



Fox Report Zambia

“An analysis of the
Freedom of Expression,
Media Freedom and
Digital Rights in Zambia.”

USAID ‘Open Spaces Zambia’ Project



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*“An Analysis of Freedom of Expression, Media Freedom and Digital Rights
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For the period January to June 2022.

MISA ZAMBIA



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FOREWORD

MISA Zambia was established to promote and defend media freedom and freedom of expression within Zambia, to take appropriate steps where such freedom is violated and to seek to remove obstacles and impediments to the free flow of information.

The free flow of information allows citizens to be kept up-to-date with the Nation's current affairs thereby allowing them to make informed decisions.

It also allows for the access to information which remains key in the ability of citizens to hold office bearers accountable and promote transparency as well as accountability. Democracy, which is essentially about transparency, accountability and good governance is dependent on the ability of citizens to access information. The free flow of information is crucial to the effective respect of human rights.

The role of the media is to educate, inform and entertain. In addition, the media must be left to play its role as a watchdog. This role allows it to bring out issues affecting citizens, without intimidation from state actors.

As we continue to advocate for media freedoms, freedom of expression and digital rights, it is also imperative that the legal environment is suitable for these freedoms to be realised and enjoyed. It has been observed that Media Practitioners, Activists and Human Rights Defenders have not invested time to interrogate laws and other pieces of legislation that affect their work. As a result, this leaves them at the mercy of the oppressive state, which uses these laws to clamp down on media houses and curtail media freedoms.

Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights remains one of MISA Zambia's three programme areas. As such, the institution will continuously **strive** to support media practitioners, social media users, human rights defenders and citizens with knowledge and information as well as evidence-based advocacy that will address the need for media related legal and policy reforms in Zambia.

Fr. Rev Dr Barnabas Simatende, OMI – MISA Zambia Chairperson

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ATI	Access to Information
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FoX	Freedom of Expression
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSZ	Open Spaces Zambia
PF	Patriotic Front
UPND	United Party for National Development
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority

PREFACE

Freedom of expression, digital rights and media freedoms are fundamental rights that constitute a functional democracy. These rights promote good governance through enabling the effective participation of citizens in the governance processes through the available platforms. The media and online platforms in Zambia play a crucial role in facilitating platforms for engagement by citizens.

The need to promote and uphold these rights cannot be overemphasized, every citizen including journalists, activists, human rights defenders (HRDs), and oppositional voices need to fully enjoy their fundamental right to freedom of expression. Hence laws, policies and cultural practices that promote and uphold these rights are needed.

As an institution that promotes free expression and other media freedoms, MISA Zambia is committed to the furtherance of these freedoms through the production of quality information that will enable media practitioners and other players in a democratic dispensation to demand freedom of expression and media freedom in Zambia through the production of evidence pointing to the need for legal and policy reforms.

Through the production of this report, it is hoped that the information contained herein will enhance the knowledge levels on law, policies or social behaviours in Zambia that have a bearing on freedom of expression. This report will therefore serve as evidence for engaging in the maintenance of best practices, laws, policies and also amendments or social change in order for this freedom to be promoted and hence promote a democratic culture in Zambia.

ABOUT THE OPEN SPACES ZAMBIA (OSZ) PROJECT

The Open Spaces Zambia (OSZ) project is funded by USAID and implemented by Internews in partnership with FHI 360. Local partners of the OSZ consortium are MISA-Zambia, Panos, and Bloggers of Zambia. The OSZ project supports an open, inclusive environment in which media, civil society, and activists provide accurate and impartial information that promotes participation, inclusion and accountability.

The OSZ target beneficiaries include Zambian community and commercial print, broadcast, and online media outlets and journalists, media associations, civil society organizations (CSOs), social media influencers, bloggers, and activists. Secondary audiences include Zambian citizens and the government.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MISA Zambia wishes to thank Internews Network Zambia and FHI 360 for their support in the implementation of the USAID funded Open Spaces Zambia (OSZ) Project and particularly the development of this Report. A special thanks is given to the consultant Mr Charles Lungu who drafted this Report alongside the MISA Zambia staff that include the National Director Mr Austine Kayanda, Mr Michael Njobvu and Ms Jane Chirwa who worked tirelessly to ensure the report was produced.

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **FOX Report Zambia** which is an analysis of the state of Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights is the first of its kind produced under the USAID funded Open Spaces Zambia (OSZ) project being implemented by FHI 360, Internews and local partners MISA-Zambia, Panos and Bloggers of Zambia.

The report is based on a stakeholder perception analysis and presents an outlook of the current situation of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. It covers the period; January - June 2022.

The analysis was carried out across the 10 provinces of Zambia covering a total of 283 participants which include journalists, bloggers, media lecturers, civil society organisations, political parties and human rights defenders.

The period under review has shown that media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights are partially enjoyed. According to the findings of this study, the majority of participants (74%) said media freedom is limited in Zambia due to factors such as political interference, media ownership and the existence of certain laws.

However, the period under review indicates that most media houses are operating freely without any disruptions on their programming either from Government or political party cadres. There has also been improvement in terms of coverage of issues such as the liberty to cover opposition political parties on radio and television programs without being censored by government. Stakeholders also revealed that presently, the media is able to report on any issue of public interest and that the private media is now free to cover state functions and government events unlike in the past when these functions were a preserve of public media. Most of these improvements have been attributed to key pronouncements from government aimed at restoring media freedom and freedom expression in the country.

Though there are these improvements reported, cases of harassment and intimidation of journalists and media houses by state institutions, political party cadres and the public have not completely stopped. In the period under review, 34 journalists and 3 media houses have been harassed, intimidated and threatened.

Access to information was reported to still be a challenge by majority journalists. Most journalists (77%) interviewed reported to have poor access to government information due to bureaucracy and lack of decentralized information channels.

On the digital rights front, more than half of respondents (56%) said there was moderate enjoyment of digital rights in Zambia. And the others representing 34% and 10% rated the enjoyment of digital rights as high and low respectively. Results further show that more than half (55.9 %) of respondents who are digital users understand their digital rights while 44.1% showcased a lack of understanding of digital rights. The lack of understanding is attributed to limited sensitization programs of citizens about digital rights by government and civil society. The high cost of devices and internet were also said to be contributing to the partial enjoyment of digital rights by citizens and that rural populations currently have limited access to internet in Zambia. Arrests of citizens as a result of postings on social media also contributed to this poor enjoyment of digital rights as 25 people were reported to have been arrested for posting defamatory content online.

Freedom of expression is reported to be moderately exercised according to revelations by more than half of stakeholders (54 %). This was attributed to the existence of laws such as the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act, Public Order Act, State Security Act of 1969, Chapter 69 and other chapters of the Penal Code.

Arising from the aforementioned issues, it is clear that the discourse on media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights remains an all-time one especially with the absence of solid constitutional reforms that guarantee media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.

2.0 AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

2.1 Purpose of the Study

The overall purpose of the study was to assess the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia over a six month period. The results are very instrumental in aiding decision-making during policy review and formulation. They will also guide advocacy efforts of projects such as Open Spaces Zambia and any other stakeholders seeking to strengthen democracy in Zambia and enhance the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

2.2 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to produce a report on the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.

The following were the specific objectives of the study:

1. To assess the current level of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.
2. To investigate factors limiting or enhancing the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.
3. To assess the current level of understanding of digital rights among digital users (bloggers) in Zambia.

3.0 METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

The study was conducted across 10 provinces of Zambia and had participation from journalists, media bodies, lecturers, bloggers, political party leaders (ruling and opposition), civil society organisations and human rights defenders. The study was conducted among 200 journalists drawn from both public and private media, 15 media bodies, 30 bloggers, 3 lecturers, 30 human rights defenders and 5 political party leaders.

The participants were purposively selected based on their presumed or known knowledge of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. This method of sampling requires that a researcher relies on his judgment to select participants or study population with the characteristics specifically applicable to the study. In this case, the researcher applied his judgement to select journalists, bloggers, CSOs/HRDs, Media lecturers, Media bodies and Political parties that were relevant to participate in the study.

The research which was both qualitative and quantitative in nature employed the use of structured questionnaires, interview guides and analysis of different reports about media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in collecting the data.

All ethical considerations in carrying the research were upheld and participants' consent was sought before they were interviewed.

3.2 Background Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Respondents' Category

Type of Respondent	Number of Respondents
Journalists	200
Bloggers	30
Media bodies/press clubs	15
Media Lecturers	3
CSO/HRDs	30
Political Parties	5
Total	283

The table above shows that the study was conducted among 200 Journalists, 30 Bloggers, 15 Media bodies/Press clubs, 30 CSO/HRDs, 3 Media lecturers and 5 Political parties.

Table 2: Representation of Respondents by Age

Age of Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Less than 35 years	157	55.5
Above 35 years	126	44.5
Total	283	100.0

Table 1.0 shows that a study had a youth representation of 55.5 % (157) and 44.5 % represented those above the age of 35 years (126).

The table further shows that some youths in Zambia are involved in advocacy; working as activists and some are working as journalists and bloggers.

Table 3: Respondents' Current Level of Experience

Level of Experience	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1 year	13	4.6
1-3 years	57	20.1
4-5 years	48	17.0
More than 5 years	165	58.3
TOTAL	283	100

Table 2 shows that the majority of respondents have been working in their respective fields (politics, media, media and human rights advocacy and blogging) for more than 5 years.

4.0 STUDY FINDINGS

Figure 1: Access to Information by Journalists

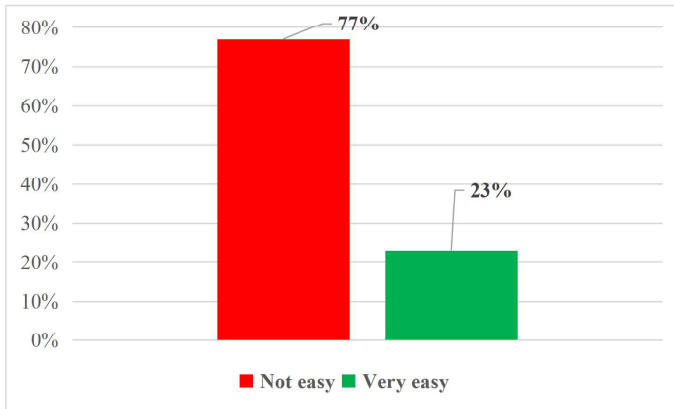
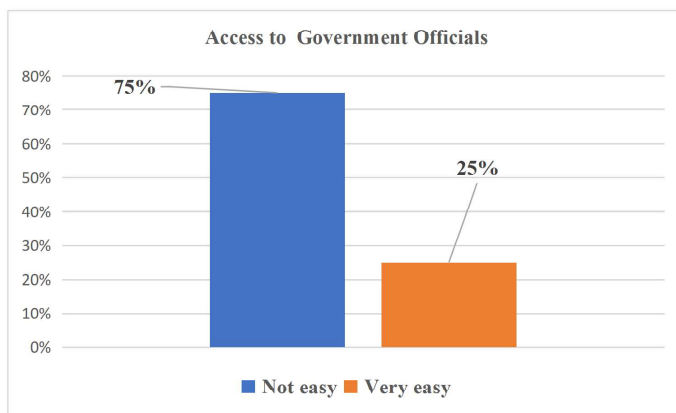


Figure 1 shows the level of access to information by journalists in Zambia. More than half of journalists (77%) surveyed reported not to have easy access to government information. Less than a quarter of them (23%) reported to have easy access.

Figure 2: Access to Government Officials



The figure above shows the current state of access to government officials by surveyed journalists. Out of the 200 journalists interviewed (75%) (150 journalists) reported that their access to government officials is not easy. A quarter of them (25%) (50), described their access to the officials as very easy.

Figure 3: Incidents of Journalists Intimidation, Harassment and Threatening

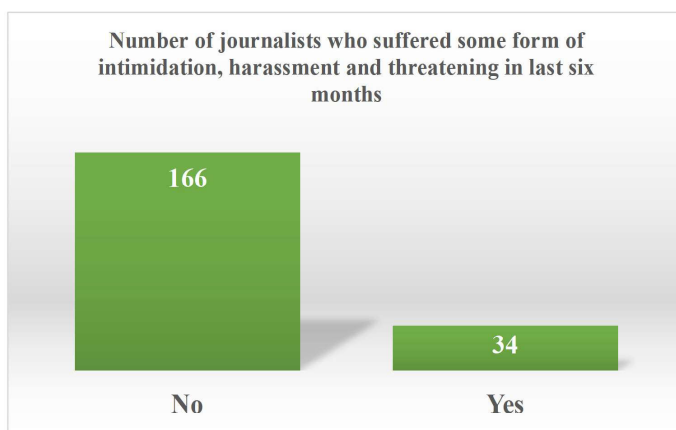


Figure 3 above shows that 34 journalists have been intimidated, harassed and threatened in the last 6 months in Zambia.

Figure 4: Sources of Intimidation, Harassment and Threats

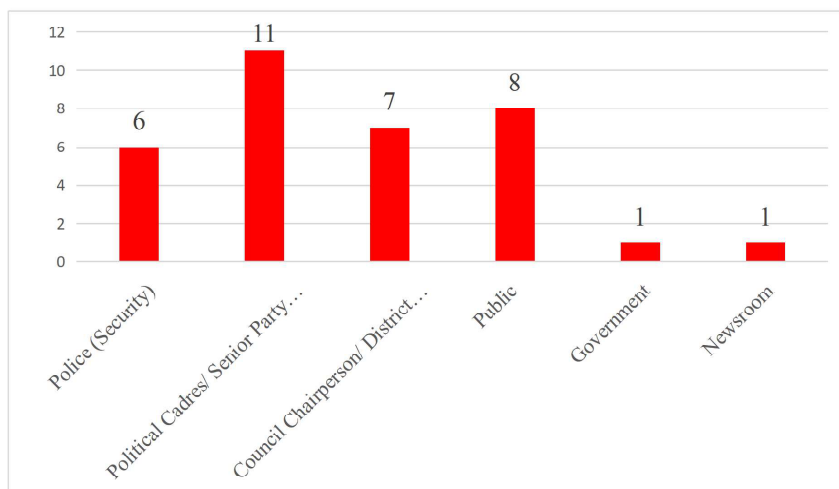
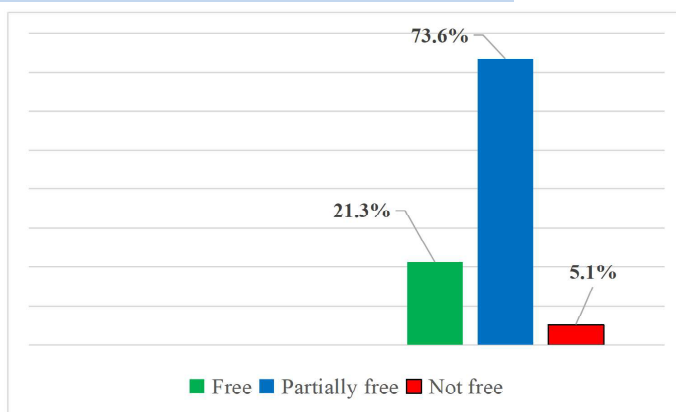


Figure 4 shows that the highest number of cases (11) involving intimidation, harassment and threatening of journalists was attributed to political players (cadres and party officials). Seconded by the public (8 cases), followed by council chairpersons and district commissioners (7 cases) and the police (6 cases). The lowest number of cases (1) came from central government and a newsroom at a named media house.

Figure 5: Stakeholders Perception of Media Freedom



The figure above indicates that more than half of respondents (73.6%) views the operation of the media as partially free in Zambia. Less than a quarter of them (21.3%) views the media as free, while the rest (5.1%) said media is not free in Zambia.

Figure 6: Respondents position on IBA’s licensing of the broadcast media

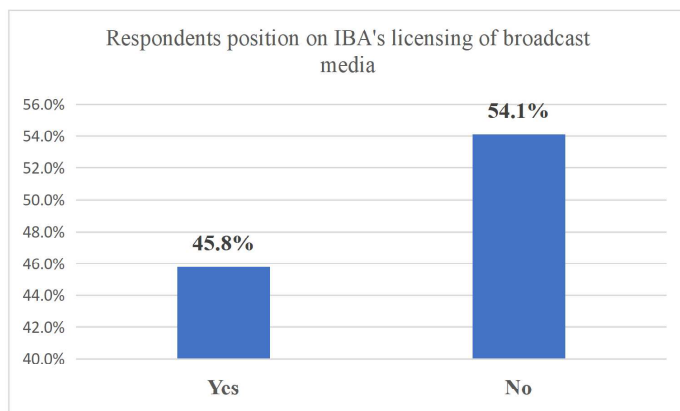


Figure 6 shows that more than half of respondents (54.1%) do not support IBA’s licensing of broadcast media.

Figure 7: Perception of Freedom of Expression

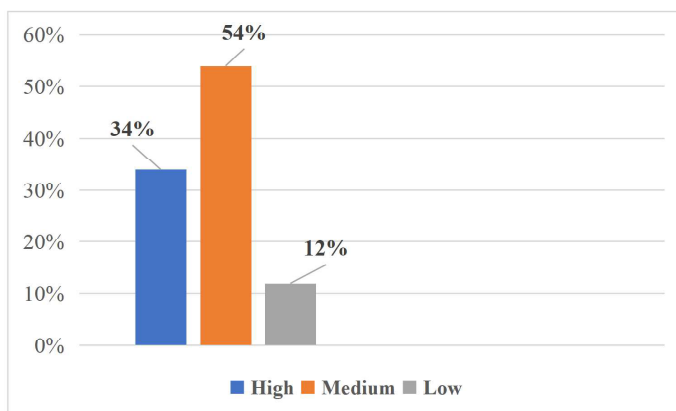


Figure 7 indicates that 54% of respondents are of the view that freedom of expression in Zambia in the last six months has not been enjoyed fully. And 34 % of them said that freedom of expression was high, whilst 12 % of the respondents said it was low.

Figure 8: Shows the perception of stakeholders with regards to respect for freedom of expression in Zambia.

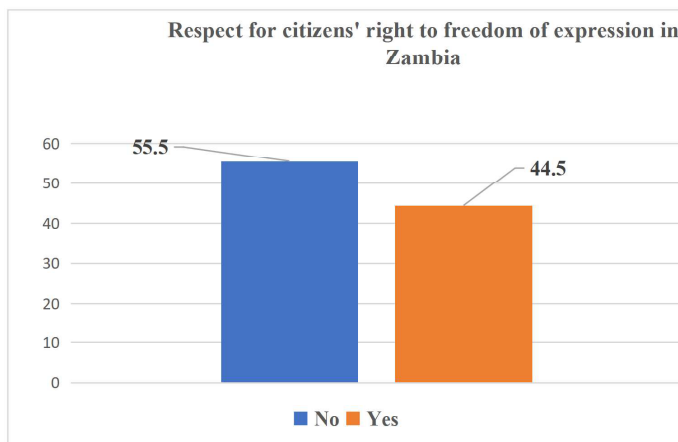


Figure 8 shows that more than half (55.5 %) of human rights defenders (HRDs) think that freedom of expression is not respected in Zambia, while 44.5 % of them think that it is respected.

Figure 9: Stakeholders Perception of Digital Rights Enjoyment

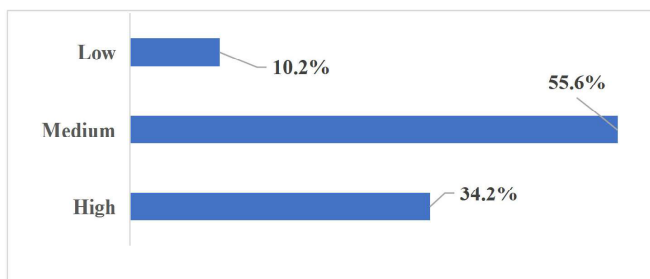


Figure 9 shows that the current enjoyment of digital rights is moderate confirmed by 55.6% number of respondents who rated the enjoyment as medium. 10.2% of respondents perceive the enjoyment of digital rights by citizens as low, while 34.2 % have rated it high.

Figure 10: Understanding of Digital Rights by Bloggers

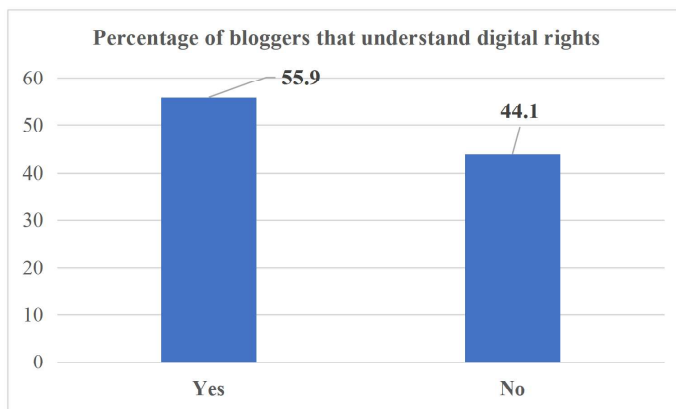


Figure 10 shows that 55.9% of bloggers interviewed understand digital rights while 44.1 % do not. Therefore, more than half of interviewed bloggers understand digital rights and the rest do not.

Figure 11: Support for Media Self-regulation by HRDs

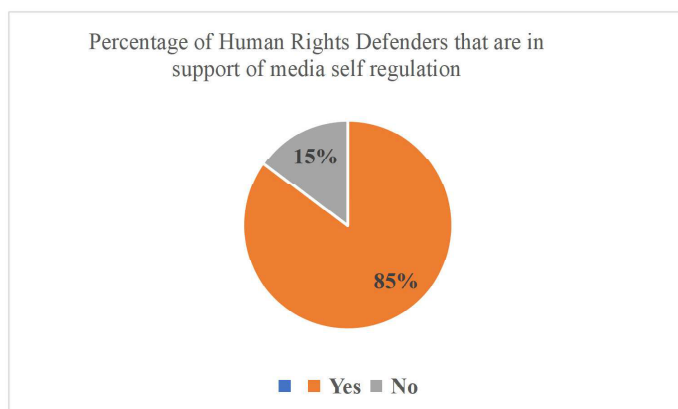


Figure 11 shows that the majority of human rights defenders (85%) interviewed are in support of media self-regulation. And less than a quarter of them (15%) do not.

Figure 12: Government Protection to Digital Users

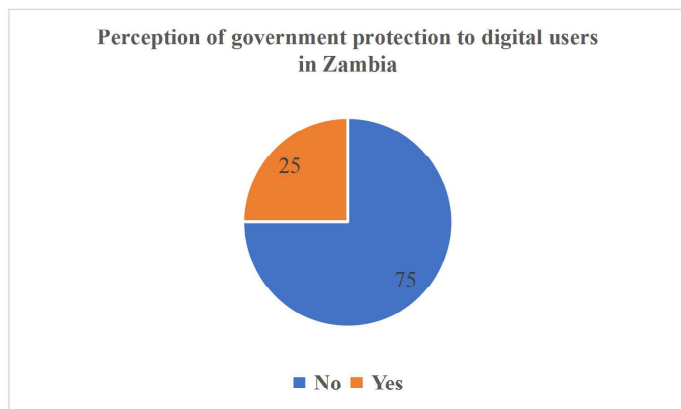


Figure 12 shows that majority of respondents (75%) think that government is not doing enough to protect digital users in Zambia, while a quarter of them (25%) thinks that the protection by government is enough.

Figure 13: Number of bloggers that have experienced a cyber-attack before

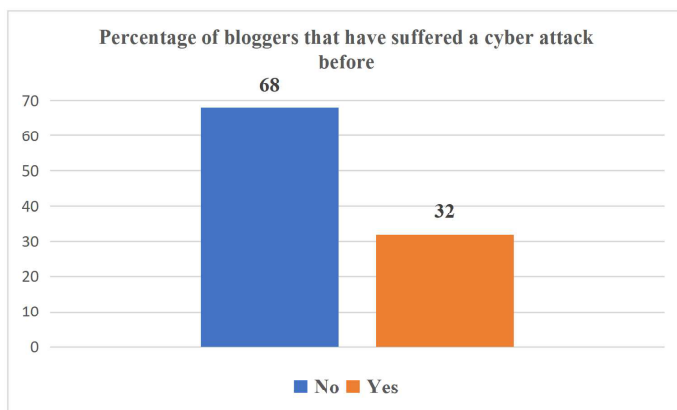


Figure 13 shows that the majority of respondents (68%) have not suffered a cyber-attack. While the number of those that have experienced an attack stood at 32%.

4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM

This section of the report presents a discussion of findings in relation to state of media freedom and freedom of expression.

According to the respondents, media freedom is very important as it promotes transparency and accountability in the management of public resources and public decision making. In a democracy, the role of the media cannot be underemphasized because through its effective provision of information, it plays a watchdog role on decision makers and also empowers citizens to make informed decisions on matters of public interest. This can only be attained if individuals and journalists who express themselves through the media are not subjected to acts of harassment or reprisal by those in authority. When media is free, it offers checks and balances to the three organs of the government which are the executive, legislature and judiciary hence fulfilling its role as a fourth estate. A free media also offers platforms to members of the public for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression. It is only through such expressions that Government can be able to know issues affecting the general citizenry.

Interesting to note, the period under review has shown that journalists in Zambia continue to experience acts of intimidation, harassment and threats from different actors which include political party cadres, police, members of the public and other government functionaries. For instance, our findings indicate that out of 200 journalists interviewed, 34 confirmed to have either been attacked, harassed or threatened in the last six months. Out of the total number recorded, the highest number of cases (11) was attributed to political party cadres and senior party officials. Eight cases were attributed to the members of the public and seven cases were attributed to the council chairpersons and district commissioners. The police were also cited with six cases and the central government as well as a media house newsroom committed one case each. The proportion of those attacked stood at 17% translating into 83% of those that did not experience any form of attack. Therefore, the journalists believe that this is a reduction in the number of cases of intimidation and harassment of journalists and media

houses. This reduction has been attributed to President Hichilema's call to end caderism and intimidation of the media in the country.

The media has not been completely free in Zambia because at times media houses have been reprimanded for stories aired on their platforms which did not sit well with those in authority. For instance, on 21 January this year, KBN TV station manager was summoned, interrogated and arrested by police for reporting on a leaked audio involving senior government officials. Similarly, a board member for Kasempa Radio station in North-Western Province of Zambia was called by a local authority official demanding the dismissal of two employees who had been airing accountability programmes. The named official also pursued local community members who reside in the area and influenced a traditional court to summon them and fine them for defaming him. These acts of intimidation and victimization of the media have a likelihood of instilling fear in journalists and citizens. Such acts if tolerated promote a culture of censorship and impacts negatively on the citizens' right to freedom of expression.

Further, media freedom in Zambia has continued to be impacted by the journalists' poor access to information. The culture of secrecy among government officials has persisted which sees government information necessary for public use treated as secret (confidential) and in-house information. For instance, the majority of journalists interviewed (77%) indicated that their access to information is not easy due to bureaucracy and lack of decentralized information channels. Journalists in rural districts of the country explained that for several times, the district officials refer them to provincial officials and Lusaka which headquarters most of the government ministries or institutions. They indicated that district officials refuse to comment on matters of public interest including local issues affecting some communities.

The journalists also indicated that press queries which are sent to government institutions take days, sometimes weeks to be responded to while others are never responded to rendering some of their stories unusable. The majority of journalists (75%) also reported having challenges in reaching government officials especially permanent secretaries and ministers for news, radio and television programs. They indicated that because of these challenges, most media houses air one-sided stories and that sometimes stories are discarded. This therefore points to the need by government to urgently consider enacting the Access to Information (ATI) Bill which has stalled for a longtime. The bill is said to be key in enhancing clarity on what information the public institutions are mandated to release to the

media and public. Government should also consider decentralizing information channels and enhance engagements with the media through various levels of government representation from national, provincial to district level. This will greatly assist government officials to appreciate and understand the role of the media.

Majority of respondents (73.6%) indicated that media freedom and freedom of expression is greatly hindered by the existence of some laws. For instance, the State Security Act of 1969 is said to be very restrictive as most citizens including the media cannot freely report and discuss matters that border on security. Through this law, the state can declare any government document as a “secret document” which contains classified information. Therefore, media practitioners and member of the public can be arrested if found with such kind of documents.

The Penal Code was equally cited and most respondents argued that Section 69 of this law that criminalizes defamation of the President is unconstitutionally vague as the interpretation of what constitutes defamation is left in the hands of the state. Equally, journalists also indicated that because of this law, they are not free to report on matters around the office of the president for fear of being cited. Even citizens are not free to criticize the President for fear of being cited and charged with defamation of the President which attracts a maximum sentence of three years if convicted. For instance, in the period under review, a number of citizens including several political figures have been arrested and charged with defamation of the president and at least two people have been convicted among them, a driver at Evelyn Hone College.

The Penal Code also contains other sections that make it hard for citizens and the media to exercise the right to freedom of expression. Some of these sections include Section 53 that gives power to the President to declare some publications as “**prohibited publications**” and warrants bans of particular publication or series of publications produced by a person or associations of persons considered to contain matters contrary to public interest. It further prescribes a prison sentence of 2 years and a fine for any person who imports, publishes, sells, offers for sale, distributes or reproduces any prohibited publication. The other section of the Penal Code inimical to freedom of expression and media freedom is Section 57 that relates to offences classified as **sedition practices**. Seditious practices include among them; intention to advocate the desirability of overthrowing by unlawful means the government, an action to

excite disaffection against the government or among the people of Zambia, inciting violence or any offence prejudicial to public order or in disturbance of public peace and/or any intention to incite resistance or disobedience to any law. According to this section, a person who utters seditious words or prints, publishes, sells, offers for sale, distributes or reproduces any seditious publication is liable for imprisonment for seven years or can be fined, whilst those found in possession of such publication are liable for imprisonment for two years or to a fine or to both. The presence of these provisions in the penal code promotes acts of self-censorship among citizens and the media which affects the quality of public debate necessary in a functional democracy. They also make it hard for opposition political parties to offer constructive checks and balances to the government as those in authority can use these provisions to persecute other political players by subjecting them to arrests on frivolous charges. However, the period under review has not seen these provisions of the law being invoked by the state to prosecute citizens and opposition political parties.

The Public Order Act (POA) was said to be the other law impacting media freedom and freedom of expression in Zambia. This law restricts public gatherings and most journalists indicated that their coverage and reporting is usually interrupted when police decides to disperse gatherings on condition that they lack permits. Equally, the journalists' health or lives can be endangered when security wings try to quell unrests through use of force such as unleashing of teargas. And for some without proper identification, police can end up arresting them like ordinary members of the public.

Further, the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act was also cited to impact negatively on the work of journalists as it compels one to provide articles, documents or computers to security wings to facilitate investigations acts that can expose whistleblowers who unearth wrongdoing in high ranking positions or powerful entities. The journalists indicated that this is an act of infringement on their right to privacy and has now rendered investigative journalism challenging especially against those in authority. They also stated that the provision that allows for monitoring and intercepting of communication by cyber inspectors is unfriendly and has forced news sources not to speak to the media especially through phone call conversations as they fear that doing so exposes their information to third parties. The law therefore defeats the whole purpose of having the media play its role of a watchdog and contribute to human rights promotion and good governance.

Despite the above highlighted institutional and legal challenges facing the media in Zambia, majority of journalists have rated the current environment as conducive to the practice of journalism. The journalists indicated that since the coming of the new dawn government, there has been notable improvement that have provided a free operating space to the media. They disclosed that cases of harassment and intimidation of media houses have reduced compared to the past. They also pointed out that this time the media is free to report on any matter of public interest without any form of interference from the government. They further indicated that media is now free to cover the opposition political parties unlike in the past when such acts could attract serious reactions from government and political party cadres from the ruling party.

Similarly, most journalists from private media houses confirmed to be covering state functions together with the public media. One journalist from a private media house revealed that she can now go to places (Soweto market and Intercity bus terminus) that were dreaded in the past carrying a camera and the members of the public allows her to collect stories without any interference or victimization.

Respondents also reported that freedom of expression in Zambia in the last six months has greatly improved as compared to the past. They indicated that people especially opposition political party leaders are free to express themselves and criticise government. They indicated that even ordinary members of the public such as marketeers are freely commenting on issues affecting them without any intimidation from political party cadres. Protests have also been conducted by citizens in different parts of the country without any brutalisation from police or cadres. Similarly, people's participation in radio programmes is also reported to have increased and most media houses did not report any acts of disruption of live radio and television programs either by the police or party cadres as it was the case in the past years before change of government.

Regarding acts of state interference in media's operation, in the last six months, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has not closed any radio or television station. The authority has equally not suspended and cancelled a broadcasting license for any media house. This is a positive development as far as free operation of the media is concerned. The authority has however continued to monitor the practices of broadcasters to ensure that there is adherence to the set standards as stipulated by the IBA Act.

However, more than half of respondents (54.1%) do not support IBA's licensing of the broadcast media as the institution is perceived as a tool through which government controls the media in Zambia. They cited the suspension of broadcasting licenses for Muvi TV, Komboni Radio, and Radio Itzhi Tezhi in 2016 and the closure of Prime TV in 2019 as attempts to silence critical media houses especially those from the private media. The respondents suggest that the institution should only continue to license the broadcast media in the absence of an independent body to regulate the media. They have further called for its autonomy to detach the institution from political interference which for a longtime has been associated with it. They also posited that the independence of IBA will level the playfield for both public and private media.

On media self-regulation, majority of HRDs (85%) supports the need to have an independent body to regulate the conduct of media practitioners in Zambia. They indicated that journalists are professionals who have the experience and formal training necessary for self-regulation. They hold the view that government regulation of the media is often associated with political interference and does not promote a free media.

Further, blogging is said to be slowly taking over the role of information dissemination for the mainstream media. Some journalists interviewed indicated that audience preferences and patterns of accessing news are slowly shifting to social media due to the increase in the number of bloggers and their ability to transmit information rapidly. They explained that the public is now more inclined to social media than traditional media especially in urban areas of the country. And that bloggers do not have specific bulletin timetables and hence provide news as it happens which makes them attractive. Most journalist however noted that journalism is under digital siege as some unverified reports that are shared by bloggers are usually blamed on the traditional media acts that compromise its credibility in the eyes of the members of the public who cannot distinguish a real journalist from a blogger. Nonetheless, most bloggers view their practice as a supplementary function to traditional media as some of them are trained journalists.

STATE OF DIGITAL RIGHTS

Digital rights are not yet enshrined in the Zambian Constitution and hence citizens rely on international human rights instruments in exercising these rights. On the other hand, government has put in place a number of legislations that seek to promote digital rights in Zambia such as the Data Protection Act of 2021, Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act of 2021, Electronic Government Act of 2021 and Electronic Communications and Transactions Act of 2021. In a nutshell, the Data Protection Act provides for an effective system for the use and protection of personal data, the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act was instituted to provide cyber security, the Electronic Government Act provides for promotion of electronic government services and processes thereby enabling citizens access to government services and information online and the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act provides for a safe and effective environment for electronic transactions.

According to the study findings, the enjoyment of digital rights in Zambia was said to be moderate by more than half of the respondents (55.6%). This was attributed to the high cost of devices and internet services such as data bundles. Many people are said not to be affording reliable and effective devices for accessing internet. Besides, access to internet in rural areas remains limited to those in rural towns whilst those in peripheral areas are said not to have access at all.

They also posited that the existence of the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes law has instilled fear in some people especially seeing that some people have been arrested and charged with defamation for posting on social media.

Freedom of expression in Zambia seem to be high online as most citizens and opposition parties are free to express themselves even to criticize government on its major decisions impacting their lives. Social media has now emerged as a popular platform where most public debates or discourses are held. However, there is a new form of political caderism that has emerged online popularly known as “praise singers” referring to an organized group of political supporters for the ruling party that defends and rebuts any accusation bordering on government inadequacy in service delivery. The group sometimes verbally attacks those opposing the government and some respondents especially from the opposition political

parties interviewed indicated that this group to a certain extent exists to curtail free expression of citizens especially those offering checks and balances to government.

Digital access in Zambia has led to increase in the number of people engaged in blogging. Most respondents spoken to indicate that for years now, they have engaged in blogging. For instance, results show that 38.2% of respondents have been blogging for more than 5 years. Similarly, the number of new entrants into blogging appears to be increasing evident by revelations from 20.6% of bloggers who indicated to have started blogging in the past one year. The number of those that have engaged in blogging in the last 5 years was also high standing at 42.2% of the sampled population.

Internet is used for multiple purposes in Zambia; respondents reported to be using their platforms to inform and educate, entertain, promote personal brands, advertise and sale products.

The enjoyment of digital rights is also evident by the number of social media users who produce their own content to post on their sites. The majority of bloggers (65%) confirmed to be producers of their content while some do not. According to the results, 35% of respondents indicated that they do not produce the content they post online. However, it is captivating to note that despite these revelations, traditional media also plays its role of being the most reliable and dependable source of information among digital users (bloggers). For instance, out of 30 bloggers who took part in the survey, half the number of users confirmed to have been using content from mainstream media.

Verification of information among users is also very high. The majority of bloggers (81%) indicated that they verify their information before posting it or sharing online. Some of the methods used for verification include cross checking with sources, research and reading news from other sites. Majority of respondents (81%) also reported to be practicing censorship of content they use so as to avoid liabilities that could arise from legal suits and consequent financial burdens that come with court processes. The other reason was that of ensuring that the content published is useful, newsworthy and fit for public use. Upholding the credibility of platforms was also cited to be another reason for censorship. The frequency of censorship differs as some people reported to be censoring content all the time while others said they only do that sometimes.

The knowledge of laws that regulate Zambia's cyber space is low. Our findings show that only more than half (62%) of bloggers that took part in the survey do not know any laws that regulate the cyber space in Zambia. This therefore calls for more sensitisation of citizens about cyber laws that have been formulated by government recently.

Further, the understanding of digital rights among digital users in Zambia is moderate. Findings show that 55.9% of respondents understand their digital rights while 44.1 % do not. However, the majority of Human Rights Defenders interviewed are of the view that majority of citizens do not understand their digital rights as they are a new set of rights. They attributed this to lack of sensitization of citizens on the stated rights by Government and the civil society. Despite this revelation by the rights defenders, majority of those interviewed believe that the right to freedom of expression and the right to privacy for citizens applies both online and offline.

In terms of government protection of digital users, a quarter (25%) of respondents feel government is doing enough to protect users in Zambia while the majority (75%) of respondents indicated that government was not doing enough. They cited a number of unsolicited messages received in the past by citizens and some hackings of Facebook accounts for users experienced recently as some of the reasons that show that there is poor protection of digital users in the country by government.

Despite this interesting revelation, the number of respondents that have experienced a form of cyber-attack was minimal. Findings indicate that out of the total number of bloggers surveyed, only 32% have in the past been attacked on the cyber space. And those that reported to have experienced an attack online explained that the type of attack encountered mostly was that of cyber bullying through insulting comments.

Respondents' views on government regulation of online content differed. Half of them supports government regulation of content for promotion of responsible use; regulation of obscenity, stopping propaganda and misinformation. Conversely, the opponents of regulation postulated that a person has digital rights and therefore a virtual space which is not owned by government does not require regulation as doing so infringes on freedom of expression and the citizens' right to access digital media.

In closing, this report has highlighted a number of positive and negative events surrounding the current situation of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.

On a positive note, the coming of the new dawn government is a sigh to the media. Most journalists have reported that the current environment is conducive to the practice of journalism as cases of violence, intimidation or threats on the media have minimized. Media houses have reported that they are now freely airing political radio programs and featuring opposition political parties without facing any interference from state institutions such as Zambia Police and IBA or from ruling party cadres. Some citizens and opposition political party leaders are free to express themselves both in the physical space and on cyber space without intimidation from the state or party cadres except on few occasions when the exercise of rights has resulted in injuring those of others which has forced the state to act on suspects. Further, Government has not made any deliberate efforts to trample on media freedom, the citizens' right to freedom of expression and digital rights in the period under review. Citizens' access to internet has not been deliberately blocked by authorities by way of shutdowns.

However, media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights have continued to be hindered by lack of access to critical government information by citizens and journalists. In addition, a number of laws that infringe upon media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights continue to exist unrepealed which potentially provides a fertile ground for abuse by the authorities.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the foregoing, it is recommended that government, media bodies, civil society and other interested parties do the following:

Government Recommendations

- The Access to Information (ATI) Bill should be taken to parliament by Ministry of Information and Media (MIM) for enactment so that journalists and citizens are given rights to access government information at any time they may need it. This will enable citizens and the media to participate effectively in the governance processes.
- Government (all ministries and departments) should decentralize information functions to empower functionaries especially at district level to respond to local information needs. In doing so, we recommend that the public relations units in the councils should be functional and act as focal points among the media, community and government. The ministries and government departments should also consider regularly updating the websites and Facebook pages so as to ease access to information for citizens and journalists.
- There is also need to scale up stakeholder engagements for government, media and community members (citizens) to foster mutual understanding among these parties.
- Government (Ministry of Justice) should repeal all the laws inimical to the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in the country. Some of these laws include; the State Security Act of 1969, Penal Code, Public Order Act, Independent Broadcasting Authority Act of 2002 and Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act No.2 of 2021.

Stakeholders' Recommendations

- CSOs/NGOs including government should increase citizens' sensitization programs/activities focused on digital rights, other civil and political rights and the existing laws.

Media's Recommendations

- Media should continue to lobby and advocate for pieces of legislation that provides for safety and independence of practitioners.
- Media should reinvent itself to respond to technological advancements so as to remain relevant and continue to serve the masses. This will only be possible if media practitioners can adopt t new tools and gadgets for gathering and reporting news.

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OPEN SPACES ZAMBIA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JOURNALISTS

The State of Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights in Zambia

Introduction

Greetings, my name is -----

MISA Zambia is conducting research to understand the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. It is doing so under a project called Open Spaces Zambia – OSZ.

FHI 360, Internews and local partners MISA-Zambia, Panos, and Bloggers of Zambia are implementing the USAID Open Spaces Zambia (OSZ) funded activity, to strengthen the democratic foundations of freedom of speech and assembly; build independent and new media; and safeguard a space for activists, human rights defenders (HRDs), and oppositional voices to protect the democratic space in Zambia. The OSZ target beneficiaries are broadly media consumers in Zambia, with a particular focus on youth, women and girls, and other historically marginalized groups. Activities will specifically target media support organizations involved in advocacy; community radio stations in select provinces; outlets with online/social media presence (including radio and television stations); and social media users, technologists, and activists. This study is necessary as it will provide a comprehensive status of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. It will also highlight the current legal and policy issues inimical to the enjoyment of these freedoms. The study will be very instrumental in aiding decision-making during policy review and formulation. Ultimately, it will guide projects like Open Spaces Zambia – OSZ advocacy

efforts and any other such work seeking to strengthen democracy in Zambia and enhance the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

You have been selected to participate in this study because of your knowledge of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

Be assured that the information you will give remains confidential and will not be used for any other reason except for purposes of this research. If you wish to be named, kindly let me know.....TICK THIS SPACE IF RESPONDENT HAS AGREED TO BE MENTIONED IN REPORT.

There are no direct benefits for your participation, we will however appreciate your cooperation. It will not take you more than 30 minutes to answer all the questions contained in this questionnaire.

THANK YOU.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF RESPONDENT

1. Name of media house
2. Type of media house. **(Please Tick where appropriate)**
 - a) Public print media
 - b) Private print media
 - c) Public broadcast media
 - d) Private broadcast media
 - e) Religious community broadcast media
 - f) Community broadcast media
3. State your position
4. What is your sex?
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
5. What is the current number of years you have worked in the media industry?
 - a) Less than 1 year
 - b) 1 to 3 years
 - c) 4 to 5 years
 - d) More than 5 years
6. State your age
 - a) Less than 35 years
 - b) Above 35 years

SECTION B: CURRENT STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

1. Do you think the media operates freely in Zambia?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
2. State the reason (s) for your answer to question
3. What is the importance of media freedom?
4. Have you suffered any form of attack, harassment or threats as a journalist in the last 6 months?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
5. If yes, where did the harassment or threats come from?
6. How easy is your access to information in Zambia?
 - a) Very easy
 - b) Not easy
 - c) It is tough
7. How is your access to government officials?
 - a) Not easy
 - b) Very easy
8. If your answer to question 6 is **not easy**, state the reason(s)
9. What do you think should be done to change the situation?
10. Are there some laws that you think restrict the operations of the media in Zambia?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
11. If your answer is yes, what are those laws?
12. For the laws you have stated above, how do they restrict the operations of the media in Zambia?
13. Should Government through IBA continue to license broadcast media?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
14. State the reason(s) for your answer to question 13
15. What is your measure of media freedom in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) Free
 - b) Partially free
 - c) Not free
16. Why do you say so?
17. Give examples
18. What is your measure of digital rights enjoyment in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low

19. Why do you say so?
20. Give examples.
21. What is your measure of freedom of expression in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
22. Why do you say so?
23. Give examples.
24. What do you think should be done to change the situation?
25. Do you think the operations of the media are threatened by the presence of bloggers?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
26. State the reason(s) for your answer.
27. Do you think Government should regulate the type of content bloggers post online?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
28. Do you think the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act provision that allows for a person, premise or an information system to be searched, seizure of an article, document or record that has a bearing on an investigation will promote media freedom?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
29. Give a reason for your answer you have given above.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!!



OPEN SPACES ZAMBIA INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MEDIA ADVOCACY
BODIES/UNIONS AND LECTURERS

A Study to Appreciate the Current State of Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights in Zambia

Introduction

Greetings, my name is -----

MISA Zambia is conducting research to understand the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. It is doing so under a project called Open Spaces Zambia – OSZ.

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efforts and any other such work seeking to strengthen democracy in Zambia and enhance the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

You have been selected to participate in this study because of your knowledge of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

Be assured that the information you will give remains confidential and will not be used for any other reason except for purposes of this research. If you wish to be named, kindly let me know.....TICK THIS SPACE IF RESPONDENT HAS AGREED TO BE MENTIONED IN REPORT.

There are no direct benefits for your participation, we will however appreciate your cooperation. It will not take you more than 30 minutes to answer all the questions contained in this questionnaire.

THANK YOU

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF RESPONDENT

1. Name of Institution represented
2. Position of respondent
3. What is your sex?
 - c) Male
 - d) Female
4. What is the current number of years the stated field?
 - e) Less than 1 year
 - f) 1 to 3 years
 - g) 4 to 5 years
 - h) More than 5 years
5. State your age
 - Less than 35 years
 - Above 35 years

SECTION B: STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

1. What is your measure of media freedom in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) Free
 - b) Partially free
 - c) Not free
2. Why do you say so?
3. Give examples
4. What is your measure of digital rights enjoyment in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
5. Why do you say so?
6. Give examples.
7. What is your measure of freedom of expression in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
8. Why do you say so?
9. Give examples
10. What do you think should be done to change the situation?
11. Do you think Government is doing enough to promote media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?
12. What do you think should be done to promote media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?

SECTION C: ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTION TO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

13. What is your role in the promotion of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights?
14. What do you think should be done to ensure that citizens' rights and that of the media are protected both online and offline?
15. How does the curriculum speak to the current environment regards digital rights and publishing online?
21. It is up to date?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No.
22. Are there necessary skills to teach digital rights because it's a new discipline?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No.

23. How can better understanding of digital rights and online publishing be improved by the academia and media?
24. Is the body of knowledge that exists in Zambia on media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression sufficient?
- a) Yes
 - b) No.
25. Is there adequate research being undertaken by the academia on media development, media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights?
- a) Yes
 - b) No.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!!

Appendix 6: Interview Guide for Political Parties

Introduction

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There are no direct benefits for your participation, we will however appreciate your cooperation. It will not take you more than 30 minutes to answer all the questions contained in this questionnaire.

THANK YOU

- 1 What is your measure of media freedom in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) Free
 - b) Partially free
 - c) Not free
- 2 Why do you say so?
- 3 Give examples
- 4 What is your measure of digital rights enjoyment in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
- 5 Why do you say so?
- 6 Give examples.
- 7 What is your measure of freedom of expression in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
- 8 Why do you say so?
- 9 Give examples
- 10 What do you think should be done to change the situation?
- 11 Do you think Government is doing enough to promote media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?
- 12 What do you think should be done to promote media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?
- 13 What is your political party manifesto in relation to media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights?
- 14 How have you translated that into reality?
- 15 What disciplinary measures do you have to ensure your members respect and uphold media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!



OPEN SPACES ZAMBIA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BLOGGERS

The State of Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights in Zambia

Introduction

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efforts and any other such work seeking to strengthen democracy in Zambia and enhance the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

You have been selected to participate in this study because of your knowledge of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

Be assured that the information you will give remains confidential and will not be used for any other reason except for purposes of this research. If you wish to be named, kindly let me know.....TICK THIS SPACE IF RESPONDENT HAS AGREED TO BE MENTIONED IN REPORT.

There are no direct benefits for your participation, we will however appreciate your cooperation. It will not take you more than 30 minutes to answer all the questions contained in this questionnaire.

THANK YOU

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF RESPONDENT

- 1 Name of Blogger
- 2 State your position
- 3 What is your sex?
 - a) Male
 - b) Female
- 4 State your age
 - a) Less than 35 years
 - b) Above 35 years

SECTION B: KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DIGITAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Please answer all the questions to the best of your knowledge

1. For how long have you been blogging?
 - a) Less than one year
 - b) 1-3 years
 - c) 4-5 years
 - d) More than 5 years

2. What is the purpose of your blog/online site?
 - a) Inform and educate
 - b) Entertain
 - c) To promote my personal brand
 - d) To advertise and sale products
 - e) All the above
 - f) Other specify
3. What kind of content do you post on your site?
 - a) News only
 - b) Anything
 - c) Other specify
4. Do you produce the content you post online?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Sometimes
5. Do you also get the content that you post online from the traditional media like TV, Radio and Newspaper?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
6. Do you verify information before posting on your site?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
7. If your answer was yes, how do you verify the information?
8. Do you censor the content you post on your site?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
9. Give a reason for the answer you have given above?
10. How often do you censor your content?
 - a) All the time
 - b) Sometimes
11. Do you know how to distinguish false news from credible news?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
12. How do you identify false news or information?
13. In case you pick content from another site, do you give credit to the owner of the content before posting on your site?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) Sometimes I do
14. Do you pay for the content obtained from traditional news sources?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
15. Do you think your blogging affects the practice of traditional journalism?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
16. Do you have any journalistic training?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No

17. Would you like to undergo a training in journalism?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
18. How do you think the training will benefit you?
19. Do you understand your digital rights?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
20. If your answer to question 19 was yes, what are some of your digital rights?
21. Freedom of expression applies both online and offline space. **True or False**
 - a) True
 - b) False
22. The right to privacy applies both online and offline. **True or False**
 - a) True
 - b) False
23. Do you know any laws that regulate the cyber space in Zambia?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
24. If your answer was yes, what are the said laws?
25. Do you think that statutory instruments or laws can promote the responsible use of Zambia's cyber space?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
26. Why do you say so?
27. Do you think Government should control what is posted online?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
28. Give a reason for your answer to question 27
29. Have you ever been threatened or attacked because of what you post online?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
30. If your answer was yes, what kind of attack was it and what actions did you take?
31. Do you think Government is doing enough to protect you as a digital space user?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
32. What is your measure of media freedom in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) Free
 - b) Partially free
 - c) Not free
33. Why do you say so?
34. Give examples
35. What is your measure of digital rights enjoyment in Zambia in the past six months to date?
 - a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
36. Why do you say so?
37. Give examples.

38. What is your measure of freedom of expression in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
39. Why do you say so?
40. Give examples.
41. What do you think should be done to change the situation?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Appendix 5: Interview Guide for Government Institutions

Introduction

Greetings, my name is _____

MISA Zambia is conducting research to understand the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. It is doing so under a project called Open Spaces Zambia – OSZ.

FHI 360, Internews and local partners MISA-Zambia, Panos, and Bloggers of Zambia are implementing the USAID Open Spaces Zambia (OSZ) funded activity, to strengthen the democratic foundations of freedom of speech and assembly; build independent and new media; and safeguard a space for activists, human rights defenders (HRDs), and oppositional voices to protect the democratic space in Zambia. The OSZ target beneficiaries are broadly media consumers in Zambia, with a particular focus on youth, women and girls, and other historically marginalized groups. Activities will specifically target media support organizations involved in advocacy; community radio stations in select provinces; outlets with online/social media presence (including radio and television stations); and social media users, technologists, and activists. This study is necessary as it will provide a comprehensive status of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. It will also highlight the current legal and policy issues inimical to the enjoyment of these freedoms. The study will be very instrumental in aiding decision-making during policy review and formulation. Ultimately, it will guide projects like Open Spaces Zambia – OSZ advocacy efforts and any other such work seeking to strengthen democracy in Zambia and enhance the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

You have been selected to participate in this study because of your knowledge of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

Be assured that the information you will give remains confidential and will not be used for any other reason except for purposes of this research. If you wish to be named, kindly let me know.....TICK THIS SPACE IF RESPONDENT HAS AGREED TO BE MENTIONED IN REPORT.

There are no direct benefits for your participation, we will however appreciate your cooperation. It will not take you more than 30 minutes to answer all the questions contained in this questionnaire.

THANK YOU

Name of Institution: Independent Broadcasting Authority

1. What is the role of IBA in promoting media freedom?
2. Where does IBA mandate end in the media regulation?
3. Does the IBA regulate media ethics?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
4. If yes, how do you do it and do you have an ethics committee in place?
5. Has the IBA revoked a broadcast licence in the past six months?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
6. Has the IBA suspended a broadcast licence in the past six months?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
7. Name the stations if any?
8. Has the IBA issued out any broadcast licence in the past six months, if so how many?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
9. What is the current number of operational broadcast media by type and based on whether they are signal carrier or content provider?
10. How would you describe the current state of media freedom in Zambia?
11. Has there been any amendment to the IBA Act to harmonisation with the ZNBC Act so as to give IBA the legal power to institute sanctions against ZNBC incase ZNBC abrogates its legal mandate?
12. Are there future plans by IBA to regulate digital media?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
13. Are there plans to amend IBA Act to make the institution more autonomous?

- a) Yes
 - b) No
14. What is your measure of media freedom in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) Free
 - b) Partially free
 - c) Not free
15. Why do you say so?
16. Give examples
17. What is your measure of digital rights enjoyment in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
18. Why do you say so?
19. Give examples
20. What is your measure of freedom of expression in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
21. Why do you say so?
22. Give examples.
23. What do you think should be done to change the situation?
24. Do you think Government is doing enough to promote media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?
25. What do you think should be done to promote media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?

Name of Institution: Zambia Police

1. What is your understanding of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights?
2. What is the role of police in promoting media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia?

3. Have the police received any reports on harassments or attacks of journalists, bloggers and Human Rights Defenders/ CSOs in the past six months?
4. What did the Zambia Police do in the past six months to protect, promote and defend media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression in Zambia?
5. Does the Zambia Police Service see itself as a defender of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia? If yes, why?



OPEN SPACES ZAMBIA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

A Study to Appreciate the Current State of Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights in Zambia

Introduction

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There are no direct benefits for your participation, we will however appreciate your cooperation. It will not take you more than 30 minutes to answer all the questions contained in this questionnaire.

THANK YOU

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF RESPONDENT

- 1 Name of organisation – CSO/HRD
- 2 State your position
- 3 What is your sex?
 - e) Male
 - f) Female
- 4 What is the current number of years in CSO/HRD work?
 - a) Less than 1 year
 - b) 1 to 3 years
 - c) 4 to 5 years
 - d) More than 5 years
- 5 State your age
 - a) Less than 35 years
 - b) Above 35 years

SECTION B: STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

- 1 What is your role as rights defenders (CSO) in promoting media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights?
- 2 Do you think the citizens' right to freedom of expression is respected in Zambia?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 3 State the reason for your answer
- 4 What are some of the citizens' digital rights that you know
- 5 Do you think citizens understand their digital rights?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 6 Do you think citizens' digital rights are respected?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 7 What do you think should be done to ensure that citizens' digital rights are respected?
- 8 Do you think there is need to build the capacity of rights defenders?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 9 Do you think the media can self-regulate?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 10 Give a reason(s) for your answer to question 11.
- 11 What are some of the laws affecting media freedom and freedom of expression in Zambia?
- 12 What can be done to promote media freedom?
- 13 Should Government through Independent Broadcasting Authority continue to license Broadcast media?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 14 Give a reason(s) for your answer to question 25.
- 15 Do you support the shutting down of internet?

- a) Yes
 - b) No
16. State your reasons for your answer to question 15.
17. What is your measure of media freedom in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) Free
 - b) Partially free
 - c) Not free
18. Why do you say so?
19. Give examples
20. What is your measure of digital rights enjoyment in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) High
 - b) Medium
 - c) Low
21. Why do you say so?
22. Give examples.
23. What is your measure of freedom of expression in Zambia in the past six months to date?
- a) High
 - b) Medium
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24. Why do you say so?
25. Give examples.
26. What do you think should be done to change the situation?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!



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