



# STATE OF THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA



Quarter 2  
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**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ATI	Access to Information
DN	Daily Nation newspaper
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
NGOCC	Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council
PF	Patriotic Front
ToZ	Times of Zambia newspaper
UPND	United Party for National Development
ZDM	Zambia Daily Mail newspaper
ZICTA	Zambia Information, Communication and Technology Authority
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation
ZRA	Zambia Revenue Authority

## 1.0 Introduction

The State of the Media in Zambia is a quarterly report based on the assessment of events touching on the environment under which the media operated during the period under review. The report summarises the conditions under which the media houses and media practitioners operated, but more specifically in respect of the economic, technological, legal and political environments as well as any other pertinent major issues that affect the media industry in Zambia.

In addition, the report reflects the main topical national issues that arose during the period and how the media reported these in its role of ensuring that the public was fully informed.

This quarterly report is prepared by MISA Zambia. It helps to cumulatively document major developments in the media industry in Zambia and to flag off any negative trends requiring remedial measures by MISA Zambia and other major stakeholders.

## 2.0 Methodology

The quarterly report of the State of the Media in Zambia is essentially based on careful review and analysis of materials that were available during the said quarter containing information that had an impact and influenced the operations of the media in Zambia. The materials reviewed included news reports in the media related to the media fraternity, reports, press statements, and MISA Zambia media alerts published during the period under review. Further, an analysis of the media houses with presence online was conducted, with particular attention to their online presence and level of activity.

Broadcast media, including radio and television news reports and other programmes were monitored.

Many other media houses were engaged for more information on their operations in relation to their political and economic environments.

## 3.0 Executive Summary of Media Events During the Second Quarter

The media in Zambia in the second quarter of 2019 was dominated by a number of issues; the unanimous decision to adopt a statutory-self regulatory framework for the media, the directive by

IBA compelling all broadcast media to submit recordings of programmes every fortnight, and the harassment and intimidation of Power FM and Radio Maria Zambia in Kabwe and Chipata respectively.

In the period under review, press freedom and freedom of expression were under threat with cadres attacking radio stations by storming into studios. There were also threats by government officials on journalists.

Another significant issue recorded in the period under review was the continued shelving of the Access to Information Bill that has been on the cards for the past 17 years.

It should be noted that the second quarter of the year 2019 also scored some victories.

Arguably one of the biggest news received during the period under review was the pronouncement by the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services that public media must accord a chance to opposition political parties to air their views on their platforms.

### **4.0 Findings – Overview**

The media in the period under review was dominated by debates around the unanimous decision by journalists to adopt a statutory self-regulatory framework for the media. The decision was arrived at after a two-day workshop attended by over 200 journalists from across Zambia.

Also making news in the period under review was the news of mandatory submission of broadcast content every two weeks. The directive was issued by IBA who called upon broadcast media to comply with the instructions. The directive was however condemned by sections of society based on two issues: the cost attached and the threat to media freedom that the move would impose.

### **4.1 Policy and Statutory Framework**

#### **4.1.1. Self-Regulation of the media**

The media in the period under review was dominated by debates around the statutory self-media regulation. The media coverage was centred around debates before, during and after the media regulation insaka that

attracted journalists from across Zambia from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The insaka and the efforts at enacting a statutory-self regulation framework were widely covered by the media but standing out were media stories such as one carried by the News Diggers! on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019 under the heading, “*regulating journalists will remove masqueraders from the profession.*” In the statement, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services, Permanent Secretary, Chanda Kasolo, was quoted saying “the proposed regulation of journalists is aimed at weeding masqueraders from the profession and enhancing professionalism”. In his speech Mr. Chanda Kasolo expressed worry that there were too many innuendos and lies being written about politicians due to lack of media regulation.

The News Diggers! newspaper reported that:

*“And I think that’s where we are heading, where journalists should be able to say ‘oh yeah, Chanda Kasolo is this, but let us find out a little bit more’ and they do that investigation, when the story comes out, it’s based on facts and there will be no need for one to say this is fake news. Because once journalists polish up their pencils and start writing well investigated stories, then we are going to benefit as a nation. You see, at the moment we have been in innuendos about politicians, about business people and so on. And we seem as Zambians to wallow in speculation and innuendos.” Mr. Kasolo said.*

In line with the PS’s views, on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) carried a heading, “Journalists challenged to form a professional body.” Like the PS, the Minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting Services, Hon. Dora Siliya challenged journalists to unite and form a professional body that will regulate practicing Journalists. Ms. Siliya said forming the body will help expose the growing number of people masquerading as Journalists.

Following the sentiments from stakeholders, on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, journalists from across Zambia attended the Media Self-Regulation Insaka where they overwhelmingly resolved to adopt a statutory self-regulatory framework. The two-day conference which drew participation from over 200 media personnel drawn from across the country, resolved to back a self-regulation by statute framework.

In the communique to the media, the Media Liaison Committee (MLC) Chairperson Mr. Enock Ngoma explained as follows:

*WE, the journalists and media owners gathered here at the Media Regulation Insaka held in Lusaka, having listened and deliberated on the matters at hand, namely adoption of a preferred mode of media regulation for Zambia;*



*Having considered the history of media regulation in Zambia post- independence and the various efforts at media regulation through MECOZ and ZAMEC, and having considered the interests from government and the members of public on the need for professionalism and improved role of the media in providing fair and balanced coverage;*

*Having considered the various interests of various media players, namely media owners, community media, online media and mainstream media;*

*Having studied the various media models as exist in other countries such as Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, among others;*

*Having noted and discussed that there are various media regulation models available for Zambia to choose, namely self-regulation model, statutory regulation model and a new hybrid of media regulation known as ‘co-regulation’;*

*Do here by say that we have unanimously agreed that we adopt a statutory self-regulation model as it suits our prevailing media environment in Zambia;*

*That the Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC) be revived and its statutes improved to take into consideration the interests of its members and partners;*

*That ZAMEC be recognised as law, as the body in charge of media regulation in Zambia under the auspices of the Media Liaison Committee.*

*That ZAMEC be funded from its members and other partners that subscribe to the interests and ideals of ZAMEC;*

*That the already existing Technical Committee continues to engage with the government and donors to actualise this decision by this Golden Peacock Insaka, and that at an opportune time and within the said Three (3) months report back to this Insaka the progress made of actualising this media self-regulation model;*

*That the refined ZAMEC document shall be ready after the three months period, and that a general meeting shall be called to ratify the document after which it shall then be drafted into a bill;*



*And that Media Owners and any other stakeholders that are willing to work together with the technical committee are welcome to do so.*

The move by journalists to draft a statutory self-media regulatory framework received kudos from stakeholders including the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, Dora Siliya who on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, was quoted by the Lusaka Times Publication saying “Journalism needs to be recognized as a profession.” In the article Ms. Dora Siliya was quoted saying:

*Journalism needs to be recognized as a profession and as such, practitioners must come together and set standards for their craft. Journalists both in the private and public sector are the same hence should have the same standards and adhere to the same professional code of ethics. The establishment of a media council that is backed by the law will help to cure, among other things, polarization which has characterized the media fraternity. The council will also protect journalism from invasion by quack journalists.*

In addition to calling for the recognition of journalism as a profession, Ms. Siliya said time had come for the profession to regain its position and status in society.

In a show of support for the statutory self-regulation, on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 the Times of Zambia publication carried a headline, “Kasolo hails journalists”. The newspaper reported that government is optimistic the proposed self-regulation media policy will be passed into law before the end of this year. In the article the newspaper quoted the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo, saying that he is confident the policy will eliminate bad elements in the media industry and also promote respect among journalists.

The paper reported that:

*Government is happy that journalists have resolved to protect the integrity of their profession through the adoption of a statutory self-regulatory policy. We commend the great move taken by journalists and we are happy that the self-regulatory media policy will eliminate pretenders from the professionals which has over the years been infiltrated by bad elements.*

The Permanent Secretary further said that government wants the issue of media regulation to be conclusively dealt with and that the media must be free to consult the government, should they face challenges in their deliberations, Mr. Kasolo said.

Meanwhile, the aspect of statutory or state regulation endorsed by journalists gathered for the Insaka received some mixed reactions. On 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 The BBC Media Action Project Manager Mr. Boyd Chibale was quoted by The Mast Newspaper Publication saying “state regulation does not guarantee media freedom.” The Project Manager emphasised that one of the fundamental aspects of state regulation is that it is highly politicized and does not guarantee media freedom. He said self-regulation was the best alternative to ensuring a regulated media fraternity.

An interesting departure from the statutory self-regulation as adopted by journalists was that it is a hybrid of both self and statutory regulation. Because of the challenges in implementing self-regulation by journalists as evidenced in the failure of MECOZ and ZAMEC to take off successfully, a mix of the two maybe the solution to achieving a media that is vibrant and free from interference.

#### **4.1.2 Media Licensing**

The harassment and eventual suspension of Prime TVs broadcasting licence for 30 days from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April dominated most of the media debates in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019. In the second quarter, though the media house’s suspension was lifted, it can be stated that the move caused a lot of damage on the TV station both in operations and human resources.

In a bid to understand the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), it can be stated that the IBA was established through an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 2002, which was amended through the IBA (Amendment) Act No. 26 of 2010. The IBA became operational in July 2013. According to the website, the IBA is responsible for regulating the broadcasting industry in Zambia, by ensuring the promotion of a pluralistic and diverse broadcasting industry. The information on its website further states that the functions of the IBA includes among others, to grant, renew, suspend and cancel radio and television broadcast licences.

In line with granting operational licenses, on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, the Zambia Daily Mail publication carried a headline, “IBA grants Kutonesha Manyinga Initiative (KMI) licence” The paper reported that the IBA has granted KMI a license to set up Muchima community radio station in North-Western Province. The granting of an operating licence for Muchima radio came barely a month after the 30-day suspension of Prime TV’s operating license.

As expected, the granting of the operating licence elated Manyinga District Commissioner, Queen Manela who expressed happiness at the gesture by IBA. She stated that the granting of the operating license is an indication of the value government attached to media development.

Though it is important and welcome that the District Commissioner expressed happiness and assured the radio station that government had created an enabling environment for the media to operate; rhetoric must be matched with actions. It is important that government creates a truly sustainable environment that the media can operate in. Issues such as licencing, conditions of service for journalists and training must all be discussed to ensure that a truly enabling environment is created.

#### 4.1.3. Freedom of Expression

The most pronounced form of threats to freedom of expression on the media in the period under review, was the directive by IBA compelling all radio stations to submit broadcast recordings to IBA every two weeks.

The directive captured in the Daily Mail newspaper of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019, carried the heading “*Radio Televisions get IBA directive.*” In the article, IBA had directed radio and television stations countrywide to submit broadcast recordings to it every two weeks to ease monitoring. Further, electronic media houses were ordered to submit their editorial policies to the authority.

According to IBA Director General, Ms. Josephine Mapoma, the new directive was in pursuant to section 38 of the IBA Act number 17 and that the recordings to be submitted should consist of all discussion programmes, including paid for programmes where applicable, talk shows, news bulletins and news analyses, as a well as musical programmes.

Other types of content such as movies and dramas, among others were to be requested by IBA when need arose.

Ms. Mapoma stated that:

*“The public may wish to know that one of the functions of the authority is to enforce compliance of broadcasting within the conditions of the licenses issued under the Act. “In this regard, the authority has inspectors who over the years have relied on post-monitoring of stations, owing to the fact that IBA is not present in all the districts where broadcasting stations exist”*

She warned media house against editing the recordings to alter the original content as this will constitute a breach. Ms. Mapoma said this was in accordance to Section 22 (5) (d) of the IBA (Amendment) Act of 2010 which provides: “..... without prejudice to the generality of sub-section 9i”

The paper further reported that:

The conditions of the broadcasting licence may require the licensee or any other person concerned in providing any service, to furnish the authority with such documents, accounts, returns, estimates and other information as the board considers necessary.

In line with freedom of expression, on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019 the Mast Newspaper carried a headline “*media in Zambia under threat.*” This was attributed to MISA Zambia Director Mr. Austin Kayanda who was speaking during a reporting on media freedoms, digital rights workshop and media roundtable in Zambia. It was reported that there are a lot of media violations and attacks on freedoms which were calculated to silence the media. Mr. Kayanda said this was a major affront to media freedoms and democracy in Zambia.

In his speech Mr. Kayanda said Zambia had sufficient laws to regulate the media and promote press freedoms and that these laws have been used to convict several people in Zambia who have abused the online space.

He said if cyber laws were to be enacted, they must not include clauses that would work against freedom of expression, the right of citizens to participate in governance and hold their leaders accountable, including communicating with one another.

Mr. Kayanda said:

*The process to enact the laws must be transparent. The Zambian government’s proposal to regulate the digital space was a source of worry as it creates further arsenal for the government to control freedom of expression. While intentions sound genuine, the media was concerned that the bill had not been made public despite the government stating that it would take the bills to parliament this month.*

He added that the threats to regulate the online space by the government would further choke press freedom and freedom of expression in Zambia, leading to poor democratic governance and accountability by duty bearers. He added that “the online space as it stands, was far more accommodating than any other platform of expression and thus the proposed laws stand as a threat to citizens and media rights”.

The MISA Zambia Director further stated that there was a risk that the piece of legislation would be used to shut down the online space, especially for social movements and other dissenting voices all in the name of protecting national interests. He said, “if the cyber laws were to be enacted, they must not include clauses that were inimical to freedom of expression, the rights of citizens to participate in governance and hold their leaders accountable, including to communicate with each other. He said the process to enact these laws should be transparent.

In the same vein, on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, the News Diggers Newspaper Publication carried a headline, “*Misa urges electronic media houses to defy IBA’s directive*” The publication cited MISA Zambia Chairperson Hellen Mwale, urging broadcast media houses in the country not to abide by the IBA’s directive to have them submit all broadcast content to the Authority every after two weeks. This was a reaction to IBA Director General Ms. Josephine Mapoma’s statement, directing all radio and TV stations to surrender recordings of all their discussion programmes, talk shows, news bulletins and musical programmes to enable the Authority monitor activities in areas where it had no presence.

In her statement Ms. Mwale told journalists in an interview at the Mulungushi international conference centre that the IBA’s directive was not in good faith because such a requirement does not exist even in the IBA Act itself.

Following sentiments from MISA both from the Director and the Chairperson, advocacy has been strong on advocating for IBA to rescind its decision and so far IBA has not pushed the agenda further and media organisations spoken to have confirmed this.

In the instance that IBA gets serious in its directive to media houses to submit records of their programming, it is important that IBA considers issues around costs attached to the successful implementation of this directive. Meanwhile, not only are costs attached a worry, but it is worrying to note that this directive maybe an infringement on the rights of the media in Zambia. Further, this may promote surveillance especially by government operatives which may threaten the democratic dispensation of Zambia.

#### **4.1.4 Access to Information Bill (ATI)**

The ATI has been a subject of debate since the year 2002. In the second quarter of 2019, government presented hope for the enactment of the bill into law.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 The Times of Zambia publication carried a headline, “Government to table *ATI Bill soon*.” It was reported that government has assured the public that the long awaited Access to Information (ATI) Bill will be tabled in the next sitting of parliament which is scheduled to resume in June, this year.

The sentiments covered in the newspaper were attributed to Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya who said the ATI bill, which had been approved by cabinet, was currently undergoing refinement before it was presented to parliament. “we should have taken it (ATI Bill) in the last sitting of parliament but we are all hopeful that it will be presented at the June sitting of parliament,” she said.

The Minister further stated that there were misconceptions about the ATI Bill as some society thought the proposed law was meant for journalists when in reality it would cater for the general public.

Rhetoric from the government side has continued with top government officials passing pronouncements for the enactment of the bill into law. For example, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Lusaka Times online publication carried a headline, *“Access to Information Bill will reinforce accessibility to information by journalists and citizens”*. In the article the Information and Broadcasting Services Minister, Dora Siliya disclosed that there is apprehension on the ATI Bill within and outside government circles despite the Bill having powers to enhance effective and timely communication by government and potential to reinforce accessibility to information not only among journalists but also citizens.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019, the ATI has not been tabled in parliament and almost 17 years on, the bill still is a subject for debate and civil society organisations have continued calling for its enactment.

#### **4.1.5 Digital Migration and Cyberspace Regulation**

Digital migration which is understood as the transition or switch from analogue television to digital television had been received mixed feelings in Zambia. The switch, which was set on October 1, 2017 has been completed but stakeholders have expressed concern over its viability. The Lusaka Times publication on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 carried a headline, *“TopStar must act now to stop discrimination and switch on all local licensed channels.”* The article attributed to the Media Owners Association of Zambia (MOAZ) was urging the national signal distributor TopStar not to default on its mandate by ensuring that it acts immediately to switch on all licensed local television channels.

The MOAZ said that they had been following the matter of digital migration with keen interest as the project was implemented to promote national development and pluralism in the media landscape. The association argued that some of their members met all technical requirements and had been waiting for TopStar to allocate them broadcasting spectrum which they are aware that previously, TopStar cited lack of capacity as the reason for its failure to carry local licensed television channels.

The association urged TopStar that as a signal distributor, it is mandated to carry all licensed local channels without discrimination. They argued that Chinese content has been given preference over local channels.

To date, the impasse between TopStar management and MOAZ has not been resolved and the association still demands that TopStar gives priority to local content providers by suspending some of its Chinese content until it has resolved the technical challenges being cited as reasons for not carrying local channels on the recently approved conditional spectrum.

Meanwhile, while the impasse between MOAZ and TopStar raged on, in June Cabinet approved a bill to regulate the use of CCTV. This was reported in Daily Nation of 18<sup>th</sup> June, under a heading “*Cabinet approves Bill to regulate CCTV use*” the paper reported that the Bill was meant to regulate the use of CCTV in private and public premises to enhance security in the country.

According to the Chief Government Spokesperson, Ms. Dora Siliya, the Bill was meant to close the gap in CCTV use which before the introduction of the Bill did not provide any legal framework to regulate the use of CCTV in Zambia.

## 4.2. Legal and Political Environment

### 4.2.1 Attacks

The state of the media in the second quarter of 2019, was dominated by reports of attacks by cadres on journalists from Power FM and Radio Maria Zambia in Kabwe and Chipata respectively.

On 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2019, the Lusaka Times online Publication reported that:

*The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has condemned the harassment, violence and damage to property that occurred at Power FM Radio in Kabwe, during the ‘Power to the people’ programme that featured Dr. Chishimba Kambwili on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 and also the reported attacks and harassment of Journalists at Radio Maria Zambia of Chipata on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2019 after a political programme. The Authority has urged all political party sympathisers to follow the laid down procedures of registering their grievances about any broadcast material they find aggrieving as opposed to engaging in violence.*

The sentiments by IBA were a response to the attack on Power FM reported in the Lusaka Times publication. The publication on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 reported that:

*Unruly PF cadres comprising mostly youths have attacked NDC President Chishimba Kambwili during a live radio programme on Power FM in Kabwe. The cadres stormed the studio and disrupted Dr Kambwili’s interview. The cadres stormed the studio around 10:00hrs just when Dr Kambwili was making his concluding remarks. They forced their way into the studio by breaking the door, demanding that the programme be stopped immediately. A fracas ensued between the cadres and the NDC team leading to some radio station property getting vandalized.*

The harassment of Dr. Chishimba Kambwili was condemned by many sections of society. For example, the Patriotic Front (PF) party expressed concern on the interruption of the programme. According to the



party's Media Director, Sunday Chanda, the PF found the reported interruption of Chishimba Kambwili's radio programme in Kabwe highly unfortunate. Party Media Director Sunday Chanda said the party is particularly saddened because the genesis of this occurrence was avoidable.

The attacks on Power FM prompted a response from the Republican President Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu who on 4<sup>th</sup> April was quoted by the Lusaka Times saying that he had directed the Police to immediately arrest suspected PF cadres who attacked journalists at Power FM in Kabwe and Radio Maria Zambia in Chipata. In the statement issued by the Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations Amos Chanda, the President was disappointed with the silence by the police and their failing to take action on the people that attacked Power FM and Radio Maria Zambia in Central and Eastern provinces respectively.

Other top government officials also condemned the attacks perpetuated in the period under review. For example, the Lusaka Times online Publication carried a headline, *"Government committed to creating a conducive environment for media"* The publication quoted the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services saying that: government has reaffirmed its commitment and determination to continued creation of beneficial environments in order for the media to flourish.

Meanwhile, Police on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019, advised journalists to take safety precautions during their work. The News Diggers publication reported that:

*Zambia Police Deputy Spokesperson, Rae Hamoonga says it is important for journalists in Zambia to take major safety, security and ethical precautions during their work. During a media training on safety and security of journalists organized by Bloggers of Zambia, Hamoonga said professionalism and etiquette must be the hallmarks of independent journalism if news had to be gathered, processed and published. Hamoonga said there was need to enhance skills and techniques of Zambian journalists on safety and security during their work when covering violent and non-violent activities.*

He paper further reported that:

*"Zambian journalists have not done well in terms of properly identifying themselves during public events, which was a necessity as it makes it possible for the police to ensure their safety. Journalists must consider wearing correct clothing when covering particular assignments. Violent crowds and riots were some of the events where journalists were prone to being caught in the crossfire". Journalists should remember that their lives are worth more than the story they are covering. It is important to ensure safety and security during events, especially those violent in nature."*

Hamoonga said journalists must understand police operations such as where to position themselves between the police and protestors as this had the risk of getting journalists at risk of being affected when police use minimum force. He said the police had certain methods of crowd control such as the discharge of teargas, which could affect journalists. Mr. Hamonga advised the media not to take matters such as harassment lightly when they are found in such circumstances. He said the police had the duty to fight crime using the laws of Zambia, adding that reporters must understand police work even when covering events involving very important persons such as the President.

The warning by the Police came after Power FM withdrew its case against the cadres. The News Diggers! on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, carried a heading “*Kabwe Court Discharges PF Thugs As Power FM Withdraws Case*” the newspaper reported that:

*“The Kabwe Magistrates’ Court has discharged Patriotic Front (PF) Kabwe District Chairperson Richard Bango and seven other cadres, among them two councilors, of criminal trespass and conduct likely to cause the breach of peace. This was following a request from the Power FM management to discontinue the case “in the spirit of oneness and forgiveness”.*

The newspaper explained that this was in a matter in which Richard Bango, Humphrey Mukuka, Lackson Mafoko and five others were jointly charged with criminal trespass, contrary to Section 306 (a) Chapter 87 of the laws of Zambia and conduct likely to cause breach of peace in a public place, contrary to Section 178 (f) of the Penal Code, Cap 87 of the laws of Zambia. However, when the matter came up for trial before magistrate Sibaleya Chikuba, the eight (8) PF members pleaded not guilty to the two counts of criminal trespass and conduct likely to cause the breach of peace arising from an incident on the 30 of April 2019 where PF cadres invaded Power FM studio and stopped an on-going programme where National Democratic Congress (NDC) leader, Chishimba Kambwili was a guest and damaged studio equipment in the process.

In a twist, when Power FM station Manager, David Mutumwenu was called to the stand, he informed the court that he was discontinuing the case because he had forgiven the defendants and that as family men, the accused had people that depended on them. Mutumwenu also said he was following the example of Radio Maria Zambia in Chipata where the radio station withdrew the case in the spirit of oneness and forgiveness. In the case of radio Maria, a horde of PF cadres led by Eastern Province treasurer Zephaniah Mwale stormed Radio Maria Zambia in Chipata District, threatening to burn down the station for featuring Maxon Nkhoma, a governance activist and supporter of aspiring Provincial Chairman Elias Banda. The cadres also issued death threats against Radio Maria Zambia news editor Tobias Daka and anchor of the programme which featured Nkhoma, urging the duo to find personal security to accompany them whenever they live their

homes. The case just like in Power FM circumstances was discontinued on account that the church (who own and run the radio station) had forgiven the cadres.

In a twist however, on 6<sup>th</sup> May ,2019 the News Diggers! publication carried a headline, “*Chipata Police release arrested PF officials who stormed Radio Maria*” The paper reported that:

*Police in Eastern Province have released two PF officials who were arrested for storming Catholic Church-run Radio Maria on claims that the church had withdrawn the matter. But Chipata Diocese Chancellor Fr Dennis Phiri expressed surprise at the development, wondering how forgiving the PF youths for their unruly conduct would override the law that the police were expected to enforce.*

The conclusion to the two cases of “criminal trespass” make for an interesting debate on press freedom as it highlights the position and seriousness that media attach to having their rights respected and protected. Many questions come into play as regards the two cases; is it a case of political interference or is it a case of genuine forgiveness on the part of the media?

What stood out however from the two cases, was the political will exhibited by the Republican President, Mr. Edgar Lungu to voice out in support of the media. The President’s show of commitment to the protection of journalists spoke volumes and if continued has potential to create a favourable environment for journalists where their rights are protected and upheld.

#### **4.2.2 Lawsuits**

Before the incidents of harassment of journalists were recorded in Kabwe and Chipata, the period under review recorded a number of lawsuits involving journalists. On 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 the News Diggers publication carried a headline, “PF cadre denies assaulting Chipata Journalist.”

The paper reported that:

*A suspected PF cadre who is alleged to have assaulted a journalist from Chipata’s Breeze FM and got away with K400, has pleaded not guilty to both charges in the Lundazi Magistrates’ Court.*

*In the matter, Frank Mwale, a 41-year-old businessman of Jere Compound in Chipata district, is charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm and theft.*

*It is alleged in the first count that on February 12, 2019, Mwale jointly and whilst acting together with other persons’ unknown, assaulted Grace Lungu, a journalist from Chipata’s Breeze FM,*

*thereby occasioning her actual bodily harm. And in second count, Mwale jointly and whilst acting together with other persons' unknown, stole money amounting to K400 cash, property of Lungu.*

*And when the matter came up before Resident Magistrate Edward Chisanga for plea, Mwale denied both charges.*

*But before magistrate Chisanga could grant Mwale bail, he noted that the accused had a record of failing to attend court sessions on two occasions, a thing he said, left the court in doubts. He however said bail would be granted upon Mwale producing three working sureties based in Lundazi and ordered that he remains in custody in the meantime.*

*Lungu who is a producer and reporter for Breeze FM in Chipata, was attacked when she was in Lundazi to cover the Mkomba Ward by-elections in February this year.*

The case which was set for 18<sup>th</sup> June for ruling has dragged on with 9<sup>th</sup> September being set as the new date for ruling.

Similarly, on 28th June, 2019 the Times of Zambia Newspaper Publication carried a headline, “Court orders Koffi’s arrest” the paper reported that:

*Lusaka magistrate, Mwandu Sakala has issued a bench warrant against Congolese Rhumba maestro, Koffi Olomide, to be detained upon his arrest whenever he sets foot on the Zambian land.*

The paper added that:

*Ms. Sakala issued the bench warrant yesterday after the complainant, photojournalist Jean Mandela, said that he had difficulties getting to Olamide because he was in another country.*

*The development relates to the incident in which Olamide was accused of assaulting Mr. Ndayisenga during a show in Zambia three years ago.*

*In her ruling yesterday, Ms. Sakala said for as long as Olamide remained at large, the bench warrant would remain in effect.*

The two incidences above have a similarity in that they point to the fact that cases involving media seem to not have a conclusive end to them. Just like in the cases involving the harassment of the media by political cadres at Power FM and Radio Maria Zambia, there exists a trend of not conclusively dealing with cases that pose a threat to media freedoms and an endangering of the lives of journalists.

In a breath of fresh air from inconclusive cases, on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 The News Diggers Newspaper publication carried a headline, “*Court acquits News Diggers, Editor, Reporter in Chanoda Case*” The paper reported that:

*Lusaka Magistrate, Nthandose Chabala has acquitted News Diggers! editor-in-chief Joseph Mwenda and reporter Zondiwe Mbewe, in a matter where PF cadre Chanoda Ngwira had dragged them to court for allegedly defaming Housing and Infrastructure Minister Ronald Chitotela and misrepresenting facts in a court matter.*

The paper reported that:

*This was after Ngwira told the court that he had decided to discontinue the case by way of withdrawal.*

*When the matter came up for possible plea, Tuesday, Chanoda informed the court that he had decided to withdraw the matter “in a spirit of reconciliation”.*

*“I would like to inform the court that after giving this matter a thought and in a spirit of reconciliation, I have henceforth decided that the matter be discontinued by way of a withdrawal,” said Chanoda.*

In the ruling magistrate Chabala granted the application and acquitted the accused persons. The paper reported that:

*“After hearing from both counsel and the complainant, I thereby grant the application. In accordance with Section 201 of the Criminal Procedure Code, I therefore acquit the accused persons,” ruled magistrate Chabala.*

According to the indictment, particulars of the offence were that on dates unknown but some time on or around 21st and 23rd of March 2019, Zondiwe Mbewe, Joseph Mwenda and News Diggers did cause to be published an article titled “China Harbour sent \$299,985 to Chitotela’s lawyers, \$140,000 went to Lungu C – FNB tells court” while proceedings involving the case of The People Vs Ronald Chitotela and four others were on-going and active before Honourable Simusamba.

#### **4.2.3. Censored**

The quarter under review witnessed a number of cases of censorship involving social media. For example, on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 The Mast Newspaper Publication carried a headline, “*PF putting up social media monitoring team to end abuse.*” The paper reported that:

*Patriotic Front (PF) Secretary General Davies Mwila says the ruling party is constituting a social media monitoring team targeted at ending abuse and those found sowing seeds of discord will be expelled.*

The PF Secretary General was quoted saying:

*The Central Committee resolved to bring social media abuse to an end! I wish to state here that the era of social media abuse in the party is over! Let me announce that perpetrators of social media abuse in the party and at whatever levels will face the axe with immediate effect! This is a serious resolve by the party to curb social media (abuse). To this effect, the party is putting in place a social media monitoring team to track any abuse of social media. Those found to abuse social media and sowing seeds of discord will not be tolerated in the party!” Mwila said.*

The issue above can be looked at from two angles: the protection of the integrity of the party and a move by the party to curtail freedom of expression by its members. Analysed from the protection of the integrity of the party’s perspective, it can be argued that control on who and what is posted on PF social media platforms promotes order, transparency and accountability, an attribute that is of utmost importance to the smooth running of an organisation like the Patriotic Front (PF).

However, analysed from the angle of curtailing members from expressing themselves freely, it can be stated that this directive maybe aimed at curtailing free expression of journalists.

In similar circumstances, on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 the Times of Zambia Publication carried a headline, “*PF Chairperson acts to end Social Media abuse.*” The paper reported that the

PF National Chairperson Samuel Mukupa had urged members of the party against using social media blogs to promote hate speech.

The paper reported that:

*“The party has noted a disturbing trend on social media platforms where some spiteful bloggers using the name of the party are publishing and circulating insults and other demeaning and derogatory statements as well as voice notes targeted at respective party leaders,” Mr. Mukupa said.*

It can be stated however that the tendency by people to resort to hate speech and cyber bullying is exacerbated by the self-publishing capabilities that social media and new media tools afford. The calls by the ruling party to champion advocacy against social media abuse is an important step that a ruling party ought to take.

However, it is important to note that in the process of cracking down on hate speech, the PF government must not be seen to be stepping on people's rights and liberties. On 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 The News Diggers Newspaper Publication carried a headline, *"PF Social Media crack squad welcome, but Shouldn't impede people's rights – MP."* The paper reported that:

*Patriotic Front parliamentary chief whip Steven Chungu says the decision by the party leadership to constitute a social media crack squad for monitoring the usage of the platform is a welcome move for as long as it will not hinder the freedoms of members.*

*In an interview, Chungu who is also Luanshya Central PF member of parliament hastened to state it was important to have discipline and proper use of acceptable language in every group or club.*

*"It is a welcome idea for as long it is not going to step on the rights of the same members. But if it just about disciplining them and finding a way of monitoring to say 'some good language has to be used,' I don't think there is anything wrong with that," Chungu said.*

It is important to note that the PF in the period under review showed a strong stance against abuse of social media with top officials, passing orders to the general membership to be wary of hate speech, cyber bullying and called upon its membership to promote responsible use of social media. Done in good faith, this is commendable!

#### **4.2.4 Monitoring/surveillance**

The period under review was dominated by efforts by IBA to monitor what content is produced and broadcast by media organisations. The move by IBA was considered controversial by many sections of society. For example, on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, The Globe Newspaper Publication carried an article attributed to the UPND Media Director who was quoted saying:

*The IBA's demands for programmes and news bulletin recordings from media houses is a serious indictment on the freedom of the media in Zambia. We have noted with regret that the IBA has of late been used to gag the media through unconstitutional demands every time a by-election is approaching. During the Sesheke by-election, the IBA demanded for footage from Prime Television while the same station had its broadcasting licence suspended ahead of the Roan and Bahati by-elections. If this is what the IBA is going to subscribe to, they should understand that there are laws in this country and soon it shall dawn on them.*

The move by the IBA was further condemned by stakeholders such as the Media Liaison Committee (MLC) (a body championing advocacy around media issues) who on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 were quoted by The Times



of Zambia Newspaper Publication under the heading, “*MLC condemns IBA over recording notice*” the paper reported that:

*The Media Liaison Committee (MLC) has condemned a notice by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) to all broadcasting media to present recordings of all programming every two weeks. MLC chairperson Enoch Ngoma said in a statement yesterday that the notice was another example of the increasing anti-media activities towards the broadcast media sector by the IBA, which if left unchecked would kill the media sector.*

It must be noted that instead of the IBA championing media surveillance efforts, the IBA should be seen to be putting up initiatives that champion media development. The IBA must be a protector of media freedoms and media professionalism in an era of media attacks and journalist harassments in the line of duty. Further, instead of burdening the media with buying of storage disks that are supposed to be handed over to IBA, IBA should make use of technology to create online mail drop boxes for the media to save their recordings for the media or any interested party and researchers to access at no cost to the media. This is a cost saving alternative both as regards time and monetary issues.

#### **4.2.5. Harassment/Intimidation**

The quarter under review recorded acts of harassment and intimidation. Standing out, were the cases involving Radio Maria Zambia and Power FM. The two cases prompted a reaction from the British High Commissioner to Zambia, Fergus Cochrane-Dyet who hailed government for condemning harassment of journalists, saying it was unacceptable because it threatened media freedoms and the ultimate freedom of expression. The High Commissioner has been vocal in issues around media freedom and liberties an act that has seen him being both ridiculed and appreciated.

The period under review also recorded a case of verbal abuse involving two journalists Joe Pandwe and Evans Liyali from Byta FM who on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 in their course of duty confirming details of a woman who gave birth to triplets at the district office were threatened and harassed by the hospital officials for requesting for a break-down of information on the birth of the triplets. According to Byta FM station Manager, the news crew had gone to the hospital following a tip off on the birth by medical personnel at the facility.

The period under review further witnessed a raid on former Post Newspapers proprietor Fred Mmembe’s property. On 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, the Lusaka Times online publication carried a headline, “*It’s The Post*

*Newspaper liquidator who raided and occupied Fred M'membe's house in Shiwang'andu.*” The paper reported that:

*“Provisional liquidator of the Post Newspapers Limited in liquidation, Lewis Mosho has asked Police to protect and investigate property suspected to have been allegedly acquired from proceeds of crime by Fred M'membe.*

*The identified property located in Mwika Village of Sub-Chief Mwabawankulungwe in Senior Chief Nkula in Shiwang'andu District belongs to Fred M'membe. Police have since sealed off the property. Muchinga Province Police Commissioner Joe Njase has confirmed the development to ZANIS in Chinsali today saying Mr. Mosho made the request in a letter dated June 19, 2019.*

*Mr. Njase said this is part of asset recoveries arising from the complaint raised by former workers in respect to the liquidation of the company. He said it is their mandate as Zambia Police under Article 193 sub-Article 2 to protect life and property, among other functions.*

The paper further reported that:

*Mr. Njase said the request by the provisional liquidator is in line with Police mandate and that as Police they are mindful that this is an allegation hence need to also respect the suspect Dr. Fred M'membe. He reiterated that police will remain professional and hope that both the liquidator and Dr M'membe will cooperate with the investigations team by availing all necessary documents to prove otherwise.*

*In a consent judgement delivered on January 10, 2018, High Court Judge Sunday Nkonde declared The Post Newspaper Limited in liquidation insolvent and wound up.*

*The court also confirmed Mr. Mosho as the provisional liquidator. And on December 20, 2018, Mr. Mosho placed a Caveat over the piece of land allocated to Dr. M'membe in Mwika village.*

*The Caveat was placed following a judgement delivered On December 11, 2018 by the Constitutional Court that awarded costs to The Post Newspapers in liquidation against Dr. M'membe.*

In slightly different circumstances, on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 the Times of Zambia Publication carried a headline, *“Radio caller nabbed.”* The paper reported that:

*“A thirty-one-year-old resident of Luanshya has been arrested by police for allegedly defaming President Edgar Lungu. Fred Maanya of Zaoni Street in Luanshya is alleged to have defamed the president in a phone in programme on Millennium Radio.*

Police spokesperson Esther Katongo said in a statement yesterday that the incident allegedly happened on March 28 this year at 06:50 hours during a phone-in programme hosted by Millennium radio station. Mrs. Katongo said the suspect is alleged to have called the radio station and introduced himself as Chanda from Kabwe and used derogatory remarks against the President.

The paper quoted the spokesperson saying:

*Investigations revealed that the suspect was not Chanda but Fred Maanya of Luanshya and not from Kabwe as he suggested Mrs. Kantongo said. The suspect is in custody and will appear in court soon.*

This case can be looked at from different angles. Of significance is the point that bullying whether perpetuated online or offline is wrong and must be corrected. It is important to remember that while everyone has a right to freedom of expression, caution must be exercised to ensure that the freedoms do not infringe on other people's freedoms and liberties.

## **5.0. Freedom of expression – mainstream media/cyber space**

There were a number of positives scored in the quarter under review as pertains freedom of expression. Prominent was the directive by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services to open up ZNBC to host opposition political parties.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, The Zambian Observer Online Publication carried a headline, “*Kasolo encourages ZNBC to host opposition political parties*” The paper reported that:

*Information and Broadcasting Services Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo has encouraged ZNBC to host opposition political parties on various programmes. Mr. Kasolo said that this will enable the political parties to share their policies on national issues and offer checks and balances to Government.*

*Mr. Kasolo said that the national broadcaster has the responsibility to cover all stakeholders in an impartial and balanced manner.*

The pronouncement by the Permanent Secretary paints a picture of what ZNBC and other public media should be doing. The ZNBC Act of 2002 stipulates among others that one of ZNBC's core mandate is to serve the public interest through providing varied and balanced programming.

Mr. Kasolo's appeal therefore, should serve as a reminder to ZNBC to ensure that its programming reflects the functions of the corporation as stipulated in the ZNBC Act of 2002.

Meanwhile, emphasis should also be put on the opposition political parties responsibility to accept or request to appear in the public media so that they air their views. It is important that opposition voices are also heard to make sure there is a balance in opinions.

As pertains the respect for divergent views, on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 The Lusaka Times Publication carried a headline, “*Government is not against private media*” the paper reported that:

*Information and Broadcasting Services Minister Dora Siliya says assertions by some quarters of the media that Government is against privately owned media are not only incorrect but misleading. Ms. Siliya says this is because the private media like public media have a critical role to play in bridging the information gap but also contribute significantly to the country’s economy through employment creation.*

It is important to ensure that the public media is opened up for all stakeholders to access. This is important for the development of democracy.

In the spirit of forgiveness, on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, the Zambia Observers online publication carried a headline, “*PF officials apologise to Chipata journalist over death threats*” it was reported that MISA Zambia had amicably dealt with the matter regarding PF cadres’ death threats on Radio Maria news editor after holding different meetings with the Eastern Province PF leadership, Provincial Police command and the Catholic Church in Chipata Diocese.

This resulted from attacks on Radio Maria Zambia by PF cadres. In response to the efforts by MISA Zambia, Provincial PF Secretary Joseph Kolosa said the party would ensure that they promote a good working relationship with journalists.

Meanwhile, attacks on journalists in the quarter under review were not only perpetuated by “low level” political cadres but also by senior government officials who unfortunately got entangled in fights with journalists. For example, Oswald Yambani a journalist with Prime TV was verbally attacked by Mr. Moses Mawere who at the time was Sports Minister. This was in a case where Mr. Moses Mawere was angered by a report that aired on Prime TV showing Chipata Constituency residents complaining about his absence and lack of development in his constituency. It was reported by The Zambian Watchdog, that the Minister warned the journalist saying, “this is Chipata, people disappear.”

Mr. Mawere was relieved of his duty on July 19<sup>th</sup>, a few weeks after uttering the threats directed at the reporter. However, since President Edgar Lungu did not give reasons for his firing, it may not be true to

conclude that Mr. Mawere was fired as a result of the altercation with the journalist but the fact still stands that the Minister was wrong in giving warning to a journalist for doing his job.

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, freedom of expression is the right of every individual to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. In what may seem as a step towards protecting citizen's rights to freedom of expression, the Daily Nation Newspaper Publication on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, carried a headline, "*Government calls for anti-phone tapping measures.*" The publication reported that:

*Government has directed the cybercrime squad and other law enforcement agencies to ensure they stop the tapping of private phone calls and the 'rampant' victimization of innocent people on social media.*

The paper added that:

*The Minister of Transport and Communication, Brian Mushimba warned that government would be forced to shut down social media if the situation does not improve. "this madness certainly is getting out of control under the disguise of rights," he said it was sad that private calls were now being tapped and that fake statements aimed at injuring others had become the order of the day.*

In line with the Minister's views above, it can be stated that dealing with social media abuse is not by shutting down social media in the country, but by sensitising people on responsible use of social media.

Meanwhile, it can be stated that while media freedoms, may not only be perpetuated by attacks on the media, media freedoms may also be infringed upon through acts such as confiscation of broadcasting equipment. This may be the case with Falls FM who in May, 2019 were switched off for non-payment of contractual obligations with NAPSA.

While it is unfortunate that broadcast stations get their media freedoms infringed upon through confiscation of equipment, it is also broadcast management's responsibility to ensure that their operations are not affected in any way by ensuring that all contractual obligations with suppliers are settled to avoid distress.

## **5.1 Economic, Health and Technological Environment**

The state of the media in the second quarter was also dominated by reports on the advancement of technologies in the media industry.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 The Mast Newspaper publication carried a headline, "AZURI technologies launch 24-inch solar satellite TV" The paper reported that:

*The British High Commissioner accredited to Zambia, Fergus Cochrane-Dyet says Solar power has the potential to transform lives of millions of people who are still living off the grid.*

*Speaking when Azuri Technologies, a leading provider of pay-as-you-go solar home solutions to off-grid households across Africa, officially launched its 24-inch solar satellite television and home lighting system in Zambia, High Commissioner Cochrane-Dyet said Azuri embodied the pioneering spirit of innovation for which the UK was globally renowned.*

The paper further reported that:

*The British envoy said the launch in Lusaka showcased the cutting-edge technology and expert services that British firms could offer to rapidly expanding markets across Africa. “Azuri embodies the pioneering spirit of innovation for which the UK is globally renowned. The launch today showcases the cutting-edge technology and expert services that British firms can offer expanding Markets Across Africa. Azuri is a leading commercial provider of pay-as-you-go solar home solutions across Sub-Saharan Africa.*

The news of Azuri TV package is an exciting development for Zambia as the innovation brings with it a 24-inch solar TV with 49 popular Zuku satellite Television and over 50 radio channels. According to the company, Azuri comes complete with solar home lighting, rechargeable radio, torch and mobile phone charging. The complete package costs as low as K98 per week. The coming of Azuri on the scene would contribute to efforts at improving access to information in Zambia, however, it is important to do a cost benefit analysis of the need for people to pay K98 per week translating to K360 per month. This will help in the decision making process of adopting the technology.

Another positive recorded in the area of technology advancement was the village Television Project that was reported to have potential to empower about 500 selected villages, Schools and other community centres across the country to receive the Village Satellite Television sets under the village Television Project.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, The Lusaka Times publication carried a headline, “*Kasolo Happy with Village TV Project*” The paper reported that:

*Government has described the Village Television Project as successful and yielding intended results. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services Permanent Secretary (PS) Chanda Kasolo says the project is helping people in the rural areas to be part of everyday social and economic development of the country.*

The paper added that:

*Mr. Kasolo said as result of the village TV project, people in different communities are able to watch news, soccer and other developmental programs thereby reducing the levels of poverty and illiteracy. He disclosed that his ministry is currently in discussion with TopStar for another allocation of 500 kits that will be installed in different communities.*

In the same vein on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, the Daily Nation Newspaper publication carried a headline, “*local media should invest more in content.*” The paper reported that:

*The Zambian media should improve content creation to stay in business and win the battle against the international media organisations which are expanding into the continent. Nicolas Pompigemognard, founder and chairman of APO Group has said.*

*Mr. Mognard said if the international media was a credible alternative to advertising in African media, it was only natural that companies should shift their budget. This, he warned, would further weaken African media houses, he said this in response to a press query from the Daily Nation. “Without money to invest in their organisations, grow their businesses and invest in talent, local media will lose the battle for content.*

The battle for content in Africa is rife and dependant on the financial resources of that particular media house. Many are times that local media depend on foreign programmes to broadcast as content. A debate on cultural imperialism in this vein comes into play and if not tackled carefully has potential to influence the cultures of a particular country.

As regards financial reporting, the quarter under review recorded an achievement in training of journalists in financial journalism. Media training is important to undertake in order to update the skills and knowledge base needed for effective execution of duty.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 The News Diggers Newspaper Publication carried a headline, “*Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) expands financial journalism training programme*” The paper reported that:

*The Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) announced the expansion of its Financial Journalism Training (FJT) programme to five African countries following the success of the programme in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, where 568 delegates from 13 countries have graduated to-date.*

The paper added that:



*In a statement released, Tuesday, the US media giant announced an expansion of their globally-renowned programme after being positively received by media practitioners on the African continent.*

The paper further reported:

“The BMIA today announced the expansion of its FJT programme to Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire and Tanzania, joining Ghana and Zambia where training programmes launched earlier this year. This unique educational offering will support the advancement of financial journalism and contribute to economic development on the continent. The expansion of the training programme to five new countries in Africa follows the success of the programme in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, where 568 delegates from 13 countries have graduated to-date,” Bloomberg stated in a press release issued from its New York headquarters.

In similar lines of promotion and advancement of specialised reporting, on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 The Daily Nation Publication carried a headline, *“media win kudos over health coverage” the paper reported that:* “The Medicines Research and Access platform has commended the media in Zambia for taking interest in health reporting”.

According the association, health news sells as much as other news genres depending on how the content is packaged. The association emphasised that specialised reporting too can sell just as much as politics and other fields like sports and fashion. This was an interesting debate in the quarter as it showed how big specialised reporting was/is to the development of the media.

## 6.0 Fake News

Fake news is news, stories or hoaxes created to deliberately misinform or deceive readers. Fake news stories are usually created to either influence people’s views, push a political agenda or cause confusion. This is often a profitable business for online publishers.

In the period under review, government expressed concern with the levels of fake news. During the inauguration ceremony of his Special Assistant to the President for Press and Public Relations the President, Mr. Edgar Lungu advised his new officer to tackle the problem of “Fake news”.

The Daily Nation newspaper on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 carried a headline, “tackle fake news, Lungu tells Chipampe” The paper reported that:

*President Edgar Lungu has urged his newly appointed Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Isaac Chipampe, to use his vast experience in the media industry to help end the habit by some journalists of publishing fake news.*

And President Lungu has advised Mr. Chipampe to always put official information in the public domain timely to stop media houses that are thriving in the industry by feeding the people with falsehoods. Mr Lungu said this yesterday when he swore in Mr Chipampe as his new Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations, replacing Amos Chanda who resigned from the position last week.

The directive from the President if only focused on his Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations having to release information timely, is a move that will tackle rumours and speculation and contribute to the solving the problem of fake news. The move however, if extended to the media and tasking other wings of government to monitor the media for fake news, this may lead to an infringement on media freedoms.

## **7.0. Positive developments**

The Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services was possibly one of the most covered government officials in the Zambian media in the period under review. The PS in the quarter has dominated media coverage with his advice to the media on a number of issues.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May ,2019 the Times of Zambia Publication carried a headline, “Kasolo calls for closer media, private sector ties” The paper reported that:

*Government has called for a closer inter-face between the media and the private sector to highlight a true picture of investments taking place in the country. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo, observes that the media is not given reasonable information to understand businesses and various sectors of the economy because the private sector tends to withhold valuable information.*

The paper further reported that:

*The PS stated that in more instances than few, there have been witnessed a one-way relationship between the media and business, where the media are only useful for the latest product launches or announcements, and too often, the media is not given room to understand the business,” he said.*

*Mr Kasolo said by partnering with the private sector, the media will be equipped with information to report on various business aspects. He urged journalists to source content from MTN Zambia on the innovations in mobile money, data and voice calls to educate and inform the public.*

In the same vein, Mr. Kasolo, was quoted by the same newspaper saying the media must earn their respect by being objective in their reporting.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019, The Times of Zambia Publication reported that:

Stakeholders have called on journalists and media house owners to earn their credibility by being professional in their work to restore public confidence which has been eroded.

*Information and Broadcasting Permanent Secretary Chanda Kasolo said journalist should earn their credibility by reporting more on non-political issues. Mr Kasolo said journalists were focusing more on political stories than on social issues. “it is true that issues to do with rural areas and other social issues are going unreported because journalists are focusing more on politics,” he said. Mr Kasolo said self-regulation would help restore confidence in Zambia’s journalism because it would promote professionalism.*

The problem of professionalism in the media industry is an issue that needs a careful examination for there to be a solution to tackling it. The struggles experienced by the media can be looked at from two different angles: lack of experience and training or education and poor working conditions for media workers that may possibly get them compromised. The bias in reportage may also be associated with the patronage stemming from media workers being supporters of political parties.

## **8.0. Negative developments**

The news of Times of Zambia employees going six months without salaries was one of the negative news in the period under review. The Zambia Reports on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 reported that:

*Times of Zambia employees have continued to struggle with non-payment of their salaries which have now hit six months. The state owned media institution continues to battle to pay workers despite having been aided by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) last year.*

The paper further reported that:

*The Zambia Union of Journalists (ZUJ) has expressed disappointment at the state of affairs at the Times of Zambia where employees are owed several months in unpaid salaries.*

*ZUJ President Shamaoma Musonda said there has been no commitment to liquidate the arrears despite the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) helping out last year.*

“Right now, the arrears stand at six months and promises have not been actualized, leaving employees in suspense and highly demotivated. This situation is causing industrial unrest with the demoralized staff who have over the years given their best to the institution,” Musonda said.

The Times of Zambia may be analysed from two angles. The first angle may relate to the aspect of mismanagement of the institution, while another angle maybe the non-payment of the debt owed to the newspaper by advertisers who among them is government. Whichever the case, there is an urgent need to liquidate the debt owed to employees in order to keep them motivated and productive.

## **9.0. Conclusion**

There is need for journalists to work together to actualise the statutory self-regulation framework that was unanimously agreed upon at the media regulation indaba in Lusaka. Statutory-self regulation of the media if enacted will take care of the structural aesthetics of the media such as professional standards that come with conditions of service so that there is sanity in the media sector. It is important to note that the self-regulatory framework has totally failed in pursuit for a sanitisation of the media in Zambia.

## **10.0. Recommendations**

Based on the information made available in the report, the following are the recommendations:

- There is need for IBA and government to adopt a culture of dialogue before resorting to coming up with harsh/drastring pronouncements like the mandatory submission of broadcast content every two weeks that have potential to threaten media freedoms in Zambia
- There is need for the media to ensure that the statutory-self regulation of the media agreed upon at the media regulation indaba in Lusaka, comes to a conclusive end.
- There is need to increase news coverage relating to ATI to increase advocacy around the enactment of the Bill into law.
- There is need for the media to continue upholding high standards of professionalism.

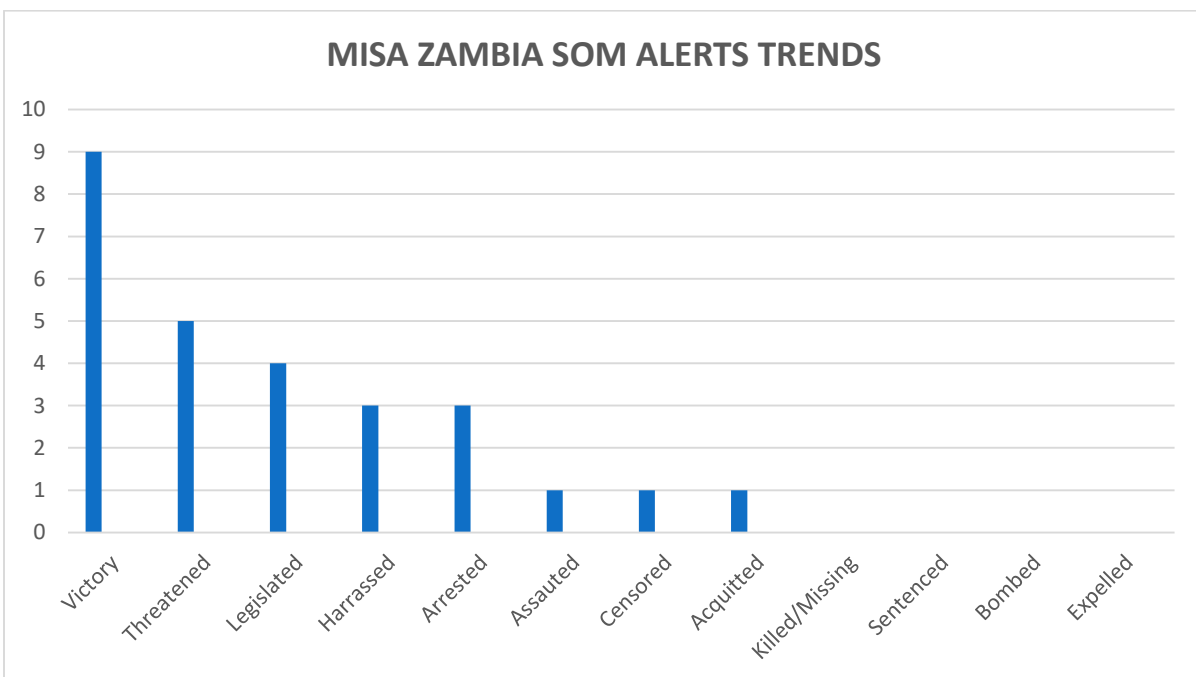
## 11.0 Appendices

### 11.1 Notable Events in The Quarter

Successes	Violations
Journalists from across Zambia gathered to deliberate on the formulation of a statutory-self regulatory framework that would guide the way journalists do their work.	The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) issued a directive to all broadcast media houses to submit copies of their broadcast content every fortnight for monitoring purposes.
The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) lifted the 30 days suspension on Prime TV license that was enforced after the impasse between TV station and the Secretary General of the Patriotic Front party (PF).	Power FM in Kabwe was attacked and had their property damaged by Patriotic Front cadres during the 'Power to the people' programme that featured Dr. Chishimba Kambwili.
The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services gave a directive to public media especially to accord a chance to all opposition political parties air their views and opinions.	Radio Maria Zambia in Chipata was attacked after a political programme.
Lusaka Magistrate, Nthandose Chabala acquitted News Diggers! editor-in-chief Joseph Mwenda and reporter Zondiwe Mbewe, in a matter where PF cadre Chanoda Ngwira had dragged them to court for allegedly defaming then Housing and Infrastructure Minister Ronald Chitotela and alleging that the trio had misrepresented facts in a court matter.	A Breeze FM journalist, Grace Lungu was assaulted by PF cadres as she was travelling to cover a by-election in Lundazi. She lost money worth K400 in the ordeal. The case dragged on and latest information is that 7 <sup>th</sup> September is the day for ruling
The Republican President Mr. Edgar Lungu directed his Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations Mr. Isaac Chipampe to ensure that information is disseminated on time to counter fake news as lack of information breeds rumours and assumptions.	The Republican President Mr. Edgar Lungu directed his Special Assistant for Press and Public Relations to counter fake news amongst journalists.
The Independent Broad Authority (IBA) continued issuing licences to broadcast stations. Muchima Community radio was granted an operating licence as a result.	A Journalist from Prime TV, Oswald Yambani was threatened with verbal and physical abuse by the then Minister of Youth and Sports

	Development and Member of Parliament for Chipata Central Constituency.
	The continued non-payment of contractual obligations for Times of Zambia employees who during the quarter had gone months without getting paid their salaries.
	The quarter under review recorded a continued incarceration of Derrick Sinjela a Rainbow Newspaper Journalist and blogger.
	The quarter under review recorded a continued shelving of the ATI Bill.

### 11.2 MISA Zambia Alerts Trends





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