



STATE OF THE MEDIA REPORT

Fourth Quarter
(October–December) 2021



STATE OF THE MEDIA REPORT

Fourth Quarter
(October-December)
2021

© 2021. Published by the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia Chapter,
Plot 3814, Martin Mwamba Road, Olympia, Lusaka-Zambia.

Tel: 0211 294285/6

Email: info@misazambia.org.uk

Website : www.zambia.misa.org

Twitter : @misazambia1

Facebook : MISA Zambia

Researched and Compiled by:

Kamufisa Manchishi BMC, PgDip, MMC

Email: kamufisa.manchishi@gmail.com

Mobile: + 260 762 895 565

Edited by :

Jane Chirwa

Programs Manager-MISA Zambia

pm@misazambia.org.uk

Layout & Design :

Maureen Bwalya Mulenga. BMC

Assistant Programs Officer- MISA Zambia

Email: assitantpo@misazambia.org.uk

Executive Summary

The State of the Media Report is a quarterly assessment of the media environment in Zambia. This edition covers the fourth quarter of 2021 i.e. October-December. This assessment and record describe the media trends in Zambia during the period and was prepared under the auspices of the MISA Zambia Chapter.

This report includes a number of interesting occurrences that added new developments, twists and opportunities alike for the overall media environment in Zambia.

The socio-political environment in the quarter posted similar trends to those observed in the third quarter, while certain aspects noted in the preceding quarters indicate a continuation in social-political activities with the potential to affect the media landscape. Two incidents of violence (at Mpika FM and Walamo Radio) were noted in the quarter. The incidents are reminiscent of those recorded in all the quarters of the year, with similar *modus operandi*. The COVID-19 pandemic equally continued in the quarter under review and, as such, its effects threatened the operations of the media, though less severe.

The legal environment posted a positive development in the presentation of the draft ZAMEC Bill by the Technical Working Group on Media Self-Regulation, a move that is hoped to culminate into the enactment of a law to regulate and enforce media standards. On a negative note, however, the quarter under review marked another year without the enactment of the ATI Bill, while the government promised to prioritise enactment of the Bill in 2022.

On the economic front, there was the favourable performance of most economic variables such as the currency exchange rates, year-on-year inflation, interest rates, business opportunities and absence of electricity load management. These factors alleviated the cost of operation for media houses with a possible increase in advertising from companies that recorded new business opportunities and increased consumer demand. Meanwhile, the increase in the fuel pump prices and migration of the ERB to monthly adjustment of prices in line with prevailing market conditions could create a volatile situation as media houses may not effectively predict costs. During the quarter, the government announced the introduction of standard taxation on newspapers as part of the 2022 budget, presenting a threat for the coming year as the cost of operating a print media outlet could increase, with a ripple effect on the consumers.

The technological environment was relatively neutral and calm as there were no actions, promulgation of laws and policies that were inimical to digital rights. Likewise, there were no significant positive developments for the enhancement of the freedom of expression online.

The substantive quarter was less severe when compared to previous quarters such as the first in which the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act was enacted and the third quarter in which a social media blockade was enforced for close to three days during and after the elections in August.

Overall, the State of the Media for the year has been turbulent mainly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the harsh economic environment which mostly posted reduced commercial activity, thereby affecting the media's revenue generation. Further, the year was turbulent owing to the anxiety and political tension that characterised the electoral process, with the media falling victim to acts of violence. It is, perhaps, the social media blockade enforced in the days succeeding the general election in the third quarter, that will continue to dent the country's image with regard to respect of digital rights. On a negative note, another year has ended without the enactment of legislation on Access to Information.

Acknowledgements

The researcher wishes to thank the various experts and media practitioners for providing the necessary input that helped to shape this report. Your contributions helped to enrich the report and provide the much-needed validation.

Also, special thanks go to the cooperating partners of MISA Zambia who have been supporting the compilation and production of this report for the development of the media sector which in turn contributes to democratic governance in Zambia.

Finally, the staff and members of MISA Zambia and other cooperating partners who, through their input directly and indirectly provided the necessary direction for this report.

Table of Contents

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Acknowledgements	5
Table of Contents	6
List of Acronyms	7
1.0. Introduction	8
2.0. Methodology	9
3.0. Trends	10
3.1. Socio-political environment	10
3.2. Legal Environment	19
3.2.1. Access to Information	24
3.3. Economic Environment	25
3.4. Technological environment	30
4.0. Conclusion	34
5.0. Recommendations	35
6.0. Appendices	36
6.1. Question guide	36
6.2. Alerts/Selected news stories (MISA Media Monitoring System)	38

List of Acronyms

ATI	Access to Information
ECZ	Electoral Commission of Zambia
ERB	Energy Regulation Board
FCMG	Fast-moving Consumer Goods Company
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPTV	Internet Protocol Television
NAPSA	National Pension Scheme Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PS	Permanent Secretary
TWGMR	Technical Working Group on Media Regulation
UPND	United Party for National Development
VAT	Value-Added Tax
VOIP	Voice Over Internet Protocol
ZAMEC	Zambia Media Ethics Council
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

1.0. Introduction

The *State of the Media* is a quarterly report of trends and developments in the media sector. The report serves as an advocacy tool for media policy reform as well as an archive of information which can be used for reference on media developments in Zambia.

The report has previously helped to shape policy formulation with regard to media freedom, freedom of expression and access to information in Zambia. The report, which has been published quarterly for over fifteen (15) years, serves as a tool for dialogue and action in the media fraternity, government and non-governmental sectors alike.

The rationale of the report is based on the corollary between media performance of certain cardinal functions and democratic governance. However, the media are affected by various trends and developments that could undermine their performance.

In this regard, the report is divided into various sections covering the socio-political, economic, legal and technological environment in which the media operated in the period under review.

The objectives of the report are, therefore, to:

- Report political, economic, legal and technological trends in the media sector in Zambia
- Assess the level of freedom of expression and media freedom

2.0. Methodology

The report is exploratory and descriptive in nature as it mainly aims to present the general state of the media sector in the identified quarter.



In compiling this report, a desk review was conducted in which an analysis of various materials pertaining to freedom of expression and the welfare of the media within the quarter under consideration was undertaken. This was augmented by a review of various media publications (electronic, print and online) as well as MISA media violation alerts to establish the common themes with regard to the objectives of the study.

The report also employed the use of interviews with purposively selected participants on the basis of their known or presumed knowledge about issues related to or affecting the state of the media. The participants comprised democratic governance advocates, media experts, statutory institutions and practising journalists to gain a deeper understanding and validation of some of the phenomena observed in the quarter.

3.0. Trends

3.1. Socio-political environment

The social-political environment in the quarter under review was eventful with pronouncements and occurrences reminiscent of certain incidents recorded in previous quarters.

There were two reported incidents of violence against journalists/media houses during the quarter, compared to one recorded in the previous quarter. The first incident was that of a disruption of a live phone-in programme on Mpika Radio on 1st December¹. The Radio Station issued the following statement after the incident:

The Board, Management and Staff of Mpika FM Radio would like to express disappointment over what happened on Wednesday, 1st December 2021 around 20 hours when suspected UPND Members stormed the Radio Station and disturbed a Live Phone-In Program.

The Station was hosting the Mpika Constituency Member of Parliament, Honourable Francis Robert Kapyanga on a Live Phone-In Program dubbed “100 Days of the MP in Office” where developmental issues were being discussed.

A group of people stormed the Radio Station around 20 hours and ordered the Presenter of the Program to stop the Program immediately, failure to which they would attack him and the security guard on duty and destroy the property of the Station. They said no Politician from the opposition should feature on Radio anymore. They threatened to deal with the Radio Station, the MP and anyone else who would allow the Radio Station to feature opposition Political Parties and their members. The Presenter complied with them and discontinued the Program for fear of being attacked.

The matter was reported to Mpika Police Station on Thursday, 2nd December 2021 where a Statement was recorded from Station Manager, the Presenter and the Security Guard on duty. Investigations are still underway by the Police and so far no suspects have been apprehended.

Government through the Minister of Information and Media, Chushi Kasanda, expressed displeasure, warning of stern action against any individuals perpetrating violence against media

¹ As reported by the Radio Station and verified by MISA

outlets. The Minister indicted district political leadership which she noted should take responsibility for the attack².

It is elating to note that on 14th December, Mpika FM Radio issued the following statement which spelt out positive action from security wings to protect media freedom:

On Wednesday, 1st December 2021 around 20 hours, suspected UPND Cadres stormed the Radio Station and disturbed a Live Phone-In Program.

The Station was hosting the Mpika Constituency Member of Parliament, Honourable Francis Robert Kapyanga of the PF Party on a Live Phone-In Program dubbed “100 Days of the MP in Office” where developmental issues were being discussed.

The group ordered the Presenter of the Program to stop the Program immediately, failure to which they would attack him and the security guard on duty and destroy the property of the Station.

The matter was reported to Mpika Police Station on Thursday, 2nd December 2021 where a Statement was recorded from Station Manager, the Presenter and the Security Guard on duty.

On Friday, 3rd December 2021, the Presenter and the Security Guard were summoned to the Police Station to identify the attackers. The duo gave a positive ID and the attackers were arrested and detained.

On the same day, the Station Manager was called by the UPND District and Provincial Party Officials to negotiate for the release of their members after being advised by the Police that there was nothing they could do to secure the release of their members, and that they would appear in court the following Monday.

After discussing with the UNPD Party Officials and them showing remorse over what happened and further promising that they would ensure that such an incidence never takes place again by disciplining their erring members, the Station Manager decided to consult the Board Chairperson on the way forward.

After discussion with the Chairperson and the Presenter, it was decided that the Radio Station should drop the case in the interest of peace and accept that this should be the last time such an incident would occur, otherwise the station would take legal action in future against such culprits, without remorse.

² See <https://www.znbc.co.zm/news/kasanda-warns-political-hooliganism/>

The UPND District Officials visited the Radio Station to tender an official apology on-air the following day and that is how the issue ended.

The second incident was that of a violent attack on Walamo Community Radio by community members on 17th December following a programme that featured a Police official on a programme dubbed *Police and the community* where he warned the community against witch-cleansing being conducted by foreign herbalists in the area³.



Above: Part of the damage caused in the attack on Walamo Community Radio. *Picture courtesy of Walamo Radio Facebook Page*

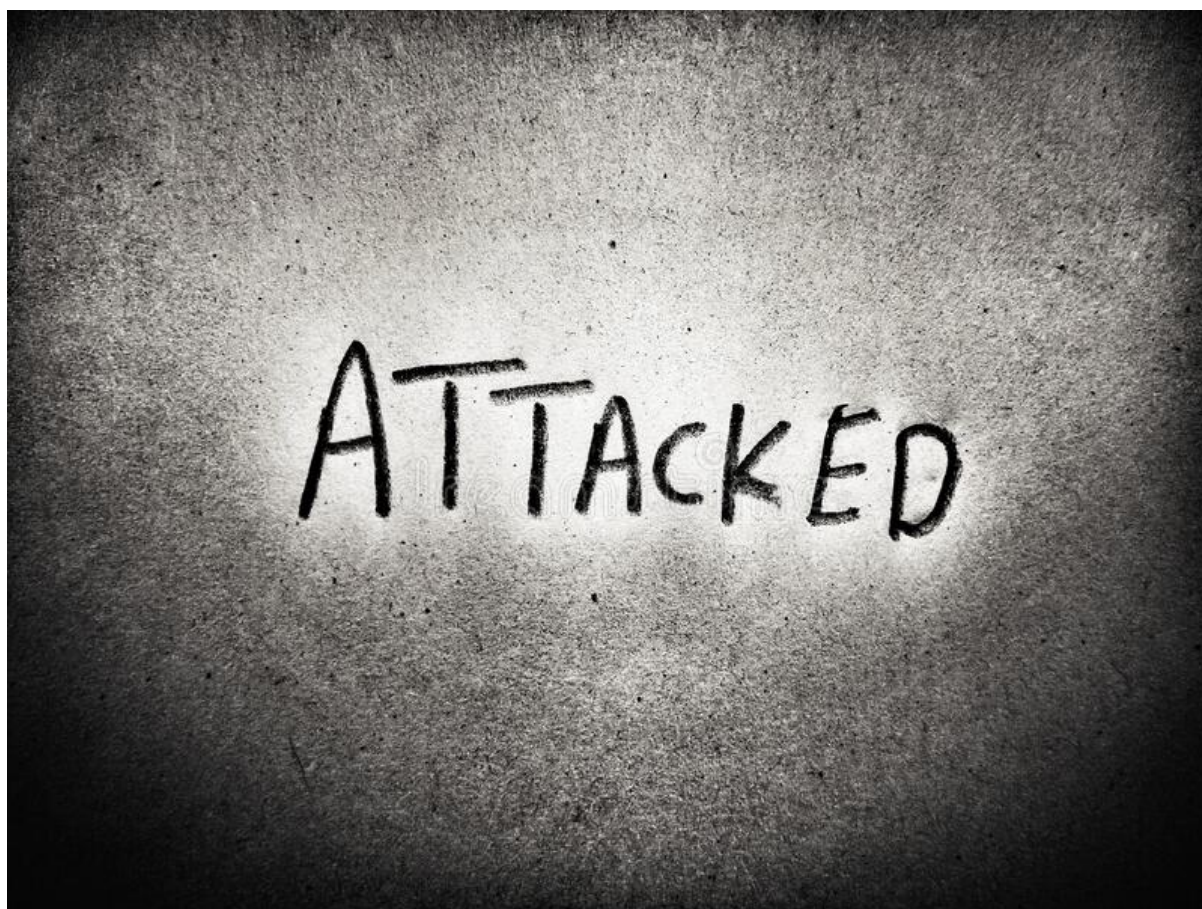
The trend of political attacks against media houses has been a highlight of several editions of the *State of the Media Report* released in the past twelve months, much to the dismay of stakeholders and media freedom activists. In some of the incidents there was damage to property and even harm on individual journalists. This trend is a threat to the media for several reasons.

Firstly, the net effect of the attacks is instilment of fear in journalists, who will not exercise independent judgment or host individuals considered to be critical of the state (or even the community as in the Walamo Radio incident) for fear of political retribution. In essence, this

³ According to a report by Walamo Community Radio as verified by MISA

is self-censorship and it is inimical to the media fulfilling their function-particularly that of being a civic forum for debate⁴.

Secondly, attacks on broadcast media outlets affect revenue generation because damage to property and disruption of programmes which may be sponsored or contain sponsored spot advertisements has financial repercussions. Further, broadcast equipment is procured at great cost, and, therefore, replacement may be challenging for some media outlets, especially community radio stations.



Picture for illustration purposes : source; Dreamstine.com

It is unfortunate that the trend of attacks against media outlets (by ruling party cadres) has carried on even under the UPND regime as witnessed in the attack on Mpika FM Radio. There is, therefore, need for concerted efforts by various stakeholders who include police and media NGOs to ensure the vice is brought to a halt. There is also need for stern punishment of offenders by the courts of law to deter would be offenders. This, however, can only happen

⁴ According to Norris, P. (2000). *A virtuous cycle: political communications in post-industrial societies*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

under sufficient laws that recognise journalists and provide specific privileges as well as protection against such vices⁵.

There is also need for media houses to ensure such cases are not withdrawn as this only encourages a continuation of the vice as perpetrators will always endeavour to settle matters out of court. While media outlets are at liberty to ‘reconcile’ with their attackers, the course of justice must be allowed as the vice not only affects the individual media outlet but the profession as a whole. There are several precedents in which perpetrators of attacks on media houses and journalists have been convicted. The most recent of such cases is when the Lundazi Magistrate Court handed a two-year custodial sentence to Frank Mwale, a PF cadre who attacked a Breeze FM journalist-Grace Lungu and her driver during the Mkomba Ward by election in 2019.

Below is a representation of (reported⁶) attacks against journalists and media outlets from the first quarter to the quarter under review:

DATE/ PERIOD	AFFECT ED OUTLET	DISTRICT	SUMMARY	DAMAGE
9 th February	Liberty Radio	Mporokoso	Ruling Patriotic Front cadres attempted to disrupt a paid-for programme which featured Opposition Democratic Party President, Harry Kalaba. A fracas ensued between DP supporters and the PF cadres on station grounds	Damage reported- Windows and doors
21 st February	Radio Luswepo	Mbala	Patriotic Front cadres disrupted a live programme featuring Democratic Party President Harry Kalaba,	Damage reported-Wire-fence and other private property
10 th March	Radio Chete	Nakonde	The Station was tear-gassed by PF cadres for running a programme which featured the opposition UPND Provincial Chairperson and an aspiring candidate, George Sinkala	None reported

⁵ Journalists in Zambia do not have any formal recognition, save the implicit provision in Article 20 (2) of the Zambian Constitution which states that “Subject to the provisions of this Constitution no law shall make any provision that derogates from freedom of the press”. This, however, does not define the press (and journalists), the privileges and protection they enjoy as well as their corresponding responsibilities, thereby leaving them at the mercy of the many derogations promulgated by the same Article and made more explicit by various provisions in subsidiary laws such as the Penal Code, among others. As a consequence, attacks on journalists are tried as ordinary assault offenses.

⁶ MISA Zambia collects media violation alerts as reported by victims, the police or in other media outlets

24 th June	Radio Kalung-wishi	Chiengi	Unknown people set the station ablaze causing damage of K16, 000	Air Conditioner and transmitter cable
23 rd July	ZANIS	Ikelen'gi	Ikelen'gi District Information Officer was attacked by UPND cadres	The journalist sustained injuries and lost a camera, mobile phone and cash
1 st December	Mpika FM Radio	Mpika	UPND cadres disrupted a live programme featuring Mpika MP Robert Kapyanga	None reported
17 th December	Walamo Radio	Mpulungu	Community members violently attacked Walamo Radio during a live programme featuring police	Windows

On a positive note, however, during the quarter under review police in Muchinga arrested three Patriotic Front cadres identified as Willard Kapila, John Kapiku and Misheck Luhanga who stormed Iso FM Community Radio for featuring President Hakainde Hichilema, then leader of the opposition UPND in May, 2020⁷. The arrest of the cadres is a positive step in granting closure to some of the cases that remained open despite perpetrators being known in some instances. Police must further revisit other cases as highlighted by media outlets and media freedom activists to ensure all perpetrators are brought to book as a deterrent measure.

⁷ Lusaka Times and ISO FM Radio quoted an announcement by Muchinga Deputy Commissioner of Police Munkondya Buumba. See <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2021/12/17/zambia-police-arrest-pf-cadres-who-stormed-a-radio-station-when-hh-was-in-opposition/>

During the quarter, the status of public media was topical with the Information Minister, Chushi Kasanda, dissolving the board of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) while those of the Daily Mail and Times of Zambia were dissolved by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) in the same month. There were further calls for equal coverage, even of voices deemed to be critical to the state⁸.



Picture courtesy of News Diggers for illustration purposes.

This is important in view of the situation witnessed earlier in the year where coverage by the public broadcaster, ZNBC, for example, towards the ruling PF was more than half of the combined coverage for all opposition parties inclusive of UPND⁹.

During the same quarter, Minister of Information Chushi Kasanda announced that government had instituted measures to transform ZNBC into a true public service broadcaster that would offer equitable coverage regardless of political affiliation¹⁰. Another call regarding public media was noted from Information PS, Kennedy Kalunga, who urged government and other corporate entities to support the Zambia Daily Mail and Times Print Pak by utilising their subsidiary printing and courier services.

⁸ Information Minister Chushi Kasanda stated that there was transformation in how the public broadcaster, ZNBC, provided coverage since the coming of the UPND government, see <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/zNBC-will-cover-all-kasanda/>. There is, however, no empirical evidence that has been conducted for a comparative analysis of the pre-post UPND victory.

⁹ According to findings in the MISA Election Content Status Report (May-June, 2021) under the Voter's Voice Project.

¹⁰ She said this during a meeting with a team from BBC Media Action. See <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/zNBC-will-cover-all-kasanda/>

The topic of public media has been notable throughout the year in view of the essential function they play in facilitating good governance and access to information even for underserved communities. Public media are expected to serve a wide section of society based on their very establishment as a public good. This mainly emanates from the fact that public media are funded from public funds or special income through television levies and grants, for example. Secondly, by their very title, ‘public media’ are expected to have wide programming and inclusive content that may not necessarily be profit- motivated.

It is for this reason that many stakeholders, government inclusive, continue to call for fair content that is representative of the various interests in society as opposed to a particular section. For a long time, media associations have been calling for true transformation from a “state media” into “public media” through the promulgation of statutes, review of regulation/management structures or enhancement of the board appointment processes¹¹ to devolve or reduce the real/perceived influence of government officials.

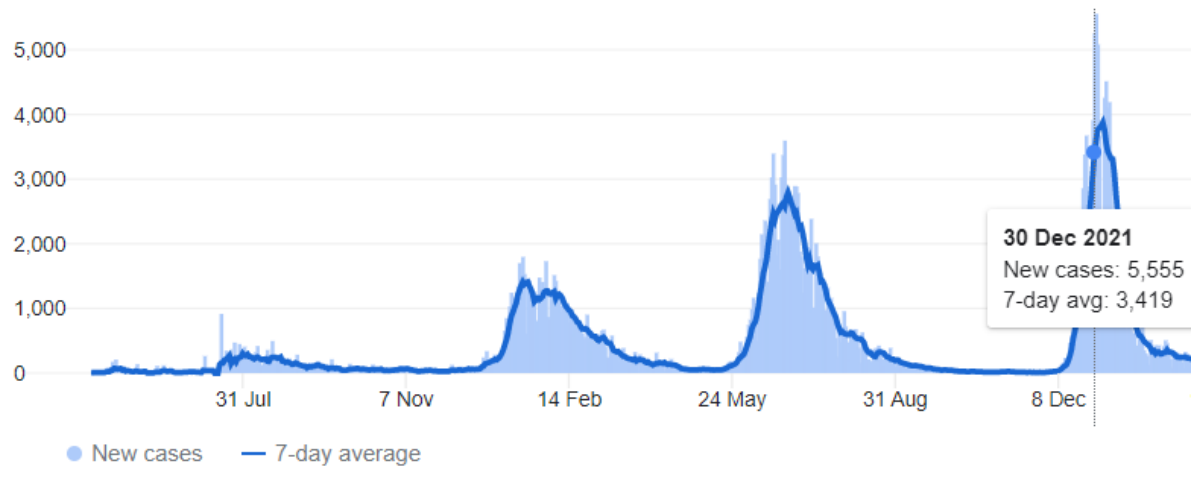
The review could also include a revision of the funding model in order to enhance editorial independence. This has continued to be a challenge for public media which are often debt-ridden and overly dependent on the government¹². There is a need, therefore, to empower public media outlets for them to be truly financially independent and sustainably so.

Another notable occurrence during the quarter under review was a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic towards the end of the quarter in December, threatening a possible re-introduction of preventative restrictions. Below is a representation of the COVID-19 trajectory¹³:

¹¹ Discussed further in the legal trends below

¹² During the quarter under review, it was revealed that the three main public media institutions owed the NAPSA monthly contributions. ZNBC, for example, reportedly owed over eight hundred million Kwacha as at 31st December, 2020, while Times of Zambia owed over 19 million Kwacha and the amount owed by the Zambia Daily Mail was not known. See <https://www.znbc.co.zm/news/kasanda-engages-tambatamba-on-debt/> and <https://tiozambia.com/znbc-among-media-companies-owing-napsa/>

¹³ Sourced from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University. See the data repository at <https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>



In a bid to prevent the fourth wave of the pandemic, government during the quarter introduced measures which included the mandatory wearing of face masks, requirement of a vaccination certificate for one to access government buildings as well as nationwide roll-out of vaccination efforts¹⁴. Minister of Information and Media, Chushi Kasanda announced that the vaccination points would be made easily accessible for journalists. This was indeed a positive move as journalists are among the high-risk groups in view of the nature of their work which requires interaction with various individuals on a daily basis. Further, due to their deadlines and daily assignments, it would be difficult for many journalists to access the vaccines given the long queues that characterised the vaccination points, hence the need for privileged access.

Overall, the socio-political environment in the quarter posted similar trends as those observed in the third quarter, while certain aspects noted in the preceding quarters indicate a continuation in social-political activities with the potential to affect the media landscape. The incidents of violence noted in the quarter, for example, are reminiscent of incidents recorded in all the quarters of the year, with similar modus operandi. The COVID-19 pandemic equally continued in the quarter under review and, as such, its effects continued to threaten the operations of the media, though less severe.

¹⁴ This was announced during an inter-ministerial COVID situational update. See <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2021/11/29/zambia-introduces-tough-covid-19-measures-vaccination-for-civil-servants-to-be-mandatory/>

3.2. Legal Environment

There were notable developments in the legal environment that could have a significant effect on the media landscape.

During the quarter under review, on 18th November, the Technical Working Group on Media-Self Regulation (TWGMR) presented the draft Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC) Bill to the Minister of Information and Media. The following press release was issued by the Ministry of Information:

The Technical Working Group on media self-regulation has, today, presented the Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC) Bill to the Minister of Information and Media, Chushi Kasanda. The Technical Working Group comprises members from diverse media associations.

They include Zambia Union of Journalists (ZUJ), Bloggers Association of Zambia, Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA – Zambia), Zambia Media Women Association (ZAMWA) and the Media Liaison Committee. Others are Press Association of Zambia (PAZA), BBC Media Action, Zambia Institute of Independent Media Alliance (ZIIMA), Zambia Union of Broadcasters and other Information Disseminators (ZUBID) and Free Press Initiative (FPI) Zambia.

Media Liaison Committee Chairperson Enock Ngoma presented the draft Bill on behalf of the Technical Working Group to Ms. Kasanda, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Information and Media in Lusaka, today. And speaking when she received the draft Bill, Ms. Kasanda said the presentation of the Bill to Government represents tremendous progress towards the enactment of the Bill.

She said the Bill is important to Government and journalists because, once enacted, it will promote professionalism and restore public confidence in the media industry. Ms. Kasanda said her Ministry will now escalate the Bill to other relevant levels for consideration before it can finally be tabled in Parliament.

“I am happy to receive the ZAMEC draft Bill which represents tremendous progress towards the enactment of the Bill. I commend you for the commitment and unity you have shown in this process,” she said. Ms. Kasanda, who is also Chief Government Spokesperson, said Government has focused on Access to Information, media-Self regulation and editorial independence in its media development agenda.

She said Government believes that the three areas of focus are key in repositioning the media industry so that it plays an effective role in the governance and development of the country. And the Media Liaison Committee Chairperson Enock Ngoma said the ZAMEC Bill is important in shaping the future of the media industry in the country.

Mr. Ngoma said once enacted into law, ZAMEC will ensure that only a cadre of professional journalists and media personnel practice. He said there is need for all media practitioners to have faith and embrace the document to restore order and public confidence in the industry.

Mr. Ngoma said the committee will continue to pursue all avenues to ensure that the media have space to freely practice without any interference. He said with the good political will from the current administration, Zambia deserves a vibrant media supported by ZAMEC.

And Mr. Ngoma has called for comprehensive media law reforms to enhance operations of the media in the country. He cited the ZNBC Act, the IBA Act and the Cyber-crimes laws as some of the laws which need to be amended.

“IBA needs to realign itself and effectively contribute to the development of the media in Zambia rather than being used to clamp down on media institutions while ZNBC needs to be a true public broadcaster and operate independently just like Government has always been assuring all along,” said Mr. Ngoma.

The presentation of the Draft ZAMEC Bill is a culmination of some of the engagements undertaken by the TWGMR as chronicled in the previous State of the Media Report. It is commendable that the Draft Bill has finally been presented to the Ministry for further consideration and eventual presentation to Cabinet and subsequently Parliament for enactment.



In the picture : Media Liaison Committee Chairperson Enock Ngoma during the handover of ZAMEC documents.

Several attempts have been made to regulate the press in Zambia, from the famous speech by President Kaunda¹⁵ that intimated a Press Council Bill, the Media Ethics Council of Zambia (MECOZ), statutory processes (ZNBC and IBA Acts) to the Zambia Media Ethics Council (a nomenclatural synonym and precursor of the current proposed regime)¹⁶.

As observed by some respondents in the previous reports, there is need for continued caution in the enactment of the media regulation regime to avoid stifling freedom of expression and of the press. This is because Zambia has a myriad of laws that are currently inimical to freedom of the press while the nomenclature and form of the (ZAMEC Bill) process itself was

¹⁵ See Kasoma, F.P. (1986). *The Press in Zambia*. Lusaka: Multimedia Publications.

¹⁶ See also Ndawana, Y., J. Knowles and C. Vaughan (2021) **“The Historicity of Media Regulation in Zambia; Examining the Proposed Statutory Self-Regulation”** in *African Journalism Studies* Vol. 42, Iss. 2 pp 59-76. The article presents a historical account of Zambia’s media regulation journey while highlighting various observations regarding the proposed ZAMEC Bill that situate it in a theoretical realm, concluding that the proposed statutory self-regulation frame could present more challenges to the media than before.

suggestive of statutory regulation¹⁷, among other observations¹⁸. As the ball is now in the hands of government, it remains to be seen what the eventual outcome of the process will be.

Another occurrence of note during the quarter was the pronouncement by Information and Media Minister Chushi Kasanda on government's intentions to repeal and replace the IBA Act in 2022. The proposed repeal and replacement of the IBA Act is important to address several contentious observations regarding the Act's provisions for autonomous operation of the Authority by several stakeholders for nearly two decades¹⁹.

Firstly, there is need to restore the *ad hoc* appointment's committee which was in the initial IBA Act (2002) and later removed. The Committee provided for a board appointment that was representative of various sectors such as the legal fraternity, the church, civil society and the general public. This ensured that all competent individuals would have a fair opportunity of being considered to the Board while their allegiance would be with the ideals of the Institution (and Constitution) and not the Minister who appointed them, thereby granting a semblance of independence.

Secondly, there is need to empower the Authority to effectively regulate a public broadcaster, such as ZNBC. The current IBA regime recognises public service broadcasting under its licensing mandate *de jure*. However, *de facto* ZNBC may not be sanctioned by the Authority as it exists under an Act of Parliament with clearly defined provisions for oversight. This has created a situation in which members of the public aggrieved by actions of a public broadcaster such as ZNBC may not necessarily obtain sufficient redress through the IBA.

Thirdly, there is need to take stock of advances brought about by digital migration and proliferation of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV).

¹⁷ There exist three broad categories of regulation i.e. Self-regulation, statutory regulation and co-regulation. Self-regulation is a voluntary process without any coercion or involvement of statutory authorities where media houses voluntarily come together to agree on standards as well as corrective action to be taken when such standards are breached. Statutory regulation is mandatory regulation passed by a government and is enforceable by law; It is coercive, includes licensing and may carry punitive sanctions, including imprisonment. Co-regulation is a hybrid where media practitioners and stakeholders come together to agree on standards and content of the regulatory instrument to be used while the government comes in to facilitate the enactment of the Bill without alteration.

¹⁸ For a comprehensive analysis of the proposed "statutory-self-regulation" process, refer to the third quarter State of the Media Report and Ndawana, Knowles and Vaughan (2021) cited above.

¹⁹ See Ndawana, Y., Manchishi K. (2016) A policy brief on media laws and policies in Zambia. Lusaka: MISA. See also: Nkandu, E. (2012). Study report on media laws and policies in Zambia. Lusaka:Diakonia/MISA, Matibini, P. (2006). *The struggle for media law reforms in Zambia*. Lusaka: MISA.

The current regulation framework does not clearly provide for regulation of such broadcasts save certain aspects under other related laws such as the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act, among other statutes enforced by ZICTA. This quandary presented itself when the IBA attempted to exert its power over online broadcaster by the name of Spring Television in August, 2020²⁰.

Fourth, there is a need to provide for autonomy of the Authority by shifting oversight of the Institution to Parliament. In the current regime, the Minister of Information still wields considerable control (direct or indirect) over the Authority through appointment of Board members²¹ among other executive/administrative functions such as processing of funding. Given the sensitive nature of the Authority's mandate, it is critical that the Institution exists and operates autonomously with parliamentary oversight.

Other amendments include the relaxation of extremely punitive sanctions as noted in some cases such as those involving Muvi Television, Komboni and Itezhi Tezhi Radio (2016)²² and Prime Television (2020)²³.

²⁰ See <https://diggers.news/local/2020/08/08/iba-says-it-has-powers-to-regulate-online-broadcasting/#:~:text=Spring%20TV%2C%20like%20any%20other,as%20amended%20by%20Act%20No.>

²¹ During the quarter under review, for example, Minister of Information and Media dissolved the IBA Board in exercise of powers vested in her by the IBA Act. See <https://diggers.news/local/2021/11/01/kasanda-dissolves-iba-znbc-boards/>

²² See <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2016/08/22/iba-shuts-muvi-tv-komboni-radio-itezhi-tezhi-radio/>

²³ See <https://zambianeye.com/the-government-has-closed-prime-tv/>. A full analysis of the case vis-à-vis provisions of the IBA Act was carried in the 2020 first and second quarter State of the Media Report.

3.2.1. Access to Information

In the quarter under review, there was no significant progress on enactment of a law on Access to Information while the substantive session of parliament focused on estimates and expenditure. The status of ATI in the fourth quarter was no different from that recorded in the third quarter.

There were, however, positive pronouncements such as one made by the Information and Media Minister indicating government's intention to present three Bills to Parliament, among them Access to Information in 2022²⁴. This is a positive step as it gives an affirmation of government's commitment and resolve on the ATI Bill.

In the past decade, however, there have been several such pronouncements by government indicating intention to present and enact the ATI Bill into law but in vain. It is, therefore, important for clear steps to be undertaken beyond mere pronouncements. These could include the publication of the Draft ATI Bill and a roadmap for public consideration.



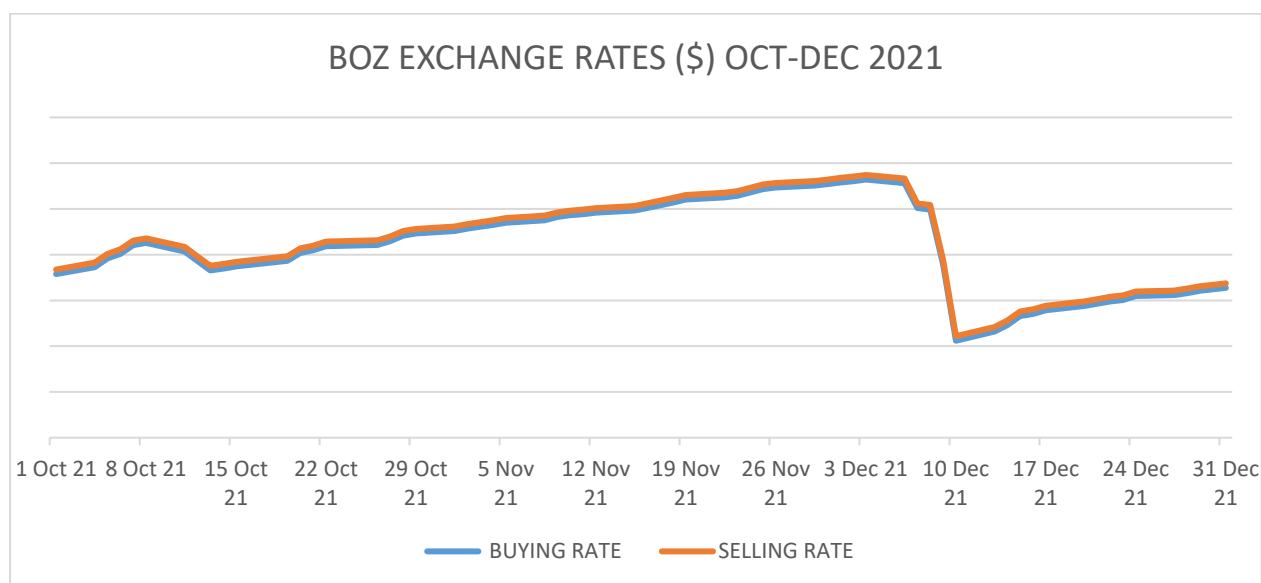
MISA Zambia Chairperson Rev. Fr. Barnabas Simatende OMI, PhD during an engagement meeting with Minister of Information and Media Hon. Chushi Kasanda.- Picture source - Ministry of Information and Media

²⁴ As reported in News Diggers Newspaper on 26th November.

3.3. Economic Environment

The economic environment in the quarter under review posted significant positive gains in certain economic variables, a continuation of the positive outlook from the previous quarter after a streak of negativity for nearly twelve months prior.

Among the notable variables that posted improvements was the appreciation of the Kwacha against major convertibles. For example, at the beginning of the quarter on 1st October, 2021, the US Dollar was selling at K16.8 while at the close of the quarter (on 31st December) it was selling at K16.7²⁵. This was a maintained trend from the previous quarter which closed at K16.8 for one dollar on 30th September. Similar trends were also observed in other major convertible currencies.

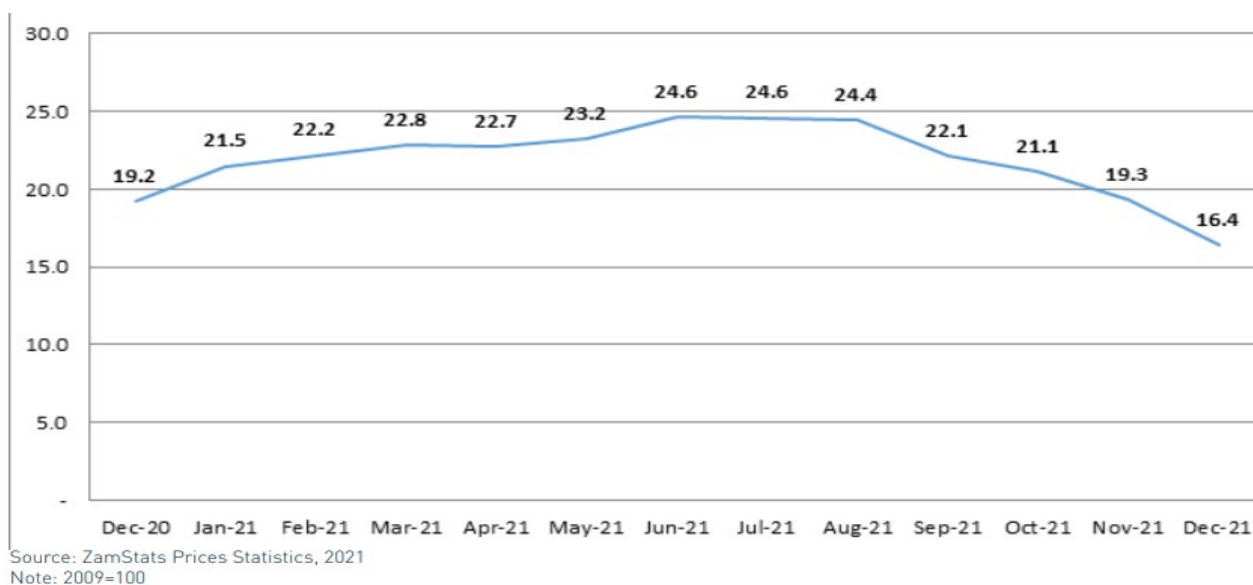


1 Kwacha-Dollar Exchange rates (October-December, 2021)

In like manner, the Annual Inflation Rate recorded a significant slump of nearly 5% in the quarter under review. At the start of the quarter, in October, the year-on-year inflation stood at 21.1% and 16.4% at the close of the quarter in December²⁶. The slow-down in the annual rate of inflation was mainly attributed to favourable price movements in food and non-food items.

²⁵ According to the Bank of Zambia Historical Series of exchange rates. Available at <https://www.boz.zm/historical-series-of-daily-zmw-usd-exchange-rates-zmw.htm>

²⁶ As reported in the Zambia Statistics Agency Monthly Bulletins for October, November and December, 2021. See <https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/index.php/publications/category/50-2021>



2 Annual Inflation Rate December 2020-December 2021

During the quarter under review, an economic growth of 3.5% was reported based on third quarter GDP estimates, contrary to the negative figures recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This therefore gave a positive outlook for the fourth quarter²⁷. Other factors such as interest rate, among others, equally posted a slight decline, with the major upside risks being a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic (fourth wave) as well as increase fuel pump prices and electricity tariffs (among other price increases) owing to the inflation outlook²⁸.

Other industry reports, such as the Stanbic Purchasing Manager's Index recorded an improvement in business conditions with output returning to growth and a sustained expansion in new orders as well as employment. The reported rate of expansion was the fastest noted in years. The positive turnout was attributed to various factors such as stable economic conditions, price reductions and growing consumer confidence. These factors, therefore, reportedly enabled firms to secure new business.

The media in the quarter under review were affected by the developments noted above, albeit positively. This is because the success of a media house relies on various factors, much like any other commercial institution.

²⁷ See ZAMSTATS Monthly Bulletin for December, 2021

²⁸ According to the BOZ Monetary Policy Statement (MPC) issued in November, 2021. See https://www.boz.zm/mpcstatement_nov_2021.pdf

First, media houses rely on advertisements from corporates and FCMGs as their source of revenue; the companies as indicated in the variables monitored above had increased opportunities that enabled new business. Coupled with increased consumer demand, this translated into continued placement (or in some cases new) adverts and other sponsored programmes which revitalised media houses in terms of revenue generation.

Second, most of the inputs used by media houses (such as broadcast equipment, entertainment programmes, and newsprint) are imported. The cost of most inputs depends on exchange and inflation rates, among other factors. As such, in the quarter under review, media houses possibly incurred lower costs of doing business in view of the currency appreciation and reduction in the inflation rates. They could have, thus, made capital investments, especially that market interest rates equally posted a marginal reduction.

Third, there was no electricity load-management in the quarter under review. As compared to previous quarters, the stable electricity supply helped to reduce the cost of doing business for media houses that previously relied on alternative standby energy sources like generators and solar power to support most of the equipment (such as print presses, transmitters and studio control units).

However, on a negative note, towards the end of the quarter in December, government removed subsidies on fuel in a bid to migrate to cost reflective tariffs. This resulted in the upward adjustment of fuel prices by the Energy Regulation Board as itemised in the table below:

PRODUCT	OLD PRICE (K)	NEW PRICE (K)1	% INCREASE
Petrol	17.62	21.16	20
Diesel	15.59	20.151	29

The ERB further announced a migration to monthly adjustment of fuel pump prices in order to be more responsive to prevailing conditions on the international market. The increase in fuel pump prices during the quarter affected the operational costs incurred by media houses because media rely heavily on vehicle transportation between locations which are usually far apart. Media houses also employ the use of (fuel driven) generators as standby sources for equipment such as transmitters. As such, an increase in the cost of fuel meant increased cost of operation in this regard. Further, the Board's migration to a monthly adjustment of pump prices may

negatively affect media houses that rely heavily on fuel-based transportation and/or standby power as they will be unable to predict their costs easily due to unstable prices.

Other notable occurrences in the quarter under review included the presentation of the 2022 National Budget to Parliament on 29th October by the Minister of Finance, Situmbeko Musokotwane. The Minister presented a K173 billion budget focusing on four thematic areas, namely: Economic Transformation and Job Creation, Human and Social Development, Environmental Sustainability and, Good Governance Environment²⁹.

Notable pronouncements in the budget included the upward adjustment of the PAYE threshold from K4000 to K4500 as well as adjustment of income tax bands as indicated below³⁰:

Current Regime		Proposed Regime	
Income Band	Tax rate (%)	Income Band	Tax rate (%)
0 - 4000	0	0 – 4,500	0
4,001 – 4, 800	25	4,501 – 4,800	25
4,801 – 6,900	30	4,801 – 6,900	30
Above 6,900	37.5	Above 6,900	37.5

The increase in the PAYE threshold could benefit media practitioners who generally fall within the target bracket for the threshold. Several journalists are employed under poor conditions of service with salaries as low as K900³¹. The average earnings (depending on various factors) further fall within the K4000-K6000 band³², which is still significantly below the basic needs basket³³.

²⁹ The budget speech is available at https://www.parliament.gov.zm/sites/default/files/images/publication_docs/BUDGET%20SPEECH%20%202022.pdf

³⁰ Source: Budget speech, same as 29 above.

³¹ During the quarter on November 10, Minister of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda expressed concern over the low salaries and poor working conditions journalists in some media houses are subjected to. Ms. Kasanda described the situation as disheartening. She said it was unacceptable for some institutions to pay their journalists as low as K900 per month. See <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2021/11/10/low-salaries-for-journalists-worry-kasanda/>

³² See <http://www.salaryexplorer.com/salary-survey.php?loc=242&loctype=1&job=6299&jobtype=3> and <https://www.paylab.com/zm/salaryinfo/journalism-printing-arts-media/tv-presenter>. Additionally, the 2020 survey by the Free Press Initiative on the impact of COVID-19 on Zambia's news media, media houses, particularly newspapers presents journalist economic conditions.

³³ The JCTR December basic needs basket for a family of five stood at K8,359.80. See <https://www.jctr.org.zm/bnnb>

The increase in the threshold could, thus, increase the disposable income for journalists and lessen the economic burden on them. This is important because financial freedom constitutes one of the two main components of press freedom. A compromise in financial freedom could affect editorial independence and judgment of the journalist. It is for this reason that several stakeholders earlier in the same year welcomed the government's intentions of promulgating a minimum wage for journalists in order to prevent adverse conditions of service³⁴.

Another notable pronouncement in the Budget was the standard-rating of the supply of booklets and newspapers to increase the VAT tax base. Such a move could affect media as it has the potential to increase the cover price of newspapers which were the most affected media during the COVID-19 pandemic³⁵. Such a move will increase the operational costs of print media outlets which are currently faced by competition from online media which are not under any specific tax regime. Further, a media product is considered as a public good essential for the functioning of democracy. Some schools of thought argue against heavy taxation of media products as this presents a form of censorship³⁶.

Overall, the 2022 budget did not provide direct incentives for media development like those extended to other sectors such as agriculture³⁷. Tax and non-tax incentives are important for media development especially in view of the negative economic environment in which the media operated in the last year as well as the first and second quarters of 2021 without a stimulus package. It is, therefore, important for government to recognise the sector as a critical facilitator of the governance process requiring a conducive operating landscape.

The economic environment in the fourth quarter generally posted a positive picture given the favourable performance of most economic variables such as the currency exchange rates, year-on-year inflation, interest rates, business opportunities and absence of electricity load management. These factors alleviated the cost of operation for media houses with increased advertising from companies that recorded new business opportunities and increased consumer

³⁴ See State of the Media, Quarter 1, 2021. See also <http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/minimum-wages-planned-for-journalists-ict-workers/>

³⁵ See the 2020 Free Press Initiative survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Zambia's news media, media houses, particularly newspapers, which were identified as being most affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. See also data in Banda, F. (2004) Newspapers and magazines in Zambia-a question of sustainability. Lusaka: MISA who analysed the viability of a newspaper enterprise in Zambia. Effects of financial difficulty were evident during the quarter under review. For example, the Industrial Development Cooperation was reported by the Daily Nation on 23rd December to have secured funding for downsizing of staff at the Times of Zambia Newspaper which was in financial distress and placed under the Zambia Daily Mail Management.

³⁶ See McQuail, D. (1994). *Mass Communication Theory: an introduction-third edition*. London: SAGE.

³⁷ Tax on selected agricultural equipment and accessories was zero-rated

demand. The increase in the fuel pump price presented a threat as media houses rely on fuel for the transportation of journalists and coverage of events. Additionally, the migration of the ERB to monthly adjustment of pump prices in line with prevailing market conditions could create a volatile situation as media houses may not effectively predict costs. The introduction of standard taxation on newspapers also presented a threat for the coming year as the cost of operating a print media outlet could increase, with a ripple effect on the consumers.

In comparison to the past quarters, the quarter under review showed some relative improvement (a continuation of the trend noted in the third quarter) in view of the negative outlook observed in the first and second quarters of the year.

3.4. Technological environment

The technological environment in the quarter under review was largely uneventful with no major developments that could potentially impact the freedom of expression online.

Among the notable developments was a pronouncement by Minister of the newly created Ministry of Technology and Science, Felix Mutati, on intentions to digitise government services to promote convenience and eliminate wastage of resources. Hon. Mutati stated that:

“Following the pronouncement by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema which saw the creation of the Ministry, my team at the Ministry has undertaken several steps to spur its position as an enabler of economic development through technology and science. We have engaged a number of exchange ideas on how to create partnerships in moving the national technology and science, innovation and skills development agenda forward. The Ministry will create an enabling environment by putting in place a policy and legal framework that will support a digital economy.

We will put in place measures that will promote affordable access to digital infrastructure through enhancing connectivity, smart gadgets and service quality. Government services will be digitised in order to promote convenience, reduce transaction costs and eliminate wastage of resources in the delivery and accessing of public services. We will place particular priority on the digitisation of the national registration system to integrate system for FISP, social cash transfer and youth empowerment funds.

My Ministry is determined to harness talented scientists and innovators especially youths whose role will be to culture technology innovations and ideas that will be turned into enterprises for not only employment creation, but overall economic growth. This will be implemented within various systems for youth innovators. We will upskill the citizens in order to have digital friendly citizens through a number of measures that will include the review of curricula, training of trainers, creation of digital hubs among others.”

Access and utilisation of internet-based technology is critical if Zambia is to take a leap towards e-governance. E-governance is effective as it lessens the cost of accessing services, reducing instances of corruption as it eliminates unnecessary human contact while increasing efficiency of service delivery as services can easily be tracked for purposes of quality assurance. It is therefore elating that the UPND government created the Ministry Science and Technology to spearhead the integration of such internet-based technology into service delivery.

For this to bear fruit, however, there is need to alleviate certain barriers of internet access. It is elating that in the 2022 National Budget as presented in the quarter under review, specific pronouncements were made with a view to increase the number of communication towers in unserved and underserved areas as a way of actualising the digital transformation agenda.

Some barriers against digital technology include a gender divide in access and use of the internet. During the quarter under review, the Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) released a report on the evaluation of gender gaps in the access and usage of ICTs in Zambia. The report establishes that men and women do not have equal opportunities with regard to access, ownership and usage of mobile phones in Zambia³⁸, considering that the majority of the population accesses the internet through mobile broadband connection.

³⁸ The evaluation cites the 2018 ZICT Survey, highlighting that 56.9 percent of the males aged above 10 years were reported to have used a mobile phone device while only 50.9 percent of the females indicated that they had used a mobile phone. The disparities are extended to ownership of mobile phones were 49.2 percent of males reported to own a mobile phone compared to 41.1 percent of females. Further, it is estimated that 17.3 percent of males aged above 10 years are active users of the internet compared to only 12 percent of females. This disparity could partly be on account of skills gaps, lack of appreciation of the relevance of internet services, challenges in ownership of devices such as smartphones as well as some cultural misconceptions related to usage of internet services among other factors which include possibly previous bad online experience such as cyber bullying and related online risks. See <https://www.zicta.zm/storage/posts/attachments/rIWxeVFLPfUkalluFK9Sgt57HwURWiE0Si8X31il.pdf>

Other barriers include the risks of accessing internet technology, such as cyberbullying, financial fraud, hacking, scams and fake news among others. It is, therefore, important for government to invest more in alleviating these identified challenges if indeed the digital transformation agenda is to be realised. This includes the creation of a functional multi-stakeholder mechanism of internet governance in Zambia.

In the quarter under review, litigation against laws deemed to be inimical to digital rights continued. Prominent was the case of five (5) NGOs that petitioned the High Court, arguing that the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act undermines the right to privacy and freedom of the press³⁹. In November, the International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) applied to join the matter as advisors⁴⁰. This is evidence of the interest drawn in several stakeholders following the advocacy and lobby for the repeal or review of the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act No. 2 of 2021.

The technological environment in the quarter under review was relatively neutral and calm as there were no actions, promulgation of laws and policies that were inimical to digital rights. Likewise, there were no significant positive developments for the enhancement of the freedom of expression online. The substantive quarter was less severe when compared to previous quarters such as the first in which the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act was enacted and the third quarter in which a social media blockade was enforced for close to three days during and after the elections in August.

With regard to media development and performance during the quarter, the following was the breakdown of media outlets:

³⁹ Refer to the First Quarter, 2021 State of the Media Report for a comprehensive outline of the sections of the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act deemed to be inimical to various rights. See https://zambia.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/images/publication/State_of_the_media_report_Jan-Mar_2021_1.pdf

⁴⁰ As reported in the Daily Nation Newspaper on 7th November, 2021.

BROADCAST INSTITUTIONS⁴¹

COMMUNITY RADIO	68
COMMERCIAL RADIO	73
PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING-RADIO	4
LANDING RIGHTS-RADIO	2
TV (DTT COMMERCIAL)	28
TV (DTT COMMUNITY)	11
PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER	5
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGEMENT SERVICE	6
LANDING RIGHTS BROADCASTING SERVICE-TV	1
TOTAL	198

MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS⁴²

OUTLET	REACH	OTHER EDITIONS	E-PAPER	PRICE
Zambia Daily Mail	Nationwide	Sunday Mail	YES	K10
Times of Zambia	Nationwide	Sunday Times	YES	K10
Daily Nation	Nationwide	-	NO	K10
News Diggers	Selected towns	-	YES	K10
The Mast Newspaper	Selected towns	-	NO	K10

TOP SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS OUTLETS-FACEBOOK⁴³

OUTLET	FANS
Mwebantu Media	1, 500, 000+
Zambia Reports	1, 310, 000+
Zambian Watchdog	921, 100
Smart Eagles	1, 100, 000+

⁴¹ According to a list of broadcast media houses supplied by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA)

⁴² According to an observation of newsstands in selected towns in the quarter under review

⁴³ As observed in December, 2021.

4.0. Conclusion

Overall, the review in this report has shown that there has been a continued improvement (though marginal) in some of the themes in the quarter under review when compared to the third quarter. As such, the significance of the occurrences highlighted in the various themes cannot be overemphasized.

The socio-political environment posted similar trends as those observed in the third quarter, while certain aspects noted in the preceding quarters indicate a continuation in social-political activities that have the potential to affect the media landscape. The incidents of violence noted in the quarter, for example, are reminiscent of incidents recorded in all the quarters of the year, with similar *modus operandi*. The COVID-19 pandemic equally continued in the quarter under review and, as such, its effects continued to threaten the operations of the media, though less severe.

The legal environment recorded occurrences that will likely shape the media landscape for many years to come. This was on account of the presentation of the draft ZAMEC Bill by the Technical Working Group on Media Self- Regulation. The legal environment also recorded positive pronouncements regarding the Access to Information bill which has stalled for many years. The continued promises without any positive steps, however, are reminiscent of similar actions by previous regimes.

In the economic environment, marginal improvements were noted owing to gains recorded in the exchange rates, inflation and other economic variables that tend to ease the revenue generation for media houses owing to the increased commercial activity.

The technological environment was not as eventful as that noted in the third quarter and most of the year. During the quarter under review, there were efforts aimed at reviewing trends of internet accessibility, owing to a gender divide noted. The tech environment also noted utilisation of various technology for information dissemination, in spite of various challenges.

Overall, the State of the Media in the year has been turbulent mainly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the harsh economic environment which mostly posted reduced commercial activity, thereby affecting the media's revenue generation. Further, the year was turbulent owing to the anxiety and political tension that characterised the electoral process, with the media falling victim to acts of violence. On the technological front, it is, perhaps, the social media blockade enforced in the days succeeding the general election in the third quarter

that will continue to dent the country's image with regard to respect of digital rights. On another negative note, the year goes by without enactment of legislation on Access to Information, adding yet another year.

5.0. Recommendations

i. Safeguarding the sustainability of media enterprises

Given the negative economic trends observed throughout the year and the fluctuations during the quarter under review, it is critical that financial support initiatives are created for the media sector. Deliberate tax and non-tax incentives must be developed in the budget framework in order to bail out the media in view of the turbulence experienced in the greater part of the year.

ii. Public media reform

There is need to reform the state media houses into public media that truly represent the wider society and their divergent views, even those deemed to be critical of the State. There should be reform of the board appointment processes and governance model to guarantee autonomy and independence; there must be review of the funding models to ensure sustainability. There is need for the UPND government to put in place debt-restructuring programmes for the public media as well as practicable reforms.

iii. ZAMEC Bill presentation

There is need for government to present the ZAMEC Bill for enactment as a measure aimed at encouraging professionalism in the media fraternity. Government must recognise the process as being built on the ideals of co-regulation, where the fraternity develops the standards/content and government only facilitates the legal framework without alteration.

iv. Access to Information Bill

There is need for immediate enactment of the Access to Information Bill which has stalled for a long time. Government must desist from stalling the process any further through similar pronouncements and promises made by past regimes in the last two decades.

v. Review of laws inimical to freedom of expression

There is need for review of laws that continue to hinder the enjoyment of freedom of expression and other civil liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution.

6.0. Appendices

6.1. Question guide

MISA ZAMBIA STATE OF THE MEDIA REPORT QUARTER FOUR (October-December) 2021

Dear respondent, MISA Zambia conducts a quarterly review of the state of the media in Zambia, detailing trends in the political, legal, economic and technological operating environment. In this regard, your assistance and input by response to the questions below will be of utmost help in compilation of reports for the fourth quarter of 2021 (October-December). Ensure to give as much information as clearly as possible. The information collected is solely for the purpose of the State of the Media reports.

Name (To be withheld on demand)

Date...../...../2021

1. In general, how would you describe the state of the media in the fourth quarter of 2021?

2. How would you describe the following aspects with regard to the media in the fourth quarter?
 - a. Political environment

- b. Economic environment

c. Legal environment

3. What are some of the challenges you have observed with regard to media freedom in the quarter under review?

4. What are your general recommendations for media landscape improvement based on your observations in the quarter under review?

5. Based on the scale below, how would you rate the state of the media in the fourth quarter of 2021? (circle only one)

FREE 😄 **FREE** 😊 **NEUTRAL** 😐 **MOSTLY UNFREE** ☹️
REPRESSED ☹️☹️

THE END-THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

6.2. Alerts/Selected news stories (MISA Media Monitoring System)⁴⁴

Source Type	Source	Date & Time	Title/Summary
Tv	Znbc Tv1	16/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>ZNBC KEY IN KEEPING HISTORY-KALUNGA</i></p> <p>Summary : Information and Media Permanent Secretary KENNEDY KALUNGA says ZNBC plays a critical role in educating the nation with the archive material stored at Mass Media Complex.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Newspaper	Daily Nation	14/10/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>CROWN TV SAYS APOLOGY ENOUGH TO FOREGO DAMAGES TO TASILA</i></p> <p>Summary : CROWN TV Zambia has submitted to the Lusaka High Court that Chawama member of Parliament Tasila Lungu, is not entitled to any damages in a matter where she sued for libel because the station retracted the alleged defamatory statement and made an unreserved apology</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
	The Mast	25/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>CONVERSATIONS ON JOURNALIST ATTACKS SHOULD NEVER CEASE, MALUPENGA ADVISE</i></p> <p>Summary : INFORMATION permanent secretary Amos Malupenga says journalists should keep on talking about attacks they receive from political players. Speaking as guest of honour at a media breakfast organised by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, MISA Zambia and BBC Media Action in Lusaka, Malupenga said keeping quiet would not help.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
	Daily Nation	07/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>ZNC owes NAPSA K' 76m penalties, K872m in principal</i></p> <p>Summary : ZNC owes NAPSA K' 76m penalties, K872m in principal ..and now Information and Media Minister Kasanda engages NAPSA THE Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) owes NAPSA K876million penalties and K72million in principal.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
	Daily Nation	07/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>ZAMBIA LAWS STIFLE MEDIA-PAZA</i></p> <p>Summary : THE Press Associati Zambia (PAZA) has ob, served that Zambian laws do not protect the media despite talking of media freedom. PAZA president AndrewSakala, says most articles in the Zambian constitution are crafted in a way that they directly suffocate media freedom which he said needs to be changed if true media freedom is to be guaranteed. Mr. Sakala cited the law related to contempt of court in most cases, media</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
	Daily Mail	08/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>IBA COUNSELLED ON FAIRNESS</i></p> <p>Summary : INDEPENDENT Broadcasting Authority (IBA) should attain fairness and high levels of integrity in its decisions and actions to gain confidence in the media industry.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Radio	Radio Lwansase	08/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>IBA DIRECTS LWANSASE RADIO TO DISSOLVE ITS CURRENT INTERIM BOARD AND APPOINT NEW BOARD</i></p> <p>Summary : On 08/12/21 MISA Zambia received a letter from Radio Lwansase sent to them by Independence Broadcasting Authority (IBA) directing the radio station to dissolve Lwansase Interim Board and appoint new board.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>

⁴⁴ As extracted from the MISA Media Monitoring system

Newspaper	Daily Mail	09/12/2021 - 09:40:50	<p>Title : <i>INFORMATION PS COUNSELS PUBLIC MEDIA</i></p> <p>Summary : PUBLIC media institutions should J take the lead in exhibiting high level of professionalism Evan and adherence to the code of ethics to regain confidence and trust of citizens.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Tv	Znbc Tv1	16/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>IBA TOLD TO RAISE LICENSING</i></p> <p>Summary : Ministry of Information and Media Permanent Secretary, KENNEDY KALUNGA has urged the Independent Broadcasting Authority -IBA- to sensitise the public on licensing procedures and requirements.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Newspaper	Daily Nation	30/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>MISA WELCOMES PRONOUNCEMENTS ON COVID</i></p> <p>Summary : MISA WELCOMES PRONOUNCEMENTS ON COVID, WARNS AGAINST INFRINGEMENT ON ATI</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
	News Diggers	17/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>DEFAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT CHARGE THREATENS FREE EXPRESSION-PILATO</i></p> <p>Summary : CIVIL rights activist Chama Fumba popularly known as Pilato says the defamation of the President charge is not a necessary law in a democratic country as it has potential to instill</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Online Media	Lusaka Times	16/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>WILLARD KAPILA AND TWO OTHERS APPREHENDED.</i></p> <p>Summary : Police in Muchinga province have arrested three PF cadres identified as Willard Kapila,Misheck Luhanga and John Kapiku for storming ISOFM Community Radio on 18th May,2020.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
	Media Violation Group	17/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>WALAMO RADIO ATTACKED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS</i></p> <p>Summary : Walamo radio attacked by community members for hosting Zambia police who were warning against witch cleansing in the area.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Newspaper	Daily Nation	22/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>Zambians have a constitutional right to information and the media- Chushi Kasanda</i></p> <p>Summary : Information and Media Minister Chushi Kasanda has said that citizens have a constitutional right to information and the media should be allowed to carry out their role in a free and safe environment.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Online Media	Media Violation Group	02/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>MPIKA FM LIVE PHONE-IN PROGRAM DISTRUPED</i></p> <p>Summary : The Board, Management and Staff of Mpika FM Radio express disappointment over what happened on Wednesday, 1st December 2021 around 20 hours when suspected UPND Cadres stormed the Radio Station and disturbed a Live Phone-In Program</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>

	Lusaka Times	26/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>Media should be left alone: Properties recovery is failing because of 1990s privatization process</i></p> <p>Summary : Impartial reporting has always been a tradition for media in Zambia. Specifically independent media. [Click here to access on web]</p>
	Lusaka Times	26/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>Media should be left alone: Properties recovery is failing because of 1990s privatization process</i></p> <p>Summary : Impartial reporting has always been a tradition for media in Zambia. Specifically independent media. [Click here to access on web]</p>
Newspaper	News Diggers	21/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>HH appoints PSs, as IDC dissolves Daily Mail, Times Printpak board of directors</i></p> <p>Summary : HH appoints PSs, as IDC dissolves Daily Mail, Times Printpak board of directors [Click here to access on web]</p>
	News Diggers	07/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>WITNES TESTIFIES IN TAYALI'S DEFAMATION OF THE PRESEIDENT CASE"</i></p> <p>Summary : WITNES TESTIFIES IN TAYALI'S DEFAMATION OF THE PRESEIDENT CASE" [Click here to access on web]</p>
	Times Of Zambia	08/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>KASANDA KEEN ON PUBLIC MEDIA PROGRESSION</i></p> <p>Summary : MINISTER of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda says She is eager to get the right resource to effectively and professionally run public media. Ms Kasanda said she is trying to change the face of public media to make it vibrant because most of its content is undesirable. The minister said this recently when she met women from the "I am Equal International Women's Forum" (IEIWF) who visited her to congratulate her on her appointment. [Click here to access on web]</p>
	The Mast	10/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>Low salaries for journalists worry Kasanda</i></p> <p>Summary : Minister of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda is concerned with the low salaries and poor working conditions journalists in some media houses are subjected to. Ms. Kasanda who has described the situation as disheartening, says it is unacceptable that some institutions can be paying their journalists as low as K900 per month [Click here to access on web]</p>
	Daily Nation	10/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>Cyber case: attacks attract International Lawyers.</i></p> <p>Summary : THE International Senior Lawyers Project (ISLP) has asked for the permission of the Lusaka High Court to attend as an impart advisor Proceedings in a matter where five Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have petitioned the High Court alleging that the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act threatens the right to privacy and the freedom of the press [Click here to access on web]</p>

Daily Mail	11/11/2021 - 5	<p>Title : <i>ZNBC will cover all -Kasanda</i></p> <p>Summary : GOVERNMENT has instituted measures to transform the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) into a truly national broadcaster that covers voices of all sectors. Minister of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda says Government's effort to transform ZNBC is bearing fruit. Ms Kasanda said voices of opposition political players are now becoming a regular feature on ZNBC news platforms</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
The Mast	11/11/2021 - 7	<p>Title : <i>PANOS, SIALUBALO URGE KASANDA TO INTERVENE IN SINAZONGWE RADIO REOPENING</i></p> <p>Summary : PANOS Institute Southern Africa executive director Vusa Sifile says the absence of a radio station in Sinazongwe is disempowering the community and depriving them of access to the many developmental opportunities that have been proposed by the new dawn government. Representatives of Panos and Sinazongwe Community Radio Station on Tuesday met with Minister of Information and Media</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Daily Mail	18/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>KASANDA RECIEVES ZAMEC DRAFT BILL</i></p> <p>Summary : The Technical Working Group on media self-regulation has, today, presented the Zambia Media Council (ZAMEC) Bill to the Minister of Information and Media, Chushi Kasanda</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Daily Mail	20/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>IDC dissolves Daily Mail, Times Printpak</i></p> <p>Summary : Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has dissolved the board of directors of Zambia Daily Mail and Times Printpark</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
News Diggers	21/10/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>WITNES TESTIFIES IN TAYALI'S DEFAMATION OF THE PRESEIDENT CASE"</i></p> <p>Summary : A witness has told the Lusaka Magistrate court that he was merely following instructions when he seized Chilufya Tayali's phone and handed it over to the Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) for further investigations</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
News Diggers	19/10/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>WITNES TESTIFIES IN TAYALI'S DEFAMATION OF THE PRESEIDENT CASE</i></p> <p>Summary : A witness has told the Lusaka Magistrate court that he was merely following instructions when he seized Chilufya Tayali's phone and handed it over to the Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) for further investigations.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>

Times Of Zambia	15/10/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>CALLING HH DIRECTLY ON RADIO</i></p> <p>Summary : When President Hakainde Hichilema shared his plan to have interactions with ordinary citizens on radio when he just won the August 12 elections, it seemed impractical for a head of State to put himself on the spot through a Phone-in programme.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Times Of Zambia	23/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>keep watchful eye on budget implementation</i></p> <p>Summary : Journalists should consistently report about the national budget planning and implementation Process to promote transparency in the use of public funds to avert corruption.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Daily Nation	23/12/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SECURES FUNDING FOR A PHASED DOWNSIZING OF STAFF AT TIMES OF ZAMBIA</i></p> <p>Summary : On 22nd November there was an Internal Memo from IDC to the staff at Times of Zambia indicating downsizing the workforce at the institution.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
Daily Mail	24/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>MUSOKOTWANE-KASANDA CONFER ON PUBLIC MEDIA MATTERS</i></p> <p>Summary : Finance and National Planning Minister Dr Situmbeko Musokotwane and his counterpart at Information and Media Ministry Chushi Kasanda today held a strategic visioning meeting for the public media.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
News Diggers	26/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>We will repeal IBA Act - Kasanda</i></p> <p>Summary : INFORMATION and Broadcasting Minister Chushi Kasanda says government will repeal and replace the Independent Broadcasting Authority IBA Act in 2022.</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>
News Diggers	29/11/2021 -	<p>Title : <i>GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MANDATORY VACCINATION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND JOURNALIST</i></p> <p>Summary : GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MANDATORY VACCINATION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND JOURNALIST</p> <p>[Click here to access on web]</p>



Postal & Physical Address:
P.O. Box 32295, Lusaka,

Plot 3814 Martin Mwamba
Road , Olympia Park,
Lusaka, Zambia

Email: info@misazambia.org.uk

Tel: +260 211 294285 /6