



*MEDIA INSTITUTE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ANNUAL
REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2002 –
MARCH 2003*

Executive Summary

The Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) is a regional non-governmental organisation that aims to promote a free, independent, pluralistic, sustainable and competent media environment and the right to information in southern Africa. Officially launched in 1992 when it elected its first Regional Governing Council, MISA was created to help implement the 1991 Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press. This mandate has since been widened to take cognisance of The African Charter on Broadcasting of May 2002 which provides principles of for the broadcast media. As at March 31, 2003, MISA has its Regional Secretariat in Windhoek and a National Chapter in ten of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries. Each Chapter enjoys a national membership made up of individual journalists, other media practitioners, media institutions and enterprises.

In April 2001 a participatory Evaluation / Review (E/R) of MISA was undertaken by COWI and MediaConsult on behalf of Sida, Hivos and Danida in consultation with MISA. Critical to the findings was the fact that MISA was broadly meeting its overall objectives. However, the evaluators pointed to the fact that the organisation could improve its performance with respect to its focus on internal housekeeping, its protracted and slightly ill advised strategic planning process and its management of the relations with many donors. These aspects were said to be draining MISA of financial and human resources, which could be used more productively towards MISA's involvement in championing media freedom in SADC. More specifically, the evaluators noted that although MISA and its funding partners had entered into funding agreements covering a number of years, the unpredictability of donor funding had reduced the effectiveness of MISA programmes. This led to a mutual willingness by MISA and its partners to explore a more co-ordinated approach to funding.

In March 2002, four of MISA's long term donors, Danida, Hivos, Norad and Sida agreed to fund the MISA 3-year Strategic Plan (The Strategic Partnership Programme April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2005) using a basket funding model under which the donors would contribute to the MISA budget and received one report at the end of the fiscal year. This is the first such report.

This report covers the period April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003 and provides information on the implementation of the 5 programme areas that MISA identified as critical to its effective intervention to improve media freedom and freedom of expression in the region. The report is the first attempt for MISA to give a comprehensive annual report of its activities in the region. A more formal MISA Annual report will be compiled and printed for

distribution to the members and donors in September, just before the MISA AGM

Under Programme A: Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information Campaign, MISA targeted the repeal of the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport through engaging parliamentarians from countries in the SADC region through cooperating with SADC Parliamentary Forum with whom a joint workshop was held in November 2002. At country level, MISA Botswana engaged the government which later requested the newly established Media Council to draft a Mass Media Bill. In Mozambique, the national chapter organised meetings at provincial level to campaign for an Access to State Information legislation, while in Swaziland the chapter published a booklet on unfriendly media laws following research and workshops with various stakeholders. In Zimbabwe, MISA Zimbabwe has continued to campaign against the draconian Public Order and Security Act and Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act which was passed by the government in January and March 2002 respectively. The most success was recorded in Zambia where the government was pressured to bring the Access to Information bill to parliament following the presentation of a private member's bill on the same subject which the chapter had managed to get drafted and supported by many MPs.

In Programme B: Media Freedom Monitoring, MISA continued to issue Action Alerts during the period under review with violations taking place in Zimbabwe dominating the reports which are distributed via the IFEX network. and also launched the SADC Journalists Under Fire Campaign which seeks to assist journalists who are subject to media freedom violations.

In Programme C: Campaign for Broadcasting Diversity, MISA continued to use its "Free the Airwaves" campaign which was revamped to incorporate the African Charter on Broadcasting principles. The Right to Communicate Campaign was also launched during the period with billboards being erected in three countries: Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. These billboards have attracted a lot of attention which will continue to be followed up with other media campaigns. In Zimbabwe, campaigns for the liberation of the airwaves have been taken to the provinces while in Malawi programmes have been aired on commercial radio urging a change in the operation of the state radio and television broadcasters. Zambia saw the enactment of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act which provides for independent broadcasting regulation while the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Act was also amended to allow for more independence for the national broadcaster which is currently operating under strict state control.

Various projects and activities were undertaken under Programme D: Media Support. On the issue of self-regulation, National chapters in Botswana and Namibia managed to assist the media to agree codes of ethics and establishing a media council and Ombudsman respectively. The media council in Tanzania continues to operate while efforts to impose statutory ones were opposed without success in Zimbabwe. Various national chapters undertook training programmes as requested by their members. The MISANet News Exchange continued to operate though with reduced contributions.

MISA Zimbabwe launched its Legal Defence Fund which contributed funding for the defence of most the journalists charged under the new draconian laws enacted early 2002.

MISA continued to publish its quarterly Free Press magazine during the year and the annual report and State of the media report "So this is Democracy?". MISA, in collaboration with its partner, Gender Links, coordinated the first ever regional Gender and Media Baseline Study which was done in 12 countries of SADC during the month of November 2002. The report was launched on March 8, International Women's Day.

Implementation and monitoring of the strategic plan was rather slow due to external and internal factors. Externally, it took some time for some the donors to release the funds which delayed the disbursements of funds to the national chapters for them to implement programmes. Internal, appointment of staff and orientation to advocacy was very slow with the Advocacy Training of programme staff and managers only taking place in June 2003. The MISA Media Advocacy Toolkit was produced was used to do the training which was also attended by other Trainers who are expected to undertake advocacy training in all the 10 SADC countries where is currently operating. Training of information officers, however, continued, resulting in more investigation and reporting of media freedom violations.

Programme A: Freedom of Expression and the Right to Information

A1. During the period under review, MISA continued its campaign for the amendments of the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport which was signed in August 2001. The Protocol in many respects falls short of what MISA stands for, which is primarily the promotion of media freedom in the region through the repealing or amendment of anti-media legislation, including criminal defamation, the promotion of vibrant and independent media, the establishment of and sustainable management of community media, and the promotion of legislation that guarantees access to information.

The other concerns that MISA has about the Protocol is its silence on broadcasting issues, including regulatory aspects and community broadcasting. Critical issues of media ownership and editorial independence of both the public and private media do not feature in the Protocol. In some cases where these phrases are mentioned the discussion is sub-standard and vague, to say the least.

Taking into account all these concerns, MISA questions the sincerity of the SADC governments' commitment to media freedom, pluralism and the growth of a truly diverse media since these countries are signatories to a multitude of international charters and conventions and therefore MISA decided to conduct further analysis on the Protocol which looks at the compatibility of the Protocol with the constitutions of Namibia, South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique. This analysis will enable MISA to lobby those countries that will be found incompatible with their constitutions to amend them. So far five countries instead of the required nine have ratified the Protocol. The first draft of the report on the analysis is already out and it remains to be seen to what extent SADC governments will observe their responsibility to press freedom in the region.

MISA actively participated in the drafting of the Information Policies of Namibia, and Swaziland and engaged the Information Policy of Lesotho by producing a critical analysis and submitting MISA's proposals to be included in the Policy document.

During the period – January to March 2003, MISA commissioned a media law audit on the Lesotho Media Law and a draft media law audit report has since been produced.

A workshop with legislators will take place in July 2003.

The Regional Secretariat in conjunction with the SADC Parliamentary Forum organised a regional conference on the Promotion of Freedom of Expression and Human

Rights through Legislative Action, in Lusaka in October, 17-19, 2002. The

conference brought about 74 participants from the SADC region including Members of Parliament from the region, prominent

lawyers, media and civil society representative. The conference discussed the need for a media law reform in the region. A declaration of commitment was issued after the conference where members of parliament vowed to push for media law reform within their own countries and to work closely with civil society organisations. (See annex 1)

A2. MISA Botswana continued to agitate for government's change against their planned Mass Media Communications Bill initiatives. This Bill was viewed as being retrogressive as it is seen as another attempt to muzzle the press and control editorial policy. The Botswana government has since withheld the Bill and have instead asked the Chapter and the newly formed Press Council to come up with a revised document.

A3. The MISA Malawi Chapter made a fresh appeal to review the laws as the reform process is taking too long. The Law Commission has its own priority laws to review but the Chapter is still continuing to dialogue with them in the hope that this will speed up the process.

The Malawi Chapter is also championing the Access to Information bill and the government through the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Information, has been informed about the Chapter's intention to come up with the bill and the importance of having such a bill in Malawi.

A legal expert is finalising the drafting of the bill that will be sent to the government for their scrutiny and comments as soon as it is ready. The Chapter plans to embark on a rigorous campaign drive to sensitise the nation on what the bill is all about and why it is needed.

Legal experts have advised the Malawi Chapter that chances of parliament passing it as a private member's bill are slim.

A4. In September 2002 a consultant was hired to look into the Press Law of Mozambique in order to recommend possible changes and a national workshop on this is being prepared.

In November and December 2002 the MISA Mozambique Chapter organized provincial debates on the "Need of Legislation on Access to State Information". The debates took place in Xai-Xai (Gaza province), Inhambane City (Inhambane Province), Beira (Sofala Province), Chimio (Manica Province), Tete (Tete province), Quelimane (Zambézia province), Nampula (Nampula Province), Pemba (Cabo Delgado Province), Lichinga (Niassa Province). On 15 and 16 May 2003 the Chapter organised a national workshop in Maputo to look into the final version of the draft to be taken for lobbying at the Parliament. It was suggested that the draft needed to be more refined and a team comprising of journalists and lawyers was set up to re-work the document to be

presented in July 2003. This will be the definitive document to be used to lobby Parliamentarians from both the ruling FRELIMO Party and Opposition RENAMO Party.

Delegates including journalists, lawyers and human rights activists from all the provinces attended

A5. Under the Media Law reform, MISA Swaziland conducted an audit of the unfriendly media laws, which the Chapter plans to take through the legislative system. Three workshops were organized for Legislators, Swaziland National Council Members, Lawyers, Civil Society, NGOs, Media Stakeholders and members of the public. This exercise unearthed the dilemma faced by the media practitioners in Swaziland, that there are over 30 pieces of legislation that are a threat to media freedom in Swaziland. What was also shocking was the fact that media practitioners are not quite aware of laws that govern their industry and profession. Some highlights of the findings and recommendations:

- There are tensions between the Swazi Law and Custom and the Westminster style of government as to which one is the supreme law of the land.
- There is no guarantee of a Free press in Swaziland following the repeal of the Independence Constitution.
- The Absence of a Bill of rights will continue being a hindrance to matters of freedom of expression and free press.
- A proposed Internal Security Bill will criminalize reporting in Swaziland particularly those issues seen as a threat to national Security or inciting people against the Government.

The proposed Internal Security Bill (MAKHUNDU) was evaluated and a report compiled and presented with intense lobbying with Members of Parliament, lawyers and media practitioners taking place. As a result the Bill has been shelved and MISA Swaziland intends to further convene a meeting with the Parliament Sectional Committee so that it may arm them to fight this battle as the absence of the rule of law is a cause of concern in Swaziland. The Chapter is still confident that the little power that is still there could be exploited and a team could be coordinated that would address the legal battles that lie ahead.

A6. The Tanzanian Chapter in collaboration with six other media fraternities, under the Media Law Reform Project, commissioned lawyers to draft six laws to be presented to the stakeholders for more inputs. These pieces of legislation identified in the Media Law Reform Project are Access to the Information Act, Constitutional Amendment Act, Amendment to the National Security Act of 1970, Amendment to the Broadcasting Services Act 1993, Defamation Act and Protection to the Journalist Sources of Information Act.

The Media Law Reform Project is an ongoing activity funded by CAF, The Law Reform Commission and SIDA. The draft laws will be submitted to the stakeholders for more inputs before the National Conference. The second attempt is to submit the draft legislation to the Parliament and in the meantime the six media fraternities will continue to lobby and carry out advocacy campaigns.

A7. MISA Zambia/ZIMA concentrated on the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act. The Chapter held meetings with all the stakeholders including journalists from both the state and private media. Input was sourced from some academics and lawyers and it was at this workshop that it was decided that Members of Parliament should be involved in the whole process at an early stage so that they could understand what the campaign was all about.

The second stage involved the engagement of lawyers to help draw up a draft of Freedom of Information bill, which was to be tabled before Parliament. Because of the slight majority of opposition members of Parliament it was intended that the Bill should be tabled as a private members motion.

After the meeting with MPs from both the ruling and the opposition parties, it was felt that ZIMA members in particular needed to understand the three bills campaign that were being advocated for. The ZIMA AGM which was partly sponsored by MISA and DANIDA specifically focussed on the bills and the role that ZIMA members were expected to play, namely to publicise the campaign.

After the bills were drafted another meeting with MPs was held to finally scrutinise them.

Lobbying with Parliamentarians intensified alongside publicity of the FOI bill on radio and television as well newspapers. "Media and the Public", a TV discussion programme produced by ZIMA continued to be a tool for public awareness and participation in the law reform process.

On October 18, 2002, the Freedom of Information (2002) bill, along with the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Amendment bills, was gazetted in the Government Gazette number 5134 and publicized in the national dailies for public awareness and consensus building. This exerted more pressure on the government such that on November 5, 2002, Parliament rejected this and two other private members bills namely the Independent broadcasting Authority and Broadcasting (2002) bills by evoking article 81 of the Zambian Constitution and Section 76 of the Standing orders requiring bills with financial implications to be consented to by the President, through the Vice President or the Minister of Finance, before being brought to Parliament. This took place just before the government gazetted and published their bills; namely the Freedom of Information bill, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) bill and the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) bill, 2002. Much of the content in the FOI and IBA bills the government finally presented was borrowed from the private bills.

Fliers explaining the FOI bill continued to be distributed during this period and raised more awareness on this piece of legislation. Printing of fliers was paid for by MISA. Field visits to ZIMA's institutional members that include radio Icengelo, Chikaya, Maria, Breeze FM, Mazabuka, Sky FM, Chikuni, Lyambai were also conducted to raise more awareness on this and the two legislations.

The FOI bill was deferred to facilitate more consultation by the government and no indication of when the bill will be brought back was given. ZIMA however is going ahead to reintroduce the debate on the introduction of the Freedom of Information Bill in Parliament. To achieve this, several activities including seminars, workshops and publicity techniques have been put in place.

ZIMA seriously takes the view that Freedom of the Press must be properly enshrined in the Constitution of Zambia. This is not the case at the moment as this clause comes broadly under "Freedom of Expression" in the current Constitution.

ZIMA, therefore held a one-day workshop on the Protection of freedom of the press under the constitution, for its members whose aim was to stimulate suggestions from members about the kinds of improvement that should be made to the Constitution to protect Press Freedom.

The workshop attended by 32 participants recommended that Press Freedom and right to access to state held information should be specifically included in the Constitution. It was also recommended that the mode of the adoption of the Constitution should be by a Constituent Assembly while the Bill of Rights should be amended through a referendum.

A8. In Zimbabwe, The Media Committee (comprising of MISA Zimbabwe, The Media Monitoring Project, FAMMZ/ ZUJ, IJAZ and Kubatana.net) that was set up by journalists in January 2002 to look into how concerns over the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) could be tackled, organised a report back and consultative meeting for journalists on 19 October 2002. A total of 120 journalists, media practitioners and other stakeholders attended the meeting in Harare. Resolutions that were adopted at the end of the meeting called for, among other things, the set up of a Media Support Fund and the continued legal challenges against AIPPA. It was also decided that a public awareness campaign on the dangers of AIPPA be immediately started.

The campaign has taken the form of print media adverts highlighting the negative clauses of AIPPA. Other strategies are still being considered.

In the advocacy work done around AIPPA and the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) MISA Zimbabwe realised that a significant short coming was the lack of adequate public demand from democratic media legislation. In order to generate public participation as well as public demand for media law reform, the Chapter set up Advocacy Committees in 4 towns – Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare and Masvingo. Plans are underway to set up similar committees in Kwekwe and Chinhoyi. The Advocacy Committees are meant to work as grassroots consultative base for MISA Zimbabwe. The committees have been assisting in the implementation of the advocacy programme and the public awareness campaign currently being run by the organisation. The groups are made up of MISA Zimbabwe members and other civil society organisations representatives.

On 11-13 April, 2002, the Legal department organized the second Media Lawyers Network conference that was held in Nyanga. The theme for this year's conference was "Under Siege: The role of legal practitioners in fighting for media freedom". The conference was well attended and some of the issues that emerged at the conference include the following:

Awareness raising around Public Order and Security Act (POSA) , Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) for the following target groups

1. Lawyers
2. Journalists
3. Civil society

There was need to connect the three groups together to do the following:

1. Formulate and strategise for effective advocacy campaigns

2. Build up the information and processes for tackling crises as a network
3. Create better synergies between the three target groups

Programme B: Media Freedom Monitoring

The media freedom and freedom of expression situation in countries in the SADC region has not deteriorated significantly in the period under review (April 2002 to March 2003), apart from two hotspots – Swaziland and Zimbabwe.



During this period MISA issued a total of 208 alerts on media freedom violations in the 11 SADC countries that it monitors, not a significant increase compared to a total of 207 alerts issued in the previous year (April 2001 to March 2002). In stark contrast, MISA issued only 10 (ten) reports of victories in the media freedom and freedom of expression landscape in those same countries.

Zimbabwean journalists demonstrate

B1. In the two hotspots, in particular in Zimbabwe, there has been a serious regression in the media freedom and freedom of expression situation. In Zimbabwe the government has openly declared war on the private media, while in Swaziland the government has shown no respect for the rule of law.

In Zimbabwe, journalists' homes were raided and several were barred from or assaulted whilst covering public events. The violence did not spare public media journalists who were on some occasions harassed by opposition party supporters. Several foreign journalists were denied accreditation to cover the presidential elections in March 2002. The Daily News offices and community radio stations Voice of the People (VOP) and Radio Dialogue were raided; documentation and tapes were illegally removed. Most seriously the Daily News' Bulawayo offices were petrol-bombed, as was the printing press of a company that produced opposition campaign material. A bomb destroyed the entire VOP premises in August 2002. Police have failed to charge a single person for any of the attacks.

During 2002 the private media in Zimbabwe was forced to operate in the most restrictive legislative environment since independence. The Public Order and Security Act (POSA) was enacted in January 2002 and marked the commencement of a determined assault on constitutional freedoms of speech and association. Amongst other provisions it criminalises

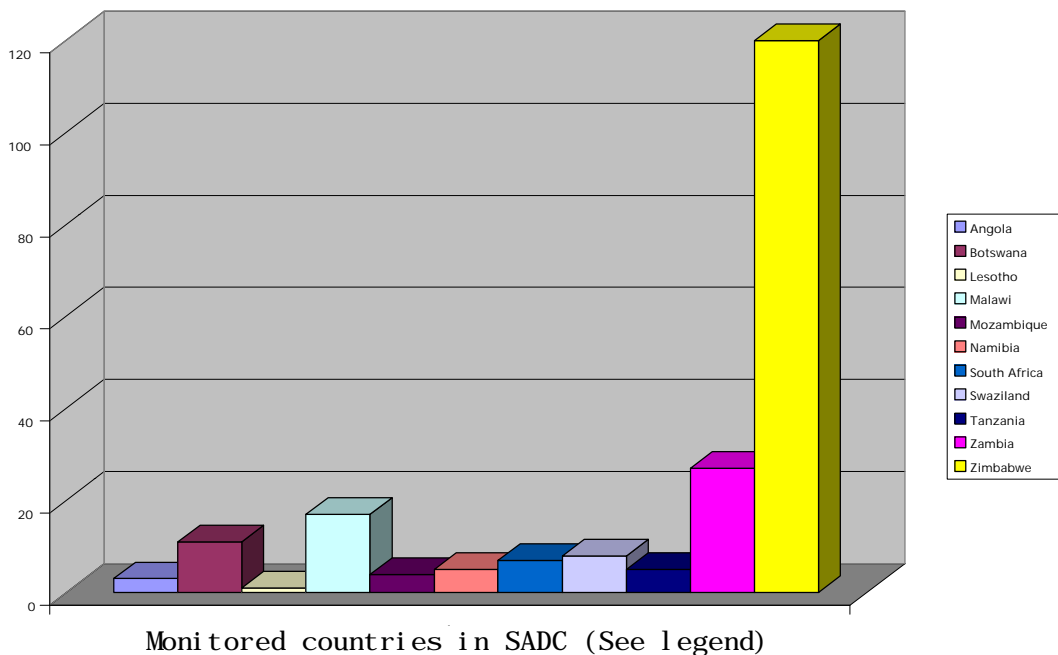
reports undermining the authority of the President and publication of false statements prejudicial to the State.

The enactment of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) in mid-March 2002 dealt the greatest blow to freedom of speech and press freedom. The Act creates an all-powerful government-appointed Media and Information Commission (MIC), which is non-representative of diverse journalistic interests. The MIC has quasi-judicial and investigative powers, which usurp the function of the courts and the police respectively, and which allow it to unjustifiably and unconstitutionally intrude in the affairs of media houses and professionals.

The enforcement of these two Acts have greatly contributed to the increased assault on the private media and the denial of freedom of expression and it has further impeded the free flow of information to the public inside and outside Zimbabwe.

B2. In South Africa, hailed as a model for the rest for the region, tension arose when parliament announced that it would relocate the current press gallery outside parliament. The media saw the move as an attempt to make parliament inaccessible. Furthermore, the publication of the Broadcasting Amendment Bill raised serious concerns over the government's attempt to compromise the independence of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) News.

Number of alerts by country



However, good news came in October 2002 with the announcement of a last-minute amendment to the controversial Broadcasting Amendment Bill which stated that the SABC board would fall under the control of the

Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and not the Minister of Communications as originally proposed.

B3. In 2002 one of the significant victories for media freedom and freedom of expression was recorded in Zambia. Years of sustained campaigning for media law reforms, led by the Zambia chapter of MISA, appear to be bearing fruit with the lodging in parliament of three private members bills, i.e. the Independent Broadcasting Authority Bill, Freedom of Expression Bill and the Broadcasting Bill.

But before we give the Zambian government a standing ovation for the media law reform process, it must be noted that Section 69 of the Zambian Penal Code, which creates the offence of criminal libel against the president, continues to be flagrantly applied. The mistreatment of journalists by police and political party cadres continued unabated in 2002 and the government is still very eager to keep its hold on and control of the state broadcaster. Section 69 remains one of the biggest hindrances to free media practice in Zambia.

The Zambian Chapter reports that there was an increase in the harassment of the Monitor newspaper, which was seen, as critical of the MMD government. This hostility intensified during the December 2002 to January 2003 period when the State appeared determined to silence the Monitor.

In March 2003, a one-day workshop on the rights of journalists was held in Lusaka. Twenty-three people from both the state-owned and private media attended. Presentations emphasising the need for journalists to claim their rights were made.

One of the major outcomes of the workshop was the need for information sharing among journalists about violations of media freedom, the need for speedier reporting of media violations and greater media publicity of the rights of journalists.

In the rest of the region only the names of the journalists and the media institutions targeted may differ, for the attacks suffered were similar, ongoing and have in some cases intensified.

B4. In Lesotho the media freedom situation is littered with legal and financial hurdles. The media is fearful of court settlements or unfavourable rulings against them, which have contributed to the folding of a number of publications while crippling others financially.



B5. In Mozambique, the murder of Carlos Cardoso on November 20 2000, has scarred that country's image irreparably. Earlier this year heavy sentences were passed – between 24 and 26 years – on the accused. The question remains whether the president's son, Nymphine Chissano, who was also

implicated, will eventually be brought to book.
Right: Carlos Cardoso

In 2002 MISA Mozambique completed the installation of its provincial *anntenas* and these are now operational in Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Tete, Zambezia, Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa Provinces.

This project was implemented with financial support of the Finish Embassy in Maputo which donated US\$ 27, 640. These funds covered the purchase of computers, renting of offices, equipment and connecting some provincial *anntenas* to the internet.

On 5 - 6 February 2003 a national workshop was organised with all provincial MISA Mozambique's *anntenas* to induct them on what MISA is all about and how it operates.

The workshop emphasized the monitoring of media violations in the provinces of Mozambique and how to send reports on alerts to the Maputo offices.

B6. In Malawi the media freedom environment is threatened by the manipulation of the state-funded media by the government. Threats and intimidation were also levelled against independent-minded judges and lawyers who are active supporters of media freedom and freedom of expression. Another threat to media freedom were the political zealots of the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) party, who have drawn up a plan to "deal" with selected journalists who they feel are a threat to their individual and party interests.

The coverage of President Muluzi's third term bid was a source of harassment of the media in Malawi and is viewed as the darkest period for the media since Malawi adopted multi-party democracy in 1994.

The private media which is the source of reliable news in Malawi was not only brutalized by the state and party machinery for carrying out views of anti-third term advocates, but media practitioners also suffered violent attacks as well. The glaring abuse of state machinery was exhibited when two senior criminal investigators stormed the newsroom of *The Chronicle* newspaper demanding to see the reporter. The visit was a direct reaction to an article the reporter wrote quoting a letter purportedly written by President Muluzi. Surprisingly, *The Daily Times* and *The Nation* (both government owned) carried similar stories but were never harassed.

B7. In neighbouring Tanzania the Prime Minister's Office on August 20 issued a four-page statement warning newspapers that they can be punished for publishing material in violation of professional ethics. The Tanzanian Media Freedom Monitoring Project Report was aimed at enhancing professionalism, adhering to the code of ethics and increasing and investigative reporting. A Sensitization workshop to disseminate the findings held on 6-7 March 2003 and attended by 40 participants was preceded by a one-day training workshop on legal frameworks and media ethics.

1000 copies of 'MISA-FOCUS' the first in the history MISA Newsletter was produced and distributed and attracted wide media coverage in both the print and electronic media.

B8. In Namibia President Sam Nujoma in August 2002 took over the Information and Broadcasting portfolio, arguing that he needed to play a role in tackling problems at the NBC and disciplining NBC employees. The President has since instructed the broadcaster to stop screening foreign films and series that have a bad influence on the Namibian youth and instead to show films that portray Namibia in a positive light. The government still maintains its advertising ban against the independent English daily newspaper, The Namibian. On March 23, 2001, the government slapped an advertising boycott on the paper, claiming it was too critical of its policies and a few months later President Nujoma extended the ban to include the purchase of The Namibian with state monies.

B9. The Government of Swaziland banned the print versions of the Guardian newspaper and the Nation magazine from circulating in the country in May 2001. The Guardian's legal victory on August 31 that year lasted less than a week when the government appealed against the court ruling that had allowed the Guardian to resume publishing after a four-month ban. The newspaper has since closed its offices. The delaying tactics employed by the government - and supported by a demobilised judiciary - have indeed succeeded in crippling an alternative voice in that country.

B10. A milestone meeting on Self Regulatory Mechanism was held in Piggs Peak 6-8 December and this was seen as a great initiative that finally saw key stakeholders getting their act together in coming out with a framework for a self regulatory mechanism. Stakeholders were able to adopt a Code of Ethics and a lawyer was mandated by the plenary to put together a Constitution and Code of Ethics for a Media Complaints Commission. The British High Commission sponsored the meeting and at the end of the meeting it became quite obvious that Swaziland had no alternative but to come out with one mechanism.

The Long awaited Draft Information Communication Policy document was finalized and the Ad-hoc Committee which had been working tirelessly to counter a Media Council that was imposed by the Government presented the report to the Minister of Public Service and Information. The Minister in turn is expected to table this to the Cabinet and then later to the parliament. Initial funding for this project came from the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP).

B11. On 28, October 2002, the MISA Botswana Chapter and the Botswana Media Consultative Council (BMCC) registered the Notarial Deed of Trust of the Press Council of Botswana in Gaborone. The Press Council has been officially registered after a culmination of over two years of stakeholder consultations involving media organisations and houses as well as interested

individuals and a wide cross section of government and civil society representatives.

The Deed of Trust for the Press Council provides for the establishment and support of an independent Complaints Committee to receive petitions from the public about the performance of members of the press and to “adjudicate on such matters and apply appropriate remedies, including sanctions, where necessary, in order to promote an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect between the press and the public”. The Deed further provides for an Appeals Committee that will be empowered to hear appeals from the Complaints Committee.

B12. On the other side of the region, Angolan journalists operate in an environment characterised by government interference. The work of journalists, especially those following an independent line, is constantly obstructed making it impossible for media professionals to adequately cover many issues that provoke public opinion.

The signal sent by SADC governments that freedom of speech in the region is in grave danger is quite evident. Every violation of that basic human right shows that dissenting opinion will be punished. And where physical attacks do not put the lid on the media, the law will be changed to silence dissenting voices.

Breakdown of the types of media freedom violations per country

	Killed	Beaten	Bombed	Detained	Sentenced	Threatened	Expelled	Censored	Legislation	Other	Victory
Angola	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Botswana	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	1
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Malawi	0	6	0	0	0	7	0	2	1	1	0
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1
South Africa	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2
Swaziland	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Tanzania	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Zambia	0	6	0	7	0	4	0	4	4	0	2
Zimbabwe	0	10	3	37	0	15	10	22	18	2	3

The governments in the SADC region are hell bent on silencing the media and are determined to control the thinking of the citizens they govern. One of the most effective ways in which the SADC governments have achieved this has been through blackmail and suppression of all criticism and information designed to expose the fallacy of their policies and, in some cases, the crimes of their elite.

Advocacy has become one of the central components of MISA's Action Alert Network. MISA chapters report media freedom and freedom of expression abuses in its regional secretariat which, in turn, circulates this information to MISA members, organisations and other subscribers around the world through its mailing lists. This efficient system enables members to stay abreast of media activities, more especially violations of the rights of journalists SADC. An important aspect of MISA's Action Alert Network is its membership to the International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX) which links freedom of expression groups around the world. Through its linkage with IFEX MISA ensures that its alerts - and therefore its monitoring work - receives international exposure.

Importantly, the IFEX and its distribution of alerts also allows for a rapid, world-wide and coordinated response to press freedom and freedom of expression violations. Action Alerts help turn spotlights from around the world squarely on those responsible for human rights violations - and this can make a significant difference, as those who violate human rights often rely on the cover of darkness.

MISA alerts should also be seen as an important advocacy tool for the simple reason that we have seen coordinated letter-writing campaigns help unlock prison doors, lift publication bans and even save lives.

Other than letter writing campaigns and online advocacy strategies, MISA continuously strives to gain public exposure and support for journalists in the region. One such activity took place in late February 2002 in response to the impending enactment of repressive media laws in Zimbabwe. MISA secretariat and chapters coordinated a regional and international campaign to highlight the crackdown on the media in Zimbabwe through writing letters of appeal to international, continental (Africa) and regional bodies. These appeals were supported by public demonstrations and personal visits to Zimbabwean High Commissions in most



of the 11 SADC countries.
of media in Zimbabwe

MISA protests the repression

The SADC Journalists Under Fire workshop was held from July 29 - 31, 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Previous victims of media freedom and freedom of expression violations, more specifically working journalists, participated in the workshop. The discussions at the workshop served as an initial feasibility study into the establishment of effective Action Alert follow-up

mechanisms in the SADC region. This eventually culminated in the conceptualisation of the SADC Journalists Under Fire campaign.

CAMPAIGNS



The SADC Journalists Under Fire Campaign

Journalists in some countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) work under perilous circumstances. In some cases, journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news. The SADC Journalists Under Fire Campaign is designed to offer practical support to journalists who fall victim to media freedom violations.

MISA's support to victims of media freedom violations has previously been mainly through the issuing of Action Alerts. MISA's Action Alerts are an excellent tool for advocacy as they strengthen the cause of freedom of expression. Action Alerts help turn spotlights from around the world squarely on those responsible for human rights violations and this can make a significant difference, as those who violate human rights often rely on the cover of darkness.

Unfortunately the issuing of an action alert does not guarantee the protection of journalists. Practical follow-up is required to forward the momentum and opportunities created by action alerts. In the case of Zimbabwe for instance, MISA has witnessed - and reported on - the escalation of detentions and police violence against media workers in that country. The Zimbabwe Republic Police now, as a matter of habit, detain reporters while on duty, on the pretext that they have committed criminal offences. During these detentions undue force is used against the media workers who are denied other fundamental freedoms and then, quite predictably, are released without charge.

MISA has reported - in the case of Malawi - of ongoing harassment of media workers by ruling party youths. In the rest of the region only the names of the journalists and the media institutions targeted may differ, for the attacks suffered are similar, ongoing and have, in some cases intensified specifically because of targeted campaigns by those enemies of press freedom and freedom of expression.

Background to the campaign

In July 2002 MISA convened a core group of working journalists who are previous victims of media freedom and freedom of expression violations. The core group was asked to discuss the feasibility of establishing support teams in various towns and

cities across the SADC region, who will be trained to support journalists who need immediate assistance in respect of moral support, visits to journalists in prison, ensuring legal representation for journalists, moral and where necessary material support to journalists and their families, interventions with relevant authorities, protest activities, campaigns in support of journalists, and providing regularly updated information about the journalist.

The core group was also asked to explore an additional system of classification for action alerts, which will classify some alerts as high priority status - to indicate that supportive action is essential. This would also be the signal for support groups to go into action. The resources needed for all of the above were explored.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Dutch journalists' /human rights organisations to discuss more effective and co-ordinated advocacy in The Netherlands in support of SADC journalists' in distress.



campaign poster

The campaign

The SADC Journalists Under Fire campaign was launched regionally and internationally on May 3, 2003, although the major conceptualisation, research and development of the campaign took place during the latter part of 2002.

Products of the campaign include:

- Monthly electronic updates on action alerts in response to violations of the rights of journalists in the SADC region
- Articles detailing the personal experiences of victims of media freedom violations
- A graphic barometer will be made available to the print media for publication
- Legal support to victims of media freedom violations

In the future

Every year on May 3 MISA intends to launch a new feature of this campaign.

***More information, resources and updates on the campaign are available online at www.misa.org

Programme C: Campaign for Broadcasting Diversity

C1. 2003 saw significant consolidation in the broadcast program with a pressing need for a review and overhaul of campaign resources and outputs including policy material, information available on the website and dissemination strategy to support national campaigns for broadcast diversity. Some of the resources produced during the period under review include:

1. The MISA Media Advocacy Tool Kit which contains a 4-day curriculum work book and facilitators guide as well as numerous campaign ideas and resources packaged in an attractive carry case. The kit was introduced at a trainers workshop where two trainers from each MISA country were taken through a methodology for delivering the advocacy course in countries. MISA Chapters and other civil society organisations will be able to call upon these trainers to facilitate campaign development in response to national issues.
2. The advocacy curriculum was also adapted and delivered as part of an Africa wide project to develop ICT policy campaigns in the lead up to the World Summit on the Information Society. To date this has been delivered to over 80 participants from African countries in training courses held in Uganda, Johannesburg and Addis Ababa.
3. Campaign for Broadcast Diversity Policy Kit contains booklets on regulation, public service broadcasting, community radio and supporting posters that provide an overview of the fundamental characteristics of each aspect of the broadcast environment. The material is packaged in a folder that is versatile and can carry additional items for specific events.

MISA, SABA and FES held a closed door meeting of regional regulators and broadcasters that reached an agreement on the four principle documents that provide the framework for the broadcast environment in the region. This has created a space to audit SADC countries compliance with these standards in order to determine what is required in each context to bring countries into conformity with the agreed framework. The four key documents examined at the gathering are:

- SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport;
- African Charter on Broadcasting
- SADC Declaration on Information and Communications Technology
- Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa adopted by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

A plan of action that emerged includes the development of standards with regulators in the region and a country-by-country audit of compliance with the documents.

C2. Right to Communicate Campaign

One debate in the context of the WSIS centers around the right to communicate. It is widely agreed that Article 19 of the Universal Charter on Human Rights grants every human this right, but that article was penned in 1948, before the advent of the information age that gives new practical meaning to communications. While it is acknowledged that the WSIS is an opportunity to expand on Article 19 and bring it to life in the present, it is also agreed that many nations and regions have failed to adequately implement Article 19 and that it must be re-asserted as fundamental to human and global societal development.

At MISA level a billboard and poster campaign aimed at developing awareness that citizens have a right to communicate has been implemented in Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and the public response in all these countries have been encouraging. More Chapters are poised to take up this campaign.

Campaign for Broadcast Diversity

MISA took an increased role in global advocacy. The environment that MISA is advocating in is increasingly impacted upon by globalisation and a transition to an information society. Africa has the opportunity to leapfrog into the information age using ICT's in all their forms – which include the traditional media such as broadcasting and new technology such as wireless networks that overcome the costs of physical infrastructure - as tools in the acceleration of appropriate development.

MISA's international advocacy is aimed at voicing the disadvantages for Africa that are a result of patterns of globalisation where already developed economics leave little room for new entrants to global markets.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

International advocacy work has primarily taken place in the process and context of the WSIS that will culminate in global meetings in Geneva in December 2003 and Tunis 2005. MISA played an integral role in two key WSIS civil society caucus's (Africa and Media Caucus) and the co-ordination of an intervention by partners Article 19, SACOD, AMARC and Association for Progressive Communicators . This intervention – the 'Speaking for Ourselves' project has a number of aspects including building a platform for people outside the information society to have a say and the development of African policy positions and capacity to advocate for these. A publication, 'Our Side of the Divide' was produced for the second preparatory WSIS meeting in February 2003 and is

available on the MISA website in French and English. The site also contains papers and presentations made in briefings that are orienting civil society to the summit and the issues for Africa.



C3. In Malawi the government is still using the public broadcasters the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and Television Malawi (TVM) for political propaganda. During the period under review the two broadcasters designed their programmes to please the government and to deceive the world that the whole country wanted Muluzi to continue as president of Malawi after his constitutional two five year term expires.

TVM and MBC denied access to the airwaves to anyone who was opposed to the third term bid and the UDF agenda. On the other hand, TVM constantly gave extensive coverage to proponents of the third term. They also waged a smear campaign to discredit the opposition.

While TVM and MBC vilified the masses and critics of the third term campaign, private radio stations especially the Malawi Institute of Journalism (MIJ 90.3 Radio) and Capital Radio carried out diverse views in their broadcasts. Through a live *Sunday debate* programme, Capital Radio people with diverse views. Predictably, the media houses paid dearly for their stand. For example, Mr Henry Chibwana surprised the nation when he ordered MIJ FM radio, for which he is the board chairperson, to stop broadcasting political news until a review of its code of ethics and broadcasting licence was done. However, MIJ management and board members challenged his decision while the British Council threatened to stop supporting the radio station if the ban was carried out. The ban fell through.

In February, two senior police officers besieged the premises of Capital Radio demanding to see the station manager. The siege came a few hours after the radio aired a live phone-in programme reviewing the conduct of the reformed Malawi Police Service. Callers severely criticised the police for their shortcomings.

The MISA Malawi Chapter held stakeholders' broadcasting diversity workshop from 7th to 8th February 2003. About 45 participants drawn from political parties, broad civil society organisations, print and electronic media and the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) attended the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. Get an insight into the role of various stakeholders in promoting

broadcasting diversity and share experiences in accessing public media among various groups in Malawi such as civil society, political parties and other institutions.

2. To explore ways how a diverse electronic media can enrich human rights and democracy in Malawi.

The workshop was a resounding success because participants (including those from the electronic media) identified problems that were hindering broadcasting diversity in Malawi. At the end of the workshop they came up with some recommendations one of which was to review the Communications Act. As a result of the recommendations, NAMISA held a follow up a workshop in May to Review the Communications Act. It is believed among the stakeholders that once the Act is reviewed, MACRA will be in a better position to enforce the Act than hitherto.

There is a radio advert running on Capital FM radio urging MBC and TVM to open up. The advert is intended to raise public awareness on the need for the two state media organisations to start opening up to diverse views. The other intention is to raise awareness among the people that it is their right to communicate through the media of their choice, including the public media. As citizens they also have a role to play in ensuring that public media serves everyone regardless of their political beliefs or views.

NAMISA also held a daylong civil society campaign for broadcasting diversity meeting with fifteen civil society organisations to sensitise them about the campaign for broadcasting diversity. The meeting was designed to forge a strategic partnership with civil society to assist in the campaign programme.

Since NAMISA is a member of the Malawi Human Rights Consultative Committee, a network of 40 civil society organisations with programmes on human rights and good governance in Malawi, civil society organisations were very receptive to the programme and pledged to support NAMISA in its endeavor to open up MBC and TVM. They pointed out that the two media institutions deny them a voice as well.

They came up with a number of proposals that could make public media open up the airwaves. Some of the proposals include legal action, demonstrations, strengthening private radio stations (MIJ and Capital FM) by lobbying them to beam all over the country.

The workshop raised awareness about the need for public media to open up and there was a lot of enthusiasm to change. The recommendation to review the Communications Act is a welcome development, which should enhance broadcasting diversity.

The eagerness of civil society to work with NAMISA is also commendable. This should have a huge impact on the opening up of public media.

The challenges being faced by MISA Malawi is that although the government has reaffirmed its commitment to democratic values, there seems to be no political will to open up the public media to diverse views. Last December, the former Minister of Information Kaliyoma Phumisa declared that the opposition would not be allowed to use public media.

NAMISA has an uphill battle to surmount this lack of political will to open up the airwaves.

There also seem to be self-censorship among employees working in public media organisations. They suppress information that would discredit or embarrass the government to keep their jobs.

C4. MISA Namibia submitted recommendations for the Draft Communications Bill for Namibia. This legislation is to be amended and MISA Namibia has a special interest in the development of Community radio in terms of the Bill. Currently community radio is hardly even mentioned in the Draft Bill. The Chapter is still waiting to hear if their submissions will be adopted in the final version of the Bill.

In Swaziland a Media consultant who was seconded to the Government to work closely with the committee to finalize the Draft Information Communication Policy documents worked closely with MISA Swaziland on the Broadcasting chapter of the same. It was agreed that Communication broadcasting is included as part of a massive campaign to empower the citizenry on matters of governance and accountability. Other issues MISA-Swaziland advocates for:

- Licensing for the Broadcasting industry should be given over to an independent regulator.
- The Government controlled SBIS and STVA should an independent Board who should be appointed in a transparent manner run 'True Public Broadcasting entities'.
- Training of journalists should become a matter of policy and the government is expected to play a pivotal role in coming out with such a policy.

The fact that the Chapter is now encouraging communication has led to an increased awareness about the need to establish community based media. The Chapter is working with the Lubombo Community Radio Forum and two other prospective communities to get their broadcasting licences form the government.

C5. In Tanzania the issue of media ownership in Tanzania has been hotly debated and it has been referred to media owners as it is seen as an investment policy matter as well.

Awareness raising for public and policy makers on the African Charter on Broadcasting in order to trigger discussion on the Charter, formulate and lobby for policy that is wanted was held in Zanzibar. The Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission was also represented in the workshop. The workshop drew together 38 participant showing the importance of the workshop and the need for more advocacy work. The deliberations made were very useful for the Chapter's future plans.

C6. In Zambia the major objective was to campaign for the establishment of an Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and amendment of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC). The same methods used for the establishment of the Freedom of Information bill were used for the above bills. The first part of the project concentrated on lobbying Parliamentarians from both the ruling Movement for Multi-party Democracy (MMD) and the opposition. It was essential for the MPs to be empowered with adequate information for informed debate in parliament. The public, through radio, television and newspapers were also sensitised on the IBA Act alongside distribution of fliers discussing independent broadcasting regulation. Field visits to broadcast operations were also conducted to explain the new legislation and how it would affect them.

The collapse of the private members' initiative resulting from the speaker's decision to disallow the three bills provided an opportunity for the government to gazette their own bills, whose contents were largely adopted from the private bills. Collectively, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) Amendment bills, after extensive amendments that were presented by ZIMA and its partners, to Parliament, went through the committee stage on December 18, 2002 and were signed by the President, Levy Mwanawasa, on December 31, 2002.

Under the new Independent Broadcasting Authority Act No. 17 of 2002 and ZNBC (Amendment) Act No. 20 of 2002 respectively, the board members of both the IBA and ZNBC will be appointed by the Minister on recommendation from the appointments committees, subject to ratification by the national assembly. In addition, ZNBC will now collect license fees while licensing and regulatory powers have been transferred from the minister to the IBA.

The campaign was spearheaded by ZIMA in conjunction with the Press Association of Zambia (PAZA), Society of Senior Journalists

(SSZJ), Zambia Union of Journalists (ZUJ) and Zambia Women Media Association (ZAMWA).

This is one campaign which ZIMA can state was extremely successful. However, the work to see the functioning of the boards has just began. In the next phase ZIMA is preparing to educate and ensure that the IBA is functioning well and the ZNBC Amendments implemented.

C7. In Zimbabwe, during 2002, the Chapter embarked on a nationwide, intensive public awareness campaign from April to November, 2002, on the need for the authorities to speedily license private broadcasting players and also amend the broadcasting law. The Advocacy Committees that were set up have mainly been involved in the community radio project which centres mainly on meetings with community leaders and publicity through drama, road shows and t-shirts. Although chances of community radios being allowed are remote, MISA Zimbabwe feels that it is necessary for the people of Zimbabwe to know what the BSA says about community broadcasting and also begin talking about how they can mobilise themselves around this issue.

Successful meetings took place in Mutare and Masvingo where Councillors had indicated enthusiasm for a community driven agenda. In the year under review, 8 meetings with Councillors have taken place. Plans are underway to consolidate the enthusiasm to something tangible. Through the advocacy committees, the profile of what MISA Zimbabwe stands for has been publicised. The Bulawayo Advocacy Committee in conjunction with Radio Dialogue has held successful road shows in two high density suburbs of Bulawayo – Luveve and Mpopoma, which were well attended.

The use of POSA however intensified and this made it difficult to hold public meetings and to carry out the road shows. One road show was cancelled because the police denied the Chapter permission and in some meetings where permission was granted, there was heavy police presence.

Programme D: Media Support Activities:

Enhancing Media Accountability and Professionalism

D1. Significant activities were undertaken under this programme. The MISA activities towards self-regulation in the region have produced good results.

In Botswana the process culminated in the establishment of a Press Council, the Botswana Press Council which was registered in October 2002. After few months in operation, the Minister of Communications Science and Technology tasked the Press Council and MISA to revise the Mass Media Bill and to come up with a better Bill that would create an enabling media environment.

D2. MISA Namibia launched a Code of Ethics and appointed the first-ever Media Ombudsman, who was introduced to the public and other stakeholders at World Press Freedom Day activities on May 3, 2002. At this occasion MISA Namibia urged government to recognise this initiative by the media and use this channel as a media regulatory body rather than set-up its own.

For the first time ever, MISA Namibia was given a platform on national television where the question of the necessity of a code of ethics was discussed during a panel discussion. The response from the public was generally enthusiastic, which only served to underscore the fact that the media in Namibia needs a set of standards or principles within which to operate. What remains now is to see how the Code will be enforced. The other problematic area is how to bring the dissenting media practitioners to take ownership of the need for the media to regulate itself through a code of ethics.

During this period in 2002, the pilot phase of the Media Monitoring Project was completed. The project monitored, over a set timeframe, the standard of journalism of both the print and electronic media in state and privately-owned media. A report of the findings was compiled and widely distributed to stakeholders.

It was well-received and emphasised the need for such a project in order to ensure the media industry becomes and remains aware of its shortcomings and hopefully take appropriate action to redress the imbalances.

D3. In Swaziland, MISA facilitated a successful self-regulation campaign in conjunction with the Editor's Forum, which resulted in the drafting of a

constitution for the Swaziland Complaint Commission and a Charter. The media in the country has endorsed the process and the media complaint commission will be launched soon.

D4. In Zambia, the process brought about a merger of the two separate media accountability systems – one that was established by the public media and the other by the independent media.

A National Convention on the establishment of the Media Council of Zambia (MECOZ) was held on November 29, 2003. The meeting was attended by about 120 journalists from all over the country and was jointly convened by ZIMA and the Press Association of Zambia (PAZA). Instead of the gathering adopting the draft constitution of MECOZ, several amendments were made to the document and the steering committee comprising PAZA, ZIMA and other representatives was mandated to finalise the document and proceed with the registration of MECOZ.

A follow-up workshop was held in February 2003 where 25 editors from both the private and state-owned media were called to discuss the draft MECOZ constitution. The editors made final amendments to the document which is now in the process of being finalised in readiness for the appointment of the MECOZ board by the stakeholders, namely PAZA and ZIMA.

D5. MISA-Zimbabwe working with the Zimbabwe National Editors Forum, ZUJ, IJAZ, MMPZ and FAMMZ resuscitated the Media Council Project initiative. The project is specifically aimed at coming up with a Code of Conduct for media practitioners in Zimbabwe. As such, a number of seminars will be held throughout the country. It is hoped that a draft code of conduct already in place will be circulated, discussed and adopted by all journalists participating at these seminars. A public awareness campaign on the code of conduct will also be embarked upon once all journalists, editors, publishers, media houses are agreed on the code of conduct.

Media Awards

The MISA Malawi Media Award Committee continued to publicise its activities and received an overwhelming response from media workers.

The Award attracted 30 entries from both the print and electronic media and this was a remarkable response considering that it is the first time for such a competition to happen in Malawi. The participation from female journalists was dismal as out of the 30 entries only three were from female journalists.

Participation from the state run radio station was also discouraging.

In line with MISA's policy of promoting excellence in the media ZIMA held its first Annual journalism award in December 2002. The award which goes with a cash prize was given to Radio Phoenix for among other attributes objective reporting.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, his Permanent Secretary, Ministry officials, media representatives from both the public and private, NGOs representatives, the church and political parties were among the 100 people that were invited to the colourful ceremony.

In order to encourage students of journalism to strive for excellence in their chosen career, awards in media training institutions have been introduced. These are at the University of Zambia Mass Communication department, Evelyn Hone media studies department and the Africa Literature Centre.

The awards are in honour of three late veteran journalists namely : Professor Francis Kasoma of the University of Zambia, Abbe Maine a renowned journalism lecturer and Jowie Mwiinga a fearless journalist who once worked for the Post and later became a BBC correspondent before his death.

To increase excellence in Journalism profession, increase number of higher standard, ethical and professional journalists that adhere to code of ethics, good governance and accountability, MISA Tanzania in collaboration with six other media organisations teamed up to set a Media Award Committee and Sub-Committees.

Sixty participants out of 100 attended the Orientation workshop held in Dar es Salaam where journalists were urged to update themselves with current issues by reading a lot of literature. Thirty seven (37) participants in Morogoro attended the workshop Morogoro. Journalists were reminded that a professional journalist was the one who went to the poor and talked to the people about their problems; and not the one who glorified dignitaries and wrote about public relation stories.

The themes of the workshops were Objectives, Media Award, Good Governance and Investigative writing and the award is called the Edward Moringe Sokoine after the late Prime Minister who recognized the role of the media in the country and promoted good governance by making government officials accountable to the public.

The activity achieved its objectives, and received very wide coverage in both the print and electronic media. The remaining activity is the implementation (presenting the award during the Gala Dinner in September 2003).

Community Broadcasting

MISA Namibia is working on a pilot project to set up community radio stations in six regions of Namibia. Steering committees were set up to mobilise the communities in those areas, with special emphasis on community ownership and control of future community radio stations. A National Coordinator was appointed to head this project.

In Zimbabwe the Mutare Advocacy Committee held a broadcasting “Open the Airwaves Campaign” workshop in Nyanga on 25-26 October, 2002. The workshop focused on the issue of community broadcasting. Parliamentarians, Councillors and civic society leaders from Mutare attended the workshop, which discussed among other things the weakness of the current broadcasting law and what role the Mutare community can play in the setting up of community radio stations.

In line with the public awareness campaign around the broadcasting issue the Masvingo Advocacy Committee held a workshop for members of Parliament, Councillors and civic society leaders in Masvingo at the Great Zimbabwe Hotel on November 2, 2002. The workshop discussed the need for the Masvingo community to have its own community radio station and also the weaknesses of the current law.

News Exchange

The Misanet News Exchange Programme (MNEP), was established in order to benefit the Southern African Community Development Countries, with the exchange of news among the English language publications.

This Programme which has since been extended to the two Portuguese speaking countries two years ago, has progressing well, despite setbacks experienced with publishers in Portuguese speaking countries who fail to honour their commitment, which affects the continued exchange of news on daily basis, to the Misanet News Exchange Programme.

There was, however few contributions from Angola publications early in 2001. Currently, the news exchange only receives news from MediaFax, and Savana both from Mozambique, since our partners in Angola have not been able to send any news since last year.

The news exchange, receives continually on daily basis publications from English speaking countries such as IRIN, The Chronicle from Malawi, The Namibian from Namibia, PlusNews, and The Standard from Zimbabwe.

Like the Portuguese publications in Angola, few English publications have been inconsistent and some like The Mopheme from Lesotho, the Daily News from Zimbabwe, The Post from Zambia and PANA have stopped their contributions.

This gap in the contribution of information to the MNEP, from the Portuguese newspapers, and few other English publications have disadvantaged at the most the English Publication, which initially received 5 translated articles daily. Currently, 8 articles are translated daily, which are fed to the Portuguese newspapers in the region.

Last year, the Portuguese translated articles reached a large number of audiences in Angola, through weeklies such as Actual, AGORA and FOLHA 8 all from Angola that carried our translated articles covering almost whole pages. This has also been confirmed by a daily Electronic Publication AFRICAMENTE, and MediaFax.

Recently it has also been confirmed to the news exchange that Radio Watana in Mozambique, reads the MISA news on a daily basis. This radio reaches an estimated 25,000 people in Mozambique alone.

Other Media Support Activities

As part of the MISA Swaziland Chapter's collaborating initiative, the office joined hands with Unicef with the possibility of a fair coverage of Children issues in the media. There are possibilities of training opportunities for media practitioners as well as formation of partnership to produce a media friendly environment for children.

Apart from the traditional MISA activities above ZIMA also has other programmes which have been sponsored by funds sourced by ZIMA from local donors which it is running side by side with the MISA programmes. These are:

1. Media Literacy seminars.

So far in the period under review two such workshops have been held in Mazabuka and Monze. These seminars are primarily meant to educate villagers on their role in community media. The seminars have been extended to schools and press clubs are being formed.

2. Face the media

This has been one of the most successful programmes which has uplifted the name of ZIMA in Zambia. This live phone-in Radio programme was originally aired only on Radio Phoenix but is now being aired in 10 other community and commercial programmes around Zambia - These programmes have featured among others

practically all the leaders of political parties, NGOs, the clergy and journalists.

3. Good governance programme

Like the Face the media programmes the Good governance Radio programmes are meant to make those that govern accountable to the governed.

These programmes are also aired on 10 community and commercial Radio Stations in Zambia and are sponsored by Ireland Aid.

4. Independent Media Council

Under the Independent Media Council so far eight complaints have been brought before the council. Three of them have so far been successfully dealt with. They included complaints from two cabinet ministers.

Under the same umbrella ZIMA is running a television chat show called the "Media and the Public". This is a Phone-in programme and has proved to be very popular easily making it one of the flagships of ZIMA.

The Zambia Independent Media Association (ZIMA) has been conducting courses on how to improve journalistic skills among media practitioners without looking at the business side of the media industry. This "negligence" may have contributed to the closure of many publications. To assist the media ZIMA organised for the first time a workshop on accounting and management. In order for maximum impact those in finance were joined by their who most of them have no or little idea of finance matters on managers how to run media as a business.

Participants drawn from 17 institutional members of ZIMA were in attendance at the workshop. The main purpose of which was to equip participants with accounting and management skills. The workshop was held for three days starting February 24 to 26, 2003 and was held at Ndeke hotel in Lusaka. All together 30 people from institutions participated in the workshop.

MISA Zimbabwe organised a training workshop on Peace Reporting in Kadoma on 4-5 October, 2002. 30 journalists mostly from small and community publications attended the workshop that was conducted by local facilitators.

Another training workshop organised by MISA Zimbabwe for advocacy committee members in Kariba was held on 20 – 22 September. The training programme focused on how they could go about the business of mobilizing communities so that issues of the media, access to information and freedom of expression are publicised and addressed. The committees were also taken on their paces on what advocacy is all about.

MISA offers a scholarship exchange programme that is facilitated at the Regional Secretariat I Windhoek. The programme assists

individual media practitioners in all areas of the media (managerial, editorial, advertising and technical) to work on attachment in another media institution to learn new skills and develop existing ones. This includes both full-time employees and freelancers. Individuals who are involved in human rights organisations in a media capacity are also considered. During the year under review a total of 14 media practitioners benefited from this programme.

Networking

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) has for the past five years been monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Liberia, with particular reference to attacks on journalists. From July 22 to 23, 2002 the MFWA held an international meeting of Human rights organisations, civil society and other pro-democracy advocates from Liberia with their counterparts from West Africa and beyond. One of the aims of the meeting was to outline a concrete programme of actions that the organisation could undertake, in collaboration with others, to enhance the effectiveness of monitoring abuses in the country and encouraging peaceful and democratic means of pressuring the government to respect human rights in Liberia. Article 19 and MISA were represented by Mr John Barker and Luckson Chipare.

MISA's regional secretariat was consequently approached by the MFWA, via the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), to assist the MFWA in the following ways:

- Training:

MISA was asked to assist in training and infrastructural support. A training workshop with media monitors and MFWA correspondents from Liberia and Somalia from March 17 to 19 in Accra, Ghana was conducted. The focus of the training was to train the MFWA and its Liberia correspondents to produce accurate and effective action alerts.

MFWA and its Liberia correspondents were further informed about how MISA operates as a network. This component focused on building MFWA's on-the-ground capacity to produce quality action alerts on free expression cases in Liberia and the rest of West Africa. The anticipated result of this work will be increased and more cohesive coverage of Liberian free expression cases, and a more coordinated, centralised system through which Liberian cases are collated.

- Information dissemination / infrastructure

In terms of infrastructural collaboration, it takes the form of joint MISA/MFWA alerts, issued by MISA on its alert system. This would ensure international exposure of MFWA alerts, as they would

then reach the IFEX Action Alerts Network (ANN) of which MISA is a member while MFWA will seek membership in 2004.

MISA has in the past offered such assistance to the West Africa Journalist Association (WAJA). A WAJA employee was on attachment at the regional secretariat for a week in 2000. WAJA has to date however, not been able to get its alerts system off the ground.

In addition to the collaboration with MFWA, MISA – in September 2002, also facilitated the participation of a Liberian journalist, Mr. Lyndon Ponnio, and Sudanese human rights advocate and journalist, Mr. Faisal El Bagir, to attend the IFEX General Meeting in Dakar, Senegal together with two employees of MFWA. The MFWA is at present not a member of the IFEX, but with the aforementioned collaboration with MISA, this organisation would be in a position to organise itself in such a manner that it will become eligible for IFEX membership.

As a member of IFEX, MISA has resolved to participate in solidarity actions to further the cause of press freedom and freedom of expression regionally and internationally. The request from IFEX is further acknowledgement of MISA's expertise in the area of Media Freedom Monitoring.

Programme E: Legal Support Activity

The Media Legal Aid Fund in MISA Malawi is handling a case from *The Nation* newspaper journalist Mc Donald Chapalapata who was assaulted by the Financial Controller of the National Food Reserve Agency Mr Paul Chimanya.

The reporter had asked Mr Chimanya to comment on allegations that he had awarded a contract to his own company. In the process of the interview, Mr Chimanya got angry and assaulted the journalist who suffered bodily harm and had to go to the hospital for treatment. Mr Chimanya also smashed the reporter's cellphone as well as dictaphone.

The Media Legal Aid Committee has already hired a lawyer who has commenced legal proceedings against Mr Chimanya. The matter is in court.

The work of the Media Legal Aid Fund is being appreciated among media houses and media practitioners. The fact that the fund is handling two cases is a testimony that journalists would like to make use of the fund, which has been established for their benefit.

Although there is a strong committee to handle cases brought before it, some media organisations seem not to take advantage of the legal fund to sue those who violate the rights of the media or harass journalists.

For example, when a member of parliament manhandled a reporter from *The Nation* newspaper the expectation was that the reporter would seek redress using the legal fund. However, the newspaper management decided to discuss the issue with the reporter and not to take any legal action against the MP.

The major challenge is to make journalists and media houses come out in the open and take legal action against those who violate their rights.

The MLDF intends to put the information on a brochure and circulate it widely among media practitioners and media houses to arouse profound interest for them not to suffer in silence, but to use the legal aid fund.

NAMISA will also encourage media houses and journalists to use the fund whenever their rights are violated.

In Zambia, the groundwork for the fund has already been done. The remaining part is for the NGC to resolve on the establishment of the Fund and forward to the Registrar of Societies (Ministry of Home Affairs) as a notice that the LDF has been established and the headquarters to inject funds in order to open a separate account.

The meeting for supporters/stakeholders will be held soon the fund has been established to chart out the way forward. Under this activity a number of meetings were held by the Media Legal Defence Fund committee to determine the illegibility of applicants to the Fund. Legal fees were sanctioned to defend "The People" journalists who had questioned president Mwanawasa's sanity in a story they accused him of suffering from the Parkinson's disease. Following the publication of the story three journalists from the newspaper and a student from Evelyn Hone College were detained without trial for nearly a month. After a lengthy battle in the courts the journalists were given bail and ZIMA had to pay the bail penalties which have since been reimbursed by the courts since the state entered a nolle prosequere after the Editor apologised. Two other cases were brought before the committee but these did not meet the criteria for legal representation.

Under this programme, MISA Zimbabwe runs two projects – the Media Defence Fund (MDF) and the Media Lawyers Network (MLN). In MISA Zimbabwe, the Media Defence Fund (MDF) assisted Stanley Karombo with legal fees in the matter in which he was arrested for contravening section 83 of AIPPA, which prohibits anyone from practicing journalism without accreditation. Karombo has since been removed from remand pending the finalization of Supreme Court cases in which Section 83 among many other sections are being challenged.

The Media Defence Fund embarked on a lobby campaign through adverts on the delays in the passing of judgments by the Supreme Court. The judgments not yet released are the Capitol Radio challenge of the broadcasting law and the Independent Journalists Association of Zimbabwe challenge of AIPPA. The adverts have already created a lot of interest among many people judging by the enquiries and comments received by the secretariat. The Minister of Information and Publicity Jonathan Moyo has already commented on them, though in a negative way. The campaign is set to run throughout this year. It is hoped that the adverts will make the public aware of such delays, which constitute a violation of the rights of those challenging these repressive laws.

The public awareness campaign on the Public Order and Security Act is still ongoing and the coming adverts will look into the changes that might be effected to make the law democratic. A submission is also going to be made to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Transport and Communications on the sections in POSA that affect the work of journalists and freedom of expression in general.

MISA PUBLICATIONS Annual Report



The production of MISA's annual report is another coordinating activity undertaken by the Researcher/Program Coordinator, Media Freedom Monitoring.

The Researcher/Program Coordinator, Media Freedom Monitoring is exploring the possibility of including Portuguese translation of future reports. The 2002 MISA Annual Report is available in hard copy from the Regional Secretariat. It can also be viewed online at www.misa.org

FreePress Magazine



March 2002
December 2002



June 2002



September 2002



MISA's quarterly FreePress magazine remains a popular forum for debate on topical media issues. The magazine has, since the beginning of 2002, undergone a definite change in terms of editorial policy, with an overall agreement to maintain a theme-based approach in future editions of the magazine. As an example, the March 2002 edition focused on broadcasting issues, June 2002 on Media Councils and self-regulatory mechanisms, September 2002 on MISA as an organisations which then celebrated its 10th anniversary, and the December edition focused on ICTs. This format has been well-received and will be the basis for future editions.

The production of the FreePress magazine is a consultative process fuelled by the constant need to improve the quality of the magazine. MISA chapters take advantage of the MISAWISE section of the magazine to highlight chapter activities and country developments.

FreePress magazine is distributed free of charge to MISA members, donor agencies and selected national, regional and international freedom of expression and media freedom advocacy organisations.

So This Is Democracy?



The annual publication *So This Is Democracy?*, which records incidences of media freedom violations within SADC, was produced for the eighth time in 2002. The publication provides insights into and analysis of media freedom trends within the region.

So This Is Democracy? is an important historical document detailing events affecting media workers in most of Southern Africa and remains valuable not only for media activists but also for scholars and others interested in plotting the trends and identifying the various devices used to undermine media freedom and limit the free flow of information.

For the first time, in 2002, the publication included translations into Portuguese of the country overviews. This was an attempt to make this publication more accessible to the Lusophone countries in which MISA operates.

MISA Chapters in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia kept up their production of the newsletters and magazines that keep their membership informed of MISA activities and on matters of freedom of expression and the media.

RESEARCH

With support from the Netherlands institute for Southern Africa, MISA facilitated a research study to analyse MISA Action Alerts over the period 2000 to 2002 (three years). The objective of the research study was to identify trends of media harassment and to propose effective follow-up actions in relation to various types of violations, and to identify journalists/media that are frequently 'under fire'.

The research report was an important activity which informed the SADC Journalists Under Fire campaign. A draft report of the initial findings was subsequently discussed at a conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, on May 15 and 16, 2003. Discussions centred around trends of media harassment and strategies to counteract such harassment.



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN GENDER AND MEDIA BASELINE STUDY

This report is the regional overview of the Southern African Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS). It is complemented by 12 country reports that give additional detail about women and men in the editorial content of individual countries. The first such study in Southern Africa, the GMBS is also the most comprehensive regional study on gender and the media ever to be undertaken.

Objectives

Initiated by the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) that seeks to foster a free, independent and diverse media in the region, as well as Gender Links, a Southern African NGO that promotes gender equality in and through the media, the study set out to:

- a) Provide baseline data for monitoring progress towards achieving gender balance in media coverage;
- b) Build capacity in the region for monitoring media content from a gender perspective; and
- c) Become a key advocacy tool in the campaign to ensure that the voices of women and men, in all their diversity, are equally represented and fairly portrayed in the media of the region.

Global context

Just before the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, 71 countries took part in the first global gender and media-monitoring project organized by Media Watch Canada. Five years later, before the New York Beijing Plus Five Conference, 70 countries took part in the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) 2000 called "Who Makes the News" that examined how men and women are reflected in the media on one chosen day.

The GMBS drew substantially from these global efforts but differs from them in that it spanned a whole month, rather than just one day. The study includes both quantitative and qualitative findings. The latter is especially important in moving from a simple number crunching exercise to understanding

gender aware reporting. For example, just because a story is about a woman does not mean it is gender sensitive.

It has become traditional around the globe for women to take over the making of the news on 8 March- International Women's Day. The challenge posed by the GMBS is for equal numbers of women and men, at all levels of decision making, and giving equal voice to women and men, to make the news. Hence the slogan of the study: "women and men make the news".

Partners

In addition to MISA and GL, the study brought together twenty institutional partners in the twelve countries. These included two media monitoring projects; three media-related NGOs; seven gender related NGOs; four country-level media women's associations; one regional media women's association and five media training institutions. The Media Monitoring Project (MMP) South Africa provided technical support.

Media Monitored

The study covered 114 out of the 317 print and electronic media in the 12 countries covered, or 36 percent of the media in these countries, during September 2002. It included a total of 25 110 news items, compared to the 16 000 news items monitored in the 2000 GMMP. The sample covered the full spectrum of private, public and community media. The countries covered were: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Scope

The study focused solely on the news. It did not include entertainment programming and advertising. In the case of radio and television, the study did not cover news feature programmes such as weekly news round ups and analysis (in the case of the print media these are usually contained within the same news publication). These important genres are acknowledged as important areas for consideration in future studies.

Findings

Table one summarises the main findings of the GMBS for South Africa and the region. Where they are available, comparative statistics are given from the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) that took place just prior to the five- year review of the Beijing Fourth World Conference of Women held in 1995. Margaret Gallagher, who served as chief consultant to the GMMP also served as an advisor to the GMBS, providing an important link between the two studies.

The GMMP, described in greater detail under “background to the project” covered 70 countries around the world, but only covered one day, whereas the GMBS study spanned one month. However, the statistics reflect strikingly similar patterns. These suggest that while the longer term monitoring is more accurate, the results are not substantially different where gender and the media are concerned.

Table one: snapshot of key findings

	% Women		% Men	
	Regional	Global	Regional	Global
WHO SPEAKS				
Overall	17	18	83	82
Relationships				
Identified by family status	11	21	2	4
Occupation *				
Home makers	61	81	33	19
Politicians	8	10	89	90
Sports	8	9	90	91
Mining	19		81	
Beauty contestant	88		10	
Entertainer	38		60	
Sex worker	91		9	
WHO SPEAKS ON WHAT *				
Economics	10	17	76	83
Political stories	9	12	80	88
Disaster/War/Conflict	13		70	
Crime	15	20	75	80
Labour/Education	21		72	
Health/HIV/AIDS	25	29	66	71
Mining and Agriculture	15		79	
Human Rights	16	15	70	85
Gender Equality	46		45	
Gender Violence	39		50	
Children	42		52	
Media / Entertainment stories	29	35	65	65
Sports	8	12	88	88
Other	24		68	
WHO CREATES THE NEWS				
TV reporters	38	36	62	64
TV presenters	45	56	55	44
Radio reporters	34	28	66	72
Print reporters	22	26	78	74
WHO REPORTS ON WHAT *				
Economics	20	35	54	65
Political stories	16	26	47	74
Disaster/War/Conflict	15		35	
Crime	20	31	46	69
Health/HIV/AIDS	31	46	40	54
Mining and Agriculture	19		53	
Human Rights	23	33	47	67
Gender Equality	30		44	

Gender Violence	19		46	
Children	28		50	
Media / Entertainment stories	25	40	49	60
Sports	7	15	68	85

Note: * In these categories, where regional percentages do not total one hundred percent, the shortfall refers to cases where the sex of the news source or reporter is unknown. Global comparisons are provided only where such comparisons are available.)

Summary of key findings

The key findings of the research can be summarised as follows:

- *Women's views and voices are grossly under-represented in the media:* Women constituted 17 percent of known news sources in the media monitored in the study. This figure is close to global figure of 18 percent in the GMMP. Women constitute 52 percent of the population in Southern Africa.
- *There are significant variations between countries:* These ranged from women constituting 26 percent of news sources in Angola (the highest) to 11 percent in Malawi (the lowest).
- *But there are no significant differences between private and public media:* The country reports that accompany this regional overview provide a breakdown of sources for each individual media house monitored. An analysis of these findings shows that there is no significant difference in the performance of public and private media with regard to giving voice to women and men. This is disappointing, as one might have expected the public media to lead the way. At the same time, the fact that the private media- that often justifies sexist coverage in commercial terms- outperformed the public media in many instances is an encouraging sign.
- *Older women are virtually invisible:* To the extent women's voices are accessed, they are likely to be in the 35-49 year bracket for both print and electronic media.
- *Women in the media still carry their private identity more than men:* In all countries, women are much more likely to be identified as a wife, daughter or mother than a man is likely to be identified as a husband, son or father. The

regional average for women is 11 percent, compared to two percent for men.

- *Women in certain occupational categories are virtually silent:* The only occupational categories in which female views dominated were beauty contestants, sex workers and home-makers. Male voices predominated even in agriculture, where women perform most of the work.
- *Women politicians are not heard relative to even their strengths in parliament:* Women constitute an average of 18 percent of the members of parliament in the region. Yet women constituted only eight percent of the sources in the politician category. Countries that have the highest representation of women in parliament- South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania- also had some of the lowest proportions of women politicians being accessed as news sources. South Africa, for example, has 31 percent women in parliament and a similar proportion in cabinet. Yet women constituted only 8 percent of the politicians quoted in the media monitored.
- *Gender equality is hardly considered newsworthy:* About a quarter of all the over 25 000 news items monitored related to politics and economics, and close to twenty percent were on sports. Gender specific news items accounted for a mere two percent of the total, and about half of these were on gender violence.
- *The only topic on which women's voices outnumber men's is on gender equality:* Women's voices predominated only in the gender equality topic code. There were more male than female voices even in the topic code on gender violence.
- *Men's voices dominate in all the hard news categories:* Women constituted less than ten percent of news sources in the economics, politics and sport categories.
- *The highest level of representation of women in the media is as TV presenters:* As in the global study, at 45 percent, women television presenters constitute the highest proportion of women media practitioners in the region. Unlike the global findings, women in Southern Africa do not constitute the majority of this category.
- *But they have to be young!* The heaviest concentration of female electronic media practitioners is in the 20-34 year bracket. This tapers off much more dramatically for women than for men in the 35-49 year category, and for both men

and women in the 50-64 year category. In essence, women stand their best chance in the electronic (and especially TV presenter category) of the media, but have a limited "shelf life". All this highlights the fact that the main factor for women's success in the visual media is looks rather than ability.

- *Women are least well represented in the print media:* Women constituted only 22 percent of those who wrote news stories. They are also under represented in the critical images/cartoons and opinion and commentary categories.
- *Women media practitioners predominate in the soft beats:* There is not a single news category in which women media practitioners predominate. Their absence is especially marked in the economics, politics and sports, mining and agriculture beats. The only beats that come close to achieving gender parity are health and HIV/ AIDS, human rights, gender equality, gender violence, media and entertainment.
- *Women do tend to access more female sources:* The positive correlation between women journalists and women sources suggests that having higher levels of women journalists in all beats of the media would increase the extent to which women are given greater voice in the media.
- *But the growing number of men writing and producing stories on gender issues is an important trend:* The fact that there are numerically more male journalists writing and producing stories on gender equality and gender violence is a positive sign and should be built on through training.
- *There are still cases of blatant sexist reporting in the media:* The qualitative reporting yielded examples of blatantly sexist reporting that portrays women as objects and temptresses.
- *But increasingly the challenge is one of subtle stereotypes that are conveyed in a variety of ways:* These include the relative weight given to male and female sources; stories that go the opposite extreme and glorify women as well as stories that perpetuate the traditional roles of women and men.
- *The majority of stories suffer from "gender blindness":* Other than the "sins of commission" the main finding of the qualitative research is that stories suffer from the "sins of omission"- story opportunities that are lost through

failing to explore the gender dimensions of every day situations, such as the power dynamics at play in the HIV AIDS pandemic, the different impacts of the national budget on women and men etc.

- *But examples of gender aware reporting gathered as part of the qualitative analysis show that transformation is possible:* The qualitative analysis also yielded several “best practise” examples of gender perspectives being integrated into every day news and yielding more balanced, more interesting and ultimately more professional stories.

MISA’s Gender Policy states that giving voice to all segments of society is intrinsic to participation, citizenship and in turn to democracy. This research therefore is merely the beginning of a concerted advocacy campaign to ensure that the voices of women and men are heard, on all subjects, in the news.

Implementation and Monitoring

This first year of the three-year plan took off rather slowly due to various reasons. The delay in securing the cash flow from the donors. Disbursements to the national chapters was therefore slow, though most of the problems were at that level as the national chapters had to learn who the system was to work. Another problem was the delay in securing the services of staff at the Regional Office as the Executive Committee decided to advertise all management positions. Appointments were only finalised in February 2003 with the incoming staff only joining later in the year as work and temporary resident permits take at least three months to get from the Namibian Government. The newly created post of Program Manager: Media Law and Policy has still not been filled as the interviewed prospective applicants were not considered suitable. It will take sometime for the implementation to be fully functional as new staff need time to settle in and familiarise with the MISA culture.

Staff training, however continued, though the major advocacy training was delayed due to the staffing situation indicated above. The National Directors and Regional Programme Managers met for a 3-day training workshop on the Strategic Plan Implementation in Johannesburg August 18 – 20, 2002. Another one day meeting for the same group on the strategic plan implementation was also held on February 14, 2003 which dealt on workplans and budgets for the fiscal year starting April 1, 2003. Advocacy Training for this group could not be held during the first year as planned was only done in June 2003 using the MISA Media Advocacy Toolkit.

A training workshop of MISA Information and Advocacy offers in Johannesburg, South Africa, from April 23 to 27, 2002 was conducted. The training focused on international human rights mechanism employed in media monitoring, analytical skills in media monitoring and alert writing, standardisation and common classification of action alerts and information technology tools that can be utilised for linking the alert system with website and e-mail functions.

A leadership training for women media managers was undertaken in August 2002 for 2 days before the MISA AGM, thereby empowering women for leadership roles in the media. Three of the trained women were selected to chair some sessions of the AGM, providing them with an immediate opportunity to exercise they newly acquired skills.

The MISA RGC and TFB met 3 times during the period under review as they continued to give policy direction to the organization. The MISA AGM was held in Maputo, Mozambique in August 2002 and as usual, continued to guide the other organs in mapping the direction MISA should take in its mandate to advocate for media freedom and freedom of expression in the region.