

STATE OF THE MEDIA

For the Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2006

MISA ZAMBIA

MISA Zambia

State of the Media Report for the third Quarter 2006

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1.0 Introduction to the State of the Media in Zambia third Quarter 2006

The *State of the Media* Report is a quarterly assessment of the media environment in Zambia. This *State of the Media* report is for the third quarter of 2006. The assessment and record describes the media situation in Zambia and was prepared by the Zambian Chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa – (MISA Zambia). The report includes the environment in which media institutions exist and operate and how that environment affects individual journalists.

As indicated in the past quarterly *State of the Media* reports MISA Zambia has contributed a chapter on the state of the media in Zambia in the publication *So This is Democracy* produced by the regional office in Namibia. MISA Zambia has continued to contribute information to this publication in form of Alerts and Updates. However, a local quarterly *State of the Media* report keeps abreast with the unfolding events affecting the media within the country, to keep media personnel, other stakeholders and the donor community better informed about developments in Zambia's media.

During the quarter Celtel Zambia continued expanding in its network ahead of other cell phone providers. However, its developments generated a conflict with the government owned Zamtel. The cause of the conflict was the fact that Celtel blamed all the problems on its network on the breakdown of Zamtel's E1 links in the affected provinces. In an interview on July 3 Celtel Public Relations manager Bridget Kambobe confirmed that in many parts of the country difficulties were being experienced in making and receiving calls as well as accessing the SMS but still insisted these problems were due to disruptions of certain Zamtel links.¹ Zamtel refuted these allegations through advertisements, describing them as unfounded.² But unrelated to the conflict on July 22 Zamtel announced that a combined team of engineers from Zamtel and Teleglobe of Canada were working to restore Internet services that had developed a fault. Zamtel spokesperson Charles Kachikoti said in a statement that measures had been put in place to ensure that the service was immediately restored. He explained that the failure was due to a fault that occurred on the route between Zamtel Online and Teleglobe Canada.³

The second major issue of the quarter was the MISA Zambia Annual General Meeting at which a new National Governing Council (NGC) was elected to oversee the operations of the organisation for the next two years. The new council saw Fr Frank Bwalya of Radio Icengelo elected as chairperson while *Guardian Weekly* owner Zarina Geloo was elected the vice chairperson. In his speech soon after the results Fr Bwalya said his immediate focus would be to encourage reconciliation in MISA Zambia so that winners and losers would work together in the interest of the organisation. He pledged to ensure that the NGC was cohesive and worked as a team. And outgoing chairperson Kellys Kaunda said MISA Zambia had achieved a lot in defending journalists from

¹Post July 5, 2006

²Mail July 6, 2006

³Sunday Times July 23, 2006

harassment which was evidenced by fewer journalists being called to police for questioning.¹

The third major issue during the quarter was the tripartite elections on September 28. The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) chairperson, Irene Mambilima announced that ECZ would hire experts to monitor public media's daily coverage of electoral issues. Addressing a cross-section of Livingstone residents during a forum organised by the Livingstone Press club, Ms Justice Mambilima said her team would ensure that no one had undue advantage over others in media coverage.² Similarly the Media Ethics Council of Zambia (MECOZ) executive secretary Beenwell Mwale on August 1 hoped the media would exercise impartiality and come out clean in their reporting in line with acceptable norms and professional standards. He warned that it would be a travesty of the profession for media practitioners to fail to observe the basic tenets of journalism.³ And MECOZ on September 21 repeated its message to journalists to exercise maximum professionalism in the run-up to the tripartite elections. MECOZ executive secretary Beenwell Mwale also said it was necessary for media personnel to be cautious in the manner they reported cases that were before court because they risked taking the role of the judiciary.⁴ The Press Association of Zambia president Andrew Sakala emphasizing the same message said it was cardinal for journalists to adhere to ethics so that they do not lose their credibility. The PAZA president said election petitions in the past included issues bordering on poor and unfair coverage by the media.

“We don't want to have a situation where journalists receive bribes and favours from politicians. Any journalist involved in such an act should be ashamed of himself or herself,” he said.⁵

From the selected points highlighted here it is obvious that the third quarter provided an important milestone in media reporting and development. No doubt how much the media influenced the outcome of the September 28 election will remain a point of much debate for some years to come.

¹*Sunday Times* August 27, 2006 - Others who won the chairpersons positions are Benetria Milambo – finance and development; Henry Kabwe – print media; Daniel Sikazwe – broadcasting; Gloria Mushingi – training; Nyambe Muyumbana – human rights and gender; Talent Ngandwe – environment and Lucky Sichula – politics and parliament.

²*Times* July 28, 2006

³*Mail* August 2, 2006

⁴*Mail* September 22, 2006

⁵*Sunday Times* July 9, 2006

2.0 Media Environment during the third Quarter of 2006

The quarter started with Celtel Zambia continuing in its network expansion ahead of other cell phone providers. However, its developments generated a conflict between the company and Zamtel because all problems on the network were attributed to the breakdown of Zamtel E1 links in the affected provinces. In an interview July 3 Celtel Public Relations manager Bridget Kambobe said confirmed that in many parts of the country difficulties were being experienced in making and receiving calls as well as accessing the SMS but these were due to disruptions of certain Zamtel links. Many parts of the country have been facing Celtel network failures with Chipata completely cut off. Kambobe further explained that network problems in areas such as Lusaka were due to the ongoing upgrade programme being undertaken by the mobile service provider. Kambobe also disclosed that Celtel would set up its own bandwidth running from Lusaka to Chipata by August.¹ But reacting to the Celtel allegation of July 5 Zamtel carried an advertisement in the *Mail* newspaper of July 6 stating that such statements were not backed by facts and that they appeared to tarnish the image of Zamtel.

“In the case of the Lusaka-Chipata link that was cited, our records show only one failure of their E1 (30 circuits) link to Kanjara in Chipata reported on 27th June, 2006 (which was resolved thereafter) while the other E1s to Mfuwe were not affected. Prior to this, no faults were reported on this link in the past one-month. Zamtel services to Eastern province, which include fixed lines, Cell Z and other leased services have been operating normally using the same microwave. It is regrettable that Celtel has resorted to passing the buck in explaining their network problems to their customer,” the advertisement concluded.²

Speaking during the hand over of K1.76 billion for election equipment support from the Japanese government to the ZNBC on July 6 Information and Broadcasting Services Minister, Vernon Mwaanga, urged the media to perform objectively to ensure all political players are given equal coverage in this year's general elections. Mr. Mwaanga acknowledged that access to the media contributed to fair elections in Zambia and the government wanted to see that political parties complaining about inadequate media coverage was a thing of the past. Mr. Mwaanga emphasized the duty of the public media during elections was to provide the nation with well-balanced coverage. He said people needed information to help them make decisions on the electoral process. It was his ministry's desire to see that complaints about lack of access to the public media were reduced.³

In the same vein government challenged the community media in rural areas to cover and inform the public on developmental issues in addition to politics. Speaking at the handover of media equipment donated by the Media Trust Fund (MTF), Eastern Province Minister Borniface Nkhata said *Kwacha Kum'mawa* Community Print Media in Chipata should inform and highlight to the public all developmental issues. Mr. Nkhata

¹Post July 5, 2006

²Mail July 6, 2006

³Times July 7, 2006

said the community media should give the public information on civic matters, HIV/AIDS and other developmental issues that would help build the nation. The media equipment donated by the MTF valued at K97 million included two desktop computers, a fax machine, digital camera and a state-of-the art 135 page per minute copy printer. He noted that Eastern Province had been blessed with a number of community radio stations such as Breeze FM, Radio Maria, Chikaya, Pasmé, Explorer, and Mpangwe but that the province still lagged behind in the provision of print media. Further Nkhata commended *Kwacha Kummawa* for being the only print media flag bearer in the province, urging it to graduate from just running a community magazine and instead look at possibilities of producing a newspaper. MTF executive director, Bestone Ng'onga, said his organisation had spent K1.2 billion this year in providing equipment to 34 media institutions mainly in rural areas. But Ng'onga appealed to the Government to give tax exemptions on the importation of media equipment if his organisation was to realise its objective of assisting in establishing a relevant, accessible, professional, gender balanced and sustainable media in rural areas.

“The issue of licensing is very critical in our crusade of taking the media to the rural areas. The Media Trust Fund is stuck with media equipment for three radio stations because of Government bureaucracy,” he added.

And *Kwacha Kummawa* project coordinator, Josephine Tembo, said media institutions along the line of rail had been receiving tremendous support from donors but now was the time to invest in media in rural areas. She assured the donors that the equipment would be jealously guarded.¹

Perhaps in an attempt to match its competitor MTN Zambia announced that its expansion plan was progressing well as the company expected to cover about 75 per cent of the Zambian population by the end of 2006. Speaking at the MTN Road2Riches final Draw MTN chief sales and marketing officer, Freddie Mokoena said the company's subscription base had tripled. Across the continent, Mokoena said the company now had 300 million customers and as time progressed they hoped to connect all MTN subscribers to the MTN family. He added that the organisation was currently working on improving quality of services and areas like Lusaka, Chongwe, Kafue Gorge, Solwezi and the mines on the Copperbelt now had good coverage. Mokoena said the company was now working on providing its customers with per second billing calls, which they hoped to launch soon once everything was finalised. To ease distribution, the company had signed a dealership agreement with Zampost and Game Stores where customers could now access MTN products.²

The Press Association of Zambia (PAZA) urged journalists to exercise professionalism in covering this year's tripartite elections. PAZA president, Andrew Sakala, said journalists had an obligation to report the truth and that, in the process of

¹*Times* July 7, 2006

²*Mail* 2006

carrying out duties they should not align themselves with any political party. He said it was cardinal for journalists to adhere to ethics so that they do not lose their credibility. He said balanced and fair coverage of all political players in this year's elections would help the country move forward saying journalists were key players in the democratic process. The PAZA president said election petitions in the past included issues bordering on poor and unfair coverage by the media.

“We don't want to have a situation where journalists receive bribes and favours from politicians. Any journalist involved in such an act should be ashamed of himself or herself,” he said.

He said lack of professionalism might plunge the country into divisions saying all forms of sensational journalism should be avoided. Mr. Sakala said instead of focusing on personalities, journalists should report on issues such as health, education and developmental programmes. He said the media should make a difference this year by giving fair coverage to all political parties. The PAZA president also called on media institutions to improve the conditions of service for journalists. He said in the absence of good conditions of service, journalists were prone to bribes and other unethical behaviours.

“As PAZA we have been calling for good salaries for journalists. Media houses should be on hand to provide logistics for their employees,” he said.

He, however, said the media had no excuse for failing to observe ethics in this year's elections.

“As a journalist, you have to be principled because you are the voice for the voiceless. What happens when people lose trust in you?” Mr. Sakala asked.¹

In a related development *The Post* met political parties and stakeholders on July 15 to explain its operations and also learn what political players expected from the newspaper in its election coverage.² And during the meeting *Post* editor Fred Mmembe told the various political leaders and stakeholders that nobody was illegitimate from coverage. He urged political party leaders to interact unreservedly with *Post* editorial staff. Political party leaders who attended the meeting were Brig. Gen Miyanda, Sata and his secretary general Dr Guy Scott, MMD's George Chulumanda, Mike Mlongoti, Bwalya Chiti and Benny Tetamashimba, FDD's Edith Nawakwi, Chifumu Banda and Newton Ng'uni, NDF's Langtone Sichone, UPND's Richard Kapita and representative from Reform Party Col Nyirongo, MISA-Zambia's Kellys Kaunda and Sipo Kapumpa, AVAP's Bonnie Tembo and PAZA vice-president Amos Chanda.³ The paper also interviewed Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) director Fr Peter Henriot to assess its contribution to the development of democracy in Zambia ahead of *The Post* 15th anniversary.

¹ *Sunday Times* July 9, 2006

² *Post* July 15, 2006

³ *Post* July 16, 2006

“The reason is that *The Post* has carried news that is relevant and opinions that have shaped people's thinking and guided national debate,” Fr Henriot said.¹

By July 22 a combined team of engineers from Zamtel and Teleglobe of Canada were attempting to restore the Internet services that had developed a fault. Zamtel spokesperson Charles Kachikoti said in a statement that measures had been put in place to ensure that the service was immediately restored explaining that the failure was due to a fault that occurred on the route between Zamtel Online and Teleglobe Canada. Kachikoti, however, said the other Zamtel online links have not been affected by the break down.² On the other hand government urged mobile phone service providers to offload 41 per cent of their shares on the Zambian market as a way of protecting national interests in the telecommunication sector, while promoting investment. The State, however, denied reports that MTN and Celtel had been allowed to invest millions of dollars in mobile phone infrastructure with a belief that the international traffic market would be opened up in Zambia.

The ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services said in a statement in Lusaka July 23 that Government was mindful of the consequences that could arise from privatisation and opening up of the international traffic market. But government claimed it liberalised the international traffic market in 2002 and it was the private mobile service providers that were hesitant in establishing the international gateway. The ministry was responding to media reports alleging that Government had ignored expert advice on the question of liberalising the traffic market. Instead Government accused mobile service providers of resisting the payment of licensing fees that were far lower than those in the neighbouring countries. Zambia was charging \$100,000 for a mobile phone provider licence while countries like Kenya were charging \$55 million and Zimbabwe \$100 million. The mobile phone providers also opposed the requirement for operators to offload some shares. The ministry was surprised that there were some people masquerading as experts who expected Government to introduce measures in the field of international communication without taking into account the impact on the national social-economic state.

“Government would like to see the benefits of the liberalised traffic also accrue to Zambians and in this respect Government requires MTN and Celtel to offload up to 41 percent shares to the Zambian public. It is regrettable that these operators have resisted this provision,” the statement said.³

On July 26 *The Post* celebrated its 15th anniversary and information minister Vernon Mwaanga eulogized the newspaper for its contribution to the fight against poverty of information by reaching even the remote parts of Zambia. Mwaanga wished the organisation further development.

¹ *Post* July 18, 2006

² *Sunday Times* July 23, 2006

³ *Times* July 24, 2006

“My ministry has and continues to recognise *The Post* as one of our many stakeholders. It has contributed to the fight against poverty of information by striving to reach even the remote areas, your success is the story of the success of government media policy and desire of a vibrant, free and independent media,” he said.¹

And with the approaching tripartite elections the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) announced that it would hire experts to monitor the public media’s daily coverage of electoral issues to ensure all stakeholders received equal attention. ECZ chairperson, Irene Mambilima disclosed this when she addressed a cross-section of Livingstone residents during a forum organised by the Press club at Livingstone Hotel, Ms Justice Mambilima said her team would ensure that no one had undue advantage over others in media coverage.² On the other hand the Media Ethics Council of Zambia (MECOZ) urged journalists to provide equal coverage to political players during the tripartite elections set for September 28. In a statement on August 1 MECOZ executive secretary Beenwell Mwale said MECOZ hoped the media would exercise impartiality and come out clean in their reporting in line with the acceptable norms and professional standards. Mwale warned that it would be a travesty of the profession for media practitioners to fail to observe the basic tenets of journalism.³

And on September 21 MECOZ reiterated its call for journalists to exercise maximum professionalism in the run-up to the tripartite elections. MECOZ executive secretary Beenwell Mwale, said that journalists should exercise professionalism in their reporting if they were to protect the integrity of their profession. He said it was also necessary for media personnel to be cautious in the manner they reported cases that were before court because they risked taking the role of the judiciary.⁴

But the media received some praise from High Court judge Lloyd Siame. He observed that the media was a dependable ally in the struggle to prevent and reduce crime in the country. Speaking in Solwezi on August 8 at the ceremonial opening of the criminal sessions in North Western province Judge Siame said without the cooperation of the media, the criminal justice system would have little success.⁵

And PAZA and the Press Freedom Committee of the *Post* Newspapers have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering mutual cooperation. PAZA vice-president Amos Chanda and chairman of the Press Freedom Committee Webster Malido signed the agreement named the ‘Carnival Agreement’ at the Carnival Resort in Lusaka on August 13. Mr. Chanda said the two institutions had signed the MoU covering a broad range of issues following lengthy negotiations hinging on the realisation that concerted efforts were necessary in maximising the defence of media freedom and advocacy for better media law reform programmes. He said the agreement had been realised following many areas of interaction seen between the two organisations. It was also aimed at effecting capacity building in media organisations through training and

¹ *Post* July 27, 2006

² *Times* July 28, 2006

³ *Mail* August 2, 2006

⁴ *Mail* September 22, 2006

⁵ *Mail* August 10, 2006

exposure. Mr. Malido said the MoU was not like political alliances being formed by political parties because it was based on common ground reached by the two media associations and it was meant to ensure that interests of the media were tackled.¹ In a related development five media mother-bodies rejected the new electoral code of conduct whose penalties included the imprisonment of journalists for erroneous reporting ahead of the tripartite elections.

And media bodies maintained that the conduct of the journalists should be presided over and monitored by the Media Council of Zambia (MECOZ). They requested an immediate meeting with the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) before the September 28 polls. The five – MISA Zambia, the Press Association of Zambia (PAZA), the Zambia Union of Journalists (ZUJ), the Zambia Media Women Association (ZAMWA) and the Society for Senior Zambian Journalists (SSZJ) made the resolutions after a two-day workshop on the media and elections. And speaking at a Press briefing in Lusaka, MISA head of training, Ceaser Jere said media practitioners should only be liable to maximum penalties of correction, apology and the right to reply for contravention of the code. Mr. Jere said the new law contradicted the provisions of the Constitution, which provided for freedom of expression. The new electoral code of conduct regulations was gazetted on August 4, 2006 and had introduced punitive measures ranging from fines to imprisonment for journalists for erroneous coverage of political events during the election period.

“Anyone is prone to making mistakes and a journalist is also human and it doesn’t mean that we have to be punished this way for a simple mistake,” Mr. Jere said.

He said the ECZ representatives and the Zambia police should allow the media to operate freely and report on election events without restrictions or censorship.² And Law Association of Zambia (LAZ) president William Mweemba said the coverage of political players by the public media was still heavily tilted towards the ruling MMD government. In an interview, Mweemba said the intention of both the Act and the Code of Conduct was good adding “in democracy you need to give equal coverage to everyone. Unfortunately although the Act is in place the scenario hasn’t changed. The ruling party continues to have a higher share of coverage.”³

In another development PAZA president Andrew Sakala advised journalists to be conversant with both the Electoral Code of Conduct and the journalism ethics. Sakala said this when he addressed journalists from various media organisations in North Western Province at a workshop on media held at Floriana Lodge in Solwezi. He said journalists from both print and electronic media should understand the code of ethics, the Electoral Act and the Electoral Code of Conduct to enable them properly cover political issues. He said journalists were expected to provide a fair and balanced coverage of all activities of political parties and candidates designed for the campaigning period.⁴

¹*Times* August 14, 2006. Also in *Mail* and *Post* of same date.

²*Times* August 20, 2006. Also in the *Post* and *Mail* of the same date.

³*Post* August 22, 2006

⁴ *Mail* September 6, 2006

At the end of the quarter the media environment remained unchanged in one vital area – the implementation of the IBA and ZNBC Acts. The Supreme Court on September 19 adjourned to October 11, 2006 the case in which six media bodies sued the State for failing to implement the two laws after an application from the State. Deputy Chief Justice David Lewanika, sitting with justices Florence Mumba and Sandson Silomba adjourned the case after Chief State advocate Dominic Sichinga made the application saying the State was not ready to proceed because the lawyer handling the matter, Solicitor-General Sunday Nkonde was ill. But lawyer representing the six media bodies Dr Patrick Matibini said while he was sympathetic that the Solicitor-General was unwell, he also noted that the State had not yet filed its heads of arguments, saying it was important that the State did so as the matter generated public interest.¹

¹*Times* September 20, 2006

3.0 Broadcast Media during the third Quarter of 2006

Government bureaucracy was a big issue during the third quarter. Speaking at the handover of equipment to *Kwacha Kum'mawa* Media Trust Fund executive director Bestone Ngonga complained that his organisation was stuck with radio equipment for three stations because of bureaucracy.

“The issue of licensing is very critical in our crusade of taking the media to the rural areas. The Media Trust Fund is stuck with media equipment for three radio stations because of Government bureaucracy,” he added.¹

But while MTF was complaining about government bureaucracy ZNBC was easily receiving a consignment of broadcasting equipment under phase two of the K4.2 billion government-funded Rural TV project. The consignment was part of the recent package that included vehicles for rural news coverage. To speed up installation ahead of the forthcoming tripartite elections two teams were mobilized to undertake the installation in various districts that have no access to Television. With the equipment in place, ZNBC board chairperson Augustine Seyuba said, the rural population would now access news from the national TV within two months. Seyuba said partners like Zamtel would help in monitoring transmission. And ZNBC technical services director Edward Mwanza said the project was fully funded by government with money approved by Parliament. Mwanza said the project was ongoing and would reach far-flung areas.² Besides ZNBC set aside over K10 Billion for the implementation of phase two of the government funded rural TV project which had stalled due to failure by contractors to supply transmission equipment on time. ZNBC Public Relations manager Mirriam Tonga said the money for the project was available and all tender procedures had been completed.

“The installation of new transmission equipment is set but we are being delayed because suppliers are not delivering on time,” Mrs. Tonga said in an interview. “Phase two of the rural TV project is covering less districts as compared to phase one. It will cost double the amount of money spent on phase one because it involves the installation of new transmitters, down link decoders and transmitter shelters,” she said.³

Residents in Chipata district of the Eastern Province complained of poor services provided by Celtel Zambia. One Celtel subscriber, Levi Ngoma, confirmed that there have been frequent network interruptions in the area over the past week. Ngoma said Celtel subscribers in Chipata could hardly succeed in making calls or sending short messages (SMS) due to the poor network. Earlier in the year Celtel Limited disclosed that they would embark on upgrading the network to curb network failures that most parts of the country were experiencing. The completion of the first phase of the network upgrade

¹*Times* July 7, 2006

²*Times* July 1, 2006 – Districts earmarked for television include Mungwi, Sesheke, Chavuma, Chilubi, Mwansabombwe, Chiengi, Nyimba and Mkushi. The equipment included 23 TV transmitters, 42 Automatic voltage regulators, 42 constant voltage transformers, DSTv kits and 42 TV sets.

³ *Times* July 3, 2006 - She explained that phase one of the rural TV project covered 26 districts, was completed a few months ago after the national broadcaster spent K4.2 Billion on the project which, among others, covered border towns such as Siavonga. Other towns in phase two are in Eastern, Southern, Northern, Western and North Western provinces. She added that after the completion of the implementation of rural TV project, ZNBC would embark on replacing radio transmitters in most parts of the country, which receive the signal using the short wave band.

programme was set for June month end but a number of subscribers continued to complain about frequent network failures. The newspaper claimed they could not reach Celtel authorities for an explanation on the cause of the network problems.¹ But despite the complaints from Chipata Celtel Zambia announced it had embarked on an aggressive network campaign to reach one million subscribers before the end of 2006 by connecting up to 100 districts countrywide. Sales director Amon Jere said with the completion of the Copperbelt network upgrade at a cost of US\$8m, the company had captured 85 percent market share because of its clear signal.² Mr. Jere said the company would spend over US\$70 million connecting more than 100 towns to the network. The claim of connecting more than 100 towns is incorrect because Zambia has 72 districts. Apparently the reporter was not critical of the information Celtel released about the towns being connected. Also this reflects badly on the editor of the newspaper and the regulator – the Communications Authority.³ The complaints from Chipata against Celtel were on answered on July 4. Then Celtel Zambia attributed the network problems in the country to the breakdown of Zamtel E1 links in the affected provinces. In an interview July 3 Celtel Public Relations manager Bridget Kambobe said many parts of the country have been experiencing difficulties in making and receiving calls as well as accessing the SMS due to disruptions of certain Zamtel links.

“The network problems that are being experienced especially in the Eastern Province are a result of Zamtel links malfunctioning but we have been informed the problem is being rectified,” she said.

Further Kambobe explained that network problems in areas such as Lusaka were due to the ongoing upgrade programme being undertaken by the mobile service provider. And Kambobe disclosed that Celtel would set up its own bandwidth running from Lusaka to Chipata by August.

“In a bid to cut down on network outages, we are putting up a microwave link that will be independent of Zamtel within the next one month,” Kambobe said. Currently Celtel depends on Zamtel.⁴

But Celtel’s accusation that Zamtel systems failure was at the heart of their network problems raised a lot of media dust. In advertisements carried in the media Zamtel said such statements that “are not backed by facts appear only to serve one purpose – to tarnish the image of Zamtel. In the case of the Lusaka-Chipata link that was cited, our records show only one failure of their E1 (30 circuits) link to Kanjara in Chipata reported on 27th June 2006 (which was resolved thereafter) while the other E1s to Mfuwe were not affected. Prior to this, no faults were reported on this link in the past one-month. Zamtel services to Eastern province, which include fixed lines, Cell Z and other leased services have been operating normally using the same microwave. It is

¹ *Sunday Post* July 2, 2006

² *Mail* July 3, 2006

³ *Mail* July 3, 2006

⁴ *Post* July 5, 2006

regrettable that Celtel has resorted to passing the buck in explaining their network problems to their customer.”¹

Information and Broadcasting Services Minister, Vernon Mwaanga, on July 6 handed over of K1.76 billion for election equipment support from the Japanese government to the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) in Lusaka. He commended Japan for the timely support, as ZNBC would procure new editing suites, portable recording cameras, DV camcorders, portable microwave links and motor vehicles. And Japanese ambassador to Zambia, Masaaki Miyashita, said the money was meant specifically to help ZNBC provide equitable media coverage to all political players in Zambia during this year’s elections.²

In a related development Chiengi residents received the ZNBC television signal for the first time since independence. Senior chief Puta of the Bwile said he was happy that his subjects were now watching ZNBC TV. He said the area had never received the ZNBC signal and the development had cheered many of his subjects. He invited President Mwanawasa to come to his palace again to officially commission the ZNBC TV signal before elections.³ In another related development ZNBC director of programmes Ben Kangwa assured all presidential hopefuls in the general elections that they would be given equal air time to present their manifestoes to the public. Kangwa who was speaking on ZNBC’s ‘Better TV Feedback’ programme on July 28 said programmes such as Rise to Plot One and The Race to Manda Hill would give the candidates enough opportunity to present their manifestoes.⁴

Lawyers representing Lusaka Businessman Odysseas Mandenickis and his company August 3 complained before the Supreme Court that the delayed hearing of the case by Infinity TV was causing loss of business to their client. Lusaka lawyer Wynter Kabimba told the Supreme Court Judge Lombe Chibesakunda sitting with Judges Christopher Mushabati and Timothy Kabalata in Kabwe, that their client Mr. Mandenickis, who borrowed K7 billion from Zambia National Commercial Bank, was losing business resulting from the delay. This was in a case in which Infinity TV has appealed against a ruling by High Court Judge Martin Imasiku, which stated that the issue of the land opposite Lusaka’s Arcades Shopping Mall on GER was a closed one.⁵

Radio Breeze on August 14 announced that the station was prepared for the tripartite elections. Its work plan started with the registration of voters and would end with a post mortem of the elections. The flagship programme was 'Political Hour' where political parties, NGOs etc were featured to provide sufficient information to the community. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services rejected the station’s application for a repeater transmitter licence for Sinda, which it hoped would have extended our signal fully to Petauke and Nyimba. The station appealed against the decision and although some parties have made remarks or statements that border on

¹*Mail* July 6, 2006. The *Mail* carried an advertisement and a news story on the matter.

²*Times* July 7, 2006. Also in *Post*

³*Post* July 20, 2006

⁴*Sunday Times* July 30, 2006

⁵*Mail* August 4, 2006

intimidation we have not and will not tolerate any other efforts at intimidation or harassment by anyone.¹

Early in August Zambezi FM started its transmission in what the station manager Felistus Chipako described as challenging and exciting. She observed that the Livingstone community's response was unbelievable. The station was broadcasting fully to Livingstone and surrounding areas, such as Kazungula, Kalomo, Zimba, Victoria Falls Town in Zimbabwe while it appears the station received surprise calls from Lusaka and Mazabuka, during a phone-in programme saying they could pick the transmission.² Elias Banda the ZACOMEF coordinator congratulated the new station and hoped more people had access to quality information for the betterment of their livelihood. He noted that Zacomef during the community media meeting in Choma, indicated it would introduce community journalism training for the sector. "I am proud to announce that we have started the community journalism training. Starting today, August 14th, ZaCoMeF is conducting two-week trainer of trainers' training in community journalism. Those trained under this programme are expected to train their workmates and fellow journalists in their workplaces and provinces."³

Media in Zambia was growing astronomically as in the last 10 years radio stations in Zambia have increased by more than 900 per cent. Zambia seemed to be growing even faster than its East Africa counterparts, where in Kenya, radio had grown by 280%, in Uganda by 275% and in Tanzania by 290% in the last 5 years alone. In the case of Zambia the net effect has been fragmentation of audiences because with the entry of new stations, no one was creating new audiences. A recent media survey indicated that an adult living in Lusaka tunes in to an average of 5 radio stations in any given week.⁴ And *The Post* covered the same news.

"The growth of the media in Zambia, especially radio, is posing a serious challenge for advertisers" the newspaper reported emphasizing the view of the Association of Practitioners in Advertising (APA).

The paper went on "according to the results of a media survey conducted by the Steadman Group and APA, radio alone in Zambia has grown by 900 percent, beating countries like Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, which have experienced growth of 280 per cent, 290 per cent and 250 per cent during the same period. The survey indicates that though weekly radio listenership averaged 89 per cent the fact that Zambia has over 25 radio stations led to audience fragmentation," it concluded.⁵

With the tripartite elections fast approaching Kitwe district Electoral officer Ali Simwinga advised community Radio stations to abide by the Electoral Code of Conduct. Officially opening a workshop on election reporting at Radio Icengelo Simwinga said on August 21 that the media had the responsibility of providing the public with truthful and

¹ Mike Daka, director Radio Breeze August 14, 2006

² *Zambezi FM* August 14, 2006 – email from Felistus Chipako to the Dgroup community media.

³ *Zacomef* August 14, 2006

⁴ Zacomef e-mail of August 23, 2006 and *Post* August 24, 2006

⁵ *Post* August 24, 2006.

balanced information and the Electoral Code of Conduct demanded that the media provided fair and balanced reporting of various political parties.¹ And Zambian community media revealed that it had not accessed funds meant for the coverage of this year's tripartite elections. Zambia Community Media Forum (ZACOMEF) director Elias Banda said community newspapers and radio stations had been sidelined for this year's funds compared to 2001 when they gained from European Union funds. Mr. Banda was speaking at a ZACOMEF community journalism-training workshop in Lusaka on August 23.

"We are the people at the grassroots and we need money to carry out our duties," he said adding it would be difficult for most rural community media to effectively cover elections. Most participants drawn from all the nine provinces said community reporters needed transport and other resources to gather people's views and cover political rallies.²

In the mean time the Electoral Commission (ECZ) urged ZNBC to ensure that all Zambians were accorded an opportunity to assess for themselves the political parties taking part in the tripartite elections. In a speech read on behalf of chairperson Justice Ireen Mambilima by ECZ director Dan Kalale at a MISA Zambia workshop she said ZNBC as a public broadcaster was the most widely viewed and accessible means of communication to the majority of the Zambian people and that there was no doubt that the public would rely on ZNBC for news and information on elections. "The ZNBC amendment Act number 17 of 2002 which transformed ZNBC from a State broadcaster to a Public Service Broadcaster, it placed a heavy responsibility on ZNBC management not only to collect licence fees, but to ensure that the station's programming was balanced," she said and further challenged ZNBC to reflect all shades of political opinion and that all programmes should reflect the highest professional standards. However, Justice Mambilima said the ECZ was happy that ZNBC was part of the public broadcasters that signed the SADC guidelines and principles on election coverage in 2005.³

But on September 8 MISA Zambia sent out an alert about a ZNBC crew that was on 26 August 2006 harassed by a crowd at a rally addressed by opposition Patriotic Front (PF) president Michael Sata in the Chawama Township of Lusaka. The reporter Effie Mphande and cameraman Abraham Banda told MISA Zambia that Sata made comments during his address condemning the television licence fees paid to ZNBC by members of the public saying it was an unfair tax which he would abolish when he came to power. He also accused ZNBC of being biased in favour of the ruling MMD in its coverage. The comments incensed the crowd, which became hostile towards the ZNBC television crew.

"When Sata left the rally the mass of people who were behind us as we were filming surged forward and demanded that we film them. One of them grabbed the camera tripod from me and a struggle ensued. I managed to wrestle it back but momentarily lost the

¹ Mail August 23, 2006 - Zamcom director Daniel Nkalamo said the programmes it had embarked on with ECZ would help the media understand the Electoral Code of Conduct and the Electoral Act.

² Times August 24, 2006 - "ZACOMEF expects to train close to 100 unskilled community media journalists in a special community journalism programme in the next six months," Banda said.

³ Mail August 25, 2006 - The MISA Zambia workshop was at Lusaka's Christmar Hotel.

camera hood which I later recovered,” said Banda. And MISA Zambia Chairperson Fr. Frank Bwalya condemned the harassment of the ZNBC crew.

“The incident is a violation of the right of the reporters to report freely. It is also a violation of the Electoral Code which clearly stipulates that journalists should be given unimpeded access to political meetings,” Fr Bwalya said.

But the Patriotic Front in an official statement on 6 September 2006 condemned the harassment of the reporters.

“We are appealing to our cadres and supporters countrywide to exercise restraint, patience and tolerance with our brothers and sisters from the press. We also urge our cadres and supporters not to engage in acts of hooliganism, violence, intimidation and harassment,” said Fresher Siwale a party spokesperson.¹

And the Supreme Court on September 19 adjourned the hearing of the IBA and ZNBC board media case to 11 October 2006. Deputy Chief Justice David Lewanika sitting with judges Sandson Silomba and Florence Mumba adjourned the matter after chief state advocate Dominic Sichinga made an application for an adjournment saying the Solicitor General Sunday Nkonde who was supposed to deal with the appeal had fallen ill.² MISA Zambia immediately sent out an update on the matter including Dr. Patrick Matibini’s view that the State appeared to be deliberately dragging its feet over the case despite the case being of public importance.³

On September 22 the PF was granted an ex parte injunction restraining the MMD, the ZNBC and Muvi Television from broadcasting unfavourable advertisements about party president Michael Sata. In an order made by the High Court Judge Naboth Mwanza, the court said “the defendants whether by themselves, their agents or servants or otherwise whosoever be restrained and an injunction is hereby granted restraining them from publishing or causing to be published the advertisement concerning the first plaintiff. The judge added that the order would be in place until after the hearing of a summons returnable on a date to be set. In a statement of claim filed in the Lusaka High Court Mr. Sata and his secretary general Guy Scott have sued for damages and sought an injunction to prevent the MMD, ZNBC and Muvi Television from publishing or causing to be published any defamatory words against Mr. Sata.⁴ But on September 26 ZNBC filed its defence denying that it selectively edited PF president Michael Sata’s speech thereby distorting his campaign message.

¹ MISA Zambia Alert dated September 8, 2006. - Banda and his colleague were forced onto the platform where Sata had been addressing the rally for safety. Sensing the growing danger, they decided to move from the rally site to seek refuge at a nearby clinic as they waited for transport. However, the crowd continued following them and were given a lift to safety by some people who were also leaving the rally rather than wait for official transport.

² *Post* September 20, 2006

³ Alert/Broadcast Update Zambia dated 22 September 2006. On 19 September 2006 the Supreme Court failed to hear an appeal by the State against a High Court ruling compelling the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services to take names of the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) and Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) boards to Parliament for ratification because the Attorney General Sunday Nkonde was ill. Dr Matibini was representing MISA Zambia, PAZA, ZAMWA, ZUJ, Society of Senior Zambian journalists (SSZJ) and the Press Freedom Committee (PFC) of *The Post* newspapers.

⁴ *Mail* September 23, 2006

But in an affidavit filed in a Lusaka High Court, ZNBC stated that it only aired an advertisement from the MMD after it was certified fit for public broadcast by its committee charged with the responsibility of previewing political advertisements to ensure they were not libelous and were in line with both the electoral laws and regulations and internal guidelines. The corporation further stated that the words spoken by the PF leader in an advertisement in question meant and were understood to mean he would chase away investors and demolish houses in shanties once elected into office. ZNBC, however, stated that the advertisement in question did not reflect the opinion of the corporation but of the general public who were interviewed and who had full liberty to criticise any person particularly individuals such as the PF leader who aspired for public office.¹

And in its competition with other mobile phone providers MTN has started discussions with Naspers' Multichoice pay-TV business to provide TV on its mobile phones by 2010. According to Buckley MacGrath head of MTN South Africa's business unit his company was discussing with existing players about providing pay-TV via mobile handsets.

"We think it is a viable commercial offering and we are looking at an offering with existing players," MacGrath said, adding: "It is a long term thing, maybe 2008, definitely before 2010."²

¹*Times* September 27, 2006

²*Post* September 26, 2006

4.0 Freedom of Information during the third Quarter of 2006

During the quarter agitation for the enactment of the Freedom of Information Bill appeared to have taken a remote back seat. Instead all media associations including MISA Zambia were involved in election related activities. However, as an under current it was obvious that the performance of the media during the election period would have benefited from the existence of this law.

But talk of Freedom of Information came from an unlikely quarter. Officiating at a hand over ceremony of media equipment donated by the Media Trust Fund Eastern Province deputy minister Borniface Nkhata said the government encouraged free, independent, vigorous and professional Press. He added that government would support community media that entrenched and institutionalised transparency through the information it disseminated and more interestingly said the following:

“As you are aware, even Parliament is effectively and positively pursuing legitimising the Freedom of Information Bill to become law.”

And Media Trust Fund executive director, Bestone Ng’onga, said his organisation had spent K1.2 billion in 2006 in providing equipment to 34 media institutions mainly in rural areas. But more importantly Ngonga said information was vital for any meaningful development to take place, adding that Government needed to talk to the people and vice versa. He appealed to the Government to give tax exemptions on the importation of media equipment if his organisation was to realize its objective of assisting in establishing a relevant, accessible, professional, gender balanced and sustainable media in rural areas.¹

¹*Times* July 7, 2006

5.0 Print Media during the third Quarter of 2006

Three issues dominated the print media during the quarter. First was the Media Trust Fund donation to *Kwacha Kum'mawa*, which generated a lot of controversy in community media circles. Second was *The Post* celebrating its 15 years of existence started with a build up with meetings with political stakeholders and testimonial interviews with a number of people who spoke well on the newspaper's contribution. The third issue involved the *Guardian Weekly*, a newspaper that was banned from running sex abuse stories about Zambia Air Force Commander.

On the first issue government challenged the community media in rural areas to cover and inform the public on developmental issues in addition to politics. Speaking during the handover of equipment donated by the Media Trust Fund (MTF) to the *Kwacha Kummawa* Community Print Media in Chipata Eastern Province Minister, Borniface Nkhata, said inform and highlight to the public all developmental issues. The MTF donated equipment valued at K97 million and this included two desktop computers, a fax machine, digital camera and a state-of-the art 135 page per minute copy printer. The minister also said that the government encouraged free, independent, vigorous and professional Press, adding that it would support community medium that entrenched and institutionalised transparency through the information it disseminated. He noted that Eastern Province had been blessed with a number of community radio stations such as Breeze FM, Radio Maria, Chikaya, Pasmе, Explorer, and Mpangwe but that the province still lagged behind in the provision of print media and commended *Kwacha Kummawa* for being the only flag bearer in the province. He urged *Kwacha Kum'mawa* to graduate from just running a community magazine to instead look at possibilities of producing a newspaper.

And MTF executive director, Bestone Ng'onga, said his organisation had spent K1.2 billion this year in providing equipment to 34 media institutions mainly in rural areas. He said information was vital for any meaningful development to take place, adding that Government needed to talk to the people and vice versa. He appealed to the Government to give tax exemptions on the importation of media equipment if his organisation was to realise its objective of assisting in establishing a relevant, accessible, professional, gender balanced and sustainable media in rural areas. And *Kwacha Kummawa* project coordinator, Josephine Tembo, said media institutions along the line of rail had been receiving tremendous support from donors, adding that it was now time to invest in the media in rural areas.¹

But it was the presence of the minister at this function, which generated a lot of debate within the community media. Sam Phiri of OSISA first raised the issue when he asked as a matter of interest: Why should a minister was asked to hand over what is in fact a private donation? And directing some question to Ngonga, the MTF executive director Phiri wondered whether the MTF really needed to have its donations legitimized by the government. He went on to ask what the political implications were and what the MTF and *Kwacha Kum'mawa* hoped to achieve from the minister's presence at the

¹Times July 7, 2006

handover ceremony? Further he wondered whether this was proof that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and NGOs could do nothing in Zambia without the politician's saying so?

“Aren't we, as individuals and CSOs deliberately, or inadvertently, limiting our operational space because of our one-party mentality?” he asked, adding that he had no problem with government officials (ministers and others) donating to particular projects from government funds, but for the MTF to invite a politician to a handover ceremony...that was something else. He urged the “owners” of MTF (PAZA, ZUJ, MISA, ZAMWA, etc) to re-look at this ‘policy’ position very carefully because, he feared, the MTF could be reduced into another extension of a government department.¹

In the debate that followed Felix Kunda of Justice for Widows and Orphans Project (JWOP) was not sure whether the presence of a Minister at the function, really turned the whole thing around, especially that “Chipata being a small town, the presence of Eastern Province Minister contributes/advertisers the local newsletter to the people.” He also noted that in whatever journalists did, they were connected to politicians at local or international levels.

“They are the people who represent or misrepresent us in parliament, and therefore even at an occasion like a donation, we need to make them accountable. And anyway, a Deputy Minister heads a province, whose decisions will affect all in the province including *Kwacha Kum'mawa*. I think his presence was worth it,” he observed.²

The staff at *Kwacha Kum'mawa* joined the debate. They thanked members of the Discussion group for the interest the donation had generated particularly the involvement of the Minister in Charge of the province. They revealed that MTF was not involved in inviting the minister. They noted that community media operated at grassroot levels and had tentacles that were appreciated by both politicians and a cross section of people and that the newsletter has a close relationship that cut across the political divide.

“It is a fact that half of the provincial administration offices have one or two posters from *Kummawa*. In short they know *Kummawa* as part of their daily life. Sometimes back the Permanent Secretary Brigadier Tembo during a media sensitisation meeting asked for a public briefing on how *Kummawa* was doing. This allowed the Coordinator to inform Brigadier Tembo about the equipment in the pipeline from MTF. If it was not for his transfer General Tembo should have been a contender for handing over equipment,” they said.

They commended the *Times of Zambia* reporter for a factual story. And Phiri's advice they observed – “when such advise occur, like the one being given, us at community medium have no option but to take the advise and ensure we don't fall into a similar trap.”³

¹ E-Mail from Sam Phiri on the Zacomf Discussion Forum July 10

² E-Mail from Felix Kunda of Justice for Widows and Orphans Project July 10

³ E-mail from staff – they concluded - In conclusion the Minister, as someone who has seen *Kummawa* grow from his time in Chama (Kummawa started in Lundazi) stood in the best position, as well as being the Provincial head to handover the equipment and signed -

With an eye on the forthcoming tripartite elections The Post first organised a meeting of political parties and other stakeholders where the editor Mr. Fred Mmembe addressed them. During the meeting on the role of the media in covering the elections, M'membe urged political party leaders to interact unreservedly with Post editorial staff.

“We meet a lot of people just by the nature of the job we do here, so we also want to meet you and share with you what we have and what we know about what is happening, of course not for publication. You can come and attend our editorial meetings in the morning, after all there is nothing sinister about those meetings,” M’membe said.

And political party leaders who attended the meeting were Brig. Gen Miyanda, Sata and his secretary general Dr Guy Scott, MMD’s George Chulumanda, Mike Mlongoti, Bwalya Chiti and Benny Tetamashimba, FDD’s Edith Nawakwi, Chifumu Banda and Newton Ng’uni, NDF’s Langtone Sichone and representative from Reform Party Col Nyirongo, MISA-Zambia’s Kellys Kaunda and Sipo Kapumpa, AVAP’s Bonnie Tembo and PAZA vice-president Amos Chanda.¹

The above meeting was followed by what maybe termed testimonial interviews of the role *Post* newspaper in Zambia’s politics. First Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) director Fr Peter Henriot was interviewed and he informed the readers that The Post had contributed greatly to the development of democracy in Zambia. Fr Henriot said the newspaper had been a key actor in Zambia's transition from one party to a more democratic state.

“The reason is that *The Post* has carried news that is relevant and opinions that have shaped people's thinking and guided national debate,” Fr Henriot said.²

Other individuals were also interviewed but their views were similar comments. However, on the material day July 26, 2006 minister of information Vernon Mwaanga informed the newspaper of how it had contributed to fight against poverty of information by reaching even the remote parts of Zambia. Mwaanga congratulated *The Post* on its 15th anniversary and wished the organisation further development.

“My ministry has and continues to recognise *The Post* as one of our many stakeholders. It has contributed to the fight against poverty of information by striving to reach even the remote areas, your success is the story of the success of government media policy and desire of a vibrant, free and independent media,” he said, adding “I wish the post another 15 years of success.”³

Edward Banda, Ernest Banda, Florence Zimba, Pastor Jessie Mwale, Pauline Makala, Tendai Phiri, Josephine Temboand Grace Malunga. Written by Godfrey Chitalu as agreed by management.

¹*Post* July 17, 2006.

²*Post* July 18, 2006.

³*Post* July 27, 2006

The third issue related to the ban from running sex abuse stories about Zambia Air Force Commander imposed on *Guardian Weekly*. The newspaper was served with an injunction restraining it from publishing allegations that Zambia Air Force commander Lieutenant General Christopher Singogo sexually abused a secretary employed by the air force. Since June 24, 2006 the newspaper ran several articles alleging that the air force commander had coerced the unnamed secretary into having a sexual relationship with him over several years. But according to a letter dated 8 August 2006 from Singogo's lawyer Patrick Matibini the allegations were "base, malicious, false, ill motivated and published in contemptuous disregard for our client's reputation". The ZAF commander was demanding an apology and K500 million (US\$142,000) in damages. In response, however, the *Guardian Weekly* said it stood by its stories because "they are based on documents and facts which can stand up to independent scrutiny," said Editor Zarina Geloo and the *Guardian Weekly* would therefore not apologise to General Singogo and would in fact pursue the matter to its legal, social and civil conclusion.¹

Other incidents during the quarter included the statement by Zacomef that community media had not accessed any election funds. Zacomef coordinator Elias Banda complained that the community newspapers and radio stations had been sidelined in this year's elections funds compared to 2001 when they gained from the European Union funds.

"We are the people at the grassroots and we need money to carry out our duties. It's like the elections money is concentrated in Lusaka and yet we wrote two concept papers to the Zambia 2006 election funds. No response to date," said the coordinator.

He said both the basket funds from Zambia Elections Fund (ZEF) and Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) failed to fund the community media in this year's elections. It would be difficult for most rural community media to effectively cover elections and would starve people of relevant information for them to make informed choices.²

Two court cases occurred during the quarter. First were a legal suit started by Patriotic Front (PF) president Michael Sata. In a letter dated August 18, 2006 Sata instructed his lawyer Bonaventure Mutale to sue the state-owned *Zambia Daily Mail* for defamation demanding K3 billion as damages. And Mutale wrote to the *Zambia Daily Mail* editor-in-chief referring to the articles that were published on August 14 and 15, 2006, stating that the articles were not only false but also calculated to influence voters in the forthcoming presidential elections.

"We are therefore, instructed to demand from yourselves a full and unqualified apology to be published in your paper, the form of such apology to be approved by us and an undertaking not to continue the publication of any similar articles," Mutale wrote, adding: "We must have your positive response by midday on 23rd August, 2006, failure to which

¹MISA Zambia Alert dated 14 August 2006

²Times August 24, 2006 - Mr. Banda was speaking at a ZACOMEF community journalism-training workshop in Lusaka August 23.

we shall institute an appropriate civil suit for an order of injunction and damage.”¹

Next was the ongoing media case before the Supreme Court. On September 19 the Supreme Court adjourned the case in which six media bodies sued the State for failing to implement the ZNBC (amendment) Act and IBA Act of 2002, after an application from the State. Deputy Chief Justice David Lewanika, sitting with justices Florence Mumba and Sandson Silomba adjourned the case to October 11 after Chief State advocate Dominic Sichinga made the application for the State, saying the State was not ready to proceed because the Solicitor-General Sunday Nkonde was ill.

But lawyer representing the six mother bodies Patrick Matibini said though he were sympathetic that the Solicitor-General was unwell, he also noted that the State had not yet filed its heads of arguments. He said it was important that the State did so as the matter generated public interest, especially that he had on several occasions sought the State to file its heads of arguments but to no avail.²

The end of the quarter saw the revival of the Professional Printers Association of Zambia by a group of printers to highlight issues pertaining to the printing industry. A committee comprising nine members was set up on September 28 in Lusaka to re-launch association. On the development Printers Association of Zambia interim spokesperson, Charles Zimba said the revitalizing of the association, which in the 1980s was once alive, was prompted by the lack of recognition of the printing profession in the country. He said the development was meant to chart the way forward in the printing industry by bringing together persons interested in the science and art of printing.³

¹*Post* August 20, 2006 - The articles of 14th August, 2006 and 15th August, 2006 entitled "PLOT 1: Where does Sata stand?" and "Michael Sata scares investors" respectively,"

²*Times* September 20, 2006 - The six media bodies are the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia, Zambia Media Women Association, the Press Association of Zambia, Zambia Union of Journalists, Society of Senior Zambian Journalists and the Post Newspapers.

³*Mail* September 29, 2006

6.0 Attacks on MISA members and non-MISA members during the third Quarter of 2006

During much of the year party cadres and students attacked journalists in the course of their work. It was no different during this quarter as some unruly UPND cadres roughed up journalists from the public media and people perceived to be against party presidential hopeful, Hakainde Hichilema UPND spokesperson, Patrick Chisanga, who was in Mongu at the time of the incident has since apologised for the harassment in an incident that occurred at the party secretariat in Lusaka when the reconciliatory committee of presidential hopefuls was interviewing Mr. Hichilema. The cadres who chanted pro-Hichilema slogans almost smashed a *Zambia Daily Mail* Tata pick-up. The reporters were invited to a press briefing by a UPND official only to learn that the meeting was in camera. The cadres were keeping vigil at the secretariat entrance and were ferried in a Canter belonging to one of the party members. And the UPND in Central Province has pledged to support Mr. Sakwiba Sikota for party president. UPND central provincial secretary, Clement Kazeze, said in an interview in Kabwe yesterday that the province was going to rally behind Mr. Sikota for the party's top most position. The province was behind Mr. Sikota because he had stood for the party through thick and thin with the late Anderson Mazoka. Mr. Kazeze said the province was also behind Patrick Chisanga for party vice-president.¹

The next issue related to the ban from running sex abuse stories about Zambia Air Force Commander imposed on *Guardian Weekly*. The newspaper was served with an injunction restraining it from publishing allegations that Zambia Air Force commander Lieutenant General Christopher Singogo sexually abused a secretary employed by the air force. Since June 24, 2006 the newspaper ran several articles alleging that the air force commander had coerced the unnamed secretary into having a sexual relationship with him over several years. But according to a letter dated 8 August 2006 from Singogo's lawyer Patrick Matibini the allegations were "base, malicious, false, ill motivated and published in contemptuous disregard for our client's reputation". The ZAF commander was demanding an apology and K500 million (US\$142,000) in damages. In response, however, the *Guardian Weekly* said it stood by its stories because "they are based on documents and facts which can stand up to independent scrutiny," said Editor Zarina Geloo and the *Guardian Weekly* would therefore not apologise to General Singogo and would in fact pursue the matter to its legal, social and civil conclusion.²

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¹*Times* 2006

²*MISA Zambia Alert* dated 14 August 2006

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“When Sata left the rally the mass of people who were behind us as we were filming surged forward and demanded that we film them. One of them grabbed the camera tripod from me and a struggle ensued. I managed to wrestle it back but momentarily lost the camera hood which I later recovered,” said Banda. And MISA Zambia Chairperson Fr. Frank Bwalya condemned the harassment of the ZNBC crew.

“The incident is a violation of the right of the reporters to report freely. It is also a violation of the Electoral Code which clearly stipulates that journalists should be given unimpeded access to political meetings,” Fr Bwalya said.

At the end of the quarter the outstanding media case came up in the Supreme Court on September 19. Deputy Chief Justice David Lewanika, sitting with justices Florence Mumba and Sandson Silomba adjourned the case to October 11 after Chief State advocate Dominic Sichinga made an application saying the State was not ready to proceed because Solicitor-General Sunday Nkonde was ill. But lawyer representing the six mother bodies Patrick Matibini said though he was sympathetic that the Solicitor-General was unwell he also noted that the State had not yet filed its heads of arguments. He it was important that the State did so as the matter had generated public interest and on several occasions sought the State to file its heads of arguments but to no avail.²

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7.0 Media violations during the third Quarter of 2006

Date	Victim	Attacked/Harassed	Who	Legal/Action
July 2006	<i>Times of Zambia</i> Reporters	Harassed	UPND cadres	No action. Patrick Chisanga UPND vice president apologised
July 2006	<i>Zambia Daily Mail</i> Reporters	Harassed	UPND cadres	No action. Patrick Chisanga UPND vice president apologised
18 August 2006	<i>Zambia Daily Mail</i>	Sued	Michael Sata Patriotic Front president	Legal action – demanding K3 Billion in damages
26 August 2006	Abraham Banda of ZNBC TV	Harassed	PF cadres	MISA Zambia issued alerts
26 August 2006	Effie Mphande of ZNBC TV	Harassed	PF cadres	MISA Zambia issued alerts
8 September 2006	<i>Guardian Weekly</i>	Sued	General Singogo then ZAF commander	Legal action demands US\$142,000 in damages
19 September 2006	MISA Zambia and partners	Case adjourned	Supreme Court	No decision