



Fox Report Zambia

A Perception of the Freedom of Expression, Media Freedom and Digital Rights in Zambia

For the period January to June 2023.

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.

Furthermore, free flow of information is paramount in facilitating democratic participation and an accountable government.

However, freedom of expression, digital rights and media freedom are compromised by either archaic laws, acts of impunity by ruling elite or those who wield power in society.

The compromise of these rights by the above stated occurrences has a negative effect on the free flow of information and hence the need to undertake advocacy that will address the impediments towards the enjoyment of these rights.

However, it is impossible to conduct suitable advocacy if the problems are not clearly identified. Therefore, through this report, MISA Zambia hopes to contribute towards promoting media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights by pinpointing the exact problems that negatively impact the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression, to digital rights and media freedom in Zambia.

It is my hope that government, civil society, cooperating partners, individual human rights defenders and citizens will seize the findings in this report to engage in candid conversations and identify paths that will lead Zambia towards a space of respect for media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights.

In saying the above, MISA Zambia is in no way concluding that Zambia is not enjoying these rights at all. Rather, it is the degree at which they are being enjoyed that this report seeks to bring out - Call it a health check that spots areas requiring attention.

I sincerely do hope this report will aid and inform your advocacy and indeed continued government efforts to improve the above stated rights.

Lorraine Mwanza - MISA Zambia Chairperson

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List of Acronyms

ATI	Access to Information
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FoX	Freedom of Expression
HRD	Human Rights Defender
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSZ	Open Spaces Zambia
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

Preface

Freedom of expression, digital rights and media freedom are fundamental rights that constitute a functional democracy. These rights promote good governance through enabling effective citizen's participation in governance processes. Undoubtedly, media and online platforms in Zambia play a crucial role in facilitating the above stated rights which has resulted in citizen engagement to an extent.

Consequently, the need for citizens to enjoy the above stated rights cannot be overemphasized. Every citizen including journalists, activists, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), and oppositional voices need to fully enjoy these fundamental rights.

However, the extent to which these rights can be enjoyed is subject to a number of factors that exist in our environment. For Zambia, some of the factors that impact enjoyment of these fundamental freedoms include archaic laws, policies and cultural and social practices.

As an institution that promotes freedom expression and media freedom, MISA Zambia is committed to contribute quality knowledge that can be used to engage in meaningful advocacy for the above stated rights.

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 for spearheading adoption of social behaviour that propel the above stated freedoms which promote a democratic culture in Zambia.

Acknowledgments

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. We extend our special thanks to the consultant Dr. Freeborn Isaac Kibombwe who drafted this Report alongside Collet Mweene and MISA Zambia staff that include the National Director Mr. Austin Kayanda, Ms Jane Chirwa and Michael Njobvu who worked tirelessly to ensure the report was produced. We also recognise the contribution of Rajab Sichilima, Ackim Mumba, Ernie Milambo and Serena Mwale who were instrumental in the data collection process.

Executive Summary

The **FOX Report Zambia** which is a perception of the state of Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights, is produced under the USAID funded Open Spaces Zambia (OSZ) project being implemented by FHI 360, Internews and local partners MISA-Zambia, Panos, Bloggers of Zambia, Zambia National Women's Lobby, Alliance for Community Action and Chapter One Foundation.

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 to June 2023.

The study was carried out across the 10 provinces of Zambia, covering a total of 283 participants that included journalists, bloggers, journalism and media lecturers, civil society organizations, political parties and human rights defenders.

The study indicates a positive outlook in relation to freedom of expression in Zambia in the period under review. Interestingly, this view was also held by opposition political party leaders who acknowledged improvement in the enjoyment of the stated freedoms as compared to the previous regime. However, a few incidences that threaten these freedoms have been reported in the stated period.

This report shows that 61% of journalists felt that freedom of expression was not being enjoyed by both citizens and journalists. However, only 39% felt freedom of expression was being upheld. Whereas the second half of 2022 report shows that 63% of journalists felt that freedom of expression was being enjoyed and 33% felt the opposite. This is quite a big shift in comparison to the current period under study.

This report covers what has become an important feature of freedom of expression and digital rights. In this report, 57% of respondents felt that digital rights were not respected while 43% felt digital rights were respected.

Bloggers in this report raise concern about citizens' understanding of digital rights. It is noted that only 7% of bloggers felt that ordinary citizens understand their digital rights while 93% indicated that citizens are not fully aware of their digital rights. Therefore, there is need to address digital rights literacy for ordinary citizens.





1. *Introduction*

Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights are fundamental rights that strengthen the democratic tenets of any country. Once these freedoms are respected, the ability of any given country to foster constructive dialogue becomes evident. It is out of this dialogue that a country's media and citizens can be free to express their opinions. This in turn can improve participatory democracy for citizens.

Respect for freedom of expression improves governance because duty bearers benefit from constructive criticism by both journalists and citizens. In addition, an environment that allows constructive criticism encourages respect for human rights and enables sustainable development. However, freedom of expression is often threatened by those who are supposed to protect the rights, leaders who take oath to uphold and protect the said rights. This report presents findings in relation to freedom of expression, media freedom and digital rights in Zambia between the period January to June 2023.

2. *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, covering January to June 2023. The results of this study will guide MISA Zambia and its partners in strengthening democracy and the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia, ultimately contributing to an enabling environment in which independent and new media will thrive. The results will also guide advocacy efforts of the USAID OSZ project which seeks to strengthen democracy in Zambia and enhance the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights. Finally, the results will also be instrumental in aiding decision-making in policy review and development.

2.2 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study was to assess the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia covering the period January to June 2023. The following were the specific objectives of the study:

1. To understand 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 determine the current level of understanding of digital rights among digital users in Zambia covering a period between January to June, 2023.

3. *Methodology*

3.1 Study Design

This was a parallel mixed methods approach that utilized both qualitative and quantitative data. A survey approach was used to collect quantitative data while the qualitative arm used a case study approach.

3.2 Study site and population

This study targeted the 10 provinces of the country. It had representation from journalists, media bodies, lecturers, bloggers, political party leaders (ruling and opposition), civil society organizations and human rights defenders.

3.3 Sampling and Sample Size

The study sample was 200 journalists drawn from both public and private media, 15 media bodies, 30 bloggers, 3 media and communications lecturers, 30 human rights defenders and 5 political party leaders. All the participants were selected based on their knowledge and experience with media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.

3.4 Data Collection and Analysis

Data was collected through a questionnaire administered through phone interviews and on-site visits. Responses were uploaded in data analysis software known as Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) for analysis and storage. In-depth interviews were also conducted to collect qualitative information and interview transcripts were uploaded on word files. The quantitative arm of the study used descriptive statistics to present quantitative data while the qualitative arm employed the use of rapid thematic analysis.

To ensure confidentiality, all information was de-identified. Informed consent was sought for prior to the interviews.

4. Presentation Of Findings

4.1 Background Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Respondent Type

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

Table 1 above summarizes the respondents' categories and the number of people engaged.

4.2 Media House Representation

Table 2: Category of Media Houses

- Characteristics of Respondents
- Media Type and Sex Distribution of Respondents

Type of Media	Female	%	Male	%	Total	%
Private Print Media	3	1.5	7	4	10	5
Public Broadcast Media	1	0.5	0	0	1	1
Private Broadcast Media	63	32	86	43	149	75
Religious Community Broadcast Media	6	3	4	2	10	5
Community Broadcast Media	14	7	16	8	30	15
Total	87	44	113	57	200	100

Table 2 above presents the characteristics of journalists and the type of media they worked for. The statistics in table 2 revealed that out of the 200 respondents, more than half of them (113) representing 57% while 87 respondents were female representing 43% of the total respondents. Regarding media type, three quarters (75%) of the journalists were from private broadcast media while one quarter was unevenly shared by the other four media types. Specifically, community media broadcast recorded a 15% response rate followed by private print media at 5% and religious community broadcast media at 5% as well. The least represented was the public broadcast media with 1 percent response rate, a 21% decline from the July to December 2022 FoX report¹.

To further understand digital spaces based on the voice of practitioners, bloggers were asked to state the reasons why they were engaged in blogging and the type of content they posted. The two figures below provide the responses. According to the responses, most of them blogged to inform and entertain (37%) and to inform and educate (33%). These were followed by those who used their blogs multi-purposely ranging from information and education to advertising and selling products or as arranged in figure 1.

¹ MISA Zambia FoX Report 2022.

Figure 1: Purpose of blogging and the nature of content posted on the blogs

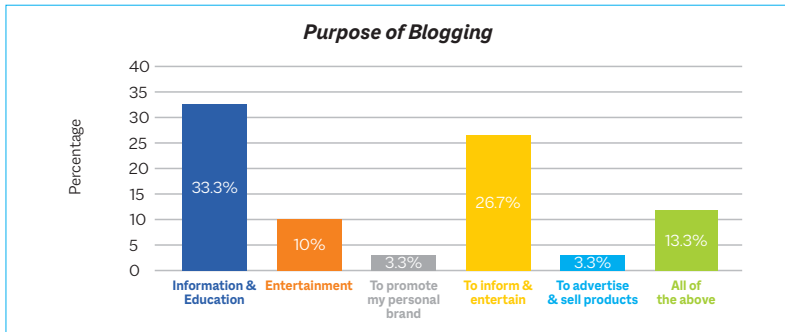
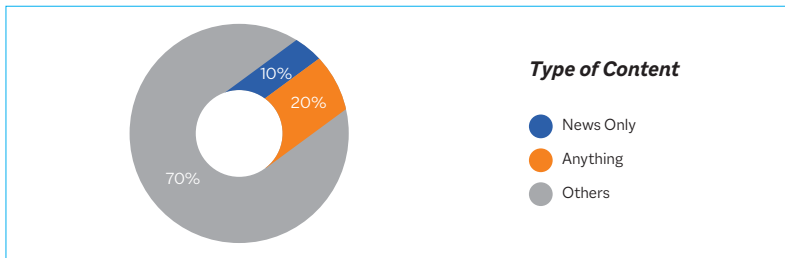


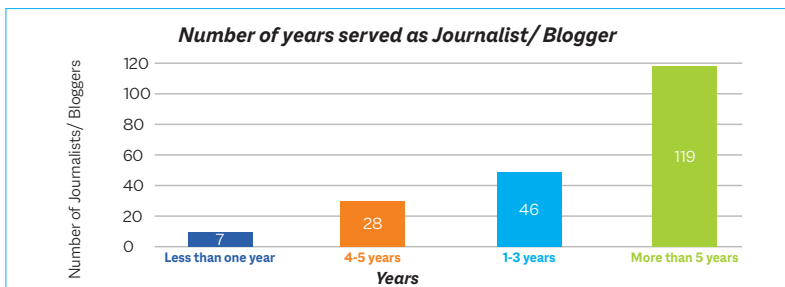
Figure 2. Type of content posted by bloggers



4.3. Years of experience for Blogging and Reporting for Journalists

The study also sought to establish the duration the respondents had served as journalists/bloggers. As illustrated in figure 3, most of the respondents (119) had been practising journalism/blogging for more than 5 years whereas the rest had less than 5 years' experience. Particularly, 46 had between 1 to 3 years' experience, while 28 bloggers had between 4 to 5 years. Seven had less than one year of practising journalism/blogging.

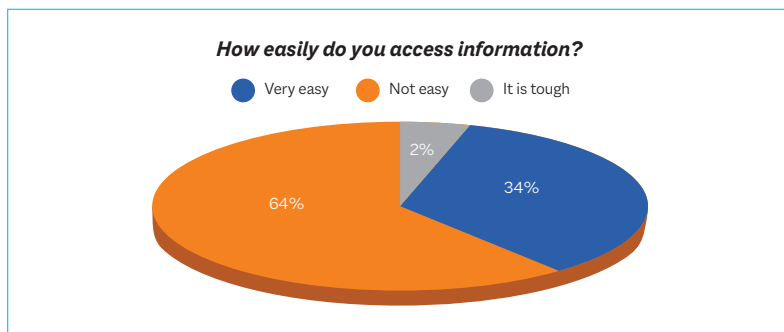
Figure 3: Years of Experience for Blogging and Reporting for Journalists



4.4 Access to Information

One major role of journalists in a democratic society is to keep citizens informed. However, this role is dependent on the journalists' ability to access accurate and quality information. Therefore, this study sought to establish whether journalists easily accessed information they needed to perform their duty in Zambia. The findings suggested that information that journalists needed in news reporting was not easily accessible. Figure 4 shows that only 34% of journalists had easy access to information and the majority 64% of journalists had difficulties. Two (2%) found it extremely difficult to access the information they needed. A comparison with the second half of 2022 revealed a slight improvement in access to information in the first half of 2023 as the percentage of those who had difficulties in accessing information reduced from 75% in 2022 to 64% in the first half of 2023.

Figure 4: Journalists' Access to Information

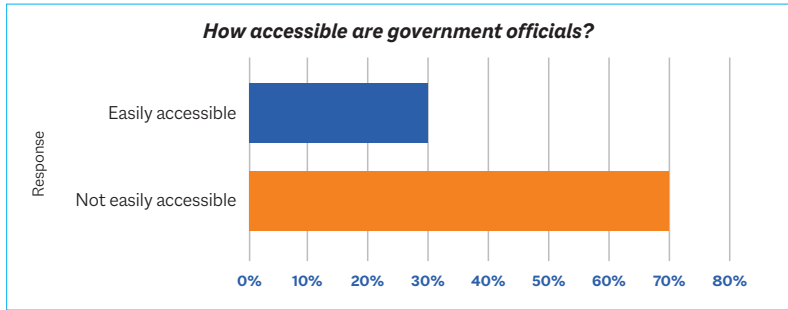


4.5 Access to Government Officials

Similarly, journalists had challenges contacting government officials, as was the case with access to information. Almost three quarters (70%) revealed that government officials were not easily accessible with only 30% having indicated that they had easy access to the officials. Nevertheless, the findings of this report suggest a slight improvement in the accessibility of government officials in comparison with the second half of 2022 where 80.5% had challenges. One respondent said the following:

- The challenges in accessing information and government officials in Zambia can be attributed to factors such as bureaucratic procedures, a lack of transparency, resource constraints, and potential resistance from authorities to disclose information or interact with journalists (journalist).

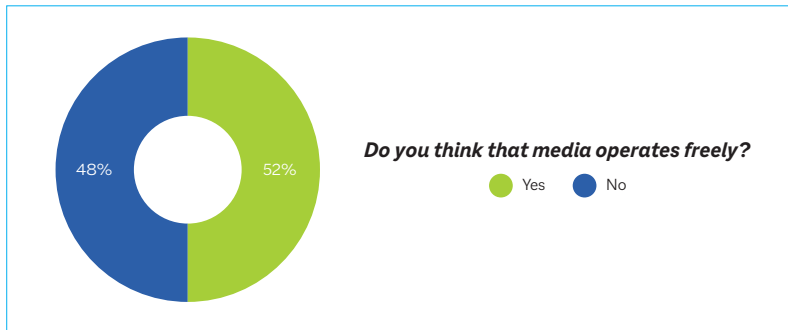
Figure 5: Journalists' Access to Government Officials



4.6 Perceived Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression

Media freedom is a fundamental pillar of democratic societies. Media freedom promotes transparency and accountability, and contributes to the protection of human rights. Media freedom encompasses the freedom of journalists and media organisations to gather, report, and disseminate information without undue interference or censorship. In this study, journalists were asked to state whether they felt the media operated freely in Zambia. The responses reflected in figure 6 show that slightly over half of journalists interviewed, 52%, felt that the media is free in Zambia while 48% felt that the media was not free. This finding is almost consistent with that of the second half of 2022 when almost half of the respondents (49.5%) felt that the media was free.

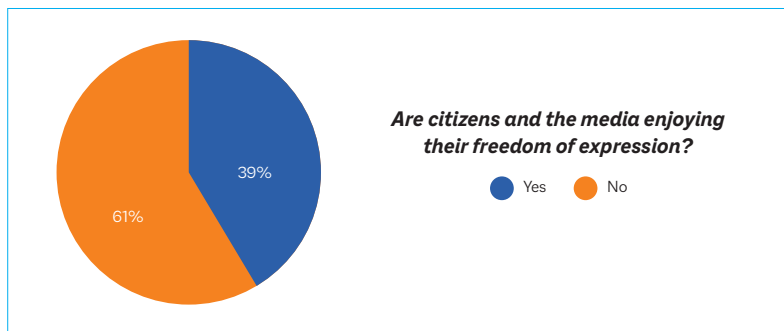
Figure 6: Journalists' perceptions of Media Freedom



4.7 Citizens and media enjoying freedom of expression

Upholding and protecting freedom of expression is essential for a robust democracy that values the rights and voices of its citizens. This study sought the perception of journalists on the enjoyment of freedom of expression in Zambia. Particularly, journalists were asked whether they felt that citizens and the media enjoyed freedom of expression. Figure 7 presents the findings which show that 121 (61%) journalists were of the view that freedom of expression was not being enjoyed by the citizens and the media were as 79 (39%) of them felt that the freedom of expression was being enjoyed in Zambia. The second half of 2022 findings, showed a different trend as 63% (126) journalists felt that the freedom of expression was being enjoyed, while 66 (33%) indicated that people did not enjoy this right.

Figure 7 Whether citizens and the media enjoy their freedom of expression?



Furthermore, stakeholders (civil society and human rights defenders) were also asked to state whether they felt that the freedom of expression was respected in Zambia. Most of them, at 63% were of the view that freedom of expression was upheld while 37% felt that this right was infringed.

Table 3: Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders on Freedom of Expression in Zambia

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	63
No	11	37
Total	30	100

Those who felt that freedom of expression was compromised said the following:

- The situation of media freedom, digital rights, and freedom of expression in Zambia at the moment is complicated and difficult. Although freedom of speech and the media are protected by the Zambian constitution, there have been worries raised about the declining space for independent journalism and the growing restrictions on digital rights (stakeholder)
- Current media freedom, digital rights, and freedom of expression conditions in Zambia are complicated and dynamic...the capacity of journalists to report freely has been hampered by a number of issues, including harassment, intimidation, and legal constraints (stakeholder).
- The current freedom of expression is partially free as the government does not give full control of press or citizens to disseminate whatever they want or think (stakeholder)
- Media freedom in recent years has been well since the UPND government got in power as we can see the press is able to express themselves without intimidation from any person or party unlike the previous regime (stakeholder).

Given that majority of journalists felt that they were not free to express themselves, they were further asked if at all they had been harassed whilst carrying out their duties. It was established that 149 (74%) had never experienced harassment while 51 (26%) disclosed that they experienced harassment whilst on duty. Narrowing it down to online blogging, the scenario was similar to the one described above where 22, representing 73% had never experienced harassment in form of cyber-attacks while 8 representing 27% had experienced cyber-attacks as shown in table below.

Table 4: Number of bloggers who faced a form of Cyber Attack

Have you suffered cyber-attack before?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	8	27
No	22	73
Total	30	100

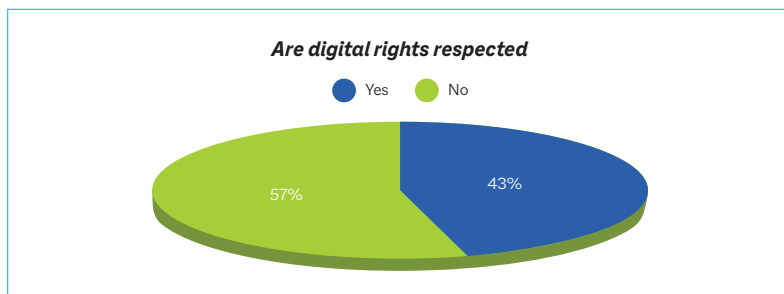
4.8 Factors affecting Media Freedom, Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression.

Regarding the factors that inhibit media freedom, digital rights and freedom of expression, there were divergent views as illustrated in the responses below:

- Legal restrictions: Certain laws, such as the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act and the Information and Communications Technology Act, have raised concerns about their potential impact on digital rights and freedom of expression (journalist).
- Some laws that restrict the operations of the media in Zambia include the Penal Code, the Zambia Information and Communications Technology (ZICTA) Act, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) Act, and the Defamation Act (journalist).
- Journalists and media workers have reported cases of harassment, threats, and attacks, both physical and verbal, which create a climate of fear and self-censorship (stakeholder).

Respecting digital rights is crucial for protecting privacy, fostering freedom of expression, ensuring digital inclusion, combating online harassment, and safeguarding digital security among others. In this study, journalists were asked if digital rights were respected in Zambia. The feedback in figure 8 revealed that only 43% of the respondents felt that the digital rights were respected while the majority, 57% felt that the digital rights were not respected.

Figure 8: Respect for Digital Rights



Human Rights Defenders on Respect for Freedom of Expression

Table 5 shows the responses of human rights defenders with regards to respect for freedom of expression. Nineteen 63% (63%) felt that freedom of expression was being upheld while 37% (11) indicated that freedom of expression was not respected.

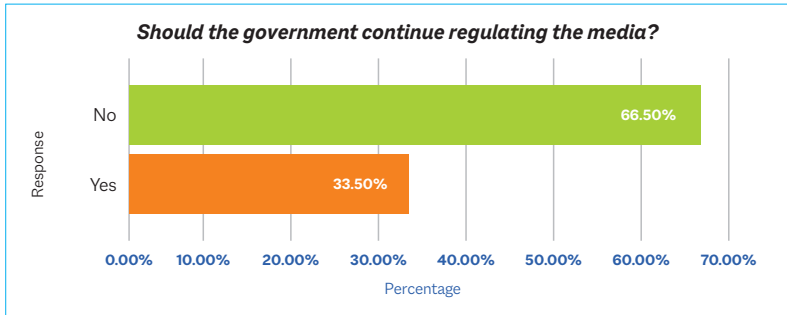
Table 5: Human Rights Defenders' Perception on Respect for Freedom of Expression

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	63.3
No	11	36.7
Total	30	100

Regulation of the media remains a highly contested due to the inherent tension between protecting the public interest, ensuring media integrity, and preserving freedom of the media.

Striking a balance between these competing interests is a complex and ongoing challenge, with differing viewpoints and approaches across different jurisdictions. In this study, respondents were asked to state whether the government should continue to regulate the media. The findings show that 66.5% of them disagreed with the notion that the government should continue to regulate the media while 33.5% were of the view that the government should continue to regulate the media.

Figure 9: Distribution of journalists' perception on whether government should regulate the media.



While the majority disagreed with government regulation of the media, they were of the view that IBA should continue regulating the media. Specifically, 113 57% of the respondents agreed that IBA should continue licensing the media while 87 (43%) disagreed. Reference to the findings can be found in Table 5 below. The justification for IBA to continue regulating is reflected in the response below:

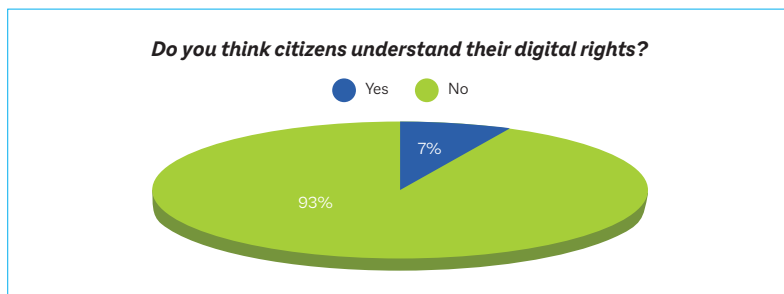
- Government should continue to license the media through the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) or similar bodies to ensure that media organizations adhere to certain professional and ethical standards. Licensing can help maintain a level of accountability and quality in the media industry while still allowing for freedom of expression and diversity of viewpoints. (journalist)

- "Government should keep issuing licenses to media houses for the sole purpose of curbing out misinformation, disinformation as well as malformations as some media houses would now start getting operational powers for ill intentions" (journalist)

Table 6: Journalists' Views on IBA Licensing

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	56.5
No	87	43.5
Total	200	100

Figure 10: Stakeholders perceptions on citizens understand digital rights



Understanding digital rights is critical towards the promotion of digital literacy, upholding freedom of expression and enabling citizen engagement in digital policy and governance. In this study, journalists, bloggers and stakeholders were asked to state whether they felt that citizens understood their digital rights. The responses in the pie chart (figure 10) show that only 7% of the respondents thought that citizens understood their digital rights while 93% thought there was lack of understanding.

4.9 Bloggers and Stakeholders' Understanding of Digital Rights

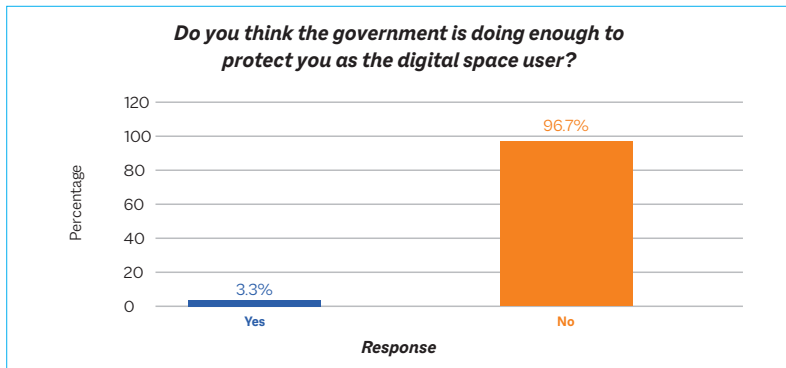
Bloggers and stakeholders reported an understanding of their digital rights and responsibilities as shown below:

- I know that I have to enjoy the right that assures that people can freely express their opinions, ideas, and beliefs online without being censored or interfered with in any way. It includes the freedom to seek information and participate in public debate (blogger).
- I have the right to express myself freely whether online or offline (blogger).

- **Education and Awareness:** Lecturers are essential in teaching students about digital rights, media freedom, and freedom of expression. Lecturers can instruct classes or modules, giving pupils a thorough understanding of the guiding concepts, difficulties, and legal frameworks pertaining to these rights. Lecturers can enable students to become informed and responsible digital citizens by encouraging critical thinking and media literacy (lecturer).

Figure 11: Perception of government protection for digital users in Zambia

Governments play a critical role in establishing legal frameworks, regulations, and policies that safeguard rights and create a safe and inclusive digital environment for all. In this study, journalists were asked to state whether at the time of this study the government was doing enough to protect digital rights. Figure 11 shows that almost all of them (97%) were of the view that the government was not doing enough in safeguarding these rights. However, there was still a small percentage (3%) that felt that the government was doing enough towards the safeguarding of these rights.



The journalist's views were consistent with those of some stakeholders as shown below:

- It is subjective and subject to varied viewpoints to determine if the Zambian government is doing enough to support media freedom, digital rights, and freedom of expression. Despite the government's efforts to resolve media-related issues, questions remain over the application and enforcement of current legislation as well as the country's overall environment for media freedom (stakeholder).
- In Zambia, the current condition of digital rights is inexplicable. Globally, there is growing discussion and recognition of digital rights. The digital gap, data privacy issues, internet surveillance, and censorship are still problems in Zambia (stakeholder).

5. Discussion of Findings

5.1 State of Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Zambia

Media freedom and freedom of expression continue to be a grey area within Zambia. During political campaigns throughout the country's history, political leaders promise to uphold media freedom and freedom of expression. However, after elections, the opposite rings true, consequently threatening democracy. One journalist indicated that:

- Media freedom [and freedom of expression] play a critical role in upholding the principles of democratic society. It allows the media to act as a vigilant guardian, ensuring accountability among those in position of power, while granting citizens' access to a wide range of reliable varied information. By promoting transparency, enabling public discourse, and fundamental rights and freedoms, media freedom [and freedom of expression] contribute to the overall health and vitality of a democratic society" (journalist).

5.1.1 Freedom of Expression

About 63% of respondents from CSOs suggested that freedom of expression was being upheld while 37% felt that the freedom of expression was not being upheld. Additionally, for the journalists the views were different as 61% felt that freedom of expression was not being enjoyed by the citizens and the media while 39% felt that the citizens and the media enjoyed the freedom of expression.

This disparity could be indicative of the fact that mostly journalists are the ones who feel that freedom of expression is still a problem in their quest to obtain information and to promote the freedom of expression.

5.1.2 Journalists' Perception of Freedom of Expression Enjoyed by the Media and Citizens

Journalists were asked about their perception on citizens and media's enjoyment of freedom of expression. A total of 121(61%) of journalists thought that the freedom of expression was not enjoyed by citizens and the media while 79 (39%) felt that the freedom of expression was upheld for citizens and the media.

In the second half of the 2022, 126 (63%) of journalists felt that freedom of expression was being enjoyed while 66 (33%) felt that the freedom of expression was not being enjoyed. The 2023 findings demonstrate that there hasn't been a significant or major shift in terms of the journalists' perception of the enjoyment of the freedom of expression by citizens and the media. As there has been only a 2% reduction in terms of perception by the journalists as regards to freedom of expression for both the citizens and the media fraternity. As some stakeholders expressed:

- The situation of media freedom, digital rights, and freedom of expression in Zambia at the moment is complicated and difficult. Although freedoms of speech and the media are protected by Zambia's constitution, there have been worries raised about the declining space for independent journalism and the growing restrictions on digital rights (stakeholder).
- The current freedom of expression is partially free as the Government does not give full control of the press or citizens to disseminate whatever they want or think (stakeholder).

5.1.3 Human Rights Defenders (HRD) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on Freedom of Expression

Concerning the respect of the freedom of expression, 19 (63%) human rights defenders felt that freedom of expression was being upheld while 11 (37%) felt that there was a lack of respect for the freedom of expression. The human rights defenders' perception rate of 63% is an increase from 2022's second half 50%.

5.1.4 Journalists' Perception of Media Freedom

Journalists were asked whether they thought that the media operated freely. In their responses, 48% of respondents said 'yes' while 52% of respondents said 'no'. There is a 4% increase of journalists who think media freedom is not being enjoyed from 48% in the second half of 2022 to 52% in the first half of 2023. The increase should be interrogated to understand factors affecting media freedom. One factor for the perceived decrease of media freedom could be absence of Access to Information (ATI) law. The absence of ATI means journalists face challenges to obtain information that is key to reporting news. The Chief Government Spokesperson and Minister of Information and Media Chushi Kasanda had indicated that ATI would be enacted into law by June 2022. However, the bill was not brought into Parliament in the first half of 2022.

5.1.5 Access to Government Officials

Thirty-four (34) percent of journalists had very easy access to government officials while 64% felt it was very difficult to access information from government officials. The remaining 2% of the journalists found it extremely difficult to access information. The 64% rate of journalists who found it difficult to access government officials is an improvement from the second half of 2022 at 75%. As some journalists said:

- The challenges in accessing information and government officials in Zambia can be attributed to factors such as bureaucratic procedures, a lack of transparency, resource constraints, and potential resistance from authorities to disclose information or interact with journalists (journalist).

And another felt that,

- Gaining access to information in Zambia can be challenging due to multiple factors that hinder transparency and openness. These factors include limited transparency within government processes, bureaucratic obstacles that impede the flow of information, and the absence of comprehensive freedom of information legislation (journalist).

Journalists, bloggers, and civil society have a strong view that most of the challenges in accessing information from government officials will come to an end if the ATI Bill was enacted.

5.1.6 Harassment of Journalists

Journalists were asked if they had experienced harassment during their duties. Around 149 (75%) of journalists had not experienced harassment or intimidation compared to 51 (25%) who said they had experienced harassment or intimidation during their course of duty. This period under review shows a form of decline from the last half of 2022 whose report recorded that 84% did not face any form of harassment while 16% noted some form of harassment. It is a concern that in the 2023 first half report, journalists experienced intimidation. The authorities may need to check on the excessiveness of the various wings of government, such as the police, party cadres or government officials especially in this first half of the year that has seen an increment to harassment of up to 7%.

However, one of the institutions responsible for law and order indicated the following:

- Upholding and defending the law as well as ensuring the safety and protection of journalists are the police's two main responsibilities. Along with investigating crimes and apprehending offenders, especially those who would threaten or harm journalists..." (police).

Another police officer responded by indicating that the Zambia Police makes efforts to promote and uphold freedom of the press, digital rights, and freedom of expression as can be seen from the following efforts:

- Education and training: giving police officers specialized instruction on human rights, freedom of expression, and the function of the media in a democratic society. This would include their awareness of and sensitivity to journalistic rights.
- Sensitization initiatives: launching initiatives to educate police officers about the value of free speech, digital rights, and media freedom. These campaigns could place a focus on the media's role in fostering transparency and holding authority figures responsible.

- Investigation and prosecution: making sure that any reported attacks or harassment of journalists are thoroughly and promptly investigated, and that those responsible for violating the rights are held accountable.

However, while the reasons given above may seem to support the fact that citizens as well as journalists enjoy a harassment free society, the opposite is true as can be confirmed by the finding in this report. There is need for state agencies to do and be seen to do more to protect journalists from harassment in the course of duty.

5.2.1 Bloggers and Cyber-Attacks

Blogging in Zambia seemed to have taken on well. Most bloggers have been blogging for 4 to 5 years and over 5 years representing about 80% of bloggers in this range. The following were indicated as purposes for blogging:

- To inform and entertain (37%)
- Information and education (33%)
- Entertainment (10%)
- To promote my personal brand (3%)
- To advertise and sell products (3%)
- All of the above (13.)

It was determined that 73% of bloggers had not experienced any cyber-attack while 27% experienced some form of cyberattack. The FOX report for the second half of 2022 indicated that 50% of bloggers had suffered some form of cyber-attack. However, in the first half of 2022 it was recorded that 32% of the bloggers suffered some form of cyberattack. Therefore, if one compares to the current cyber-attacks, it is evident that the attacks had reduced by 24.3% in comparison to the last half assessment of 2022. The reduction could be attributed, in part, to measures put in place by government, especially from institution such as like ZICTA which has intensified monitoring of online cyber-attack as in indicated here below:

- Implementing legislation that protects digital rights, such as data privacy, encryption, and safeguarding against online harassment and cybercrime (ZICTA Official 2).
- Make sure that laws shield journalists from harassment, defamation lawsuits, and other types of legal intimidation while adhering to international human rights standards (ZICTA Official 1).

There is a general consensus that most bloggers overwhelmingly do understand digital rights and limits to the rights as one blogger commented:

- Respecting platforms policies: bloggers are required to respect the guidelines established by the various blogging and social media platforms. Censorship may be necessary to follow these guidelines and avoid having content removed or having your account suspended (blogger).

5.2.2 Journalists' Views on Digital Rights

Journalists were asked if digital rights were respected in Zambia and 43% of the respondents felt that the digital rights were respected while the majority at 57% (114) felt that the digital right were not respected. See the following observations:

- Legal restrictions: Certain laws, such as the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act and the Information and Communications Technology Act, have raised concerns about their potential impact on digital rights and freedom of expression (Journalist).
- Some laws that restrict the operations of the media in Zambia include the Penal Code, the Zambia Information and Communications Technology (ZICTA) Act, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) Act, and the Defamation Act (Journalist).

5.2.3 Bloggers and Stakeholders' Perception on Citizens' Understanding of Digital Rights

Bloggers and stakeholders (Civil Society Organisations, Human Rights Defenders, Journalists) were asked about their perception of citizens' understanding of digital rights. As little as 7% of the respondents said that citizens understood their digital rights while 93% opposed this notion. This finding signifies that journalists, bloggers and stakeholders have work to raise citizens' awareness of digital rights.

5.2.4 Journalists' Views on Whether Government Should Regulate the Media

Coming to the report discussion and survey on whether the government should regulate the media 66% of journalists disagreed with the notion that the government should regulate the media. On the other hand, 34% of journalists expressed the opposing view that the government should continue to regulate the media. However, there is a major drop in percentage in terms of a comparison with the last half of the year 2022 report at which the media practitioners called for media self-regulation at 85%. The rate has dropped to 19% in comparison to the current 2023 findings.

5.2.5 Licensing Through the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA)

Regarding media licensing through the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA),³ journalists were of the view that this should continue. In particular, 57% of respondents wanted the IBA to continue with media licensing while 43% suggested that

³ The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) was established by parliament through the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act of 2002. With the date of assent being the 31st December, 2002. <https://www.parliament.gov.zm/node/7440>. Accessed July 12 2023. Prior to the IBA all broadcast license were issued by the Government of the day through the then Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), meaning that the Minister with his appointed internal review "board" would sit down to indicate which radios or television station

IBA should not license media houses. In the second half of the 2022 FOX report, 75% of the journalists preferred the IBA to continue the licensing of broadcasting media houses. The rate has dropped by 18% in the first half of 2023. The justification for the IBA to continue regulating the licensing is reflected in the following responses:

- Government should continue to license the media through the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) or similar bodies to ensure that media organizations adhere to certain professional and ethical standards. Licensing can help maintain a level of accountability and quality in the media industry while still allowing for freedom of expression and diversity of viewpoints (journalist).

Conclusions

Media freedom and freedom of expression and respect for digital rights are fundamental pillars for enhancing democracy in a nation not only for journalists but also for the general population. Generally, the study has revealed that more needs to be done by the government in promoting the freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Some sections of the society especially leaders of opposition parties feel that freedom of expression is being stifled and few individuals are being targeted deliberately. The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) also hold similar views in as far as freedom of expression is concerned. The journalists and media houses have called on the government to expedite the passing into law of the Access to Information (ATI) Bill as soon as possible. This call by journalists is reiterated as in the previous second half of 2022 FoX report, this report also calls for enactment of the Access to Information (ATI) Bill to guarantee the enjoyment of freedom of expression by all citizens and permanent residents in Zambia.

6. Recommendations

Based on the results of the study for the FoX first half of 2023 (January to June), the following media recommendations are put forward to journalists and media houses, CSOs, human rights defenders and other stakeholders:

- Journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders should advocate for the enactment of ATI.
- The Government must expedite the implementation of the Access to Information Bill to ensure access to information by the journalists and ordinary citizens.
- Journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders should be in consistent engagement of such agencies as police, IBA and ZICTA and CSOs. The media owners should expedite the creation of the media self-regulatory body.
- To organize the Freedom of Expression Literacy Campaign (FELC) on the freedom of expression and digital rights for our general citizenry through an Indaba organised by the Civil Society Organisations once if not twice a year.

can be issued the license and of course with government bureaucracy it used to take a long time. One was literary at the mercy of the minister in this regard.

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APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JOURNALISTS



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 V 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!!

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR MEDIA ADVOCACY BODIES/UNIONS AND LECTURERS



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.

FHI 360, Internews and local partners MISA-Zambia, Panos, Bloggers of Zambia, Chapter One Foundation, Free Press Initiative, Zambia National Women Lobby, and Zambia Cyber Security Initiative Foundation 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 USAID 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 Institution represented
2. Position of respondent
3. What is your sex?

- c) Male
- d) Female

1. 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

2. 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 B: 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 3: Interview Guide for Political Parties

Introduction

Greetings, my name is -----

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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

- 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!

APPENDIX 4: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BLOGGERS



OPEN SPACES ZAMBIA QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BLOGGERS

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

Introduction

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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 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.

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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 in case 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?

APPENDIX 6: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND CSO



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

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, Bloggers of Zambia, Chapter One Foundation, Free Press Initiative, Zambia National Women Lobby, and Zambia Cyber Security Initiative Foundation 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 USAID 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 USAID 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 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
- c) Low

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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Plot No. 3814 Martin Rd, Olympia Park
P.O. Box 32295, Lusaka - Zambia
Tel: 0211 294 2285/6
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