



**Media Institute of Southern Africa
Zambia Chapter**

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

For the First Quarter (January – March) 2018

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ATI	Access to Information
DN	Daily Nation newspaper
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
DTT	Digital Terrestrial Television
FDD	Forum for Democracy and Development
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
ISP	Internet Service Provider
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MP	Member of Parliament
PF	Patriotic Front
TIZ	Transparency International Zambia
ToZ	Times of Zambia newspaper
UNIP	United National Independence Party
UPND	United Party for National Development
ZDM	Zambia Daily Mail newspaper
ZICTA	Zambia Information, Communication and Technology Authority
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation
ZRA	Zambia Revenue Authority

1.0 Introduction

The *State of the Media in Zambia* is a quarterly report based on the assessment of events touching on the environment under which the media operated during the period under review. This report summarises the conditions under which media houses and media practitioners operated between January and March 2018. Particular attention is given to political, economic, technological and legal environments as well as any other pertinent factors influencing the performance of the media industry in Zambia. In addition, the report reflects the main topical national issues that arose during the period and how the media reported these in its role of ensuring that the public was fully informed.

The quarterly report is prepared by the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia Chapter. The report helps to cumulatively document major developments in the media industry in Zambia and to flag off any negative trends requiring remedial measures by both MISA Zambia and other major stakeholders.

2.0 Methodology

The first quarterly report of the *State of the Media in Zambia* is essentially based on careful review and analysis of materials that were available during the first quarter (January – March) of 2018 containing information that had an impact and influenced the operations of the media in Zambia. The materials reviewed included news reports, press statements and MISA Zambia media alerts published from January to March 2018. Interviews with selected media personnel through questionnaires were also used as a source of information necessary for the report. Further an analysis of media institutions with online presence was conducted, with particular attention to their news updates and interactions with readers.

Efforts were made to engage various selected broadcasting stations for recorded news-casts for purposes of monitoring. Furthermore, in-depth interviews with journalists from different media institutions were employed to get more information on how the media operated in the first quarter with attention to the environment of operation and how they were affected. Some journalists responded on time while other did not respond to the request.

3.0 Executive Summary of Media Events during the First Quarter

Media practitioners are yet to face a hard time in their profession as more laws set to regulate media operations are yet to be enacted. The first quarter of 2018 opened with different activities affecting the operations of the media both positively and negatively.

To begin with, calls to enact the Access to Information (ATI) Bill persisted. These calls started as far back as 2002, but to-date the bill has not been signed and with hope of being signed this year slowly fading. Like in the previous years, the government continued with contradictions. On 23rd February, 2018, Justice Minister Given Lubinda disclosed that the Bill would not be reviewed as there were a lot of bills to be tabled in parliament¹. But the following month on 20th March 2018 the *Zambia Daily Mail* reported that the Head of State indicated that the ATI would be reviewed by parliament.

The print media, between January and March, publish enough information related to media freedom. Among them include follow up stories on the progress made on the Access to Information (ATI) Bill following the opening of parliament on 20th February 2018.

Efforts to diligently allow for all views and voices in the media continued despite threats on the private media by cadres and government officials to reduce their criticism of government. From 1st January, 2018 to 31st March, 2018, papers that published stories related to the media monitored in relation to the State of the Media report were, the *Times of Zambia*, *Zambia Daily Mail*, *The Mast* and the *Daily Nation*. Furthermore, the period saw a recurrence of the debate and news surrounding *The Post* newspaper. The main issue surrounding the case of an appeal made by former Editor-in-Chief of *The Post* Fred M'membe where he had appealed to the Constitutional Court to revoke the decision of the High Court to restore *The Post* newspaper.

During this period, incidents of harassment of media practitioners and media institutions were comparatively few. The fact that media practitioners were nonetheless harassed, worse still, at the hands of the Zambia Police Service, was in itself bad and should not be tolerated. There is dire need to address and find a lasting solution that ensures safety and peaceful working environment for the media practitioners and institutions.

¹ *Zambian Reports*, 23rd February, 2018: Parley shelves Access To Information Bill, Political Party Law

4.0 Findings

Overview

4.1 Policy and Statutory Framework

Media practitioners and advocates of media freedom have continued to call for laws that do not suppress the operations of the media. As a result, calls for enactment of the ATI have increased access to information. But 2018 started on a gloomy note for media freedom advocates when then Ministry of Justice Given Lubinda on 23rd February, 2018 said that the Bill would not be reviewed because there were a lot of Bills to table before parliament. Below is an extract from

Zambia Reports:

“Justice Minister Given Lubinda has ruled out the presentation of the Access to Information Bill and the Public Order Act in Parliament for enactment and amendment respectively in the current sitting.

“The current sitting is overloaded with other bill presentations and it will not be possible to table the two legislations,” Mr. Lubinda said²

However, later in March, 2018 there was a glimpse of hope when the Head of State promised that the Bill would be tabled before parliament for review. On two occasions, the President emphasised the need to have the Bill presented to parliament. This move was well received by media advocates including MISA Zambia.

Meanwhile, the period under review has experienced announcements of new laws yet to be passed which relate to the freedom of expression among media users. Following the increase in the number of internet users in the country, the social media has significantly become an influential platform for sharing news and information. The social media has become a channel for critical expression and criticism for government officials. It also provides agency and resistance, where different individuals and groups stage protests and express themselves on issues affecting society. Consequently, this situation poses great threats to the government which has since preoccupied itself with finding ways of monitoring social media activities. The

²Zambian Reports, 23rd February, 2018: Parley shelves Access To Information Bill, Political Party Law

government has also reacted by trying to enact laws to regulate what it terms the spread of false and defamatory news on social media. Among the laws government intends to put in place are cyber security and cybercrime bill, the e-transaction and e-commerce bill and the data protection bill. Government officials have been generally intolerant to criticism, in many cases stating that the online space is being abused. For instance on 10th January 2018, *Lusaka Times* reported that a medical doctor was sentenced to three (3) years imprisonment for defamation of the President through a fake Facebook account.

In addition, media institutions including their social media accounts are under surveillance and under censorship of information critical of government. This is evident in the case in which on 19th March, 2018, Radio Mano station management was summoned by the police in Kasama over a post made by one of its Fun Club members on the ‘Radio Mano Fun Club’ Facebook page.

Independent Broadcasting Authority

The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) was set up by an Act of Parliament to regulate the broadcast media in Zambia. IBA is therefore a government establishment whose Board of Directors is appointed by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services. By its very nature as a government entity, IBA’s independence continues to raise questions. This follows a number of times certain media houses have been shut down for being critical of government. However, the Authority’s role between 1st January, 2018 to 31st March, 2018 did not show many activities, apart from instances of media reports when it was being urged to revoke licenses of irresponsible media houses by members from the ruling PF. Consequently, the PF called on media practitioners to be mentored.

Further, the next mention of IBA in the print media was when IBA announced collection of TV levy which was previously the role of ZNBC. It was explained that despite the collection being done by IBA, the TV levy still goes to ZNBC. The contentious issue with the IBA was the introduction of different TV levies for different TV channels other than ZNBC. On 7th March, 2018, government through IBA³ announced that effective 1st April, 2018 the collection of TV

³ Daily Nation, 7th March, 2018: IBA to start collecting TV Levy

levy will be collected through Subscription Management Services (SMSs). The announced was followed by a Cabinet Circular⁴.

“This is to notify members of the public that collection of TV levy will now be through Subscription Management Services (SMSs) effective 1st April 2018. A TV levy of K5.00 will be collected by the SMSs and is mandatory as it is now Law. This means that as you pay your monthly subscription from your service providers, you will be required to pay an additional K5.00 for TV levy. This follows an amendment to both the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) Act of 2001 and the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) Act of 2010 which mandates the IBA to collect TV Levy,” Cabinet Office Circular.

The role of IBA in the collection process therefore remains unclear as the funds still have to go to ZNBC.

Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC)

Concerning the national broadcaster, the year started on disappointing and questionable note in the way the public service provider was being run. One of the most pressing issues though not yet in the clear is the ownership of ZNBC. The questioning of ownership comes after the digital migration process where previously ZNBC was the signal carrier for all broadcasters in partnership with Multi-choice.

However, after the coming on board of TopStar, a Chinese company to help with the digital migration, the company became the signal carrier for all broadcasters. Rumours of shutting down the private media emerged among private media houses with the issue not addressed directly by government.

On 7th March, 2018, Diamond TV reported that TopStar halted⁵ the move to switch off local TV.

⁴ Cabinet Circular 29th March, 2018: Collection Of TV Levy Through Subscription Management Services (SMSs) EFFECTIVE 1ST APRIL 2018

⁵ Diamond TV, 7th March, 2018: TopStar Halts Move To Switch Off Local TV

“TopStar will not switch off any station until all issues surrounding carriage fees are ironed out. This is according to Economic and Equity Party (EEP) President Chilufya Tayali who met Topstar Management on Tuesday.

According to Mr. Tayali, TopStar is willing to engage stakeholders on favourable carriage fees.

He adds that according to the Chinese digital TV service provider, the carriage fees were set by the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA).”

How the transfer of signal carriage between ZNBC and TopStar happened also remains unclear.

Apart from the two incidents, the national broadcaster in the quarter had a disgraceful moment when its workers protested over delayed salary payments. The protest showed failure of both management and government in the running of the corporation as the institution has the capacity to raise enough money to pay its workers. It is public knowledge that despite running adverts, the public broadcaster has employee salaries paid from the government treasury.

Lastly, the year recorded a case in which Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services then Kampamba Mulenga refused to address ZNBC staff in the presence of the private media.

4.2 Economic and Technological Environment

Economically, the first quarter saw a protest of ZNBC workers following a delay in payment of salaries. It was thereafter reported that the delayed salaries were then paid by funds raised from toll gate fees. The incident raises question of how the public broadcaster is run when in fact it has the capacity to raise funds on its own.

On the other hand, *Zambia Daily Mail* reporters saw a seven percent (7%) increase in their salaries which was a welcome move among media personnel.

Apart from such development, the media industry in Zambia remains one of the lowest paying sectors. This is despite the industry’s potential to offer great financial motivation to workers. It was observed from the period under review that some journalists are getting less than K1 500 as their monthly salaries.

Additionally, as revealed by Gerald Shawa, Prime TV Proprietor, journalists in the private media are underpaid compared to those working for the public media. The background to the low wages stems from low income streams private media are exposed to. It has been observed that private media houses are barely given business by government which makes them compete for few companies advertising in the media.

“[Journalists salaries] in the private media is between K2 000 - K5 000 and for public media it’s between K5 000 - K10 000. Raising income [has been challenging for the private media] as government has opted not to give business to most media in the private sector as they are considered to be their enemies. This has left us in the private media to fight for the limited market share available,” Mr. Shawa said.

In terms of technologies, the media remains one of the most labour and technology intensity industries in the world. This is the case for Zambia. Developments in technology have greatly influenced the operations of the media, consequently widening the scope of operations for the media world. Most media institutions are slowly adopting new technological infrastructure. But then again, despite the increase in players, media houses are said to face challenges with advanced equipment to support their operations. New and improved equipment are expensive for some media houses.

Furthermore, the move towards digital migration has contributed to technological advancement in the media especially the first quarter. This is based on the fact that media houses have started adopting new and state of the art equipment.

The fact remains that the public media (ZNBC), funded by government has latest equipment due to its direct involvement in the digital migration process. It is in the first quarter that improved set top boxes for accessing satellite TV saw a price reduction for Multichoice as well as TopStar. Further, most media houses increased their internet usage through websites and social media. Currently, almost all media houses in the country have an active presence online with some updating their social media pages with their programming to engage their readers/listeners/viewers while other use them for news updates.

4.2.1 Efficient and Cheaper Internet Facility

Data in the first quarter reduced as all the leading ISPs in the country reduced the data prices making access to the internet readily available to many. Further, ZICTA indicated that the number of internet users mostly through mobile phones increased with majority using the social media when online.

Internet facility continues to improve following increasing access and usage of the internet among media practitioners.

4.3 Legal and Political Environment

The relationship between the private media and the state has continued to be a struggle with little effort to embrace the role of the private media. Criticism by government officials continued in the first quarter with calls on the private media to stop promoting insults in the media but rather to focus on development.

Media houses that are critical of government are asked to report fairly on government with ZNBC which is a public broadcaster giving positive coverage of government.

4.3.1 Legal

Media practitioners are not well protected by the law. As can be seen in the first quarter, reporters who were harassed or assaulted had their cases not followed up. As a result, cadres have the audacity to harass journalists and to some extent threaten media houses and somewhat directing them on how they should publish stories.

4.3.2 Harassment, Threats and Assaults

The first quarter saw a number of harassments, threats, and attacks leading to assaults. PF cadres attacked private media mostly verbally while opposition political party cadres harassed reporters affiliated to the public media. The following are some of the cases:

4.3.2.1 Assaults and Attacks

The first quarter saw a story circulating on social media in which a reporter narrated that he was tortured by army personnel. Unfortunately, the story died after the then Minister of Defense said the incident was regrettable.

On 27th January, 2018, the Daily Nation, reported that, “Defence Minister, Davis Chama says that the abduction and torture of Daily Nation reporter, Micheal Miyoba is regrettable and saddening if it’s true. Miyoba was recently attacked by four ZAF officers charged with the mandate to clearing vendors from Lusaka streets, for merely being found on the street as he went to board a bus home. However, it is the manner of torture that he was subjected to that has raised consternation in the nation. According to Miyoba, a female ZAF officer pulled his genitals not once or twice but four times as punishment⁶.

The attack on the named reporter happened during the time when a combined team of defense forces were cleaning Lusaka City. This followed a directive from the government to remove street vendors from the central business district following the increase in the number of cholera cases reported in the country.

It was also in the period under review that the media club condemned verbal attacks on *The Mast* newspaper by the PF cadres. On 26th February, 2018, *The Mast* published a reaction from Northern Region Media Club (NORTEC)⁷ condemning PF cadres for verbally assaulting *The Mast* reporter Marilyn Rose for reporting President’s Edgar Lungu’s ‘*ubomba mwibala*’ remark.

NORTEC secretary Clinton Masumba stated:

“The reporter was verbally attacked following her article that appeared in the Mast Newspaper on 12th February 2018 headlined ‘YOU CAN STEAL’.... but tabalila kumo nembuto kumo - Lungu’, in which the Head of State used the idiom, ‘Ubomba mwibala alya mwibala, tabatila kulya kumonembuto kumo’. Masumba stated.

⁶ Daily Nation 27th January, 2018: Scribe’s Torture Ordeal Regrettable Says Minster

⁷ The Mast Newspaper, 26th February, 2018: Media club condemns PF Cadres’ verbal attack on Mast reporter.

“The incident happened when the unruly PF cadres spotted the reporter after she covered Presidential Affairs Minister Freedom Sikazwe who was addressing marketeers and accompanied by National Planning Minister Alexander Chiteme and Copperbelt Minister Japhen Mwakalombe at the Kitwe City Council”.

Lastly, in the third quarter of 2018, the *Daily Nation* premises were petrol bombed. However, the first quarter saw a packer being attacked around 05:00 hrs. On 21st March, 2018, police instituted investigations into the brutal attack on the *Daily Nation* packer who sustained a deep cut on his head inflicted by unknown assailants just outside the newspapers premises. The packer survived the brutal attack after the newspaper’s private security responded to screams and rushed out to see what was happening.

The attack prompted the *Daily Nation* management to appeal for the Zambia Police to intensify security patrols around the industrial area. The attack left the employee with a dislocated knee and a cut on the head requiring eight (8) stitches.

4.3.2.2 Blocked from covering a press briefing

The year opened with two reporters being chased from covering an opposition political party press briefing. A story published by *Smart Eagles* on 15th March, 2018 indicated that ‘journalist Brian Mwale was harassment and chased from covering Kambwili’s press briefing’⁸.

Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation – ZNBC - Journalist Brian Mwale has this morning been harassed and chased from covering a National Democratic Congress NDC- press briefing at Chishimba Kambwili’s residence on Lewanika Close, off Brentwood drive in Kabulonga.

NDC Youth leader Charles Kabwita attacked Brian Mwale under the watchful eye and instruction of the opposition political party leader Chishimba Kambwili and only Bridget Atanga came to his rescue before being overpowered by a gang of youths present at the residence.

Brian was kicked out of the Kambwili residence followed by a Times of Zambia Reporter.

⁸ Smart Eagles (Facebook), 15th March, 2018: Journalist Brian Mwale Harassed & Chased From Covering Kambwili's Press Briefing

The reporters were chased on grounds of affiliation to the public media which are known for not airing views from the opposition political parties.

4.3.2.3 Social media under check/Surveillance

The quarter under review saw a lot of social media checks which can be classified as surveillance on media houses as well as general citizenry. Social media content in Zambia has been under check by government authorities to a point of stalking individual online accounts. Posts on social media that are critical of government and government officials are treated as abuse of social media.

For instance, on 19th March, 2018 Radio Mano⁹ Station Manager, Crispin Ntalasha was summoned by the police following a post by the radio fan on the Fan Club Page on Facebook.

This is a clear case of state surveillance of private citizens on the social media. On how the police came to know about the post made by a fan on the fan club page can be a sign that the media including social media in the previous quarter was under surveillance.

In this regard, to intensify check on the use of social media and other online media platforms, government intends to enact three bills namely; cyber security and cybercrime bill, the e-transaction and e-commerce bill and the data protection bill to reduce online and social media abuse. The announcement of the three bills was done by Minister of Transport and Communication as well as Minister of Information and Broadcasting services.

Media houses as well as social media usage in the first quarter continued to be under heavy surveillance with attention being made to posts deemed against government. Facebook posts especially that expose short comings of government are treated in the category of abuse of social media¹⁰. Further, social media posts especially critical of the President, have received criticism from both government officials and PF cadres.

⁹ Radio Mano Station Manager, 19th March, 2018: Radio Mano Summoned By Police Over Alleged Facebook Posting

¹⁰ Zambia Daily Mail, 14th March, 2018: Use Social Media Well- Msiska

Following heavy criticism of social media post by government, three bills to monitor and regulate the use of social media as well as the internet have been formulated and are yet to be enacted.

Media houses especially the private media have received more criticism from government official and cadres. Private media houses unlike public media have continued striving for balanced coverage which has led to some media houses named notorious by Higher Education Minister Nkandu Luo¹¹.

4.4 Progress on Enactment of Access to Information Bill

Media advocates calling for the early enactment of the ATI bill have continued engaging government for early enactment. Following the announcement by the President's Press Aid Amos Chanda that the bill was ready for review in parliament, the Human Rights Commission¹² (HRC) was hopeful that the bill would finally be enacted. Further, Zitukule Consortium called for the speedy enactment of the bill. Zitukule Consortium¹³ Executive Director Nicholas Phiri observed that several new bills had been given priority over the ATI which had been in the process of review for more than a decade.

“Several new bills have come and seen the light of day while the ATI Bill continues to gather dust. It wouldn't be surprising if the Political Party Bill, which only came in 2017 and the Proposed Cyber Laws see the light of day before the ATI Bill which was started in 2002 has its day in parliament.

“As Zitukule Consortium, we wish to advise the government to see beyond their skepticism and see the ATI as a law which is in interest of both the state and the citizens. We are convinced that the enactment of the ATI Bill into law will significantly address the growing mistrust and suspicion between citizens and the government. It will help to rebuild and restore public confidence in institutions of governance and governance processes in Zambia.”

¹¹ The Mast Newspaper 21st March, 2018: Mast, Diggers, Prime and Muvi are notorious institutions – Luo

¹² The Mast Newspaper 19th February, 2018: HRC Hopes ATI Bill Will Be Aailed For Final Review

¹³ The Mast Newspaper, 1st March, 2018: Zitukule Calls For Speedy Enactment Of ATI Bill

Calls for the speedy enactment was a reaction to Justice Minister's announcement¹⁴ that the Bill was pushed to the next sitting of parliament as there were a lot of bills set for review before parliament. The statement by the Minister came unexpectedly as he previously was in support in the media in pushing for the enactment of the bill.

It should be noted however, that ATI bill is likely to be enacted as the President confirmed the possibility of taking the bill to parliament for review. On two instances i.e. 17th February, 2018 (*News Diggers*) and 20th March, 2018 (*Zambia Daily Mail*), the President's Press Aid¹⁵ indicated that the document was ready and that only parliament was left to review the document before being signed in to law.

MISA Zambia together with other partners have since 2002 been calling on government to enact the ATI bill. On record, MISA Zambia has it that the ATI bill was long overdue as it has stalled since 2002 when it was presented to parliament, with successive governments including the PF government in 2011, making vain promises which did not materialise.

4.5 Media ethics

Media ethics in the period under review were of concern especially on how journalists covered government officials and state related events. The relationship between government and the media showed that journalists, especially those from private media houses were blamed for not being ethical. The blame was mostly with regard to the portrayal of government officials and the ruling PF cadres in negative light.

From the general conduct, no reports of misconduct were reported. Media practitioners generally, portrayed a general professional conduct in their execution of their duties.

4.6 Review of Issues of concern

4.6.1 TopStar

Before the digital migration process, ZNBC was the national carrier for all media stations i.e. both radio and TV in Zambia. However, the previous quarter has had concerns of TopStar

¹⁴ *Zambian Reports*, 23rd February, 2018: Parley shelves Access To Information Bill, Political Party Law

¹⁵ *Mast Newspaper* 19th March, 2018: Lungu Gives Greenlight For Information Bill

threatening to shut down local TV channels. TopStar is the Chinese company that was contracted to help implement the digital migration process which in turn was made the national carrier.

According to Diamond TV Chief Executive Officer Costa Mwansa, the company in the original contract is only supposed to be a broadcast carrier¹⁶. Currently, TopStar is operating as both the broadcast carrier as well as the pay TV channel contrary to the original contract.

“Diamond TV Chief Executive Officer Costa Mwansa has cited among other things the trend in which Top Star carries private stations as pay TV channels when they are actually listed as free to air without receiving payment for the pay TV service.

“Mr. Mwansa adds that Top Star is going against the digital migration policy which prohibits an entity from being a carrier and content provider at the same time.”¹⁷

As it stands, a lot of information surrounding the establishment and the operations of TopStar remain unknown as there is little information in the media about the company.

Following the Digital Migration Policy launched in 2014, a signal distributor such as TopStar should not be content provider as is the case. Therefore, as it stands, TopStar’s operation of both a signal distributor or carrier and a content creator goes against the policy¹⁸.

5.0 Conclusion

The media in the first quarter had difficult in covering of certain events as there are still areas where objective and balanced reporting is not done. The private media are still not free to publish information deemed critical of government as they are constantly under censorship and surveillance by the state. Cadres also threaten the operations of the media with calls by the PF and some government officials to have media houses to cover government related issues positively.

¹⁶ Muvi TV (Facebook) 10th February, 2018: TopStar Threatens Private Television Stations With Blackout

¹⁷ News Diggers, 30th January, 2018: TIZ Takes Govt To Task Over Star Times Single Sourcing

¹⁸ Ibid

This trend is likely to continue as the laws supporting media operations are few with the IBA perceived to be operating on partisan lines. Further, enactment of the ATI is expected to delay as government officials are skeptical about the running of the media house once the bill is enacted.

6.0 Recommendations

Following the *State of the Media in Zambia* report findings, media personnel will face tough times as more laws to regulate their operations are being put in place. Following the finding of the previous quarter, the following are the recommendations to media advocates and stakeholder.

6.1 Enactment of the ATI Bill

There is need to engage government at all levels to see that the bill is enacted. This way, the media will not be harassed for publication of certain information which government officials treat as hate speech. It should be noted that media freedoms in the country are still on paper but lack in practice, enacting the ATI bill will facilitate and create room for scribes to practice diligently. Before the bill is enacted, the media's freedom of expression will remain hindered.

6.2 Safety for Media Practitioners and Media Houses

Harassment, violence, and arrests by political party cadres and state agents pose serious threats to journalists in Zambia. There is need for sensitization of the role of the media in promoting development among citizens in general as well as government officials. This will help change the perspective that reports showing government failures are intended to unseat the ruling government.

MISA Zambia and other stakeholders should engage relevant authorities in putting deliberate measures to protect journalists from being attacked and harassed by cadres and government officials on ground of stories deemed critical of government.

6.3. Shutting Down of Local Channels by TopStar

MISA Zambia and other stakeholders should engage relevant authorities and protect the local channels who are being threatened of closure by the national carrier. This will help reduce speculation on TopStar case as more information will be clarified once the matter is settled.

This will help the local channels go back to free-to-air channels as local channels are being treated as pay TV channels on the TopStar bouquet.

Further, MISA Zambia and other stakeholders should work on engaging government to review the operations of TopStar following the breach in the Digital Migration Policy as TopStar is operating as a signal distributor and a content provider contrary to what the policy says.

6.4 Ensure Cyber-Crimes Laws don't Curb Privacy and Freedom of Expression

Zambia is currently in the processes of enacting three laws to prosecute cybercrimes. These are aimed to control and oversee all information and communication practice in Zambia. While waiting for these bills to be presented to parliament, civil society needs to advocate to ensure the proposed laws don't impede on freedom of expression and access to information and also conform with national and regional principles protecting the right to privacy, including the right to private communication

6.5 Protect Online Freedom of Expression

As a growing number of ordinary Zambians exchange ideas and information online, public authorities are increasingly threatening – and even arresting – people because of views and information posted on social media. Civil society must step up awareness of digital rights to and demand the promotion and protection of freedom of expression and access to information rights.

6.6 Insist on Ethical and Professional Media Workers

Over the years the people of Zambia have embraced the unfortunate reality that the private media and the public media are politically polarised. Many a media practitioner and authority acknowledge this factor, but without remedy.

As well as promoting media freedom and freedom of expression, media advocate institutions also need to insist on professional standards and responsible reporting from media workers.

Appendix 1

Summary List of Radio and Television Stations in Zambia as at 31 December 2017

Broadcasting service	Number
Commercial free to air television	26
Commercial free to air radio	49
Community free to air television	08
Community free to air radio	60
Satellite subscription broadcasting	03
Subscription management service	03
Landing rights broadcasting service	05
Total	154

Combined List of Television and Radio Stations in Zambia

Licensee Name	Type	Category	Province
Econet Media Limited - SMS	Subscription Management Service	Subscription Management Service	Lusaka
Top Star Communications Company Limited	Subscription Management Service	Subscription Management Service	Lusaka
MultiChoice Zambia	Subscription Management Service	Subscription Management Service	Lusaka
Kopala TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Copperbelt
Copperbelt TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Copperbelt
Chipata TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Eastern
Covenant Broadcasting Company	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka

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CAMNET	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Power TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Fresh TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Kwesé TV (Econet Media Limited) Landing Rights	Television	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka
Africa Network Television	Television	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka
Kwesé Free TV (Econet Media Zambia - FTA)	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
City Channel Cable Network	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Platinum	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Nonkas TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Catholic TV	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Acts TV	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Fire TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Kenmark TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
View Sat	Television	Satellite Subscription Broadcasting	Lusaka
Prime TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Agri-Business ABN	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Zed Entertainment	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
City Television	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Mozo TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Hope TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
StarSat	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Muvi TV Satellite	Television	Satellite Subscription Broadcasting	Lusaka

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

GoTV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
MultiChoice Zambia Limited	Television	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka
Trinity Broadcasting Network	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Mobi TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Strong Technology	Television	Satellite Subscription Broadcasting	Lusaka
Revelation TV	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Muvi TV Terrestrial	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Mwix 24TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Litovia TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
Healing TV	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Blessing Miracle Television	Television	Community free to air Television	Lusaka
Life Television	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
QTV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	Lusaka
France 24 TV	Television	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka
North Western TV	Television	Commercial free to Air Television	North Western
Mkushi	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central
Lusibo	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central
Mumbwa Blue Sky	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Central
Serenje	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central
Itezhi Tezhi	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central
Spice FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Central
Cloud FM	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central
Maranatha	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

Foston	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Central
KNC Media	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Central
Luanginga	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Western
Cheke Radio	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Western
Lukulu	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Western
Mungu	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Western
Oblate Liseli	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Western
Radio Lyambai	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Western
Kuandu Radio	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Western
Shekinah	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Copperbelt
Rise FM	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Copperbelt
Iwave	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Kokoliko	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Radio Icengelo	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Copperbelt
Yar FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Baptist Faith	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Copperbelt
Flava FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Radio Ngoma	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Radio Mpongwe	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Copperbelt
Radio Rooster	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Sun FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Jive FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Copperbelt
Chimwemwe	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Copperbelt
Breeze FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

Feel Free Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern
East Capital FM Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern
Radio Maria Zambia	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Eastern
Mphangwe	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Eastern
Chikaya	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Eastern
Valley FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern
Nyimba FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern
Radio Café	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern
Petauke Explorers	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Eastern
PASME	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Eastern
Yangeni	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Luapula
K FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Luapula
Tuta FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Luapula
Luapula	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Luapula
Bangwela FM	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Luapula
Chongwe Radio	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
Kafue Radio	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
Modern Voice	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Joy FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Komboni Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Yatsani Radio	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
Pan African	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Phoenix	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
5FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

Live FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)	Radio	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka
Comet10	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Ama Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Millennium Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Power FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Rock FM Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Hone FM Radio	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
Roots	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
QFM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Hot FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Premier One Love	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
United Voice	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
Metro FM Radio Station	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Christian Voice	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
UNZA	Radio	Community Free to air Radio	Lusaka
France Radio	Radio	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka
Direct Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Education Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka
Kwenje C	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Muchinga
Muchinga	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Muchinga
ISO-FM	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Muchinga
Mpika	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Muchinga

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

Lubuto	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Radio Mano	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Northern FM	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Lutanda FM	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Luswepo FM	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Liberty FM	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Walamo	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Northern
Kabompo	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
Kasempa Radio	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
Lumba Radio	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
Mufumbwe	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
Radio Mwinilunga	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
FCC Solwezi	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
Kalumbila	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
Kabangabanga	Radio	Community free to air Radio	North Western
New Generation FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	North Western
Beats FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	North Western
Vision Macha	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern

STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA

Byte FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Southern
Choma Maanu	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Southern
Young Generation	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Southern
Namwianga	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Voice of Kalomo	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Zambezi Radio	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Southern
Falls FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Southern
Mosi-O-Tunya	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Mazabuka Radio	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Chikuni Radio	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Sky FM	Radio	Commercial free to air radio	Southern
Namwala	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Kariba FM	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern
Chikankata Radio	Radio	Community free to air Radio	Southern

Source: Independent Broadcasting Authority

Breakdown for Radio Stations by Province: 115

EASTERN PROVINCE: 11				
1	Mphangwe	Community free to air radio	Katete	91.7 FM
2	Maria	Community free to air radio	Chipata	89.5 FM
3	Valley	Commercial free to air radio	Nyimba	100.5 FM
4	Breeze	Commercial free to air radio	Chipata	98.9 FM
5	Feel Free	Commercial free to air radio	Chipata	90.9 FM
6	Chikaya	Community free to air radio	Lundazi	98.5 FM
7	Nyimba	Commercial free to air radio	Nyimba	
8	Radio Café	commercial free to air radio	Chipata	
9	Petauke Explorers	Community free to air radio	Petauke	91.4 FM
10	PASME	Community free to air radio	Petauke	93.1 FM
11	East Capital	Commercial free to air radio	Chipata	
NORTHWESTERN PROVINCE:10				
1	Lumba	Community free to air radio	Kasempa	90.7 FM
2	Kasempa	Community free to radio	Kasempa	91.9 FM
3	FCC Solwezi	Community free to air radio	Solwezi	89.7 FM
4	Mwinilunga	Community free to air radio	Mwinilunga	88.2 FM
5	Kabangabanga	Community free to radio	Solwezi	97.7 FM
6	New Generation	Commercial free to air radio	Solwezi	90.1 FM
7	Kabompo	Community free to air radio	Kabompo	
8	Kalumbila	Community free to air radio	Kalumbila	

9	Mufumbwe	Community free to air radio	Mufumbwe	
10	Beats	Commercial free to air radio	Solwezi	96.1 FM
LUAPULA PROVINCE: 5				
1	Luapula	Community free to air radio	Nchelenge	93.7 FM
2	Yangeni	Community free to air radio	Samfya	98.2 FM
3	K FM	Commercial free to air radio	Mansa	95.5 FM
4	Tuta	Commercial free to air radio	Mansa	90.7 FM
5	Bangwela	Community free to air radio	Bangwela	89.7 FM
NORTHERN PROVINCE: 7				
1	Mano	Community free to air radio	Kasama	98.3 FM
2	Liberty	Community free to air radio	Mporokoso	
3	Walamo	Community free to air radio	Mpulungu	89.2 FM
4	Northern FM	Commercial free to air radio	Kasama	
5	Luswepo	community free to air radio	Mbala	
6	Lutanda	Community free to air radio	Kasama	
7	Lubuto	Community free to air radio	Kaputa	89.9 FM
WESTERN PROVINCE: 7				
1	Lukulu	Community free to air radio	Lukulu	100.3 FM
2	Mongu	Commercial free to air radio	Mongu	88.5 FM
3	Oblate Liseli	Community free to air radio	Mongu	101.9 FM
4	Cheke	community free to air radio	Kaoma	
5	Luanginga	Commercial free to air radio	Kalabo	
6	Kuandu	Community free to air radio	Shangombo	
7	Lyambai	Community free to air radio	Mongu	105.3 FM

COPPERBELT PROVINCE :13				
1	Sun	Commercial free to air radio	Ndola	88.5 FM
2	Yar	Commercial free to air radio	Kitwe	89.9 FM
3	Icengelo	Community free to air radio	Kitwe	89.1 FM
4	Baptist Faith	Community free to air radio	Kitwe	106.8 FM
5	Iwave	Commercial free to air radio	Chingola	90.1 FM
6	Chimwemwe	Community free to air radio	Kitwe	91.7 FM
7	Jive	Commercial free to air radio	Ndola	90.9 FM
8	Shakaniah	Community free to air radio	Chingola	
9	Flava	Commercial free to air radio	Kitwe	87.7 FM
10	Rise	Community free to air radio	Chingola	
11	Rooster	commercial free to air radio	Chingola	
12	Mpongwe	Commercial free to air radio	Mpongwe	
13	Kokoliko	Commercial free to air radio	Chingola	94.9 FM
CENTRAL PROVINCE: 10				
1	Mkushi	Community free to air radio	Mkushi	93.0 FM
2	Maranatha	Community free to air radio	Kabwe	103.5 FM
3	KNC	Commercial free to air radio	Kabwe	101.7 FM
4	Cloud	Community free to air radio	Kabwe	
5	Itezhi Tezhi	community free to air radio	Itezhi Tezhi	90.9 FM
6	Spice	Commercial free to air radio	Kabwe	
7	Serenje	Community free to air radio	Serenje	89.5 FM
8	Foston	Community free to air radio	Kabwe	
9	Mumbwa Blue sky	Commercial free to air radio	Mumbwa	93.9 FM

10	Lusibo	Community free to air radio	Mumbwa	
MUCHINGA PROVINCE: 4				
1	Isoka	Community free to air radio	Isoka	90.3 FM
2	Mpika	Community free to air radio	Mpika	89.5 FM
3	Muchinga	Commercial free to air radio	Chinsali	
4	Kwenje	Community free to air radio	Chama	89.3 FM
SOUTHERN PROVINCE:15				
1	Namwala	Community free to air radio	Namwala	
2	Falls	Commercial free to air radio	Livingstone	90.1 FM
3	Zambezi	Commercial free to air radio	Livingstone	107.7 FM
4	Mosi-u-Tunya	Community free to air radio	Livingstone	106.0 FM
5	Voice of Kalomo	Community free to air radio	Kalomo	89.1 FM
6	Vision Maacha	Community free to air radio	Choma	92.2 FM
7	Mazabuka	Community free to air radio	Mazabuka	100.9 FM
8	Namwianga	Community free to air radio	Kalomo	90.5 FM
9	Sky	Commercial free to air radio	Monze	93.7 FM
10	Kariba	Community free to air radio	Siavonga	89.1 FM
11	Chikankata	Community free to air radio	Chikankata	90.9 FM
12	Choma Maanu	Commercial free to air radio	Choma	
13	Byta	Commercial free to air radio	Choma	
14	Chikuni	Community free to air radio	Chikuni	91.9 FM
15	Young Generation	Commercial free to air radio	Choma	
LUSAKA PROVINCE: 28				
1	Rock FM	Commercial free to radio	Lusaka	96.5 FM

2	5 FM	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	89.9 FM
3	Kafue	Community free to radio	Kafue	107.8 FM
4	Chongwe	Community free to radio	Chongwe	104.5 FM
5	Hot	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	87.7 FM
6	Phoenix	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	89.5 FM
7	Q FM	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	89.1 FM
8	Ama	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	93.3 FM
9	Comet 10	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	93.7 FM
10	Joy	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	106.9 FM
11	Komboni	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	94.9 FM
12	Metro	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	94.5 FM
13	Millennium	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	90.5 FM
14	Pan African	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	105.1 FM
15	Power	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	99.7 FM
16	Evelyn	Educational free to air radio	Lusaka	94.2 FM
17	UNZA	Educational free to air radio	Lusaka	91.7 FM
18	Christian Voice	Community free to air radio	Lusaka	106.2 FM
19	Yatsani	Community free to air radio	Lusaka	99.1 FM
20	Roots	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	101.3 FM
21	Premier One Love	Community free to air radio	Lusaka	104.1 FM
22	Direct Management	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	
23	Ministry of Education	Community free to air radio	Lusaka	
24	United Voice	Community free to air radio	Lusaka	92.7 FM

25	Live	Commercial free to air radio	Lusaka	97.3 FM
26	BBC	Landing Rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka	98.1 FM
27	Modern Voice	Commercial free to air radio	Chirundu	
28	France Radio	Landing rights Broadcasting Service	Lusaka	
PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING: 4				
1	ZNBC Radio 1	Public Service Broadcasting	Lusaka	102.9 FM
2	ZNBC Radio 2	Public Service Broadcasting	Lusaka	95.7 FM
3	ZNBC Radio 4	Public Service Broadcasting	Lusaka	88.1 FM
4	Parliament	Public Service Broadcasting	Lusaka	92.0 FM

Source: Independent Broadcasting Authority

Appendix 3

Distribution of Television Stations in Districts

District	Television stations			
	Licensee	Category	Status	Province
Chipata	Chipata Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Eastern
Solwezi	Northwest Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Northwest
Lusaka	1. Revelation Television Station	Community	Operational	Lusaka
	2. Camnet Television Station	Community	Operational	Lusaka
	3. Edge Television Station	Community		Lusaka
	4. Fire Television Station	Community		Lusaka
	5. Catholic Television Station	Community		Lusaka
	6. Acts Television Station	Community		Lusaka

7. Hope Television Station	Community	Operational	Lusaka
8. Healing Television Station	Community		Lusaka
9. Healing Centre Television Station	Community	Operational	Lusaka
10. Blessing Miracle Television Station	Community	Operational	Lusaka
11. Trinity Broadcasting Network	Community	Operational	Lusaka
12. Zed Entertainment Television Station	Commercial		Lusaka
13. Fresh Communications Ltd	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
14. City Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
15. Prime Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
16. Diamond Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
17. Mozo Television Station	Commercial		Lusaka
18. Kopala	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
19. ABN	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
20. Kenmark Television Station	Commercial		Lusaka
21. Life Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
22. Q Television Station	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
23. Litovia	Commercial	Operational	Lusaka
24. Muvi Television Station	Satellite	Operational	Lusaka
25. Strong Technology	Satellite	Operational	Lusaka
26. Viewsat	Satellite		Lusaka
27. StarSat	Satellite	Operational	Lusaka
28. Muvi Television Station	Satellite	Operational	Lusaka
29. Econet	SMS	Operational	Lusaka
30. Multichoice	SMS	Operational	Lusaka

31. Kwese	Landing Rights	Operational	Lusaka
32. BCC	Landing Rights	Operational	Lusaka
33. France	Landing Rights	Operational	Lusaka
34. ANT	Landing Rights		Nairobi
35. Parliament	Landing Rights	Operational	Lusaka
36. ZNBC TV 1	PSB	Operational	Lusaka
37. ZNBC TV 3	PSB	Operational	Lusaka
38. ZNBC TV 3	PSB	Operational	Lusaka

Source: Independent Broadcasting Authority