media, it is imperative for the media to introduce an ethics code and start regulating itself.

MISA firmly believes that there is a link between the social environment in which journalists work and media freedom. This link is recognized by the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which at its 2005 General Conference included the right to decent working conditions as part of the enabling environment for media freedom and allocated resources to support work in this area. The Bellagio Statement also explicitly recognized this link between living standards and working conditions to media freedom.

Attempts in Botswana, Malawi and Swaziland to resuscitate journalist unions should therefore be supported.

2.2. A Gender Perspective

The 2006 AIDS Epidemic Update from UNAIDS states that HIV infection is growing, as is the number of deaths due to AIDS. A total of 39.5 million people were living with HIV in 2006 – 2.6 million more than in 2004. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to bear the brunt of the pandemic, with two-thirds (63 per cent) of the world's adults and children with HIV living in the region. One-third (32 per cent) of all people with HIV globally live in southern Africa and 34 per cent of all deaths due to AIDS in 2006 occurred there. Gender inequality is a key factor fuelling the pandemic, with women and girls being the worst affected and infected.

These statistics reveal that southern Africa has a crisis that needs to be addressed and put on the media agenda once more. Media coverage of HIV and AIDS and its gender dimensions gives one the impression that there is no serious cause for alarm.

2.2.1 What the statistics tell us

The media's coverage of the pandemic is perceived to be low and superficial as evidenced by research conducted in 2005 under the Media Action Plan (MAP), which is coordinated by the Southern African Editors' Forum (SAEF). Media analysis company Media Tenor also conducted research from January to December 2006 that looked at the coverage of AIDS in South Africa and Namibia. The conclusions drawn from these two pieces of research agree that the media is largely ignoring HIV and AIDS and that the gender dimensions and other major drivers of the pandemic were insufficiently reported.

In the MAP study, a total of 118 media houses were monitored in 11 Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that saw 37 001 news items monitored over one month in 2005. Out of these news items, only three per cent focused on or mentioned the pandemic. The study further revealed how the SADC media covers the pandemic and its gender dimensions.



People living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHIV) constituted a mere four per cent of sources for all news items, compared to 42 per cent of government officials and officials representing international organizations. PLHIV were most often used as sources in Swaziland (10 per cent), Tanzania (seven per cent) and South Africa (six per cent). In Malawi no PLHIV were used as sources in the period under review.

Despite the disproportionate burden of the pandemic borne by women, who constitute the highest proportion of those living with HIV as well as provide most of the care, they constituted only 39 per cent of sources overall. Men's voices dominated in all topic categories, except for care.

The bulk of the coverage (40 per cent) centered on prevention but issues such as sexual power relations, mother-to-child transmission, intergenerational sex, gender-based violence and cultural practices as sub-topics of prevention received limited coverage.

Care and support received a mere 16 per cent of total coverage. Within this topic category, orphans and vulnerable children received the greatest attention, with home-based care (often a euphemism for unpaid women's work) receiving only minimal mention.

In the area of treatment, the media focused on anti-retrovirals (32 per cent) and the medical aspects of AIDS (27 per cent), while positive living, the role of nutrition and where to go for help received only marginal mention. The impact of the epidemic received a mere five per cent of coverage, suggesting that the media still views HIV and AIDS as a health rather than a developmental matter.

2.2.2 The challenge of ethical reporting

The media has a responsibility to promote a human rights approach to editorial coverage that gives a voice to women and men, people living with HIV and all interest groups, and challenges stereotypes around HIV and AIDS and its gender dimensions. This is what ethical and diverse reporting means.

As opinion shapers, the media has tremendous influence in society. People rely on the news and information presented in the media, and what becomes newsworthy often forms part of the public agenda. The media may not entirely change behavior, but through sustained reporting of the pandemic, it can create the necessary impact in terms of awareness and behavioral change. It can play a critical role

HOW DOES MAP WORK?

The Southern African Editors' Forum (SAEF), which comprises representatives from the national editors' forums of countries in the SADC region, is the overall coordinator of MAP. The HIV & AIDS and Gender Mainstreaming Committee of SAEF works in partnership with organizations in the region that promote freedom of expression and media professionalism in the implementation of MAP.

Lead agencies coordinate the work of the different sub-sectors, including raising funds for, and managing activities. The sub sectors and lead agencies are:

- Newsroom policies: Gender Links and MISA through GEMSA;
- Ethics: AED;
- Training: PANOS;
- Research and monitoring: MMP;
- Information and Resources: SAFAIDS.

The lead agencies convene reference groups comprising the various partner organizations. These include: the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, Gender Links, Gender and Media Southern Africa Network (GEMSA), Institute for the Advancement of Journalism (IAJ), Inter Press Service (IPS), Media Monitoring Project (MMP), SADC NGO Consortium, SAFAIDS, Wits School of Journalism, Zambian Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM), Rhodes University, NSJ. SAEF will annually convene the Media Partners Consultation where feedback will be provided on progress made in achieving the objectives of the Media Action Plan (MAP).

in reducing stigma and discrimination, and create a greater understanding of the wide range of socio-economic and gender factors that fuel the spread of the virus.

The lack of enthusiasm and ownership from the public in the fight against the pandemic can be blamed partly on the media's inconsistent and superficial coverage that gives the impression that the problem is foreign and 'out there'. In order to redress this, the media needs to change its attitude on the coverage of HIV and AIDS and engage more with people living with HIV. It needs to shift from its dependence on government and NGO pronouncements and make an effort to give the statistics a human face. Through this kind of interaction, perhaps society will take the impact of the pandemic more seriously.

2.2.3 Why the media must take action

There is an urgent need for the media to deal with the pandemic both in-house and externally. While coverage is very important, there is also a need to ensure that media workers are able to deal with HIV and AIDS in their own lives first.

Internally, it is essential for media houses to have policies on HIV and AIDS and gender that will help to create a conducive working environment for employees. The media cannot report positively on the pandemic nor give a voice to those living with HIV if journalists themselves have never been tested for the virus and are ignorant of their own status. In-house policies will assist media workers to be proactive and bring about more openness and support.

The researcher conducting an audit of existing policies in media houses for the MAP HIV and AIDS and Gender Base-line Study noted that some staff were reluctant to provide such information because they considered it to be private. The media cannot claim impartiality, neutrality nor remain aloof in the reporting of something as fundamental as HIV and AIDS and gender. Everyone, including media workers, is affected in some way. There is still a lot of stigma attached to the disease and without any in-house support it is very difficult for media workers to be open about their status.

At a MISA conference in Tanzania in 2004, which addressed the media's coverage of HIV and AIDS in the region, two journalists living with HIV spoke of how their colleagues failed to give them the necessary support due to their own ignorance and the stigma attached to the disease. Three years later little has changed, as only a handful of media workers are open about their status. The intolerance shown by the media to their own colleagues seems to be the same attitude that is being fuelled through the coverage of HIV and AIDS as evidenced by the studies.

It was therefore hardly surprising to learn from the MAP audit that less than 10 per cent of media houses in the SADC region have policies in place to address HIV and AIDS and gender. The creation of a gender-sensitive HIV and AIDS editorial policy is the first step in minimising harm in the dissemination of information and creating a platform for dialogue and discussion on HIV and AIDS and gender within newsrooms. The policies will not only guide the media in its reporting, but will ensure that prominence is given through sustained coverage.



Extract from key data from the findings of the MAP HIV and AIDS and Gender Baseline study in SADC, 2005

QUANTITY OF COVERAGE	% REGION	
	Female	Male
HIV coverage compared to total	3	
HIV mentioned	36	
HIV central focus	64	
WHO SPEAKS		
Women and men – all topics	39	61
Person affected by HIV	4	
Women and men affected by HIV	59	41
People with HIV	4	
Women and men with HIV	44	56
Traditional & religious groups	5	
Women and men traditional and religious groups	18	82
Civil society, NGOs, INGOs	28	
Women and men in civil society, NGOs and INGOs	47	53
Experts	12	
Women and men experts	36	64
Officials/UN agencies	42	
Women and men/UN agencies	31	69
Other	5	
Women and men other	40	60
WHO TELLS THE STORIES		
Original story	77	
Guest writer	5	
Agency	18	
WHO REPORTS ON HIV and AIDS		
Overall	45	55
WHO REPORTS ON WHAT?		
Prevention	39	61
Treatment	56	44
Care	57	43
General	39	61
Impact	39	61
Other	50	50



2.3. The SADC Journalists Under Fire campaign

The SADC Journalists Under Fire campaign is designed to offer immediate and practical support to journalists who fall victim to media freedom violations. It is a rapid response mechanism which comprises of six elements, ie. Information sharing (alerts), direct practical support strategies, research, training and advocacy and lobby elements.

The following activities were undertaken in 2006 as part of the SADC Journalists Under Fire campaign:

Botswana: MISA Botswana provided legal advice to Mokgosi newspaper after the newspaper's editor and reporter were slapped with a P1million lawsuit. The case was withdrawn.

Namibia: MISA Namibia has joined forces with the Namibia NGO umbrella organization, the Namibia Non-Governmental Forum (NANGOF), to develop a media and civil society coalition. In doing so MISA Namibia aims to influence and devise coordinated and joint activities to link issues of media freedom and freedom of expression to the larger socio-economic development agenda.

Swaziland: MISA Swaziland regularly visited the print media to explain MISA's goals and objections and to train journalists on the importance, function and production process of alerts. The chapter has seen an increase in proactive reportage of media violations by the journalists as a result.

Zimbabwe: In 2006 the Zimbabwe government intensified its ban on foreign journalists attempting to work or report from Zimbabwe. This resulted in journalists clandestinely entering Zimbabwe and some of them being arrested. As a result MISA has had to intervene expeditiously to develop a programme response to the crisis. In Zimbabwe alone, 15 journalists were assisted with legal support in 2006.

In the case of journalists Tsvangirai Mukwazhi and Tendai Musiyazviriyo MISA Zimbabwe put pressure on the government to seek the release of the journalists who were arrested while covering an opposition rally. Mukwazhi was badly beaten and had his equipment confiscated and destroyed. The chapter works closely with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights who ensured the release of the two journalists from police custody.

In an attempt to understand the challenges faced by the local media, the chapter held three consultative meetings with journalists in Bulawayo, Bindura and Gwanda. This outreach work is aimed at developing an understanding of the needs of the local media and further provides much needed moral and practical support to the media. During these meetings media practitioners have listed an extensive list of support needs that the chapter endeavors to address.

2. 4. African Media Barometer

At the end of 2006 MISA and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) completed the first round of African Media Barometer (AMB) surveys in the 11 SADC countries where MISA is active. The AMB is an assessment tool of the national media environments. A collective panel of media and civil society representatives assess their national environments according to 42 defined indicators. The benchmarks used are largely lifted from the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights' Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression, adopted in 2002.



Not surprisingly, the Zimbabwe panelists reported on the “fear factor”: “The fear factor is always there – and it is increasing, particularly in the public sphere. Government is determined, to the point of obsession, to increasingly control what people say and do . . . If Zimbabweans say something outside the country presumed to be critical of government, the net could be closing in on them and their passport may be seized”.

South Africans are expressing themselves freely – or so we assume. The revelation in the South African AMB report that there are powerful pockets of fear regarding freedom of expression: political, geographical, institutional and personal, in South Africa was therefore quite an eye-opener. It concludes that such fear results in self-censorship for fear of being labeled, isolated or cut off from resources.

None of the countries under review have a media landscape that rated as predominantly free and independent. In southern Africa, South Africa came closest to this standard. For the rest, a lack of confidence prevails in the national broadcasters, and their relevance in the promotion of participatory development and democratization. National and regional campaigns for broadcasting reform should therefore be prioritized.

All AMB reports are available online at <http://www.misa.org/mediabarometer.html>

2.5. Online Media Freedom Monitoring Tool

In 2005 the programme made substantial progress towards standardizing the monitoring and reporting mechanisms through designing the Online Media Freedom Monitoring Tool (<http://www.freemedia.misa.org/>). The project, which is being developed in several phases, fundamentally to improve MISA's media freedom monitoring capacity.

In addition to standardized submission and easy retrieval and search of the alerts, the content management system creates a database that will include value adding resource documents and data that provide necessary evidence for the Media Freedom analysis.

It is foreseen that the final phase of this project will be completed late in 2007 and will become public at the time when the organization unveils its revamped website.

2.6. Outreach, networking and coalition building

2.6.1 The International Freedom of Expression Exchange

IFEX is a network of 87 freedom of expression organizations that monitors the state of free expression and transmits the information it collects to individuals and organizations around the world. IFEX was born in 1992 when leading freedom of expression organizations came together in Montreal, Canada to discuss how best to further their collective goals.

The IFEX Clearing House is managed by IFEX member Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE), and is based in Toronto, Canada. The Clearing House helps coordinate the work of IFEX members, reducing overlap in our activities and making us more effective in our shared objectives. IFEX is governed by a Council made up of 13 IFEX members.



General membership in IFEX is open to independent, non-governmental organizations working on freedom of expression. MISA served on the IFEX Council in 2006.

IFEX's website plays an extremely important role in the operation and development of the network. All IFEX alerts and the Communiqué are posted in English, Spanish and French (where available) immediately to the website. In addition, links are being created to sources of important free expression research that exists at many groups around the world. Over 2 million visitors access this information by logging onto the IFEX website (www.ifex.org). Both the Communiqué and the alerts are searchable in English, Spanish and French, making the information much more accessible to all those using the site.

2.6.2 Network of African Freedom of Expression Organizations (NAFEO)

MISA is part of a Pan African network of free expression groups which in October 2005 established the Network of African Freedom of Expression Organizations. The network seeks to improve the environment for freedom of expression in Africa over the next decade and has set out an ambitious mandate to tackle a number of the most pressing issues facing African media today, such as working to stop violent attacks and the detention of journalists, putting a stop to the financial pressures exerted on the media and improving the working conditions of media practitioners.

NAFEO will also tackle legal and institutional frameworks, such as repealing criminal defamation laws, and will work towards the enactment of democratic access to information laws in all African countries. Training on professional standards and legal issues, especially with respect to privacy and accuracy and avoiding defamation will also be a part of the network's mandate.

2.6.2.1 NAFEO and the Gambia campaign

With regard to its involvement to the network in 2006 MISA took in a consultative workshop with members of the Gambia Press Union (GPU) aimed at devising a programme of support to the GPU and a specific programme of interventions to improve the free expression environment in the Gambia. NAFEO subsequently launched on May 21, 2007, a campaign for an end to the impunity and violent attacks on media freedoms and freedom of expression generally in the Gambia by the government of President Yahya Jammeh.

The campaign also demands the release of Chief Ebrima Manneh, a journalist arrested without charge or trial by the political police, the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), since July 2006 but whose whereabouts the government and its security deny knowledge of.

2.6.3 Institution and capacity building: Organization des Médias d'Afrique Centrale (OMAC)

MISA participated in the General Meeting of the Central African Media Organisation - Organisation des Médias d'Afrique Centrale (OMAC) at the end of 2006. MISA was particularly invited to share its experiences on advocacy and campaigning in the SADC region. More specifically, OMAC members were interested to learn about MISA's governance processes, organisational structure and programme develop. MISA is committed to rendering future support to OMAC which is currently revisiting its operations and structures in order to better deliver on its mandate.



2.6.4 Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ)

MISA, at regional and national level, continues its support to and direct participation in the activities of the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe, an alliance of Zimbabwean media organizations including the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ), Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe (MMPZ), MISA-Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe National Editors Forum.

Alliance members and stakeholders were involved in a strategic planning workshop for MAZ in November 2006 which again reaffirmed its function as a cohesive and united front in the media support sector in Zimbabwe. A programme of activities were also identified. MISA will continue to support MAZ and its initiatives.

2.6.5 Media Programme Strategy for Zimbabwe

The Media Programme Strategy for Zimbabwe is the result of a process that was initiated by Zimbabwean media organizations in 2003 during the “Let the People Speak” workshop in Harare, organized by key media actors in Zimbabwe jointly with the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NiZA). The workshop was attended by major national, regional and international media organizations who collectively identified the need to launch a collaborative partnership approach to add weight and effectively address challenges facing the media sector in Zimbabwe. MAZ was born out these considerations later in 2004.

As part of this process MISA in 2005 facilitated an international conference on media support strategies to Zimbabwe. The conference played an integral role in identifying priorities for media assistance to Zimbabwe, which have in turn directly fed into defining the objectives and activities described in an overall strategy document.

In addition, the conference highlighted the need for continued collaboration and coordination among national, African and international actors and donors to avoid duplication and ensure the effective and efficient use of the resources available.

As such, a strategy document developed by International Media Support (IMS) outlines two distinct tracks. The first provides for a broad consultative process establishing a continual feedback and refinement process, thereby ensuring that the strategy is up to date and responsive to change. The second will be to prepare specific project documents and activities for interested donors (initially Norwegian authorities), thus facilitating the development of immediate and long-term support packages that falls within the broader strategic priorities. In this regard, the two tracks will allow any interested actor to step in and out of both the consultative process and project implementation tracks, thereby providing for flexible combined engagements based on individual institutional priorities and capacities.

2.6.6. Botswana Civil Society Solidarity Coalition for Zimbabwe (BOCISCOZ)

MISA Botswana continued in 2006 to advocate for the resolution of the Zimbabwean crisis to go beyond the “Silent Diplomacy” position employed by SADC governments. MISA and other stakeholders under the umbrella body named the Botswana Civil Society Solidarity Coalition for Zimbabwe (BOCISCOZ), began by commemorating the first year of Operation Murambatsvina through staging various activities from June 18th July 2-18, 2006.

This was followed by public outcry after the brutal beatings and arrest of peacefully assembled people for a prayer beginning Sunday, March 11, 2007. MISA Botswana individually, as well as BOCISCOZ, issued numerous statements against the Zimbabwean government’s brutality on un armed civilians and challenged SADC to take a sterner



stance against human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. In addition the chapter pressurized the Botswana Parliament to commence engagement with the Zimbabwean government. The Botswana Parliament in fact issued a very strong statement against the crisis in Zimbabwe and called an emergency meeting on the issue in March 2007. A march organized by MISA was also held in Windhoek, Namibia.

2.7. Training and Capacity Building

The greater portion of training and capacity building activities are undertaken in MISA's Media Support programme. However, Programme B continues to facilitate targeted training that ensures a greater appreciation and understanding of media freedom monitoring, human rights monitoring and reporting. In addition, specialized training that advances MISA advocacy activities are also supported in the programme.

2.7.1 African Governance Media Forum VI

MISA partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Reuters Foundation to host a regional Media Forum on the sidelines of the Sixth Africa Governance Forum (AGF VI) in Kigali, Rwanda from 9-11 May 2006.

The Forum was aimed at giving African journalists unique access to the national and regional personalities working to advance the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and to information about the successes and challenges faced so far by individual countries.

The AGF VI Media Forum brought together African journalists from each of the 25 countries that participated in the AGF VI, as well as regional and international reporters based in Africa. The Media Forum sought to address a key challenge faced by the APRM: ensuring that African journalists understand the significance of the initiative, have access to up-to-date information about its progress and recognize the important role the media can play in educating citizens in the region about the APRM and helping ensure its effective implementation.



BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS)



Constituency channel studios, Namibia

“Public service broadcasting is a democratic control,
a watchdog by citizens for citizens and as such cannot,
and must not be ruled by any other executive, legisla-
tive or judicial branch of the society”

*Boris Bergant
Deputy Director General, Radio Televizija, Slovenia*

3. BROADCASTING AND ICTs

The Broadcasting and ICTs Programme continued to lobby for the liberalization of the airwaves, enactment of laws and policies that enable such liberalization and diversity, as well as unhindered access and dissemination of information through broadcasting and ICTs. An overview of the current broadcasting landscape in Southern Africa shows that radio remains a powerful and most accessible medium and there has been a significant growth in the private commercial radio sector. However this has not been matched by growth in the other broadcasting sectors namely community radio and public broadcasting. Governments continue to maintain a tight grip on the broadcasting landscape with state radio and television dominating in ten out of the eleven countries that MISA operates in. This continues to be a major challenge in the regional broadcasting sector. Those who can afford it however get an alternative voice from satellite and pay television channels that have seen some growth. ICTs still remain out of the reach for most people especially internet access. Only a few countries in the region have tele-centres. Mobile cellular telephony has however seen remarkable growth and provides the greatest opportunity for users to take advantage of converged technologies with some broadcasters beginning to stream their content on cellular phones. However this poses a new problem of how to regulate such. Broadcasters continue to face harassment from authorities. MISA continued to record violations pertaining to the broadcasting sector in the countries it operates in. However the situation is not entirely hopeless, progress has been made in certain areas. Opportunity for broadcasting reform is seen in the legal, policy and regulatory frameworks already in place in some countries. The challenge is to bring them in line with international, continental and regional benchmarks.

3.1 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 Campaign for transformation of state broadcasters

In the year under review MISA continued its campaign of transforming state broadcasters in the region into public service broadcasters. National stakeholders conferences meant to initiate targeted national campaigns on public service broadcasting were held in Botswana and Zambia. The conferences brought together policy makers and stakeholders including government, state broadcasters, members of parliament, regulators, non-governmental organizations, electronic and print media, political parties and academics. Participants made concrete resolutions which will form the basis of targeted national campaigns on public service broadcasting. The Zambian conference was held on August 28 a few weeks before the country's general election and managed to put the issue of broadcasting reform in the national spotlight and elicit media coverage in the run-up to the elections. The Botswana conference was held on March 29. It came against the backdrop of Parliament having sent the draft broadcasting policy back to the drawing board.

3.1.2 Research

MISA conducted studies on the state broadcasting sector in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. One of the striking findings of the studies was the lack of knowledge about public service broadcasting which is mostly taken to be synonymous with state broadcasting. That is a challenge for MISA to mount public awareness campaigns.

The studies also confirmed that state broadcasters wield the biggest power in these countries with their resources and technical reach thereby have the biggest potential to inform or misinform. In this regard MISA has vigorously campaigned for the transformation of state broadcasters into public service broadcasters.



3.1.3 Regional Partnerships

MISA, the Southern African Broadcasting Association, SABA and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Southern Africa Media Project continued their regional partnership. The three have been hosting joint annual workshops since 2002 as part of a regional collaboration on broadcasting reform focusing on issues such as broadcasting legislation, regulation, convergence, regional and continental benchmarks, and public broadcasting. In the 2006 workshop which was held in Mozambique, the three resolved to put more focus on implementation and formed a Task Group on Broadcasting Reform. This is a technical committee which will initiate, coordinate and support campaigns towards broadcasting reform. The MISA, SABA, and FES joint workshops have expanded to include other partners such as the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

3.1.4. Broadcast Updates

The Regional Secretariat continued to issue monthly updates on the broadcasting and ICT sector in the region. Twelve updates were issued in the year under review. For the first time the updates also included alerts issued by MISA on media freedom violations concerning the broadcasting sector.

3.2 NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3.2.1. Botswana

MISA Botswana in conjunction with the FES organized an interactive meeting for members of the parliament in Gaborone on November 28–29 2006. The meeting discussed broadcasting issues including community radio and the broadcasting policy. The MPs heard testimonies from Mr Brian Lingela from MISA Zambia as well as Mr Lumko Mtimde of Media Development & Diversity Agency on the benefits of community radio.

A workshop was also held in Selebi Phikwe on March 14 2007 as part of efforts to sensitize the public about the three tier system of broadcasting that is community, private and public. Participants were clear in their opposition to community radio, stating that Botswana is not ready for it. MISA Botswana connected the hard line stance on community radio to the negative and alarmist debates about community broadcasting in Parliament during the debate on the draft Broadcasting Policy. It was clear from the workshop that MISA-Botswana has a mammoth task ahead to explain the benefits of community radio and erase the negative perceptions.

During the year under review MISA Botswana in collaboration with the American Embassy also hosted a workshop for local Film Producers on April 19 2006. The aim of the workshop was to interact with the producers and get an understanding of the problems they are facing. During the workshop a community broadcasting association was formed. In June 2006 there was a follow-up workshop where producers shared their grievances of the industry and there was also a discussion of the Cinematograph Act. The Act was found to be oppressive and hindering freedom of expression. The meeting agreed that MISA and producers identify a consultant who will review the act.

MISA Botswana continues to be concerned by the delay on the passing of a national broadcasting policy by the government. Although an effort was made in October 2006, by bringing to Parliament a watered down draft from the original plan, the draft policy was withdrawn from debate by the minister responsible. This was due to an outcry from Members of Parliament regarding the provisions for both public service and community broadcasting. A challenge that emerged from the Parliamentary debates is the fear by MPs that community



broadcasting has the potential to divide the nation on tribal lines. The persuasion by some MPS during the debate instilled fear in the public on community broadcasting. MISA Botswana is therefore obliged to mount more public awareness campaigns on the benefits of community radio and remove such hostility towards it.

On a positive note, the country's National Broadcasting Board (NBB) announced its intention to award three private radio stations licenses to broadcast nationwide. Two of the stations GABZ FM and Yarona FM were already broadcasting in and around the capital Gaborone while the third is a new station. The move by the NBB was heralded as a milestone in the liberation of the airwaves in the country eliminating the monopoly by two state owned radio stations which the only ones were broadcasting nationally. (The three stations were subsequently licensed in May 2007.)

MISA Botswana received a boost from the Botswana Telecommunications Authority which donated broadcasting equipment to the value of P20, 000. The equipment included, a multi-media projector, a video camera and stand, digital camera, a flip chart stand and lamp for a multimedia projector.

3.2.2. Lesotho

Working with other stakeholders, MISA-Lesotho has so far been able to bring pressure to bear on the Ministry of Communications not to go ahead with the Lesotho Broadcasting Corporation Bill 2004 in its present form. As a result the then minister of communications, science and technology indefinitely suspended the proposed Lesotho Broadcasting Corporation draft bill, which did not espouse any ideals of the internationally acknowledged principles of public service broadcasting.

The national chapter, at every available forum talks about public broadcasting. This includes radio and TV slots, public forums where MISA has been invited to address participants. Campaign materials in the form of posters, flyers and t-shirts in both Sesotho and English have been produced to create awareness on transformation of the state broadcasters into public service entities. The principle of public service broadcasting is also encompassed on the draft media policy.

3.2.3 Mozambique

In the year under review MISA- Mozambique in conjunction with the Danish Centre for Culture and Development trained 13 media practitioners were trained on 23rd- 25th May 2006 in Maputo, in a course on Techniques of Video Production, including Techniques of Camera, Sound and Writing.

MISA Mozambique also co-organized a regional broadcasting workshop with PANOS Southern Africa in October 2006. The workshop was aimed at stimulating debate at regional level on emerging issues and challenges facing the broadcasting industry in southern Africa. It looked at issues of broadcasting regulation, broadcasting technology, community broadcasting, public service broadcasting and independent broadcasting that are facing the region. It came up with a set of recommendations to inform decisions and broadcasting debates at country level.

3.2.4 Namibia

MISA Namibia made submissions on the proposed Communications Authority Act to ensure that Namibia has an independent regulatory authority. It also made submissions on community radio and public service broadcasting. MISA Namibia also voiced concern about the exclusion of the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation from the act saying transformation cannot be realized without democratic broadcasting legislation.



MISA Namibia had a meeting with the Director General of the NBC and the General Manager for Radio on the need to transform the state broadcaster. The DG agreed to look at the submitted documents including the Africa Media Barometer for Namibia.

MISA Namibia continued to support to the National Community Radio Network, NCRN in its mandate to build the capacity of local community media to transform information and knowledge into ingredients of empowerment and equitable development. MISA Namibia organized community radio training sponsored by the DHRF. In addition MISA also supported both the Omaheke Community Radio and the Erongo Community Radio in their campaign for community mobilization through training for community members.

Access to the internet and content that is relevant to the Namibian community was given a boost with the establishment of a community radio website supported by the Namibia Democracy Support Centre. Capacity building for the use of the internet was provided by American Cultural Centre and the Democracy and Human rights Fund of the American Embassy. NCRN secured funding to have regular updates of audio material uploaded on the website.

3.2.5 South Africa

With support from the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), MISA South Africa worked on a community TV handbook with the anticipated date of completion being May 2007. Some delays included problems regarding computer servicing, problems with data capturing and lack of transcriptions, accessing software for the digital voice recorder, transcribing tapes from observation participants and incorporating new information.

MISA-SA made a presentation at the Community Television Summit held in Durban, 03-04 April 2007 convened by the MDDA. The presentation was based on the findings and recommendations of the research on Soweto TV. MISA, together with some civil society organizations also made a separate submission at the same summit in response to the Discussion Document published by the Department of Communications on Digital Migration Strategy.

3.2.6 Swaziland

With the support of NIZA a critical analysis of the existing broadcasting laws was done to assist in the chapter when engaging government on the broadcasting law review process. In the year under review the government of Swaziland drafted two bills: the Swaziland Broadcasting Bill 2007 and the Swaziland Public Broadcasting Corporation Bill 2007. The first Bill seeks to open the airwaves by establishing the three-tier system of broadcasting. The latter seeks to transform the existing state broadcasters to be public broadcasters; however, the bill was focusing on television and not radio. MISA Swaziland provided input on the two bills during the consultation process and was assured that its input will be incorporated.

The chapter continued to support community radio initiatives. With financial support from MISA Lubombo Community Radio was able to broadcast for two days in April after being awarded a special license. Lubombo Community Radio (LCR) is one of the three facilities of the Lubombo Community Multimedia Centre (LCMC). Young people from Siteki and surrounding areas established LCR in February 1999. The main objective for LCR formation is to set up a community radio station that will enable the Lubombo population a forum to discuss issues that affect them from time to time.



3.2.7 Tanzania

The chapter continued to raise awareness on the importance of having community radios in the country. During various seminars and workshops organized by MISA-Tanzania chapter, participants were asked to mobilize communities and establish community radios. The issue of sustainability continued to be identified as a major hindrance to the establishment of community radios. The issue of sustainability was addressed at a UNESCO sponsored meeting in Dar es Salaam in May 2006. The issue also came up during a two day workshop organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) at Dar es Salaam in December 2006.

Another challenge identified is that the concept of community media is still not understood by many stakeholders. There is therefore a need to create awareness on what constitutes community radio according to the African Charter on Broadcasting. The chapter also continued to lobby government to support community media initiatives.

Another activity implemented by the chapter in support of community media establishment was training of journalists on filming for cultural journalism. A one-week training exercise took place in May 2006 at Dar es Salaam. There has been a noted improvement in video reporting skills based as a result.

Many stakeholders have questioned the government's emphasis on the use of Kiswahili in community radios instead of local languages. The government stance is that Kiswahili promotes national unity. This is a challenge that MISA Tanzania continuously addresses as community radios should be able to broadcast in the local languages.

During the reporting period, the government sought to support rural and under-served communities to access information through the Universal Communications Access Fund that was established by the Universal Communications Access Fund Act, 2006. The fund would be used to support initiatives for establishment of internet and telecommunication centers, subsidy to telephone service providers. It is anticipated that the fund will eventually support the establishment of community media. There has also been an increase in the media coverage on ICT issues

The chapter participated in various forums where provisions of the African Charter on Broadcasting were addressed. One of such forums was the annual stakeholders' consultative meeting organized by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority in December 2006 at Bagamoyo. Participants to that meeting put emphasis on the issue of media diversity and pluralism. The issue of cross-ownership of media was addressed as a hindrance to media diversity in Tanzania. A new trend has emerged in which ordinary investors transfer ownership of media to politicians and is yet another threat to media pluralism and diversity.

The government which continues to be the owner and regulator of both electronic and print media is another major threat to diversity. In February 2007, MISA Tanzania organized a workshop on transforming state-owned media into public service broadcasters. Following this initiative the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has developed a draft charter for the operations of the Tanzania Broadcasting Services

3.2.8 Zambia

From April 2006 onwards, the major activities had been monitoring of the broadcast media environment in the country as the country drew closer to the September 28 2006 general elections.



Most other activities planned for under the programme could not be undertaken since they all hinged on the disposal of the case between the media and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services and the Attorney General whose hearing was scheduled for September 19 2006 in view of contempt possibilities. However, On 15 March 2007, this long awaited case came to an end when the Supreme Court finally upset an earlier ruling by the Lusaka High Court that quashed the decision of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services to veto the names of board members nominated to sit of both the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) and Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) boards.

In view of this, a stakeholders' seminar was held on March 24, 2007 with five other media associations to determine the way forward.

In July 2006, MISA Zambia commissioned a needs survey on the transformation of Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) into a public service broadcaster. The study involved an analysis of past and current national campaigns by the MISA Zambia Chapter on transforming state broadcasting to public broadcasting – including an assessment on the degree to which campaign material has succeeded or not as well as investigate existing knowledge about public versus state broadcasting. The idea was to prepare baseline information to inform future campaign direction. The study used in-depth interviews and content analysis. The consultant has submitted a report. In relation to the above MISA Zambia held on 24 August 2006 a national stakeholders' conference to explore the possibility of transformation of ZNBC into a public service broadcaster especially within the context of the general elections.

Between July and October 2006, MISA Zambia conducted a content monitoring of ZNBC radio and Television news to ascertain the organization's level of fairness, objectivity and impartiality in the coverage of news in the run up to the tripartite elections of September 28 2006.

Results from a detailed content analysis of both ZNBC 13:15 hours radio and 19:00 hours main news that ran everyday from July to October 2006 revealed bias in favor of the ruling movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) as compared to other contesting candidates from other opposition political parties.

The study showed a systematic bias in coverage of both radio and television news in favour of the ruling Movement for Multi party Democracy (MMD). The study also found that during the post-election period, ZNBC continued to show bias in favour of the MMD. In this regard, more stories covered the MMD/government leadership. Fewer stories appeared to have been critical of the MMD/government than for the other political parties.

On 27 September 2007, on the eve of the general elections, MISA Zambia held a press conference in Lusaka to announce the release of the preliminary findings of the study.

MISA Zambia also participated in a roundtable national preparedness discussion on the Eastern African Cable Submarine System (EASSY) project organised by One World Africa on 16 May 2006.

3.3.9. Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings remains the sole broadcaster despite the enactment of the Broadcasting Services Act five years ago. The act allows for the licensing of private players to be licensed but nothing has been done to license private players despite parliamentary calls for new players to be licensed especially community broadcasters. MISA-Zimbabwe is also working on a campaign to transform the state broadcaster into a true and democratic public broadcaster.



MISA-Zimbabwe also supported communities that are working to set up community radio stations and is working with eight such communities, called Community Radio Initiatives (CRIs). MISA-Zimbabwe held 12 CRIs meetings which were part training as well as advocacy meetings. The result of these meetings was the process of formalization of the CRIs into independent trusts that can run on their own as CRIs. So far registered CRI trusts include Harare Community Radio and Masvingo Community Radio. Kwekwe is now finalizing this process. Other Community Radio Initiatives that MISA-Zimbabwe works with include Radio Dialogue, based in Bulawayo which is already registered as a trust. MISA-Zimbabwe supported this process with meetings with MP as well as publicity materials that included posters and T-shirts.

The Open the Airwaves Campaign is one of MISA-Zimbabwe's major programme areas that has received support from sources beyond the SPP Funding programme. The results of the support to CRIs' are the participation of communities in the fight for the liberalization of the broadcasting industry. The meetings held, publicity materials produced as well as the meetings with legislative bodies has resulted in parliamentary reports and debates that have focused on the need to reform the broadcasting law as well as license new players in the industry. This might take time but MISA believes that pressure has to be maintained to realize an independent broadcasting industry.

A number of activities headed by the Senior Programmes Officer were carried out under this campaign:

- The Advocacy Officer, working with the Uhuru Youth Network Trust held a community theatre festival at Zimbabwe Hall in Highfield on 7 March. Over a hundred youths from Highfield, Glen View and Glen Norah attended the event.
- During the same month, a Community Media Football match was held at Chisamba Grounds in Mutare.

MISA-Zimbabwe held five meetings with CRIs, civil society as well as human rights lawyers and media workers where a draft and democratic Broadcasting and Telecommunications Bill was discussed. The draft bill takes into account the convergence of the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors and the need to reform broadcasting laws. It is now ready and will be used as a lobbying tool by CRIs and other players to seek the reform of the current broadcasting law. Meetings to discuss the draft law were held in Mutare, Masvingo, Bulawayo, Harare and Gweru in February 2007.

MISA-Zimbabwe made submissions to the government on the need for a democratic and progressive ICTs policy. These submissions were later discussed by MISA-Zimbabwe, the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe, and the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport and Communications. The submissions by MISA-Zimbabwe were also sent to the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe as well as the Post and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe.



MEDIA SUPPORT



“Freedom of the press is not a luxury; it is not an extra- it is absolutely at the core of equitable development”

James Wolfensohn, Former President of the World Bank

4. Media Support

4.1 Professionalism and Accountability

MISA continued the fight for self regulation in the region. At the regional level a draft model code of ethics was developed during the year under review and it is waiting to be circulated for further input. The production of a MISA model code of ethics was recommended at the 2005 conference on ethics in the media that was held during the MISA AGM. The publication of the conference report has however been pushed to the next financial year due to financial constraints.

Several strides have been made in the fight for self regulation in the chapters, with the revival of the media council in Malawi early in 2007. The Media Council's constitution was adopted and candidates for the post of national director have been short listed. The council's secretariat is at present being housed by MISA Malawi. This is a positive step in the country's media regaining its credibility trust from the general public.

Botswana has an operating media council and the chapter continued to support its activities. However, the press council has financial problems and it is looking to MISA for help. This really needs to be considered as MISA was instrumental in its set up and not helping the council might mean its collapse and several steps back in self regulation for the region.

MISA Namibia continued in this year to promote the idea of the need for a self regulatory mechanism in the country in order to get buy in from all stakeholders. In this vein MISA Namibia was heavily involved in the process of establishing an Editors Forum working with the interim Editors Forum as it is essential to the establishment of the a self regulatory mechanism

In Swaziland, MISA continued to work closely with media stakeholders to facilitate the delayed launch of the Media Complaints Commission (MCC). The delay was mainly caused by the question of the commission's sustainability. Media owners, who are supposed to fund the commission, are yet to decide on the funding mechanism. The delayed launch saw the government drafting a Media Commission Bill to introduce a statutory regulatory mechanism. To fight the new bill, MISA Swaziland facilitated a series of meetings with stakeholders and newsrooms to advocate against the bill and educate them on the importance of media self-regulation. All stakeholders are once again agreed on self-regulation and the plan is to launch the MCC early in the next financial year to pre-empt the government's introduction to the statutory mechanism.

MISA-Zimbabwe continued to work with media houses and organizations to set up a voluntary media council, publicize the code of conduct as an alternative to the settlement of disputes the media might have with any individual or groups in society. The Code of Conduct and Voluntary Media Council project is now one of MISA-Zimbabwe's biggest projects where a substantial amount of resources were allocated as the government had indicated that if the media could establish a media council then it will revise the statutory MIC and AIPPA. On 26 January 2007, MISA-Zimbabwe working with the Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ), Zimbabwe National Editor's Forum, Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Association of Editor's launched the Media Council of Zimbabwe in Harare. The launch of the a MCZ was without its challenges as they were direct threats from the Ministry of Information and Publicity as well as the Chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Transport and Communications,



Leo Mugabe. While the MCZ was launched the structure was left unfinished and is now set for completion in May 2007. A draft code of conduct and constitution was compiled, presented and subjected to scrutiny, criticism and further input during more than 40 meetings that were held throughout the country to ensure ownership of the two documents by key stakeholders.

The Harare government has however been diving and ducking on its commitment to amend or revisit AIPPA whenever the issue is brought up at the Africa Commission for Human and People's Rights' (ACHPR) sessions in Banjul, The Gambia. Only as recently as November 2006 Margaret Chiduku, Director of Policy and Legal Research in the Ministry of Justice advised the Commission that government had consented to a self-regulatory mechanism for media practitioners in Zimbabwe and that the launch of the Media Council of Zimbabwe would go a long way in addressing concerns around the repressive media environment as epitomised by AIPPA and POSA. The government supported the process up until it was about to be launched when Hon Leo Mugabe, and the Acting Minister of Information declining an invitation to the launch. This type of behaviour exposes the serious policy inconsistency and hypocrisy on the part of the government vis-à-vis its commitments to the ACHPR.

More than anything else the project has proved that Zimbabwean journalists are more than prepared to reclaim the credibility and integrity of the profession through a publicly acknowledged and acceptable accountable mechanism. This was evidenced by the favorable coverage of the project by the state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation in the run-up to the convention

MISA continues to support journalists unions and press clubs in the region. Lesotho is in the process of negotiating with UNICEF for the funding of the country's press clubs. Malawi participated and ensured that the Journalists Union of Malawi (JUMA) hold its national consultative workshop where an interim committee was elected. JUMA's Constitution has been drafted through a consultative process and is awaiting adoption by a general assembly. MISA-Zimbabwe also continued to support the various press clubs in that country

4.1.1 Unplanned Activities

A major activity that MISA held during the year that was not in the work plan was the southern Africa media development consultative forum. The media development conference was held as a follow up the Global media development conference where delegates from southern Africa decided that there was a need for wider consultation on media development issues in the region. The forum was held in conjunction with United Nations Economic Forum for Africa (UNECA) who was holding such consultative forums all over Africa to come up with a strategy on how to strengthen Africa's media to submit to the DFID. As a result of this process MISA is in the steering committee of the Strengthening Africa's Media Initiative which is seeking to establish a continental media development Fund.

4.2. Media Awards

As a way of recognizing excellence in journalism in the region MISA continued to award those who excelled in the field. In the year under review MISA gave the MISA Press Freedom award to veteran Malawian journalist and long time freedom of expression activist Al Osman of Capital Radio. MISA recognized Osman for his pioneering spirit as he was one of those involved in the crafting of the Windhoek Declaration in 1991. His pioneering spirit is still evident. He is the current publicity secretary of the Malawi Editors Forum. At present he is challenging the Malawi government over the Protected Names Emblems Flags and Places Act which makes it unlawful to undertake any act that may



bring the presidency in disrepute. Whilst a decision is still being awaited on the case, a victory will be a victory for all media freedom and freedom of expression activists. For the first time MISA increased the award from US\$1000 to US\$2500 with support from the Southern Africa Trust.

Another award that MISA gave during the year is the John Manyara Investigative Journalism award which was given jointly to the Sam Sole, Stefaans Brummer, and Wisani wa Ngobeneni for their work on the Oilgate Series that was published in Mail and Guardian and the Mabvuto Banda for his work on "Mwawa Uses Government Funds for Wedding" series which was published in the Nation Newspaper in Blantyre Malawi. As part of this project MISA sponsored 6 journalists to attend the Power Reporting- a workshop for investigative journalism for African and international investigative journalists.

MISA chapters continued to award excellence in their various countries. Awards were successfully held in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia with some of the chapters (Botswana, and Tanzania) reporting an improvement in the quality and quantity of entries that were received which is a positive reflection on the impact of MISA's work with journalists the region. In Namibia the awards were reintroduced after a year of absence. Other chapters like Swaziland, and Lesotho are still in the process of establishing the awards in their countries.

4.3 Gender Activities

The Gender and Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) was officially launched in March 2006. MISA was the lead coordinator in the monitoring that took place in Southern Africa and through this ensured that for the first time all the SADC countries were included. The 2006 GMMP report findings found that across the globe, women constitute 21 percent of news sources (19 percent in Southern Africa) illustrate that women's voices are still significantly less represented in the news than those of men. The GMMP showed an increase in women's voices in nine SADC countries including Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and the Seychelles experienced a decline in women's voices in the news.

The highest proportion of women sources in the news in SADC was South Africa at 26%. This figure is very telling in that it merely confirms that 74% of the news sources are still men and in other countries, the figures are even worse. The imbalance in the statistics still challenges the principles of democracy and free speech as it implies that only a small segment of the population is given a voice. This is a challenge that MISA and its partners have to deal with in a much more focused and strategic manner. Advocacy efforts have focused specifically on the gender deficiencies in the media but MISA and its partners need to situate these within the broader debates on human rights, media diversity, ethics and professionalism in the media and media sustainability.

MISA further contributed to the GMMP by sponsoring the publication of the various country reports which were launched at various events throughout the region in 2006.

MISA in collaboration with the Gender and Media Southern Africa Network (GEMSA) and Gender Links, convened the second gender and media summit that was held in Johannesburg in September 2006. The two-day summit brought together 224 participants made up of media practitioners, editors, media marketing executives, and gender activists. The programme also featured 81 examples of good practice in diversifying sources, markets and ownership of the media. Ms Ammu Joseph, a well known media and gender activist from India presented the key note address



where she underscored the extent to which globalization has concentrated media ownership and the dissemination of news in a few hands, and exacerbated the tendency to portray women as sex objects rather than as holistic beings. The summit highlighted a number of ways in which the media was failing in one of its core functions; that of giving voice to the voiceless. The summit ended with a call for greater media diversity in all areas – ownership, content and audiences.

MISA also sponsored the gender and media awards held during the gala dinner in Johannesburg. A total of 187 entries in twelve categories with winning pieces ranging from an article on challenges faced in accessing credit to a beauty queen who finds out she is HIV positive.

MISA continued to take part in the ongoing campaign of the draft Protocol on Gender and Development that will hopefully be taken to the Heads of State Summit in Lusaka this year. Several meetings took place where MISA was represented and made submissions

4.4 MISA Policy on HIV and AIDS

The MISA regional secretariat was tasked by the AGM to put in place an internal HIV/AIDS policy that would be developed for the organization as a whole. The draft policy developed by the staff and the process followed would serve as a model for National Chapters to follow when developing their own policies. The next step would be the roll out of the policy to MISA's institutional members who are the media houses.

In order to carry out this task, it was felt that it was important for the Regional Secretariat staff to first internalize the process before going out to the membership. It was also very important that MISA took the decision to work very closely with HIV positive people as they have first hand information of the disease and are better able to advice on how to deal with the disease in the workplace. In June 2006, the regional secretariat and the MISA Namibia staff took part in a three-day "AIDS and Me" workshop designed to enable staff to address HIV and AIDS in their own lives, and to use this personalization process to come up with the ingredients for an HIV and AIDS policy for the secretariat. Through this process, the staff felt that HIV and AIDS should not be addressed in a vacuum and that the organization's productivity was closely linked with the health and wellbeing of all staff, and not just those living with and directly affected by HIV and AIDS. The staff therefore agreed to develop an overall Wellness Policy – a major component of which would focus on mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS within the MISA family.

The policy that was finally drafted forms part of the wellness policy that MISA seeks to promote productivity within the organization through the creation of a supportive environment that encourages staff to live healthy and productive lives, both within and outside the workplace. More particularly, the policy recognizes the impacts of HIV and AIDS in southern Africa, and MISA seeks to minimize the medical, social, economic and developmental consequences of the AIDS epidemic on MISA projects and its staff. MISA is committed to addressing HIV and AIDS in a positive, supportive and non-discriminatory manner, with the informed support and co-operation of all employees. Accordingly the policy has been developed to assist management and employees in dealing with HIV and AIDS both within the workplace and their own lives.

The impact of the whole internalization process has led to MISA staff taking deliberate efforts to learn more about the disease and how to protect themselves better. The staff have had meetings focusing on the medical aid schemes



that are available in the region with a view for MISA to offer a common medical aid package to all employees throughout the region, as well as member institutions if the need arose – a need that could be spurred on by the development of a region wide Wellness Policy within MISA.

The MISA Botswana chapter continued to engage with the findings of the national Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS) to raise awareness, stimulate debate, and help develop a national movement for promoting gender equality in and through the media. The GMBS has and is still very relevant to the chapter in seminars and workshops as a reference tool for gender representation in media articles and the like. Following a successful visit to Selibe Phikwe for a gender workshop, a need for more copies of the report has been made. The chapter also took part in the Botswana launch of the HIV and AIDS and Gender Baseline & Media Action Plan on 8th March 2006 in Gaborone.

MISA-Lesotho continued to partner with other civil society organizations in the areas of HIV/AIDS, anti-corruption, media development, training, gender issues, public/private partnerships, etc. These organizations include, but are not limited to: WLSA, UNDP, EISA, Lesotho IEC Media Monitoring panel for the 2007 general snap elections, Lesotho Girl Guides Association, GEMSA Lesotho, Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations, UNICEF, the National AIDS Commission, Global Fund Lesotho etc.

Towards the end of 2006, MISA Lesotho partnered with the Southern African Media and Gender Institute (SAMGI), an NGO based in Cape town, South Africa. SAMGI is an NGO that promotes human rights by increasing the range of voices heard in Southern Africa through participatory education, advocacy, lobbying and media production to improve the status of women. The collaboration led to the hosting of a course that offered Community Based Organisations, NGOs and community activists the analytical and media production skills to interact with mainstream media to lobby for social transformation in Lesotho.

The Lesotho Medical Association presented an award for outstanding service to local media practitioners at an event that was held at the Lesotho Sun Hotel. The award was presented to MISA Lesotho, on behalf of all media practitioners of Lesotho and was received by the Chairperson of MISA Lesotho and the National Director of MISA Lesotho. The award was in recognition of Lesotho emerging with the highest overall proportion of HIV and AIDS coverage in the region, following the administration of the HIV and AIDS and Gender Baseline Study, as per the memorandum of understanding between, among others, MISA and GEMSA. The implication of this is that the local media puts specific focus on HIV and AIDS issues, as a globally devastating pandemic, having to date, claimed more lives than all the wars of the twentieth century put together.

MISA Lesotho also took part in various other events and activities. Among other things, the government of Lesotho, through the Office of the Government Secretary, Mr. Tlohang Sekhamane invited MISA-Lesotho to join a team of four that was charged with adjudication on various competitions that were held as part of the Public Service Day for 2006. The aim of the celebration was to recognize the efforts of public servants in Lesotho and the world over, and to seek a better understanding between the public that is being served, and the servants that provide the services. This year the competition among government ministries was in the areas of service delivery, combating corruption and fighting HIV and AIDS.

During the sixteen days of activism, MISA Lesotho partnered with, among others, WLSA, government departments, National AIDS Commission, the media, civil society, etc. The celebrations stretched across eight districts of



the Kingdom of Lesotho, namely: Maseru, Berea, Quthing, Leribe, Butha Buthe, Qacha's Nek, Leribe, Mokhotlong and Mahale's Hoek.

MISA Namibia continued to put more emphasis on pro-active engagement with civil society, governmental and intergovernmental actors to ensure that a more conducive environment was created. The participation of the organization in the 16 Days of Gender Activism, and the subsequent development, led to the organization taking a proactive approach in tracking the coverage of media issues from a gender perspective. The chapter also coordinated the development of a web clip for raising awareness on the 16 Days of activism Committee, chaired by the Ombudsman's Office. The clip is currently running on the MISA Namibia website. MISA Namibia supported the 16 Days of activism by facilitating a breakfast meeting with the media and civil society players.

MISA worked with GEMSA, the Namibia Editors Forum, and the Polytechnic of Namibia in putting together a programme for the launch of the HIV and AIDS and Gender Baseline study.

The second part of the Media Action Plan (MAP) project in Namibia was the holding of the inception workshop on May 24 that was specifically targeted at the Namibian Editors and with the full participation of the partners. The meeting further agreed that there was need to ensure that HIV positive media people and others living with the virus are involved in the policy development process and that another attempt be made to find ways of effectively engaging with editors.

MISA Swaziland continued to collaborate with many NGOs and the UN agencies in Swaziland on HIV and AIDS issues. In May 2006 the chapter was nominated to coordinate the HIV and AIDS interventions in the media sector as part of the national HIV and AIDS strategy by NERCHA (National Emergency Response to Combat HIV/AIDS).

Between October and December 2006 MISA Swaziland conducted two capacity building workshops for journalists on HIV and AIDS reporting and reporting on children's issues. The UNICEF country office funded both workshops that saw more than 60 journalists trained in both workshops. The second workshop on reporting on issues of children was a follow up to another one held previously to develop guidelines on reporting on children. Impact has been noted with improved standards of reporting, particularly on reporting on children. The media is increasingly becoming compliant with accepted standards of reporting issues of children.

Having won the confidence of the media sector and nominated to lead the HIV and AIDS interventions in the media, MISA Swaziland partnered with NERCHA to launch the programme. Consultants have been commissioned to develop a coordination strategy for MISA Swaziland. The project should be up and running at the beginning of the next financial year. The chapter's aim was to ensure that HIV/AIDS & Gender and Media action plan is being implemented at the chapter level in collaboration with other stakeholders.

In Tanzania, the major activity for this reporting period was the launch of the HIV/AIDS & Gender and Media report. The report was launched one day before May 3, as a part of WPPF celebrations. More than 30 local and international journalists participated in the launch. Media coverage was also wide in the electronic media and print, both locally and internationally. This showed how Media Houses were becoming attentive about the importance of representation of both men and women in the media and mainstreaming the HIV/AIDS in their daily coverage. The event was also publicized in the Gender and Media Southern African (GEMSA) Network website.



The Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) also used this opportunity to encourage journalists to mainstream HIV/AIDS and gender in their daily coverage and be bold enough to undergo voluntary HIV testing before they could write about others status.

Tanzania has also started rolling out HIV and AIDS and gender policies in media houses. The project aims at making 80% of media houses in the country adopt these policies. The project started with the public broadcasters – Tanzania Broadcasting Service (TBS) and the Tanzania Standard Newspaper (TSN). While TSN has developed a gender policy TBS has developed the HIV/AIDS policy. The management meetings have so far been held with the Guardian, African Media Group, Radio Tumbaini, Business Times, The Citizen, Uhuru and Mzalendo in order to buy in the process.

Gender Links in collaboration with MISA-TAN conducted one-week training on Business Reporting for twenty journalists focusing on the report finding of the Gender and Media Audience Survey 2005 in which MISA-TAN participated.

4.5 Community Newspapers

MISA also continued to support the establishment of community newspapers in the region. There is still a need to run a campaign for community newspapers in Botswana as people have lamented the absence of what they can read about their district especially in depth. The national government Daily News manages to cover these places, but not all receive coverage. A community newspaper circulated at a cost, and carrying such community issues would be ideal. Some leading newspapers in the country have opened hubs in small towns to try and bring news to the people and a lot is still to be done. The planned national sensitization workshop did not materialize because of the many activities that the officer in charge had to deal with in the last SPP year.

MISA South Africa was involved in the finalization of the city of Johannesburg community newspaper evaluation this year. In early March MISA Swaziland partnered with the IAJ in South Africa to commission a study into the possibility of establishing a community newspaper in indigenous language in Swaziland. The project is funded by Free Voice, if the study is favorable, the plan is to launch the newspaper shortly.

4.6 Membership Drive

The chapters continued to register more members with Botswana registering at least 56 individual members and 5 institutional members in the past financial year; Tanzania's membership increased from 150 in 2002 to 273 now and the number of institutional members has remained at 14. MISA Namibia has reintroduce membership cards and Botswana has continued to issue membership cards.

4.7 Training

MISA continued to provide journalists with training to help in improving their journalistic skills and the quality of journalism in the region. The Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) in conjunction with MISA Botswana and SAIMED run a workshop on Business Journalism for both electronic and print media in Gaborone with an emphasis on budget reporting; simplifying business jargon and how to turn news from advertisements in newspapers and press releases. As a result there is a noted improvement in financial reportage already as seen in this year's budget coverage in both print and electronic media in Botswana.



MISA in conjunction with the Public Section Department of the US Embassy in Gaborone ran a workshop on Photography with the help of Professor Keith Kenney, a renowned photographer from USA who shared with participants on how they could sell their works internationally and challenged them to change perceptions on the way they captured pictures currently. The workshop helped to build and enhance skills among photographers in Botswana and many of those who attended were very excited by their enhanced photojournalistic skills and sharing of professional view points.

In Lesotho MISA held media training during the first week of October 07, sponsored by UNICEF, on media sensitization on children's legislation in the country concentrating on how to report issues affecting children in the media. This was partly necessitated by a public outcry against inadequate portrayal of minors in the local media, particularly the print media. Children are a sub-group of the society whose rights are grossly violated either by omission or commission.

In Mozambique 30 media practitioners from all the country's provinces in May 2006 attended a course on economic journalism, in partnership with the National Union of Journalists (SNJ) and ISCTEM (Mozambique Science and Technology College) and the Mercantile Bank. In partnership with the London based PANOS Institute, MISA-Mozambique hosted from 28th November to 2nd December 2006 a training seminar on interview methodologies on verbal witnesses focusing questions of the poverty. The training course gathered a number of journalists and ONG's involved in the poverty alleviation in Mozambique

The MISA chapter in Swaziland held three training workshops for journalists. From 7 – 14 August 2006 MISA Swaziland in partnership with the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism, IAJ facilitated two workshops for 15 Swazi journalists in South Africa. The journalists, from all media houses, were trained in economic reporting and newsroom training. The two workshops were followed by another one on reporting on issues of children held from 16 – 18 August 2006 at Orion Hotel in Pigg's Peak, Swaziland. More than 25 journalists attended the workshop funded by UNICEF.

On July 2006 MISA Swaziland in conjunction with IAJ officially launched the Centre for Journalism Excellence which will compliment the work done by the University of Swaziland by working with schools and in-service practitioners to ensure there is holistic education and training of media personnel. The establishment of the school followed a series of consultative meetings with stakeholders who named MISA Swaziland the coordinator of the centre.

In Tanzania, MISA trained 80 journalists at national and districts levels on investigative reporting, in-depth and long-term research reporting, using public and private information sources, including financial information and budget. The journalists have started submitting their investigative reporting proposals for financial support under the Investigative Journalism Training on Corruption and Good Governance project implemented by MISA and PACT-Tanzania. Some of the journalists who were trained have started exposing corruption scandals at local government level which led some of these leaders to resign from their office.



MEDIA LAW AND POLICY



A lawyer from the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights addressing the crowd in front of the Zimbabwe embassy in Windhoek Namibia during a MISA organized march to show solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe following unlawful arrests and beatings on the journalists, civil society and opposition leaders in March 2007.

“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it”
- Voltaire

5. Media Law and Policy

MISA's legal fight for media rights and freedom of expression is two pronged. First, MISA actively defends, or financially supports media practitioners in civil and criminal cases. Second, the organization targets and attempts to reform repressive media and freedom of expression laws.

Throughout the year, a majority of the work on this programme has been done by MISA's National Chapters. The Regional Secretariat has assisted Chapters financially and through training. However, without a Program Officer, the Secretariat's actions in litigation and case work are limited.

In Botswana, MISA dealt with four legal cases against the media. One such case proceeded to court, but was subsequently withdrawn by the complainant. MISA's Lesotho Chapter has focused more on legislative reform. Staff members in Lesotho have continued to lobby for the adoption and revision of the Access and Receipt of Information Bill (2000). Although government officials have not provided feedback; however, MISA is optimistic. The bill has recently received Cabinet approval and is on its way to Parliament. Media houses, such as The Public Eye and The Mirror, have been overwhelmed by civil defamation suits. Litigation and court judgments could cripple the financial basis of these publications. Thus, MISA-Lesotho has commissioned a consulting company to draft a defamation bill. This initiative is aimed at reducing the increase of frivolous civil suits to muzzle media and freedom of expression rights.

In Malawi, MISA represented six media practitioners in litigation and provided legal advice to other journalists. Insult laws were raised and prioritized as a burning issue, but more work will be done later. The chapter's Media Legal Aid Fund Committee has reached its full span and is currently renewing its mandate to increase legal aid to media workers.

MISA staff in Mozambique have conducted research and lobbied the National Assembly on progressive Right to Information legislation. A draft bill has been forwarded to the government in November 2005. Since then, MISA has held numerous caucus meetings with political stakeholders in both the governing and opposition parties. Due to a lack of funds, MISA-Mozambique has been unable to financially aid journalists in litigation. However, staff members have issued official communiqués to raise public awareness of government intimidation of media practitioners. A recent communiqué denounced the unlawful arrest of three journalists in the Barué District.

MISA-Namibia has supported journalists in litigation. A journalist, working for state media, was fired for writing a story critical on the former president. MISA paid for all his legal costs. On a different case, a freelance journalist exposed confidential information on government corruption. Leading politicians launched a civil lawsuit against the journalist. MISA funded half of his legal costs.

Like many of its counterparts across SADC, MISA-Swaziland has also been involved in Access to Information law reform. From October 2006, MISA has consulted with government officials. Officials have drafted a Freedom of Information and Protection bill. MISA, with the aid of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, has analyzed the policy and concluded that the bill is flawed. Government officials have failed to address the need for maximum disclosure. To strengthen our lobbying power, MISA has held meetings to sensitize local civil society members.



Due to a lack of funding and a structured Legal Defence Fund committee, MISA-Swaziland has not been able to actively aid journalists in litigation. However, MISA has issued alerts and official press releases to sensitize the public on rights violations.

MISA-South Africa has gone through internal staff reformation and many programs, including the legal initiative, are at their infancy. With the aid of the Regional Secretariat, and the NGC, the South African Chapter has begun advocacy work on the abuse of media rights.

In Tanzania, MISA compiled a detailed report on repressive media laws in the country. This helped to increase public awareness. Additionally, the Chapter fund raised over \$5000 USD for its Media Legal Defence Fund to aid media practitioners facing litigation. With this money, MISA was able to fund medical costs of two journalists beaten by prison guards.

MISA-Zimbabwe's legal program has been active in defending journalists and bringing freedom of expression cases to the attention of the ACHPR. By the end of 2006, MISA had assisted thirteen journalists and media houses with legal representation and financial support.

MISA, in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, has challenged the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), at the ACHPR in Banjul, Gambia. MISA argued that AIPPA unconstitutionally violates media and freedom of expression rights. In its advocacy, our Zimbabwe Chapter managed to draw concessions from Zimbabwe's government that current media laws are undemocratic. At the November 2006 ACHPR Session, the Zimbabwe government conceded that its laws needed reform. Government officials further promised to work with organizations like MISA-Zimbabwe on legislative and substantive change. MISA doubts the actualization of these lofty guarantees. However, as promises were made before the ACHPR, and they potentially have clout against the Zimbabwe government if it reneges on its undertakings.

During the same year, MISA-Zimbabwe drafted a model Access to Information law. It will be used to challenge the AIPPA and the Public Order and Security Act. The draft Access to Information law was created through a consultative process that included media and human rights lawyers, journalists, and civil society representatives. The legal department at MISA-Zimbabwe continues to participate in activities that create awareness on the current media laws at media studies schools and media houses.

In Zambia, the court case on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) and Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) boards continued to take centre stage. Thankfully, although not in our favour, the case was finally disposed off on March 15, 2007 in the Supreme Court. A week later a meeting to look at the way forward was held for all media held in Lusaka on March 24, 2007. The meeting among other things called on the Minister to decide quickly on the names that will be forwarded by the adhoc committees.

MISA Zambia supported three media institutions during namely:

- (i) Radio Chikuni in a case where three reporters were arrested for announcing a meeting of villages to look into the mysterious death of a boy. After the MSA Zambia lawyer, Chairperson and National Director paid a visit to the Police station, the case seems to have died a natural death.
- (ii) Radio Maria in Chipata was provided a lawyer to defend the station in a case in which they were sued for



defamation by a Clinical Officer who allegedly caused a mother to give birth outside the hospital because there were no gloves.

- (iii) The third case where legal aid was granted is a matter in which the Zambia Air Force Commander has sued The Guardian Weekly for defamation over a case in which he is alleged to have been sexually abusing female officers. The Air Force Commander has since been relieved of his duties by the Republican President.

A new committee that decides on the awarding of legal aid was chosen after the mandate of the first one expired. After looking at the criteria that was used to award legal aid, the new committee decided to revisit the current criteria with a view of strengthening it. The committee is still submitting its input and a final agreement will be arrived at the next meeting scheduled in the next financial year.



COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION



MISA's Regional Director, Kaitira Kandjii, being interviewed by a journalist from the Namibia Broadcasting Cooperation.

“90 per cent of what you communicate has nothing
to do with words”
Mediawise

6. Communication and Dissemination

MISA's communications and dissemination strategy is aimed at supporting the work of the various programme areas; strengthening the brand of MISA as the leading organization in media freedom and freedom of expression in SADC; ensuring that MISA produces and disseminates materials and resources meaningful to stakeholders; and galvanize public support on media freedom and freedom of expression issues. This continued to be the aim in the year under review.

6.1 Communication Policy

The communication policy which was developed in the previous financial year was approved at the end of the year under review. This will ensure that there is a policy that is strengthening the strategy that was approved in the previous financial year but could not be properly implemented due to policy gaps. Consequently, in the next financial year the proper implementation of this policy will begin and the various trainings will be conducted in order to improve communication in MISA. Compilation of the MISA Style Manual has begun but will only be completed when all the design of all corporate materials is completed. The style manual will be part of the training manual that will be used for training.

6.1 Information Technology

The website was continually updated and backed up over the year to ensure that the organization's stakeholders get up to date information on media freedom and freedom of expression in SADC. A web-monitoring tool was installed towards the end of the year and over registered more than 15 000 hits and the number of hits continues to increase. However the tool also showed that most people do not spend a lot of time on the website and in an effort to ensure that it more user friendly and information that stored there is more accessible MISA embarked on a website revamp which is planned to be completed in the next financial year.

MISA mailing lists have been maintained and updated as membership increased. During the course of the year the web server crashed and had to be replaced. It was replaced with one that has the capacity to host other sites. Sites that will be hosted include various chapter sites as well as the website for the Network of African Freedom of Expression Organizations (NAFEO).

Chapters like Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe continued to update their various websites. MISA South Africa has embarked on the re-design of their website and they expect to publish it on the MISA server during the next financial year. All chapters maintained their mailing lists and updated them accordingly.

The MISAnet news exchange was still running. The organization is exploring ways and means of expanding MISAnet into a news pool organization as it is a direct benefit of MISA's members.

6.2 Publicity

As part of the organization's branding and establishing of its corporate identity, several materials were produced which also helped in improving the organization's visibility. Another MISA banner was to be produced and is the



principal banner being used at MISA functions. MISA folders were also produced to be used at MISA functions both at regional and national level and this has already begun. Business cards had to be redesigned to incorporate the organization's colors and corporate image. All this have begun to provide MISA with a consistent image that will be further cemented by compliment slips, redesigned letterheads, brochures and redesigned fax sheets, which will be further developed in the coming financial year.

MISA continued to issue press statements on various issues that would come up during the year. These got covered in the media (both electronic and print) in the region.

Lesotho reported an increase in the coverage of their events and issues they raise as a result of growing support from various stakeholders including the media. Of note was the much publicity was given to the WPFDF celebrations. This was done through issuance of press releases to the local media and radio slots on two radio stations. The first slot was given by Radio Lesotho on a popular phone in programme Seboping, a state-owned radio station on May 9 2006. MISA Lesotho was represented by the Chairperson and the National Director. The second program was held at the morning Catholic Radio talk-show, Tsa Kajeno. Both programs sought to heighten Basotho's awareness on wide ranging issues of Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression with regard to the theme: Media, Development and Poverty Eradication. In Malawi, MISA managed to hold one TV panel discussion and two radio panel discussions on the need for the Access to Information Act. The discussions created a round good response MISA Malawi calendar and create awareness on the need for access to information as a social economic right to the public.

MISA Namibia the NGC and its National director visited media houses , to introduce themselves but also to provide a platform for the media houses to raise issues or concerns that they have with the institution or on how it is operating. The institutions visited were : the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation, The Namibian Newspaper, New Era newspaper, The Republiken Newspaper, Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper, Economist Newspaper, the Windhoek Observer Newspaper, One Africa television. Plans are underway, to have a series of visit to the commercial radio stations and the community media in the new cycle. MISA also appeared on national Television for a discussion on World Press freedom day and media freedom and freedom of expression issues in May 2006.

In Swaziland, MISA also maintained constant contact with the media and regularly visited the print media to explain MISA's goals and to train journalists on action alerts. The visits have yielded fruit as the chapter has seen proactive reportage of media violations by the journalists which have further been sent out to the rest of the world. MISA continues to interact with journalists almost on a daily basis to liven and sustain our working relationship with the media houses and keep them continuously connected to MISA and its activities. MISA also held two breakfast meetings with NGOs on regional issues affecting media freedom. The meetings were aimed sensitizing the NGOs, civil society and the business community on issues that have a bearing on the media.

In Tanzania two events can be noted which recorded the highest publicity during the reporting period. The World Press Freedom Day recorded about 25 articles (news, comments and features) in the mainstream print media. Print media alone saved the chapter an estimate of USD 28,000 equivalent advertising value. The other activity is the campaign for Freedom of Information Act. This campaign has triggered public debate through both print and electronic media. The publicity of this activity up to now can amount to an estimated USD 30,000 of equivalent advertising value, and the campaign is ongoing. MISA-Tanzania events throughout the year got coverage through Radio Tanzania Dar es salaam, Radio One, Independent Television (ITV) and Channel Ten.



In Zambia, MISA continued to sponsor the Face the Media programmes on 14 Community Radio Stations and these programmes have been flag ships for most of the radio stations in Zambia. Wherever there is a community Radio and these programmes are aired the participation of the listeners has been overwhelming. Additionally and perhaps more importantly a lot of major changes in communities have been seen as a result of the programmes, this is apart from providing a platform for people to express themselves unhindered as the case is on the national broadcaster (ZNBC). Issues that have been covered on these programmes are also covered in the print media.

These programmes have greatly assisted in getting the ordinary people to talk to those in positions of authority. This has been possible because the programmes have been interactive in that the ordinary people can contact the guests through the use of telephones, SMSs and faxes. The programmes have been reaching an estimated 13 million people in Zambia through Radio Phoenix, Radio 5-fm, Radio Martha, Radio Chikune, Radio Lyambai, Radio Mkushi, Breeze Fm, and Radio Phoenix- all community radios. In conjunction with the Face the Media Programmes MISA Zambia also sponsored the community radio stations to run Good Governance programmes which have had a lot of impact on the community and MISA in general. Both the radio programmes are made possible by funding outside of the basket funding.

Apart from the on going issuing of communiqués, MISA-Zimbabwe also managed to organize a meeting with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression Pansy Tlakula who happened to be in Harare at the time Tsvangirai Mukwazhi – arrested while covering a opposition political rally and severely beaten and his camera seized and destroyed by the Zimbabwe police- was released from police custody. The Commissioner managed to talk to Mukwazhi, saw the intensive injuries with her own eyes and thereafter wrote a strong letter of protest to President Robert Mugabe which was printed in the Mail and Guardian. The Commissioner has promised to take these issues further at the next Africa Commission session in Ghana. MISA-Zimbabwe has also managed to publicize the serious media violations in Zimbabwe in the media through such publicity produce as the Monthly Media Alerts Digest. The Digest has widely been covered in the private media.

During the reporting year, MISA also took the time to package its mission and vision statement into a poster that is currently being displayed in all the chapters. This again was done to give the public a clear image of MISA and what it stands for as well as to reminding the people who work in MISA of the organization's mandate in an effort to improve internal public relations.

6.3 Publications

The MISA Annual Report was produced and distributed during the Gem summit as well as to the chapters who further distributed. There was a printing delay at the printers hence the failure to distribute the printed annual report at the MISA AGM that preceded the GEM summit. However bound copies were available for delegates.

So This is Democracy? State of the Media in southern Africa 2005 was published during the year under review. It was successfully launched all over the region with the exception of Angola during the World Press freedom Day celebrations. The launch received a lot of publicity and as usual acted as distribution points for other MISA publications.

Southern African Media Directory 2006/7 was published during the year under review as it could not be published before the end of the previous financial year due to the fact that the communications manager took over the job late



in that year. It was distributed by both the regional office and the chapters and by the end of that year copies had run out at the regional office.

Outside the Ballot Box: Preconditions for Elections in Southern Africa 2005/7 a collection of papers on the state of democratization in Southern Africa was also published during the year.

MISA Diaries were published during this year and were circulated to the MISA family. The demand for this has become so high that the print run has to be increased from 100 to 500 to include all NGC members as well as various partners in the region. The diaries are done to further cement the MISA family and improve public relations both internally and externally.

The chapters continued to publish various publications during the year. MISA Botswana's The Forum newsletter has become the chapters advocacy tool to members and stakeholders which informs them on activities undertaken in that period and upcoming events that they can participate in. The chapter published and shared with many members as well as other stakeholders including donor agencies and the public. Lesotho continued to publish its newsletter Moqolosti. MISA South Africa begun circulating bi-weekly media briefs to its members, updating them on media issues going on in the country. It is however limited by patchy newspaper delivery, lack of access to news wires and the absence of a national network of media freedom monitors and reporters. MISA Swaziland continued to produce its quarterly publication, Khulumani, as part of its advocacy and a concerted effort to inform MISA members about MISA's activities. During the period under review MISA managed to produce all two quarterly publications which attracted more than 30 contributions- an increase from last year.

MISA Tanzania produced a four page-long Kiswahili special supplement for World press freedom day and was widely circulated in the "Mwananchi" newspaper to increase awareness on the role of media in society and increase publicity of the World Press Freedom Day and media awards. It contained the UN secretary general's statement on the WPF, the MISA statement on WPF, information on media awards, a write up on the media situation in the country, HIV/AIDS and gender research findings and information on the press conference to launch the research report.

MISA Tanzania also managed to translate into Kiswahili (Kiswahili is the main language of communication in Tanzania) the "Have you Heard Me booklet and designed Kiswahili posters of "ten principles on reporting HIV/AIDS and gender" under Media Action Programme (MAP). The chapter produced 2000 copies of the booklet and 2000 copies of the poster. The booklets and posters were distributed to journalists and media workers with a hope to increase their skills on how to report HIV/AIDS and gender and the media's role to combat the pandemic.

MISA Zambia continued to publish their newsletter MISA News. The chapter also published a book entitled Struggle For Media Law Reforms In Zambia authored by Dr. Patrick Matibini, a lawyer, media advocate and academic. The book yet to be launched by mid May in the next financial year documents how media organisations and especially MISA Zambia carried forward media law reforms especially around the establishment of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), the Amendment of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) Act and the enactment of the Freedom of Information Bill.

MISA-Zimbabwe in an effort to create public awareness on the impact of media laws including the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and build pressure for its reform printed 500 facts sheets on AIPPA, 500 Public



Order and Security Act (POSA), 250 on the Broadcasting Services Act as well 250 on the Constitutional Amendment Number 17. This came after the chapter realized that members of the public, many who are falling victim of these laws, are not even aware of their existence. The fact sheets are proving to be handy reference tools for civil society, researchers, and students in media studies as well as the diplomatic community in need of understanding these laws better, especially in light of the spate of arrests, beatings and banning of meetings and any forms of gatherings perceived as oppositional.

All of MISA's publications were distributed in the region. MISA's publications were also distributed to the Library of Congress in the United States of America and they have come back to us requesting more copies of these books.

6.4 Resource Centers

As part of services provided to the MISA membership, MISA chapters continued to run resource centres in the chapters and interest from members in the use of the resource centres keeps increasing. MISA Botswana continues to receive not less than five (5) clients daily. MISA Namibia continues to provide free internet access to the chapter members. The resource centre continues to be dormant due to lack of human resources to run it, however, the internet access for many of the local freelance journalists and students continues to be popular. South Africa continued to update their resource centre and conducting the daily monitoring of newspapers and websites and archive that material for research and general reference purposes. In Swaziland MISA officially launched the resource centre in April 2006 the chapter. The Swaziland resource centre is already equipped with books and three computers. Zambia has also registered an increase in the use of the resource centre with an average of about eight users daily with some frequenting the centre on a hebdominal basis.

MISA-Tanzania had planned to fundraise for the resource centre to enable the chapter purchase equipment such as cabinets, box files, computers and photocopier machine. No funds were obtained during this reporting period although the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) has shown an interest to work with MISA-TAN on raising funds for the same. However the chapter has continued to acquire titles for the resource centre and disseminate information to stakeholders.

6.5 Challenges

The main challenge to the strategy is the lack of funds. The strategy needs more funds both at regional and chapter level in order to have solid publicity plans and these funds need to be raised both at regional and chapter level.

The other challenge at present is the lack of human resources as Information and Research officers who are already overwhelmed are the ones doing the communications function at a chapter level. At the regional level there is a need for an IT officer to consolidate MISA's IT needs which are essential to the running of the organization and the communication and dissemination strategy. This challenge is a reflection of the lack of funds mentioned earlier.



IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING



Delegates listening to deliberations at the MISA Regional Annual General Meeting held in September 2006 at Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa.

7. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

MISA held its Regional Annual General Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa at the beginning of September 2006. This was election year for the organization and consequently the chapters held their Annual General Meetings (AGM) before the regional AGM to elect new governors (with the exception of Tanzania who held their AGM in the middle of September 2006 and as a result did not attend the regional AG). MISA therefore has new governors and elected a new Executive Committee during the AGM.

POSITION	NAME
Regional Chairperson	Thabo Thakalekoala (Lesotho)
Deputy Regional chairperson	Lomcebo Dlamini (Swaziland)
Member	Christof Maletky (Namibia)
Member	Laona Segatsho (Botswana)
Ex-Officio Member	Salva Rweyemamu (Tanzania)

The Executive Committee met once during the year mainly to approve the 2007 – 2008 work plans and budgets. They also approved the MISA HIV/AIDS policy and the Communications Policy.

The various national chapters held their regular board meetings. MISA Botswana conducted a governance workshop to initiate the chapter's new board members who expressed gratitude and appreciation for the event. MISA Zimbabwe's Chairperson Thomas Deve resigned during the course of the year and was replaced by his deputy Loughty Dube. The Zimbabwe National Governing Council had to co-opt a new member in order to fill all the positions. The MISA Zimbabwe membership also created a management committee to deal with administrative and human resource issues.

The year under review saw MISA embark on an Organizations Development process in an effort to best implement the recommendations of the SPP1 evaluation. The process consultant appointed is Simon Matsvayi of Symaccon who also conducted the SPP1 evaluation.

Mr Kaitira Kandjii was appointed the new Regional Director of MISA effective April 1 2006. He replaced Mr Luckson Chipare whose contract ended on 31 March 2006. Mr Kaitira was the Programme Specialist for Freedom of Expression and the Right to Know and consequently that position was rendered vacant. At the moment there is a Programme Officer who is running the programme who was moved from the Broadcasting and ICTs programme. The organization experienced a draw back in its human resources capacity as the Regional Deputy Director/ Programmes Manager Mr Titus Moetsabi left the organization in January 2007. At the end of the financial year Mr Eric Libongani the Publications Officer also left MISA after serving the organization for 5 years. MISA Zimbabwe also reduced its staff from nine to eight. This followed the departure of Assistant Programmes Officer Sharon Tapfumaneyi whose contract was not renewed by the MISA-Zimbabwe board.

MISA-Zimbabwe changed its structure to create the position of Senior Programmes Officer. Takura Zhangazha, formerly Advocacy Officer, now occupies this position. This position was created as a programme support and bridge between the Director and Programme Officer. The Senior Programmes Officer Acts in the position of Director automatically in the absence of the Director.



7.1 Networking

MISA continued to network with like minded organizations both at a regional and national level in order to most efficiently and effectively implement its various programme activities. MISA's partners at the regional level include, IFEX, Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR), Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), Netherlands Institute of southern Africa (NiZA), UNECA, GEMSA, Gender Links, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Southern African Broadcasting Association (SABA), the MAP partners and many others. At a national level there are also a lot of partnerships that the various MISA chapters formed in order to best implement the various activities. Some of the partnerships to note during the year under review are

- the Botswana Civil Society Solidarity Coalition for Zimbabwe (BOCISCOZ), a coalition of Botswana registered Non-Governmental Organizations namely Botswana Council of NGOs (BOCONGO), Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Botswana Chapter, Ditshwanelo-The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, Botswana Federation Secondary School Teachers (BOFESETE), Botswana Council of Churches. BOCISCOZ planned a series of activities including a church service, marches and a public rally to show solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe in commemoration of the anniversary of Operation Murambatsvina.
- The civil society organizations that joined MISA in Namibia to march and present a petition to the Zimbabwe Embassy in Windhoek Namibia in March 2007 in protest against the beatings of civil society and opposition leaders as well as journalists who were on their way to attend a scheduled religious rally.
- The Lesotho Smart Partnership Hub Media sectoral link which prepared for the SADC heads of state summit as well as the Civil Society Forum that run parallel to each other that MISA Lesotho was also co-facilitating.
- The coalition of eleven media stakeholders campaigning for the Freedom of Information Act 2006 in Tanzania.



MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA FINANCIAL REPORT (DRAFT)

FOR THE YEAR

01 APRIL 2006 TO 31 MARCH 2007

Submitted to MISA Basket Fund Donors:

Royal Danish Embassy, Lusaka

Swedish Embassy, Lusaka

Royal Norwegian Embassy, Pretoria

HIVOS Regional Office Southern Africa, Harare

June 2007, Windhoek, Namibia

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction & Overview	54
2.	Variance Report Summary Notes	55
3.	Auditor's Report	56
4.	Detailed Income & Expenditure Statement.....	57-59
5.	Balance Sheet	60

INTRODUCTION

This Financial Report covers the second year of the second Strategic Partnership Plan (SPP2) – 01st April 2005 to 31st March 2010.

The report is presented to the Basket Fund Donors under the SPP2 agreement, namely:

- The Royal Danish Embassy – Lusaka,
- Hivos – Southern Africa Regional Office,
- The Royal Norwegian Embassy – Pretoria
- The Royal Swedish Embassy – Lusaka.

OVERVIEW

Total grants received under the basket funding agreement were N\$ 18.63 million (USD 2.63 million).

Grants from other sources amounted to N\$ 3.17 million (USD 0.45 million).

Total income for the year was therefore N\$21.91 million (USD 3.11 million) – 15% above the previous year (USD 2.70).

Grants received under the basket funding agreement constituted 85% of the total income.

Total expenditure for the year was N\$ 18.99 million (USD 2.69 million) – down by 5% from the previous year.

There was an overall annual surplus this year of N\$ 2.97m (USD 0.41m).

A detailed breakdown of expenditure per programme and a summary per country are given in the attached schedules.

The schedules also include variances (actual figures vs budgets). Brief notes explaining the major variances precede the schedules.



VARIANCE REPORT SUMMARY NOTES

INCOME

- The original basket fund income estimate of USD 2.18 was revised upwards to USD 2.66 after making an adjustment for the extra USD 480,000 from the Norwegian Embassy was pulled back to the current year. The amount had originally been allocated to the period falling outside the SPP2 period.
- Total income received for the year was USD 3.10m, 15% above the previous year.
- Foreign exchange fluctuations between the time of budgeting and the time funds were received was the major cause of variances between the individual line budgets.

EXPENDITURE

- Total expenditure for the year was USD2.69m – 6% over the budget figure of USD2.86m
- Whereas the total expenditure was within the budget limits, there were significant shifts between programme areas and between chapters. This was due to changing priorities and areas of focus during the course of the year.
- Programme B had an overall expenditure of USD 550,000 against a budget of USD 629,000 – a positive variance of 12%. The major cause was the shift of the regional AGM (and related board meetings) to South Africa, which was a cheaper venue.
- Campaign for Broadcasting Diversity (Programme C) had a favourable variance of 16% mainly as a result of redeployment of support staff to another programme and Angola activities which were not undertaken as the chapter was still experiencing governance problems.
- There was a general overall saving in staff costs as two positions at managerial level remained vacant throughout the year under review.
- Programme D had an over-expenditure of 8% – arising from under-funding of one major workshop.



30 June 2007

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF:

MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the annual financial statements of The Media Institute of Southern Africa, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2007, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, as set out on pages 3 to 9.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust at 31 March 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

**REGISTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (NAMIBIA)
WINDHOEK**

D G Fourie; F C Kotzé; W E H McTeer; R P Niddrie; P K Tjipueja
A full list of partners names may be obtained from this office



**MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

	Note	2007 N\$	2006 N\$
INCOME	3	<u>21 914 792</u>	<u>17 292 863</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>2 974 884</u>	<u>(1 398 502)</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)/ for the year		<u>2 974 884</u>	<u>(1 398 502)</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Accumulated fund

Balance at beginning of year
Net surplus for the year

(589 894)
2 974 884

808 608
(1 398 502)

Balance at end of year

2 384 990

(589 894)

Capital reserves

Balance at end of year

635 871

635 871

dey.



**MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007**

	2007 Actual N\$	2007 Actual US\$	2006 Actual N\$	2006 Actual US\$
INCOME				
GRANTS RECEIVED				
<i>BASKET FUNDING</i>				
Royal Danish Embassy	3 043 044	431 754	3 338 821	520 877
Royal Norwegian Embassy (NORAD)	8 056 421	1 143 063	2 987 329	466 042
Royal Swedish Embassy (SIDA)	5 000 853	709 532	5 133 226	800 815
HIVOS – Regional Office - SA	2 526 908	358 523	1 991 250	310 647
TOTAL BASKET FUNDS RECEIVED	18 627 226	2 642 872	13 450 626	2 098 381
BASKET FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	-	-	-	-
NET BASKET FUNDS	18 627 226	2 642 872	13 450 626	2 098 381
<i>OTHER GRANTS</i>				
European Union - EU	298 969	42 418	1 880 404	293 355
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - FES	-	-	26 858	4 190
Netherlands Institute of Southern Africa - NIZA	1 948 535	276 462	1 107 526	172 781
International Media Support	-	-	224 910	35 087
IJJ/INWENT	-	-	116 776	18 218
Open Society Initiative for South Africa	1 160 596	164 668	-	-
UNECA	187 650	26 624	-	-
Southern Africa Trust – SAT	370 007	52 497	-	-
Other Grant carried forward	(793 736)	(112 617)	-	-
TOTAL OTHER GRANTS	3 172 022	450 052	3 356 474	523 631
TOTAL GRANTS	21 799 247	3 092 924	16 807 100	2 622 012
OTHER INCOME				
Interest received	65 323	9 268	485 052	75 671
Sale of publications	-	-	-	-
Sundry revenue	50 222	7 126	710	111
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	115 545	16 394	485 762	75 782
TOTAL INCOME	21 914 792	3 109 318	17 292 862	2 697 794

dey.



MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

SUMMARY INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31,

	2007 Actual N\$	2007 Actual USD	2006 Actual N\$	2006 Actual USD
INCOME				
GRANTS RECEIVED				
<i>BASKET FUNDING</i>				
TOTAL BASKET FUNDS RECEIVED	18,627,226	2,642,872	13,450,626	2,098,382
BASKET FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	-	-	-	-
<i>NET BASKET FUNDS</i>	18,627,226	2,642,872	13,450,626	2,098,382
TOTAL OTHER GRANTS RECEIVED	3,965,758	562,670	3,356,474	523,631
OTHER GRANTS CARRIED FORWARD	(793,736)	(112,617)	-	-
<i>NET OTHER GRANTS</i>	3,172,022	450,053	3,356,474	523,631
TOTAL GRANTS	21,799,247	3,092,925	16,807,100	2,622,012
OTHER INCOME	115,545	16,394	485,763	75,782
TOTAL INCOME	21,914,792	3,109,319	17,292,863	2,697,795
EXPENDITURE				
PROG A - FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION CAMPAIGN	3,223,591	457,370	3,002,348	468,385
PROG B - MEDIA FREEDOM MONITORING	3,881,537	550,721	4,030,495	628,438
PROG C - CAMPAIGN FOR BROADCASTING DIVERSITY	2,776,240	393,899	2,550,206	397,848
PROG D - MEDIA SUPPORT ACTIVITIES	3,970,373	563,325	4,587,044	715,604
PROG E - LEGAL SUPPORT	470,816	66,800	810,552	126,451
IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING COSTS	4,666,222	662,054	3,710,720	579,239
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	18,988,779	2,694,170	18,691,365	2,915,965
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2,926,013	415,149	(1,398,502)	(218,171)
Forex Gain on Conversion	48,871	(8,222)	-	(4,777)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	2,974,884	406,927	(1,398,502)	(222,948)



**MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2007**

	Note	2007 N\$	2006 N\$
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	<u>1 278 478</u>	<u>857 806</u>
Current assets			
Accounts receivable		137 399	39 336
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>4 086 981</u>	<u>748 262</u>
		<u>4 224 380</u>	<u>787 598</u>
Total assets		<u><u>5 502 858</u></u>	<u><u>1 645 404</u></u>
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Funds and reserves			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		2 384 990	(589 894)
Capital reserves	5	<u>635 871</u>	<u>635 871</u>
		<u>3 020 861</u>	<u>45 977</u>
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		<u>2 481 997</u>	<u>1 599 427</u>
Total equity and liabilities		<u><u>5 502 858</u></u>	<u><u>1 645 404</u></u>

dyf