

Fox Report Zambia

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

For the period July to December 2023.

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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.

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 Chisanga–MISA Zambia Chairperson

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ATI	Access to Information
CSOCivil	Society Organisation
FoX	Freedom of Expression
HRD	Human Rights Defenders
IBA	Independent Broadcasting Authority
MISA ZAMBIA	Media Institute of Southern Africa (Zambia)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSZ	Open Spaces Zambia
UNAID	United Nations Agency for International Development
ZICTA	Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

PREFACE

Freedom of expression, digital rights and media freedoms are key to upholding the fundamental rights that enhances the promotion of democracy in any country. These rights that are guaranteed create an atmosphere of promoting good governance where citizens are free to participate in the promotion of democracy through various platforms of the traditional as well as the digital media. The media and online platforms play an important and crucial role in promoting the democracy of any given nation.

Promoting of these rights are not only the preserve of journalists, but also stakeholders such as human rights defenders and other opposing voices so that the fundamental right to enjoy the freedom of expression is fully guaranteed and meets the expectations of the society at large.

MISA Zambia is therefore committed to promoting free expression and other media freedoms through the values of providing accurate and timely information to both media practitioners and other stakeholders. MISA Zambia is further committed to providing proper guidance to media practitioners and all stakeholders through following the legal and policy procedures that also benefits the aforementioned participants in the dispensation of media freedom and freedom of expression.

It is therefore hoped that through this report (July-December 2023), the information contained herein will help to promote the understanding of freedom of expression, media law and policy reforms. Education in freedom of expression and media freedoms is a two way process in which the guarantor of these freedom and the recipient are well informed about their responsibility especially the former of promoting these ideals. This will indeed, move Zambia to a path of promoting and dispensing democratic principles as well as the regional forums.

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 Dr. Freeborn Kibombwe who drafted this report alongside the assistance of Ms. Collect Mweene (Research Methodology Assistant). Data collectors Mr. Rajab Sichilima (Coordinator). MISA Zambia staff that included the National Director Mr. Austin Kayanda, Mr. Micheal Njobvu and Ms. Jane Chirwa who worked tirelessly to ensure the report was produced.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is based on a stakeholder perception analysis giving an outlook of the current state of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. The report covers the period between July to December, 2023. The analysis was carried out across the 10 provinces of Zambia targeting at least 283 participants that included: journalists, bloggers, media lecturers, civil society organization, and political parties and human rights defenders. However, the research managed to capture around 265 participants with the missing or unreturned questionnaires all from journalists to a total of 13, giving us a 95.5% success rate and within the margin of research.

The data collected indicates that respondents interviewed felt that the media operated freely. A total of 73.7% respondents affirmed that the media operates freely, while 26.3% felt that the media did not operate freely in Zambia. Some comments from journalists indicate that they felt free to work as journalists and that they understood and enjoy the media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. Coupled with the fact that in this period of study no media house was censored or closed by the government. This is a good open space for freedom of expression compared to previous governments we have had at various periods of our national history. This gives a sense of security in terms of how journalists are free to source and provide information to the general public, which in turn provides the growth and respect of the tenets of democracy especially as the country heads toward celebrating 60 years of independence.

The call to the passing of the Access to Information Bill into law has always been a bone of contention and highly recommended for action in the previous reports. In this period, the same issue came out strongly from journalists. However, the passing of the ATI into law in this time period of the study will raise hopes for journalists in as far as access to information is concerned. Especially that accessing government officials still remains a challenge according to the study where 72.2% felt that it was not easy to access government officials while 27.8% felt that It was easy. This means that more needs to be done in as far as accessing information, especially from government officials is concerned.

On harassment of journalists there has been a slight improvement; 81.3% of journalists did not experience any form of harassment as opposed to 18.7%, as compared to the first half of 2023 about 25% of journalists had experienced some form of harassment either from police, political cadres as well as individual politicians, while 75% had not experienced some form of harassment from similar groups mentioned.



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Introduction

Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights have been described as fundamental aspects of any country if the democratic tenets are to be upheld and respected. Upholding the democratic principles is not an easy task due to the sensitive nature that the freedom of expression and media freedoms require. However, these fundamental rights still remain as a vehicle through which media owners, players and ordinary citizens can be able to express themselves for the betterment and strengthening democracy.

Once freedom of expression and media freedoms are respected, they are certainly able to foster the improvement of governance in a country. Then the media and its stakeholders will be able to play a prominent role of checks and balances concerning the governance of a country and its mandate to protect media freedoms and expression by common folks. The report will highlight a number of propositions that should be able to guide the media practitioners and stakeholders to be informed on where our democracy lies especially within the period of study from July to December 2023.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

Purpose of the Study

The overall purpose of the study was to assess the current state of the media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia over a six-month period, covering July to December 2023. It is hoped that the results of this study will guide MISA Zambia and its partners in strengthening the tenets of democracy and the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. The strengthening of the tenets of democracy will ultimately help both the traditional media as well as the new media (social media) find their space in terms of enhancing and creating a conducive atmosphere for freedom of expression and media freedoms. Since advocacy is fundamental in the dispensation democracy, this study will help MISA Zambia and its stakeholders to have the basis on which to promote the freedom of expression, media freedoms and digital rights space in Zambia. It is further hoped that this report will help the Government as a key player as well as stakeholders in the process of freedom of expression, media freedoms and digital rights policy formulation and ultimately implementation.

Objectives of the Study

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

- 2.21 To understand the current level of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.
- 2.22 To investigate factors limiting or enhancing the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.
- 2.23 To determine the current level of understanding of digital rights among digital users in Zambia covering a period between July to December, 2023.

Methodology

Study Design

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

Study Site and Population

This study was conducted in all the 10 Provinces of the country. It had representation from journalists, media bodies, lecturers, bloggers, political party leaders (ruling and opposition), civil society organization (CSO) and human rights defenders.

Sampling and Sample Size

The study was conducted among 187 journalists out of the targeted 200 drawn from public and private media. It also comprised of 15 media bodies representatives, 30 bloggers, 3 media and communication lecturers, 30 human rights defenders and 5 political party leaders. All the participants were purposefully selected based on their knowledge and experience with media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia.

Data Collection and Analysis

The study employed mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) with the use of structured questionnaires, interview guides and analysis of different reports about media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights to collect the data. The qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis while quantitative data was analysed through SPSS (Statistical Package for Social

Sciences) tool. Purposive sampling was used to select study participants (participants selected based on their knowledge of issues).

Presentation of Results

Background Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Respondent Type

Type of Respondent	Number of Respondents
Journalists	187
Bloggers	30
Media bodies/Press Clubs' Representatives	15
Media Lecturers	3
Civil Society Organizations/Human Rights Defenders (CSO/HRDs)	30
Political parties	0
Total	265

It is important to note that among the participants targeted were political parties. However, by going to print none presented us with their positions or opinions about freedom of expression, media freedom and digital rights. This is indeed surprising as the previous reports especially the January to June 2023, shows that that four political parties responded out of the total of five. The discrepancy could be attributed to inertia and bureaucratic procedures from with political parties as some of those contacted had to make reference to another senior official in the party, while others indicated concerning their party programmers' busy schedule.

Media House Representation

Table 2: Category of Media Houses

Type of Media House	Frequency	Percent (%)
Private Broadcast Media	140	74.8%
Community Broadcast	30	16%
Religious Community Broadcast Media	15	8.2%
Public Broadcast	2	1%
Total	187	100

The study reached 100 (53.4%) male and 87(46.52%) female journalists. Table 2 shows that of these numbers indicated private broadcast media respondents comprised of majority respondents 140 (74.8%) while the community broadcast media was represented by 30 (16%); the religious community broadcast had 15(8.2%) with the public broadcast having a lower representation of 2 (1%).

Years in Service by Journalists and bloggers

Table 3: representation and frequency by number of years in service

Number of years in service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than one year	16	8.5
1 to 3 years	57	30.4
4 to 5 years	30	16
More than 5 years	84	44.9
Total	187	99.8

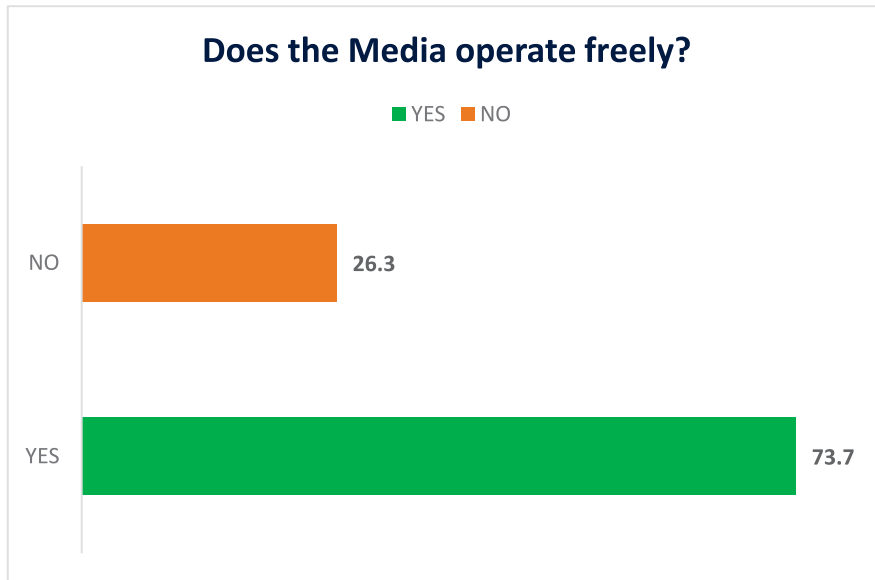
Table 3 is a representation of the experience that journalists and bloggers have had in their profession. The those who have worked in the industry less than one year numbered 16 (8.5%); for those between 1 to 3 years the number is more than twice the under one year represented by 57 journalists (30.4%), though the number between 4 to 5 years is also minimal at 30 (16%). But those who have worked for more than five years have the highest number with the highest experience in terms of qualification and work experience at 84 (44.9%).

Perception on Media Freedom

Figure 1: Perception on Media Freedom (Journalists views)

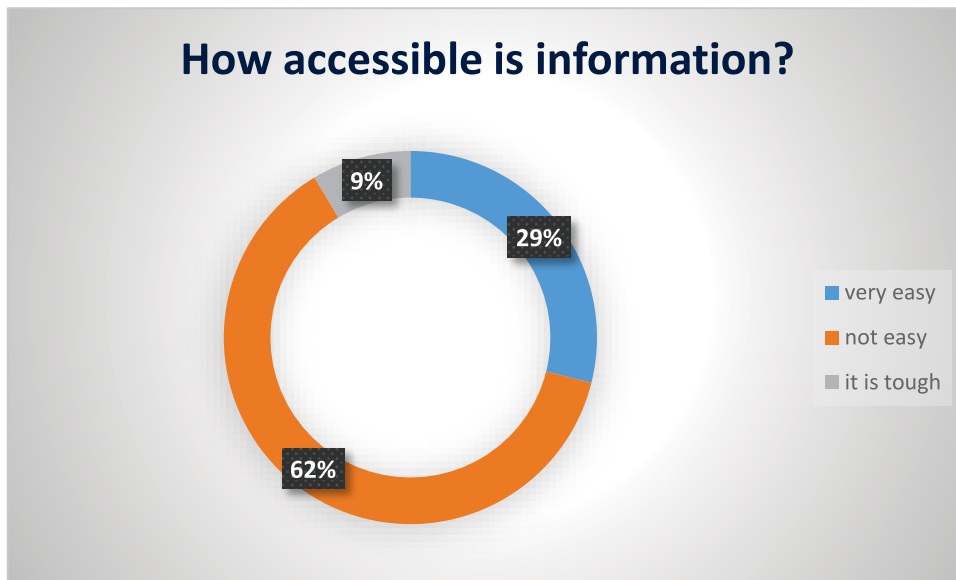
Media Freedom is one of the most important aspect of freedom of expression. The study undertook to understand the perception on media freedom by journalists on whether the media operates freely in Zambia. Their views indicated as figure 1 shows below that 73.7% of the journalists felt that the media operates freely while on the other hand 26.3% indicated that the media does not operate freely. One consistent comment from respondent is the very fact that “no media house has been suspended or closed so far” (Journalist). Another respondent felt that while the media operates freely in the country “there is still pockets of media interference from political parties” (Journalist). This rings true in most of the media assessment concerning media freedoms in Zambia, that the

issue of cadreism will need to be dealt with by various political parties if truly the media and journalist are to be free.



The journalists were further asked to reflect on the aspect of accessing information and how readily available it is. The questionnaire probed this aspect of freedom of information gathering using a three-point assessment by asking how easy is it to get access information; how tough is it to access information and whether it was not easy. About 29% indicated that it was very easy to access information and another 62% felt that it is not easy to access information and the other third group responded that it was actually tough (9%) to access any information. In comparison to the previous report (January to June 2023), the number of accessing information easily increased to 34% (a 5% variation) while not accessing information easily registered 64% a drop by 2%. The biggest shift in terms of how tough it was to get information comparing to this period increased by 7% (averaging at 9% in difficulties to get access to information).

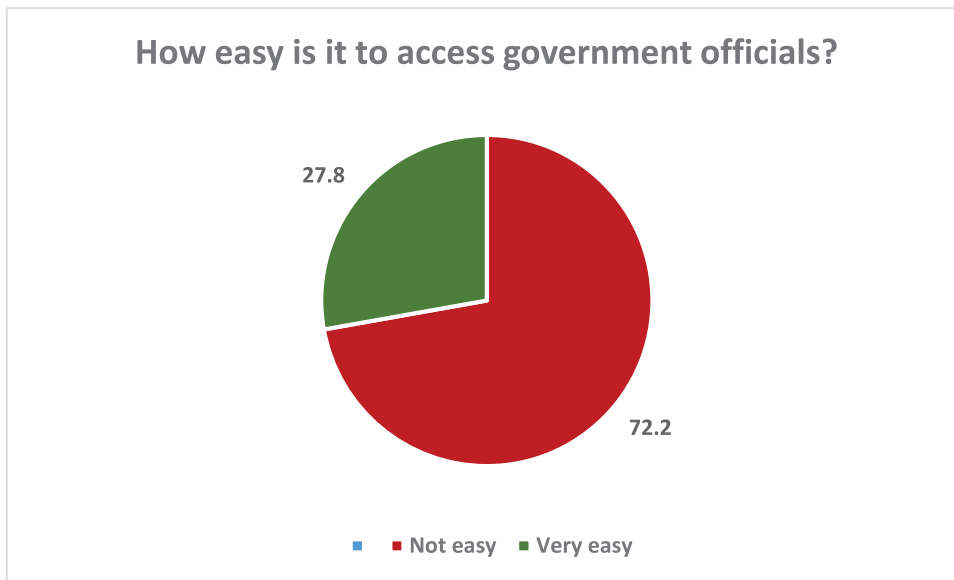
Figure 2: Journalist’s Access to Information (Journalists views)



Journalist's Access to Government Officials

Figure 3: Journalist's Access to Government Officials (journalists views)

In any democratic dispensation the Government plays an important role in how making themselves available to the journalists as they are the carriers of messages to the common citizenry. In this study journalists indicated their experience concerning their ability or inability to access Government officials; 27.8% of journalists felt that they had easy access to government officials. However, the majority of respondents 72.2% still feel that it is not easy to access Government officials. In the previous report it was indicated that 30% found it easy while 70% had difficulties accessing government officials meaning that there is a reduction by about 2.2% on making it easy to access Government officials.



The inaccessibility of government officials still remains one of the major hinderance in terms of journalists having access to them in gathering information or data. Hopeful with the signing into law the Access to Information (ATI), it is hoped that the information gathering should be easier for journalists. However, the following comments came from journalists concerning their challenge to access government official:

“Because government offices most times avoid availing the necessary information to the media”
(Journalist)

“There is a lot ofed tapein accessing vital information especially in government institutions”
(Journalist)

“People in higher offices or relevant offices do not easily give out information” (Journalist).

“There is many blockages because of bureaucracy” (Journalist)

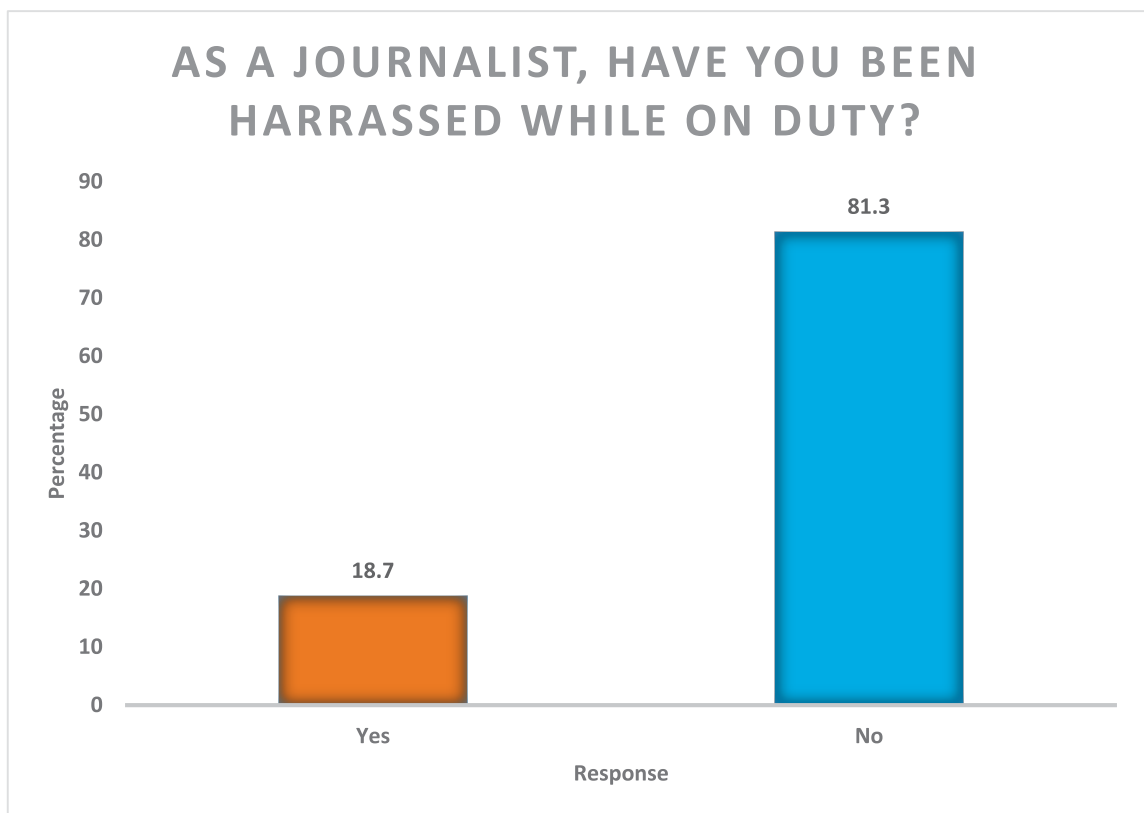
“They have to go and get permission to give out information, they would say am not authorized to give you that data” (Journalist)

“Accessibility is not very decentralized as sources tend to refer to seniors at the head offices in Zambia” (Journalist).

Harassment of Journalist while on duty

Figure 4: Harassment of Journalists while on Duty

The study wanted to understand to what extent journalists have been harassed while performing their duties. The atmosphere seems to be favorable based on the study; 18.7% of journalists felt that they were harassed whilst performing their duties. On the other hand, 81.3% had not reported any experience of harassment. Meaning that the environment is quite healthy for practicing as a journalist in Zambia.



However, it should be noted that even if the percentage of those who felt the media was being harassed indicates that we need a freer space for practicing journalism. According to MISA Zambia Online Violations Register the second half of the year showed that on average every month a journalist was being harassed in the period under study. Here are some few comments from journalists that were harassed:

“Yes, I was harassed and the harassment came from political cadres!” (Journalist)

“Yes, the harassment came from the sources that I interviewed” (Journalists)

“Yes, and the harassment came from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Committee Chairperson”.

“Yes, it came from the Police”

One was specific and indicated that they were harassed by an official from the ruling party (UPND). It is interesting that one journalist felt that the harassment came from the source where information is supposed to be sourced from. Meaning that the critical players in the dispensation of freedom of expression are the same news makers despite not being specific whether the person was a politicization or not. In the analyses attention has to be paid to the fact that journalists’ harassment does not only come from traditional political establishment of politicians or law makers, rather, new programmes that are run by government can be a source of worry as one journalists indicated with an example of a CDF official. Perception on enjoyment of Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression

Figure 5: Perception on enjoyment of Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression (Journalists views).

Further when the journalists were asked as to whether they were enjoying digital rights and freedom of expression, in light of their perception they responded by indicating NO (48%) and 52% responded in the affirmative. In comparison to the previous report where 57% indicated that they were not enjoying these digital rights versus 43% had said yes, they were enjoying these freedoms meaning that there is quite a shift in how people feel about the freedom of expression in a positive light. Though in the current report of perception of Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression there is a major difference between those who feel they enjoy digital rights and those who do not. It is worth noting the comments why this perception:

"We still have people arrested for expressing themselves online" (Journalist)

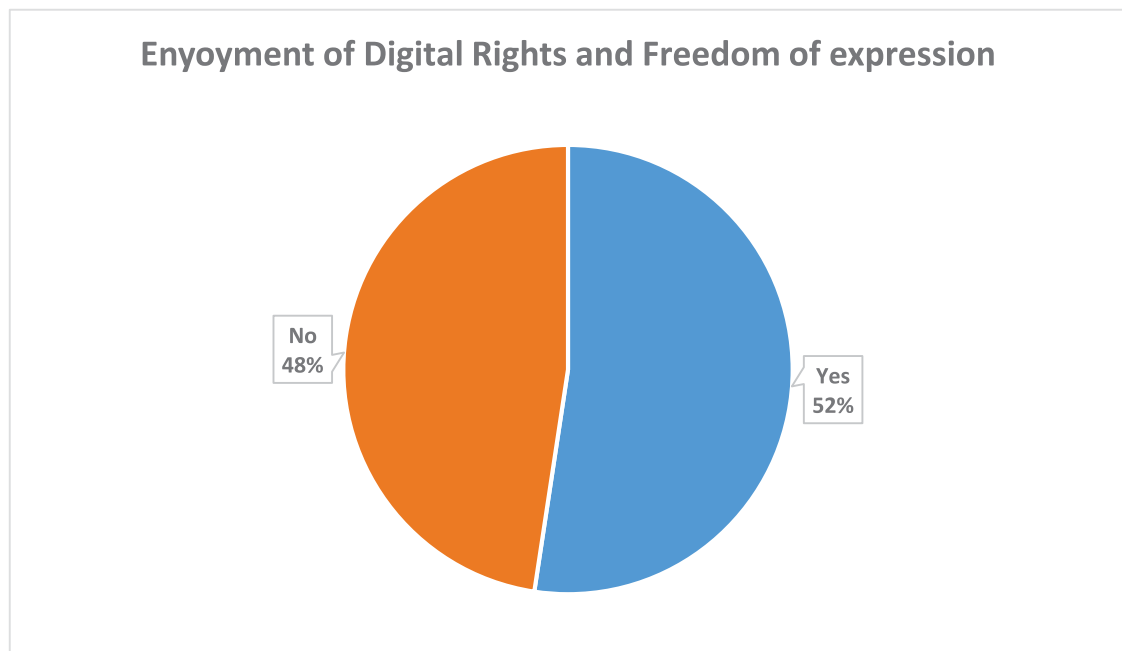
"To some extent because we see a lot of citizens posting anything they want on social media" (Journalist)

"The current state of laws makes it difficult for freedom of expression to thrive" (Journalist)

"People are free to air out their concerns without any intimidation provided they do it within the confines of the law" (Journalist).

"Acts and regulations need to be reviewed, repealed and implemented after wider consultation" (Journalist)

"Anything published not in favour of government is deemed to be against government and attracts political tension against the one holding a different opinion" (Journalist).



Regulation of Media by Government

Figure 6: Regulation of Media by Government (Journalists Views)

The other important aspect in terms of protecting media freedom is the how the government gets involved in either promoting freedom of expression and media freedoms or stifle these freedoms. The journalist's perspective on whether government should continue to regulate the media, the findings indicated that 55.6% felt that the government must not regulate the media, while 44.4% felt that yes, the government should regulate the media.

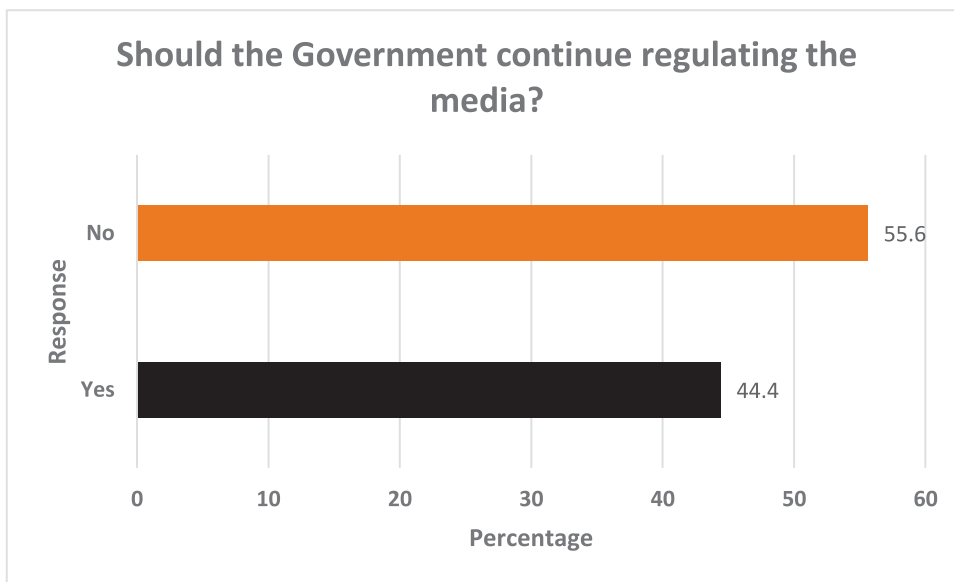
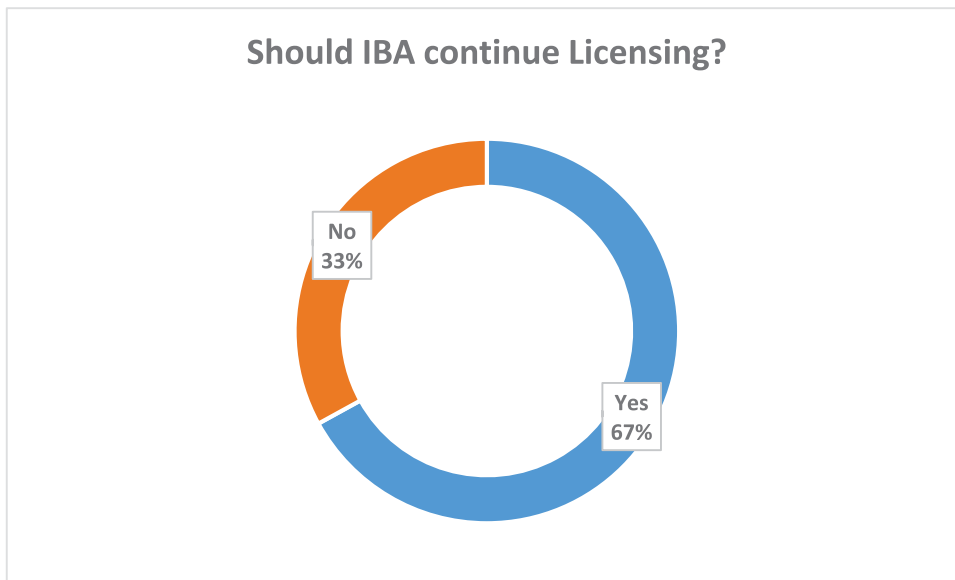


Figure 7: Journalist's views on IBA's Licensing



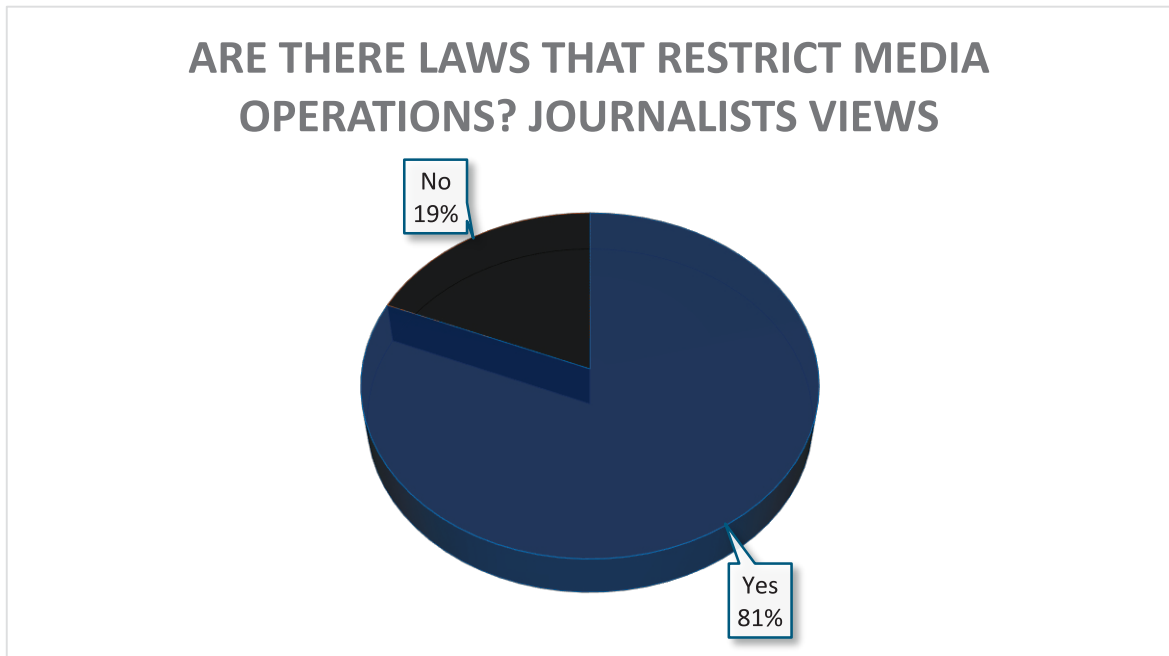
The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) has played a very important role since its establishment through the Act of Parliament¹ to regulate the broadcast industry in Zambia. From the results it is noticeable that most journalists appreciate the fact that IBA is still licensing the broadcasting industry at 67%, while those who felt that IBA should not regulate the broadcast media were 33%. In the previous report only 57% wanted the IBA to regulate the media compared to 43% who said no to IBA regulation. The high rate of appreciation in this current study (July-December 2023) could be attributed to the fact that licensing is given on professional grounds and not political positioning as it used to happen before the Act. Note that before the IBA was launched licensing was the preserve of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting then.

¹The Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) was established through the Act of Parliament No. 17 of 2002, which was amended through the IBA (Amendment) Act No. 26 of 2010 and IBA Act No. 18 OF 2017. The IBA became operational in July 2013. Iba.org.zm. accessed April 4, 2024.

Are there Laws that Restrict Media Operations

Figure 8: Are there Laws that Restrict Media Operations? (Journalists views)

Further journalists were asked to comment on whether there are laws in our country that restrict media operations? Majority of the respondents felt very strongly (81%) that there are laws that are very restrictive while only 19% felt that there weren't. In this context, some of the laws could be the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act of 2021, the Penal Code, the NGO Act No. 16 of 2009. This is an area that needs some probing further so that these laws are dealt with for the dispensation of democracy and media freedoms and freedom of expression.



Purpose of Blogging

Table 4: Purpose of Blogging

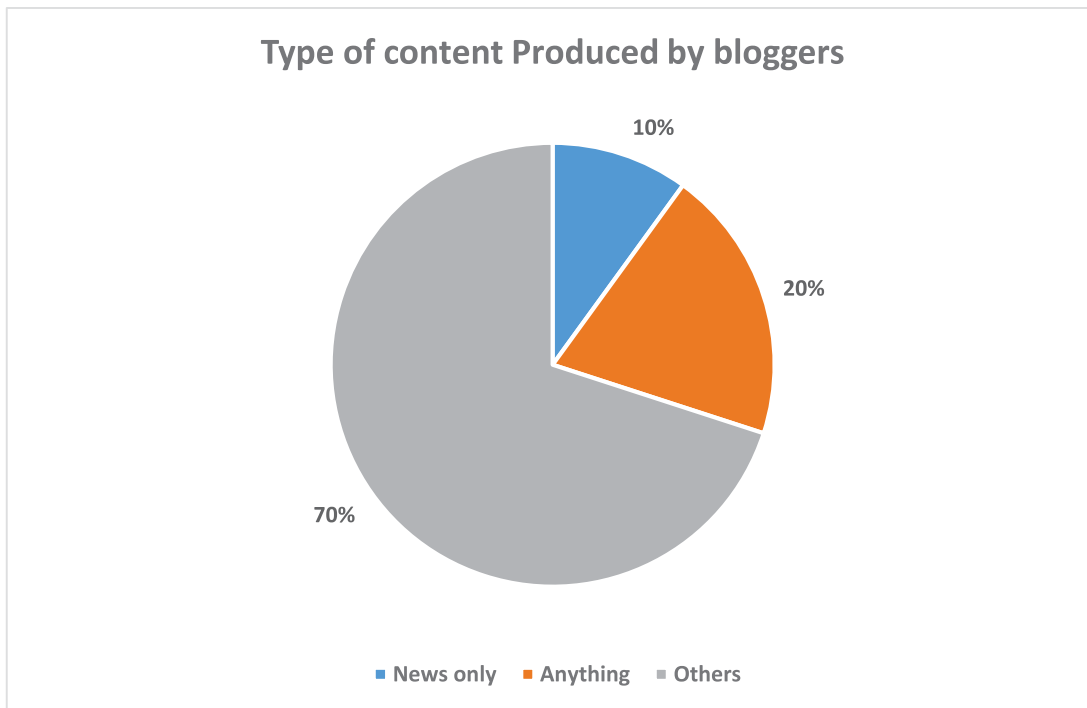
Blogging has become part and parcel of our media component where journalists express themselves through online means. The survey set to understand how bloggers in Zambia tend to use the information. According to the survey response majority of bloggers 18 (60%) prefer to use blogging for information and education. With 1 preferring to use blogging for all the purposes given below at 3.3%.

Purpose of Blogging	Frequency	Percent
Information and education	18	60
Entertainment	2	6.7
To promote my personal brand	2	6.7
To inform and entertain	3	10
To advertise and sell products	4	13.3
All of the above	1	3.3
TOTAL	30	100

Type of Content Produced by Bloggers

Figure 9: Type of Content Produced by Bloggers

Further bloggers were asked about the type of content that they prefer to produce. Three categories were suggested; news only, anything or other. In response 10% of bloggers produced news, while 20% were inclined to produce anything, and majority of bloggers focused on producing other content. Interestingly enough 70% indicated that the content they have is others, besides news only and anything.



Verification of information before posting

Table 5: As a Blogger do you verify information before posting?

Bloggers were asked concerning as to whether they do verify information before posting. The response was overwhelmingly 30 (100%). Meaning that bloggers in general are cautious about posting of information a plus for responsible journalism.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
YES	30	100
NO	0	0
TOTAL	30	100

Understanding digital rights

Table 6: As a blogger, do you understand your digital rights?

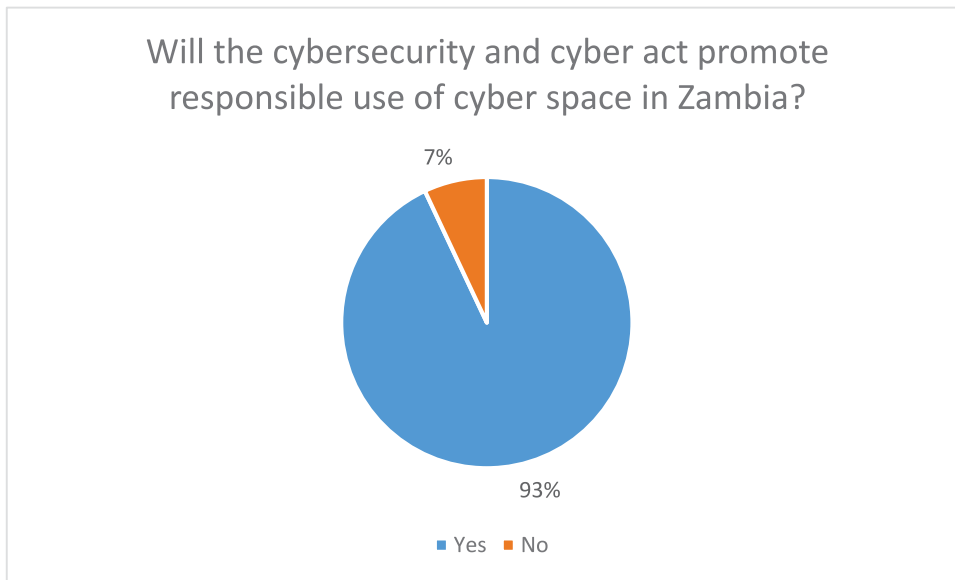
Response	Frequency	Percentage
YES	29	96.7
NO	1	3.3
TOTAL	30	100

Asked about whether bloggers understand their digital rights. It was also overwhelmingly positive that 29 (96.7%) felt that they were very much aware with only 1 (3.3%) saying they did not understand. Understanding digital rights is very important; even if it is one who does not understand digital rights, efforts have to be made to bring those behind up to speed, especially as bloggers.

Will the Cybersecurity and Cyber Crimes Act Promote Responsible use of the Cyber Space in Zambia

Figure 10: Will the Cybersecurity and Cyber Act Promote Responsible Use of Cyber Space in Zambia?

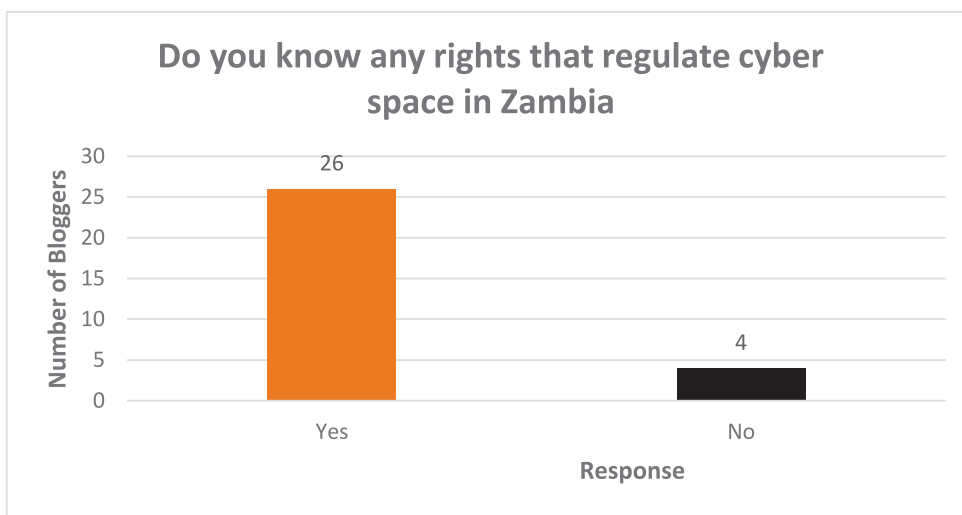
The study further wanted to understand the impact of the passing of the cybersecurity and cyber act, whether they would promote responsible use of cyber space. According to the response 93% were in the affirmative that yes responsibility will be enhanced for all those who practice journalism, while 7% felt that it would not enhance responsibility.



Any Rights that Regulate the Cyber Space in Zambia

Figure 11: Do you know any Rights that Regulate Cyber Space in Zambia?

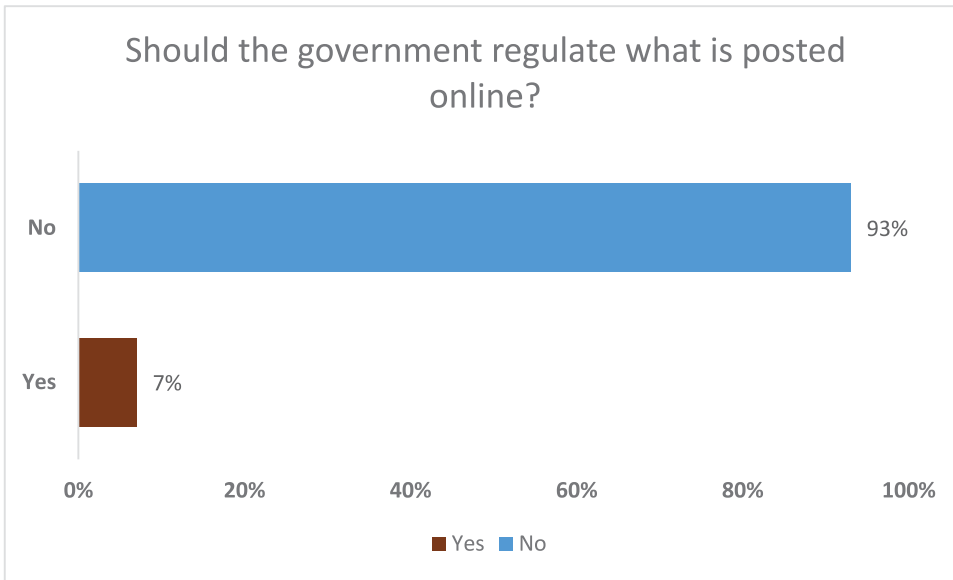
On whether bloggers do know any rights that regulate cyber space in Zambia, interestingly enough majority are aware at 26 (86.7%) except for 4 (13.3%) who said they did not know any rights that regulate cyber space in Zambia. This should be noted that the bloggers were being referred to for example the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act of 2021 in relation to whether they knew any rights that regulate Cyber Space in Zambia.



Should the government regulate what is posted online

Figure 12: Should the Government Regulate what is Posted Online?

Bloggers were further asked to respond as to whether the Government should regulate what is posted online. A higher percentage of bloggers 93% said that the government should not regulate what is posted online were as 7% of the bloggers responded in the negative that government should not regulate the postings. In the age of social media this aspect of media freedom and freedom of expression will always be a grey area and as such more clarity with clear directives from government will need to be stated. However, too much regulation from government can render the exercising of freedom of expression and digital rights to be stifled, especially as concerns the online or digital platform. The online platform is one of the key mediums where journalists and blogger must feel safe and unrestricted.



Whether some Bloggers have suffered Cyber Attacks

Table 7: Whether some Bloggers have suffered Cyber Attacks

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
YES	9	30
NO	21	70
TOTAL	30	100

On cyber-attacks it was discovered that 9 (30%) had experienced some form of cyber-attacks online, while 21 (70%) had no experience of cyber-attack. This indicates that the rate of attacks is minimal as compared to those that did not experience such kind of freedom of expression hindrance.

All the 30 bloggers felt the government was not doing enough to protect digital space users.

Was government doing enough to protect the Digital Space

Table 8: Was Government doing enough to Protect Digital Space?

The study further probed as to whether the Government was doing enough to protect digital space. The response from bloggers was overwhelmingly 100% (30) that the government was not doing enough with a zero percent rate who thought the government was doing enough. This calls for more examination why there is this kind of feeling among bloggers so as to rectify the anomalies and disparities.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
YES	0	0
NO	30	100
TOTAL	30	100

From the journalists and bloggers perspective the study turned to stakeholders who numbered.

Below is an analysis of what they said based on their particular stakeholder grouping.

Are Human Rights Respected in Zambia

Table 9: Are Human Rights Respected in Zambia? (Stakeholders perspective)

From the diagram representation it is very clear that all stakeholders (100%) agreed that human rights in Zambia are being respected for far while there was a zero rate of a negative response.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
YES	30	100
NO	0	0
TOTAL	30	100

Do citizens and media enjoy their right to freedom of expression and digital right in Zambia

Table 10: Do Citizens and media enjoy their right to freedom of expression and Digital Rights in Zambia?

When stakeholders and bloggers were asked about whether citizens and media enjoy their right to freedom of expression and digital rights; the response given was 100% in the affirmative. A big shift in terms of previous reports that indicated generally that citizens were not enjoying their digital rights. Some respondents commented that:

“As for the media, yes, as it giving more coverage to some unreached areas” (Blogger).

“To some extent because we see a lot of citizens posting anything they want on social media” (Blogger)

“People easily express themselves freely” (Blogger)

“Because there isn’t much regulation on digital platforms hence most citizens freely express themselves” (Blogger)

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
YES	30	100
NO	0	0
TOTAL	30	100

Do you think that the media should regulate itself?

Table 11: Do you think that the Media should Regulate itself?

Asked about whether the media should regulate itself the responses made indicate as in table 11 below that 28(93.3%) feel that the media is capable of regulating itself without external force. On the other hand, 2(6.7%) indicated that the media is not capable of regulating itself. It shows that there is good will from stakeholders that the media in Zambia is capable of managing its affairs.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
YES	28	93.3
NO	2	6.7
TOTAL	30	100

Comments from Lecturers

There was a feeling expressed that the state of the media within the six months under study (July to December, 2023) could be described as “partially free”. The respondent felt that the meaning of partially free is based on his experience concerning the many laws that restrict media freedoms among them: The Public Order Act, State Security Act, Cyber Laws, IBA and other regulations. And asked about the measure of freedom of expression in Zambia, the respondent indicated that it was basically “medium” and he qualified his answer by indicating that there is too much intolerance from Government with critics normally called to the police station. And for the academics to have a greater participation and influence on the media development the respondent indicates that all academic institutions “must teach students on gaps in the law”. He further commented that the only remedy is to change or reform the current laws.

5.0 Discussion of Findings

5.1 STATE OF MEDIA FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ZAMBIA

5.1.1 Media Landscape:

The first objective of our study was to understand the current perception of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. The desire for citizens in any given country to enjoy living freely can only be consolidated when media freedom and freedom of expression are respected and Zambia is not an exception to this rule or principle. The implementation of the principles of media freedom and freedom of expression guarantees citizens and the media alike to participate in the actual dispensation of democratic principles that lead to accountability for national leaders. Once leaders are held accountable, it is certain that many developmental, economic, social, cultural and even legislative principles will be easier to uphold allowing for free access to information about how the government works.

Like in previous reports, it is evident that participants interviewed are aware about the importance of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. There is a desire by media practitioners, bloggers, CSOs and Human Rights Organisation who wish to see that the dispensation of democratic principles are adhered to be so that the citizens participation in national issues discussions are upheld. From the participants perspective, there can never be democracy if media freedom, freedom of expression and now with the emergence of digital media are not upheld and followed through. The role of the media as well as freedom of expression are to provide the checks and balances and making sure that the governance system responds to the expectations of not only the media practitioners but the general citizens at large. In this report (period July-December, 2023), the study shows in terms of perception about media freedom by journalists, that there is a high indication that the media operates freely in Zambia. Statistically, it is noticeable that 73.7% affirmed that the media was operating freely while 26.3% felt otherwise. In comparison to the first half (January to June 2023) report 52% had indicated that the media was not operating freely against 48% who responded in the affirmative that the media was operating freely. Facts on the ground indicate that the perception of media freedom in this current study jumped by 25.7% point which can be considered a huge upswing which is almost the same gap going as far back as the July to December 2022 analysis. Generally, one can conclude that there has been a big improvement concerning how journalists feel about their role and practice of journalism in Zambia and indicated in the last half of 2023 report.

5.1.2 Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression:

Further, the study was to investigate factors limiting or enhancing the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia. While the ideal is to have media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia to be upheld all the time, challenges still abound in as far as accessing information. The first major limiting factor in as far as enhancing the enjoyment of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights is a lack of accessibility to information. In all previous reports have shown that accessing information remains one of the major challenges in the Zambian media space. As alluded earlier, for a country to be really democratic it is imperative that the media feels free to access information from any institution especially the government. In the period under study (July to December, 2023) 29% indicated that it was **very easy** to access information while 62% had the opposite view as **not easy** to access information, with the third category it is **tough** to access information at 9%. Comparatively with the previous report of the first half of 2023, 34% felt that it was very easy to access information while another 64% indicated that it was not easy to access information with those considering that it was tough to access information at 2% (this constitutes a 7% increase in terms of journalists finding it tough to access information). Just as there was a drop in how easy journalists accessed information by 5% and not easy to access information by 2%. In this instance, it can be made conclusive that accessing information by journalists in general remains one of the key challenges in the enjoyment of democracy in Zambia.

The second aspect the report identified in terms of accessing information by journalists has to do with Government officials. The government remains the chief custodian of information because of the role that it plays in any given country, in particular Zambia. This aspect of our democracy has remained elusive not limited to the periods of various reports on media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights that have been produced dating as far back the first and second republic. From the statistics of the period under study 27.8% of the journalists felt that it was easy to access government officials, while the majority of respondents 72.2% still felt that it was not easy to access government officials. In comparison to the previous report there was a reduction by 2.2% in terms of easy access to government officials while difficulties in accessing government

officials had an increment of about 2.2%. indicating that the challenge still abounds in terms of accessing government officials and that a lot will need to be done in terms of how much leeway is given to government officials to give information freely by either the executive, legislature and the judiciary. This challenge is attributed to government officials having a lot of procedures and red tapes in order for information to be released to the media or the general citizen for that matter. Among the comments made include the fact that “government offices most times avoid availing the necessary information to the media”, another journalist commented that, “there is a lot of red tape in accessing vital information especially in government institutions”, and another journalist in reference to bureaucracy indicated that, “they have to go and get permission to give out information, e.g., they would say am not authorized to give you that data”. This is an aspect of freedom of expression that needs urgent attention if our aspiration of a free and democratic country image is to be upheld at all times. Without the provision of information, which is a critical part of democracy out protection of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights in Zambia will be in vein.

5.1.3 ATI Law:

However, all hope is not lost considering that the much-advocated Access to Information Bill has finally become law. The law was passed by Parliament and consented to by the president of the republic of Zambia in December, 2023. The discussion concerning the enactment of the access to information law has taken over 20 years to be enacted into law. This is a great start for Zambia as we look forward to how it will be implemented as Grant Tunguy, the spokesperson for the Zambian Civil Society Organizations’ Coalition on Access to Information, or ATI, said, “The new law is not perfect, but it is a good start”². Grant further alluded to the fact that:

This law will enable us to start to build a culture of openness and transparency and it’s going to take years for us to do this, but let’s start now [there are] good aspects and there concerning aspects; but ultimately we have to start somewhere, and we can start to sensitize people to start to expect an openness and transparency from government officials”³

²Kathy Short. Zambia Enacts New Access to Information Law (January 9, 2024). From voanews.com. Accessed April 6, 2024.

³Ibid (in the same place).

However, other media organizations and individuals from across the Zambian society have expressed sentiments that must be paid attention to if we are to successfully implement this new law. MISA Zambia Chairperson Lorraine Mwanza said, "while she welcomes the new law, it may provide little help to journalists, opposition parties and civil society, as it does not address some critical issues...the Act should provide clear timelines stating how long one should wait when they request for information or when they appeal against decline to an information request from a public body"⁴. From the opposition National Democratic Party leader Saboi Imboela expressed a key sentiment that "the new law does not meet regional and international standards of human rights such as the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection"⁵. She further argued that, "the Access to Information Law is not something that a good number of us are happy about because if you look at it critically, it has actually been downscaled from the constitution and now very diluted"⁶. Note that the views expressed are that of the opinion of one opposition political party leader, and not necessarily of all political parties nor other stakeholders, as particulars that raise concern were not pointed out specifically during the interview with an international journalist.

On the other hand the government through its chief government spokesperson and Minister of Information and Media said that, "the president had assented to the Access to Information bill, which is now law, which has widened further the democratic space in Zambia, the precincts within which citizens freely participate in engaging the government"⁷. Zambia has become one of the few African countries to enact the access to information law besides Angola, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. This is a great assurance on the regional level in implementing this important law for the promotion of media freedom, access to information and digital rights. Besides, this law corresponds to the U.N. Convention against corruption and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The United Nations charter indicates that, access to information promotes the participation of citizens in governance, enhance public confidence in government increases the legitimacy of public institutions. In the context of Zambia, the

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Ibid.

implementation of this law will have an oversight by the Zambia Human Right Commission (ZHRC) in terms of the procedures to request information.

With the challenges that journalists have encountered including the citizens, the enacting of the Access to Information Law, hopefully will alley some of the fears and sentiments expressed by journalists interviewed in the survey. It is a good start as Grant said; there has to be a beginning and out of this beginning hopefully something good will come out and this impact of a major shift in law will present a different outlook in terms of the media accessing government officials. And at any given opportunity the government officials will be able to give out information as requested from journalists and the public. This access to information law should not be seen as a threat, but rather, as an opportunity for the government to shine in the dispensation of democracy and justice through availing information for the good of the nation as also for the good of the government in power. The ATI law should be seen to work at an advantage to both the possessor of information and the seeker of this information; for without information a nation will be starved of vital government or national plans, and once a nation is starved of true information this can lead to mistrust and perpetuate lawlessness in a nation. The onus always remains with the government in power at a given or particular period in time.

The operationalization of the Access to Information (ATI) law in Zambia is contingent upon the Minister of Information and Media issuing comprehensive guidelines and statutory instruments. Only after the issuance of these directives can the commencement of the law be effectively initiated, underscoring the pivotal role of the minister in facilitating the practical implementation of this crucial legislation.

5.1.4 Harassment of Journalists

The third challenge in terms of factors limiting media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights borders on the fact of harassment of journalists. In any democracy, journalists and even citizens must feel a sense of protection and security when carrying out their duties and mandate to inform, educate and entertain in the conventional understanding of the media’s role in the society. This area has remained one of the most challenging in the dispensation of democratic principles

and laws. However, in the interview there seems that the number of harassments has subsided as compared to previous years. From the study (July to December, 2023) 81.3% of journalists did not experience any form of harassment as opposed to 18.7% on the other hand who felt that yes, they were harassed. Comparatively to the first half of 2023 about 25% of journalists had experienced some form of harassment either from police, political cadres as well as individual politicians, while 75% had experienced some form of harassment from similar groups mentioned. In this instance, the level of harassment had reduced by 7.7% while the level of those who experience harassment had gone down by 6.3%. while cases of harassment might have reduced, it is also important to highlight where these incidences were coming from particularly from the journalists interviewed. The journalists indicated that harassment had come from the police, political cadres, a CDF official and those being interviewed. MISA Zambia does also give alerts in terms of journalists that have been harassed; in the recent report⁸ there were at least 23 alerts to the media fraternity with only one alert out of 23 considered positive in light of the President's consent to the Access to Information Bill into Law. The alerts had come mainly from the police, political cadres, Government officers from various institutions of the state. Some of the alerts read as follows:

Mkushi-based journalists were verbally threatened and intimidated by the District Health Officer after reporting on a theft that had happened at one of the health facilities. On June 7 the 2023, Joseph Siambihi of Mkushi Radio and Mundia Akapelwa of KNC, reported the theft of water pipes at Chibefwe Urban Clinic mortuary, supplying water to the mortuary. But District Health Director (DHD) Chisali Lusale who could not justify why it had taken time for DHO to report the matter to police, directed journalists not to publish the story. But when story was aired on KNC main news. The DHD, verbally threatened the two journalists that they should not be found near the health facility during their course of duty. The matter was reported to the District Commissioner who said he was going to

Investigate the matter.

⁸MISA Zambia. Violations Register (2023)

On August 14, 2023 Zambia National Service (ZNS) officer harassed News

Diggers reporter Mr. Chamuka Shalubala and forced him to delete pictures which he took of people queueing up for mealie meal at the Silverest Plant in Chongwe. The incident occurred when scores of Lusaka residents trooped to the ZNS milling plant in Silverest to chance the commodity

On September, 25, Mpongwe FM suffered a setback of censorship after Mpongwe Member of Parliament (MP) Gregory Ngowani's wife Cleopatra Shiyenge Ngowani on September, 24 stormed the radio station and went on rampage trying to beat anyone who dared to stop her from entering the on-air booth to sort out former Mpongwe aspiring candidate in the 2021 general elections under the Patriotic Front (PF) ticket, Emmanuel Kasambo. It is alleged that Mr. Kasambo had paid for airtime on radio to discuss his concerns over the alleged abuse of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) by the MP in Mpongwe. Some family members who accompanied Mrs. Ngowani also threatened to deal with the presenter of the program and threatened to destroy the radio station...

On November, 15, Police in Kabwe apprehended Chalwe Kaume, a radio caller, who expressed dissatisfaction with the UPND's failure to fulfill campaign promises to the Central Province Permanent Secretary, Milner Mwanakampwe. Mr. Kaume made these complaints during a live radio program on Cloud FM, where Mr. Mwanakampwe was a featured guest. He began by describing how he and his family now have to limit their meal times. Mr. Kaume voiced concerns about the challenging economic conditions under the UPND, stating that it had become so difficult that he and his family had to save leftovers to ensure their survival the next day...

These are but a few of the alerts that MISA Zambia had put out to the media and other stakeholders interested in the media freedoms, freedom of expression and digital rights violations. This shows that the culture of intimidation and harassment still remains one of the hinderances to having media freedom as well as freedom of expression for many journalists and ordinary citizens. In order, to reach the maximum internationally acceptable level of freedom of expression for democracy we have to be talking about implementing a zero tolerance for such behaviours in our country. Harassment of one journalist or two is cause for concern in terms of the journalists performing

their duties freely without hinderance from a political party leadership, political cadres, police and other national administrations.

5.1.5 Regulation of Media by Government

The other aspect that is important in protecting the Media Freedom, Freedom of Expression and Digital Rights in on how the government gets involved in as far as regulating the media is concerned. When journalists were asked whether the government should continue to regulate the media 55.6% felt that the government must not be involved while 44.4% felt that it was necessary for the government to regulate the media. In the previous report 66% of the journalists had indicated that the government should continue to regulate the media meaning that this affirmation on government control had dropped by 10.4%. While 34% had agreed for government to regulate the media, meaning that this time the affirmation had increased by almost 10%. Asked therefore, about whether the media should regulate itself the response indicates that 93.3% felt that the media was capable of self-regulating, while 6.7% responded that the media cannot regulate itself.

This area stands as a grey area as conversations are still going on among the media houses and stakeholders exploring how the media can regulate itself with the latest activists being the Media Owners Association that are pushing for self-regulation with a Secretariat having been set up in Lusaka. This is a show of serious commitment to move the discussion and agenda forward. It can only hope that in the not too distant future, some concrete activities will start to emerge through advocacy so that a bill can be passed into law just as the ATI was.

5.1.6 Licensing by IBA

The journalists' views on the IBA licensing has continued to receive positive affirmation from journalists and stakeholders. There is a general feeling that the IBA has acted professionally especially in terms of licensing radio stations and other media; it can be seen from the last year report that a total of over 60 licenses were issued. In the study about whether the IBA should continue licensing the media around 67% agreed and affirmed that fact that licensing of the media must continue under IBA, while 33% felt that the IBA should not get involved in licensing. Comparatively in the previous report 57% had agreed for IBA to continue licensing the media,

meaning that in this current report more journalists by 10% pointage have agreed for IBA to continue granting licenses. This jump is a sign that journalists are happy with the way IBA has handled not only licensing but also implementing disciplinary actions against the erring media institutions. If this is the feeling of many journalists, it gives confidence in as far as promotion of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights. In contrast to the period before the IBA was created by the Act of Parliament, there was perception that government was not fair enough in as far as licensing was concerned; it used to take even longer for the application to be processed. This trajectory is what is needed now and in the future for the dispensation of true democratic principles and tenets.

5.1.7 Are there Laws that Restrict Media Operations?

The other aspect that was the question of whether journalists felt that there were laws that restrict media operations. Restricting media operations by certain laws is ultra vires to the promotion of good governance in the promotion of media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights. A level playing field is important if we are to see improvement in terms of growing Zambia’s democracy and the dispensation of justice and peace. In response to the question if there are laws that restrict the media operations majority of journalists around 81% felt that there are indeed laws that restrict the media and 19% felt that there were no laws that restrict media operations. This means that there are still a number of laws like the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act of 2021, the Penal Code, the NGO Act No. 16 of 2009 for example that need to be repealed in order to reduce the level of restrictions on the media and civil society to operate freely. For example, one aspect that is restrictive for bloggers is on the aspect of “facilitating identification, declaration and critical information infrastructure...”, this could be intrusive if it is not clearly explained by the state.

5.2 STATE OF DIGITAL RIGHTS IN ZAMBIA

In terms of digital rights, the study was sort to determine the current level of understanding of digital rights among digital users in Zambia covering a period between July to December, 2023.

Digital rights have become a major component in as far as journalism practice is concerned; a number of journalists are engaged in circulating information using these new means of technologies such as social media and other digital plat form. Digital spaces have become one of the most celebrated and commonly used medium for communication even in Zambia, the country that is dominated by a young population. In the recent study of social media and internet accessibility to Zambians, statistics revealed that Zambia has about 2.70 million social media users; a total of 16.36 million cellular connection are active in Zambia accounting for around 80.6% of the total population as of 2023⁹. When assessing most and commonly used social media “there were 3.2 million Facebook users in Zambia in March 2023, which accounted for 15.3% of its entire population. Majority of them were men – 54.1%”¹⁰. Whereas the number of WhatsApp users was recorded as being at 2.9 million users¹¹.

5.2.1 Digital rights and freedom of expression

The statistics indicate that this is the context that journalists and other stakeholders are operating in and they are part of the millions outlined by various data collectors. However, this study tried to understand the perception of journalists on whether digital rights and freedom of expression were being enjoyed. The study shows that 48% indicated that they were not enjoying the digital rights and freedom of expression as compared to 52% responded in the affirmative. The gap of between the responded is not so big especially when we compare with the previous study that concluded that 57% were not enjoying digital rights and freedom of expression, while 43% indicated that they enjoyed these freedoms. There is a drop of about 9% terms of those who did

⁹Digital 2023:Zambia. Datareportal.com. Accessed April 6, 2024

¹⁰How many Facebook Users are in Zambia (March, 2023). <https://napoleoncat.com>. Accessed April 6, 2024

¹¹Whatsapp Users in Zambia.<https://worldpopulationreview.com>. Accessed April 6, 2024

not enjoy digital rights compared to the previous report and further there was an improvement in terms of those who affirmed their enjoyment of digital rights and freedom of expression by a 9% margin. Somehow the current state of digital rights and freedom of expression under the current study indicates that journalists enjoyed their digital rights and freedom of expression.

5.2.2 Bloggers, Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression

The phenomenon of bloggers has increased worldwide giving us a vast outreach in terms of the media's and journalist's involvement in the media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights. In Zambia blogging has also been popularized with individuals of groups running their own online blogs offering various forms of services. Coming to our period of study majority bloggers 18 (60%) indicated that the purpose of blogging was for information and education, followed by 4 (13.3%) who indicated that they use blogging to advertise and sell products. When asked about content produced by bloggers only 10% indicated that it was for news only, with another inclined to produce anything and the remaining 70% indicated – others. Meaning that blogging according to the survey is mostly used for other purposes than news or providing information. Bloggers being critical to the online space have a duty to fight for media freedoms, freedom of expression and digital rights. There is need to probe the level of interest or least interests in news production and information sharing in terms of promoting democratic principles in Zambia.

Further bloggers were asked as to whether they do verify information before posting on their respective blogs. Overwhelmingly, they responded 100% (30) in the affirmative. This could be a good sign of bloggers understanding their responsibility to media literacy education, which promotes a critical assessment of information that one receives or gives out.

In terms of digital rights and whether the bloggers do understand them, overwhelmingly at 96.7% (29) indicated that they do understand their rights whilst only 3.3% (1) said they did not understand their rights. This is a good sign of the awareness that has been created among bloggers to be vested with the laws that govern digital space.

Bloggers were further asked as to whether the Cybersecurity and Cyber Act will promote the responsible use of Cyber Space in Zambia. About 93% of the bloggers answered in the affirmative

that yes, they do believe that the Act will help in the promotion of responsible and 7% indicated a doubt that these new laws will assist in journalists being responsible for the proper use of the blogs. As to whether the bloggers know any rights that regulate cyber space in Zambia 86.7% (26) responded in the affirmative that they do know about this right, while 13.3% (4) indicated that they don't know. However, even if the number of those who do not know based on the sampling, there is need to continue engaging and empowering bloggers and bring them up to speed in terms of Cyber security Laws and know how.

Bloggers were asked whether the government should regulate what is posted online. According to the survey 93% responded by indicating that they did not want government to interfere with their online space while 7% felt it was alright for government to regulate them. As regards to whether they had suffered Cyber-attacks 30% (9) indicated that they did experience cyber-attacks, while 70% (21) had experience none. In the previous report 27% had experienced some form of cyber-attack while 73% didn't. Meaning that this current period the number of those who experienced an attack increased by 3% and those who did not reduced by the same margin. The bloggers were also asked to indicate whether the government was doing enough to protect digital space, the response overwhelmingly indicated that 100% (30) felt that government was not doing enough. Therefore, more will need to be done in this area to find the reasons and causes that would make the bloggers feel that the government was not doing enough as well as other areas that have been mentioned in this analysis that need more attention too.

5.2.3 Are Human Rights Respected in Zambia?

In this period of study (July to December, 2023) the stakeholders were unanimously 100% (30) agreeable that human rights were respected in Zambia. This is a major shift as compared to the CSO/HRD's perception in the previous period where they indicated 63% (19) that human rights and freedom of expression were respected against 37% (11) who had indicated that they were not. This is a huge jump comparatively and that the stakeholders had a positive experience in this particular period compared to the previous study. The study is very aware that the sampling in terms of gathering information from stakeholders could be quite small to get a clear representative of the opinion of more participants. However, this is the perception of those that were interviewed

and as such the study is comfortable with the perception as it is in the period of six months that his perception has been reported.

5.2.4 Do Citizens Understand their Digital Rights?

In this study period there is not disparity in terms of how some journalists and stakeholders observed whether citizens understand their digital rights. The response was overwhelming to the effect that the responses yielded a 100% (30). This is a major shift as well as in the previous report the respondents indicated that citizens did not understand their digital rights at 93%; only 7% felt that citizens understood their digital rights. Meaning that the perception in this time period had completely been reversed to record a total affirmation that citizens understood their digital rights. As a perception, it could be possible in the sense that there were levels of sensitizations to citizens through workshops and media programs one can say. However, we look at it, this could be a mile stone in terms of enhancing media freedoms, freedom of expression and digital rights. We can only hope that the momentum continues in this regard by encouraging the citizens and not only the media, that they are equally party to the promotion of democracy through media freedom and freedom of expression.

5.2.5 Political parties

It is important to note that in this period of study, there were no responses from the five chosen political parties. In the last period of study (January-June 2023) the response was quite overwhelming, where four political parties responded out of a total of five. As such it was impossible for the study to factually ascertain the feel or opinions of the political parties about the media spaces in Zambia in this period understudy.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is important to begin by commending the government of the day for enacting the Access to Information Bill into Law. This has always been the cry for many journalists, media houses and various stakeholders and in going through the respondent's answers, it was felt that media freedom, freedom of expression and digital right hinge on the ATI. Since the launch of the media spaces reports, this was one of the major recommendations that was carried throughout the

twice a year report. While the ATI has passed into law, a lot of work needs to be done to make it work for the journalists and citizens alike. It cannot be taken for granted that all is well for now and it remains to be seen how it will be implemented, especially that MISA Zambia and other stakeholders have teamed up to begin the process of sensitization. It is one thing to enact a law and another to follow through so that it is implemented to the latter, only then can we say that the media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights will find expression, respect and democratic vibrance. In the discussion it is indicated that the ATI has been welcomed with both hands by media fraternity and stakeholders, however, view from the CSO/HRD as well as from opposition political parties have raised some concern about the missing aspects of the new law. These comments will need to be heard by the government so that in future there could be some further discussion and engagement with the civil society and take their concerns on board for further amendments to the law if need be. For now, it is important to give whatever has been presented a trial run, as a starting point.

The major challenge noticed in this study is on the access to information especially from government officials. Overwhelmingly, journalists felt that it is a “mission impossible” to access information from government officials, leaving them frustrated and unable to reach deadlines for news and other important reports. It is hoped that with the coming into law of the ATI, journalists, CSO/HRD and the ordinary citizens will find it much easier to access information, especially from government officials.

This report has established also that during the study period (July to December, 2023) the media houses and individual journalists felt free to express themselves, save for few incidences, especially on the harassment of journalists by law enforcement officers that have been highlighted in the alerts by MISA Zambia. However, this should not be taken for granted, and that the same momentum needs to be kept up in the promotion of the media freedom, freedom of expression and digital rights and an effective operationalization of the ATI for a democratic and better Zambia as we commemorate the 60 years of independence.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, the following recommendations have been put forward:

- **Access to Information and Government officials:**With the passing of the Access to Information (ATI) into law and its operationalization, it is hoped that government officials will be much freer to give information than before. This was one of the major problematic area the study found out. A workshop for government officials as custodians of information will need to be organized.
- **ATI Workshops for journalists and civil society:** Need for organisations like MISA Zambia, CSO, HRD and Religious bodies to team up and intensify the training of journalists and the civil society on the implication of the ATI. Especially in terms of procedures and steps to access information.
- **Media Self-Regulatory Body:** Now that the ATI has been passed into law, more focus is needed towards establishing a self-media regulation body. Therefore, practical steps taken by the Media Owners Association with MISA Zambia will need to be intensified in the first half of this year 2024.
- **Harassment of Journalists:** media alerts conducted by MISA Zambia indicates that there are still pockets of harassment. Therefore, sensitisation workshops for police and political parties will need to be organised intensively in this first half of the year.
- **Repealing of certain laws:**the study showed that a number of journalists as well as Civil and Human Rights activists have called for the repealing of some of the media and cybersecurity laws to be repealed as they border on the restriction of media operations. Among the laws highlighted in this report include: laws like the Cyber Security and Cyber Crimes Act of 2021, the Penal Code, the NGO Act No. 16 of 2009.
- **Media Literacy Education & Ethics for Journalists:** not to underscore some comments from respondents, the report observed that there is need for the media bodies to emphasize the issue of training journalists in the concepts of media literacy education (that calls for critical analysis of information before publishing in various media fora). This would also cover the ongoing training in media ethics.



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APPENDICES: (questionnaires)

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 \surd 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 -----

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

- 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

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.

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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

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 -----

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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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