

## **MISA Zambia**

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### **State of the Media Report for the first Quarter 2007**

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## **1.0 Introduction to State of the Media in first quarter of 2007**

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 first quarter of 2007. This assessment and record describes the media situation in Zambia during this period and was prepared by the Zambian Chapter of the Media Institute of Southern Africa – (MISA Zambia). This includes the environment in which media institutions exist and operate and how that environment affects individual journalists.

Of interest during the quarter are views from both President Levy Mwanawasa and information minister Vernon Mwaanga in which they recognized the important role that information plays in society. Addressing Parliament on October 27 Mwanawasa acknowledged the role that information played in building democracy and national development. He said media's role in the tripartite elections was a testimony of how important information was in enabling the public make informed decisions and choices.<sup>1</sup>

He also observed that Zambia, like many other African countries, faced a challenge of regulating the electronic media and controlling the inflow of viewing material. Referring to the outcry from the public who asked Government to protect the country's moral and cultural values the president said some viewing materials were not in conformity with the country's cultural values and beliefs as a Christian Nation. He also said there was need for controlling the mushrooming of illegal video houses and keeping a check on cinema houses. In this regard he announced Government's intention to review the Theatres and Cinematography Act under which the Film Censorship Board would be reconstituted into a Film Classification Board to ensure that children are protected from unacceptable viewing materials.

And Mwaanga repeated his views about information when he introduced his ministry's K26 billion budget on March 13. During this debate Mwaanga acknowledged the important role information played in people's lives. He said Zambia like most countries in the world was an information society and that "information has been recognised as part of the fourth factor of production next to land, capital and labour ... and that information and knowledge are transforming people's lives and the way we do our business."

But interestingly, the quarter was devoid of any advocacy work by MISA Zambia or any of the main media associations. Instead concern about media issues was mainly in the National Assembly either through a ministerial statement or policy debate by the information minister Vernon Mwaanga. In this regard the task to keep government in tow fell to Members of Parliament when they asked the minister to make some clarification or defend statements made in his contribution.

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<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates October 27, 2007 - Zambia went to the polls on September 27, 2006 Zambia to elect a new president and members of the National Assembly and President Mwanawasa opened Parliament on October 27, 2006. He also told the House: Government would continue to provide a conducive policy and legal and institutional framework for the development of the media, he added.

Another event though initially initiated by MISA Zambia and other media associations in the country was the conclusion of the long awaited court case. The report discusses the Supreme Court's decision in which it quashed the lower court's ruling compelling the minister of information to take names of IBA and ZNBC boards to Parliament for ratification.

However, the quarter saw at least one meeting directed at lobbying MPs on the question of Freedom of Information. MISA Zambia

Apart from the president and Mwaanga, the report covers several items relating to tours of media houses by deputy information minister David Phiri.

## 2.0 Media Environment during the first Quarter of 2007

The media environment in the first quarter of 2007 was dominated by three things – events in Parliament; Supreme Court proceedings and the tour of media houses by deputy minister David Phiri.

In parliament information minister Vernon Mwaanga issued an extensive ministerial statement on the State of Private and Public Media in Zambia for the decade 1996-2006.<sup>1</sup> In this statement Mwaanga covered what he termed State of the Public and Private Media 1996-2006 and shed some light on some of the developments taking place in the information sector and prospects for the future. He tried to highlight the achievements and challenges faced by the sector, especially in the growing demand for information national wide. He also highlighted some of the operational difficulties that this ministry had to contend with.

Possibly as a result of a typographical error, Mwaanga referred to the “1996 international media policy” instead of the 1996 Government Media policy. In any case under this policy the Government claimed it had created a conducive environment for the media in order to “Promote and facilitate the growth of a sustainable media industry capable of enhancing full flow of information and freedom of expression for national development”. In its report on the ministerial statement the *Mail* on the following day highlighted the flaws in the Freedom of Information Bill that government withdrew from parliament in 2002.<sup>2</sup>

However, Mwaanga in his statement also claimed that the last 10 years were a turning point as regards freedom of the press. He further claimed that the media had enjoyed more freedom to cover and establish issues of interest than at any other time in the history of Zambia. As evidence of this he said political parties had enjoyed coverage from both state and private owned media.<sup>3</sup>

During the quarter government commended the Media Trust Fund (MTF) for its role in improving the media operations and reporting skills among journalists in Zambia. And

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<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 1, 2007. Also in *Zambia Daily Mail* for February 2, 2007

<sup>2</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 1, 2007. Also in *Mail* February 2, 2007

<sup>3</sup>In the discussion that followed Hon Chimbaka wanted to find out why, in the new dispensation and in the global world, Zambia was trying to deprive people of information which was a basis for national development and security? On the contrary, Mwaanga observed, the Government wanted to do everything possible to provide the people of Zambia with as much information as possible so that they can make informed decisions. This is the policy of the Government. Hon Chisala noted that the minister had indicated that some of the districts were availed with vehicles and asked when his ministry intended to consider districts which were not given vehicles in the last consignment?

Mwaanga said he had made it clear in his statement that government had not yet covered all the seventy-two districts and he added: “We have made a provision not just in the Fifth National Development Plan, but from the money that was released even as late as December 2006 to ensure that we continue expanding our networks for both radio and television with the ultimate objective of covering all the seventy-two districts. Mr. Speaker, with regard to the vehicles, I also made it clear that we have provided, at least, four motor vehicles per province. We intend to cover all the seventy-two districts if funds will be permitting under the Fifth National Development Plan and also under the budget for the year 2007 once Parliament approves the budget by the Minister of Finance and National Planning.”

Information and Broadcasting Services Deputy Minister, David Phiri, said February 8 during a tour of MTF offices in Lusaka that the Government considered the MTF as a partner in media development. The *Mail* covering the same story reported that Government had challenged the media to be professional.

And according to the paper the deputy minister said the observance of professional ethics was cardinal to the functions of media personnel. He said the ministry was concerned with the increasing number of unqualified personnel running community radio stations around the country. He said it was unhealthy for unqualified personnel to manage community stations.<sup>1</sup> He observed that Government had spent so much money in improving operations at the *Times of Zambia*, *Zambia Daily Mail* and Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) and on its own government would not manage to improve the operations at the three institutions and therefore hoped MTF would come in and assist. He added that in the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP), the Government had put in place measures that would see all districts get a community radio station.

Earlier, MTF director, Bestone Ng'onga, said his organisation, in 2006 spent US\$700,000 of which \$400,000 was for the development of rural radio stations. He said five of the radio stations were likely to be operational by June 2007.<sup>2</sup> He suggested that the Government should not be rigid when issuing frequencies and licences to community radio stations because that became an impediment to the free flow of information and the Government should, therefore, consider being flexible. Further he urged Government to consider exempting MTF from taxes on imported media equipment.

During the quarter Government expressed disappointment that it appeared that its funding to the Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) did not trickle down to districts on the Copperbelt. Information Deputy Minister, David Phiri, said it was sad that despite Government investing huge sums of money in procuring equipment for the media, the equipment had not been put to good use in some parts of Zambia and the Copperbelt in particular. The deputy minister who was speaking shortly before he inspected ZANIS offices in Kitwe on February 9 said he was disappointed that equipment meant to benefit local communities in the province was not being utilised.

He said Government procured tools such as computers, video vans among others, but these were just lying idle due to lack of adequate funding a situation he described as unfortunate, warning that Government would not let such a situation go on as the equipment was procured for the rapid development of the media in the country. He wondered how video vans were being put to good use in provinces such as Eastern and not on the Copperbelt. He added that the problem of fuel should not be an issue because all provinces had been provided with adequate funding. He commended Kitwe District Commissioner, MacDonald Mtine, for being conversant with media operations and that he would depend on him to ensure ZANIS operated effectively.<sup>3</sup> But provincial

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* February 9, 2007 Also in *Mail* Feb 9-07

<sup>2</sup>Ng'onga named the stations as Isoka Radio, Mwinilunga, Luapula Radio in Nchelenge, Mphangwe in Katete and Vision Radio in Choma.

<sup>3</sup>*Times* February 10,2007

information officer, Robert Kajoba informed the deputy minister that the department had not received any funding from Government for 10 months now. He said the last time his office received funding was in May 2006, when it was given K5 million adding that the problems faced by his office needed urgent attention. In the National Assembly, Speaker Amusaa Mwanambwa, advised Members of Parliament (MPs) against unwarranted attacks on journalists because they can not defend themselves in the House.<sup>1</sup> Earlier Gwembe MP Brian Ntundu (UPND) attacked the media in his maiden speech prompting the Speaker, who did not want to interrupt, to issue the warning.

In March 2007 government announced it had set up a team to study commercialization of Zamtel. The report indicated they wanted this to be done under the Private Sector Development Plan (PSDP) and had as its mandate to study how best Zamtel could compete on the market. However, no time frame appears to have been given in which to complete the study.<sup>2</sup>

On March 13, 2007 government won a protracted court battle with the media associations on the interpretation of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Zambia national Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Acts passed in 2002. But did the media environment change following government's win? On March 16 government announced that it would strengthen its ties with media. In an interview with information minister Vernon Mwaanga the *Mail* reported that the State wanted the media to continue cooperating with government despite the Supreme Court judgment on the ZNBC and IBA Acts. Mwaanga told the newspaper there was no need for government to view itself as the victor in the case. "I believe we still have a common interest and duty to promote press freedom in Zambia. Let us engage each other in a constructive way and not in a confrontational way," he said.<sup>3</sup>

For sometime government and some stakeholders were involved in the preparation of an ICT policy. By March 28, 2007 the policy document was ready for President Levy Mwanawasa to launch it. He told his listeners that because of "the convergence of technology" there was need "to rationalize the regulatory framework to eliminate duplication." He called upon the ministries involved in ICTs to harmonise the regulatory framework in the sector.<sup>4</sup>

The media environment during the quarter concludes with a report that MTN had filed an injunction against Zamtel. In its report on March 31, 2007 the *Mail* said MTN had filed an injunction to stop Zamtel from disrupting its inter-connector services. This followed a Zamtel decision to disconnect MTN for non payment of fees. Zamtel public relations officer Charles Kachikoti confirmed the development while MTN chief executive Mike Blackburn assured his customers that they would not experience any disruption.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* February 24, 2007. Also Parliamentary Debates February 22, 2007.

<sup>2</sup>*Mail* March 12/07

<sup>3</sup>*Mail* March 17, 2007

<sup>4</sup>*Mail* Mar 29/07 -The institutions the president directed are the Communication Authority of Zambia which regulates the telecommunications sector, the ministry of Communications and Transport which regulates Postal and Courier services and ministry of Information and Broadcasting which regulates broadcasting.

<sup>5</sup>*Mail* Mar 31/07

### **3.0 Broadcast Media during the first Quarter of 2007**

The quarter in broadcasting was dominated by the Supreme Court ruling quashing the lower court judgment ordering the minister of information to present names to parliament for ratification. The Supreme Court decision meant government had all the cards in dealing with the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Zambia national Broadcasting Corporation (Amendment) Acts.

On the ground the quarter opened early in the New Year with government threats to cancel licences of Community Radio stations that were allegedly not operating within the provisions of their licences. Information and Broadcasting Services deputy minister, David Phiri, warned the private media that they risked losing their licences if they continued airing political programmes aimed at de-campaigning the Government of the day. The deputy minister was speaking in Chipata on January 3 after touring the two community radio stations, Breeze and Radio Maria.<sup>1</sup>

Instead Phiri urged private media institutions in the country to promote Government efforts by producing good developmental programmes. He said the private media could play a big role in supplementing the Government efforts improve the economy. He said the Government had scored successes in many of its programmes, such as the Fertilizer Support Programme (FSP), which he said had not received good coverage from the private media. Mr. Phiri, who is Mkaika Member of Parliament (MP), urged the private radio stations to scale-up their programmes in order to benefit the general public. The deputy minister said he was disappointed that some private media institutions did not implement the Government efforts by educating the general public on the needs of good health and hygiene in the community. He observed that some media quarters concentrated on political programmes to make money.

“I do not hear much of the good things the Government has done in the country. You can sensitise the community on the dangers of HIV and AIDS and other diseases that needs to be prevented. Please try to avoid concentrating on politics,” Mr. Phiri said.

It appears Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services Mr David Phiri made the threats after touring Radio Maria in Chipata on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007. On 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007 MISA Zambia issued a statement expressing deep concern at government comments.

“These comments are regrettable, retrogressive threats clearly aimed at intimidating community radio operators so that they stop giving a voice to those with independent views,” the statement signed by the chairperson Fr Frank Bwalya said in part. MISA found such comments unfortunate especially that they were from a government that had seen the benefits of a diverse, independent and objective media in its coverage of the tripartite elections in September 2006.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Times January 4, 2007

<sup>2</sup> President Mwanawasa acknowledged this in his speech opening Parliament

MISA Zambia went on to give advice to the deputy minister. He must learn to appreciate that threats would only breed unnecessary mistrust and acrimony in the country, MISA said. Besides the signals coming from government clearly showed that it needed political will to appreciate the values of democratic dispensation because its own analysis showed that government appeared insecure with a free, independent and objective media, one that gave a voice to everyone in the community, including those with dissenting views and independent critical opinion. MISA was also surprised that instead of government utilising community radio stations to development, it was busy trying to prevent others from using this vital avenue for information sharing. “We expect government to safeguard people’s human and constitutional rights to freedom of express as well media freedom,” the MISA statement concluded.

Of interest during this quarter Minister of Information Vernon Mwaanga provided a state of the media lowdown covering the period 1996-2006. He told the National Assembly that the number of community and commercial radio stations and television stations had grown and people were able to access diverse views, news and opinions to enable them make informed decisions on matters affecting their welfare. He also told Parliament that there was no censorship in Zambia and that the broadcasting status, within the laws, enjoyed equal freedom and a great measure of independence.<sup>1</sup>

In terms of support to the private media, Mwaanga revealed that Government had in the Fifth National Development Plan included the establishment of a media development fund. According to Mwaanga this would be a revolving credit fund to be accessed by those wishing to set up newspapers, radio and television stations. This was expected to be in place by 2008 while the modalities and guidelines, including a manual on the same would be put in place before or by the end of 2007.

Until 1994, the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) enjoyed the monopoly in broadcasting. But now the ZNBC monopoly had been broken and other radio and television stations; both commercial and community had sprung up and were offering stiff competition to ZNBC. “This is indeed as it should be,” he said.

Further significant progress had, in the last five years, been made in Radio broadcasting. By 2006, there were 28 licensed radio stations operating in Zambia, including ZNBC’s three channels of Radio 1, 2, and 4. In the year 2000, new FM Radio transmitters for ZNBC’s radios 1 and 2 were installed at 7 provincial centres to replace the old problematic medium wave transmitters to improve radio reception in those areas.

Other measures taken by government were the installation of 2 x 100 KW shortwave transmitters to increase the radio coverage area and thus afford the rural population access to ZNBC radios 1 and 2 reception. However, these efforts were not sufficient as

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<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates Feb 1/07

there were still many areas where Zambians were experiencing poor radio reception especially in the rural areas.

And although, the airwave had been liberalised, it was noticed that the emergence of private radios tended to benefit people in urban areas, as the proprietors concentrated their investments in major cities such as Lusaka and Kitwe, leaving most rural areas without good radio reception. “The Government is therefore, facilitating the establishment of radio and television stations in rural areas,” he said.

With regard to television until recently this was still dominated by ZNBC with eleven transmission stations located along the line of rail and the provincial centres. However, two private TV stations, Multichoice and Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), were licensed and are operational. But significantly government decision to embark on the rural television project was most important. In this regard government in 2001 contracted Cable Satellite Television (CASAT) to install television transmitters in 32 districts. However, implementation of the project was slowed down by late releases of funds and as a result it ran into problems prompting Government to terminate the contract in 2004. At that time, CASAT had installed transmitters in 26 districts though the equipment supplied under the CASAT contract had three main weaknesses namely: (a) Reliance on foreign TV signals due to failure to link with ZNBC TV for local programmes; (b) low power output resulting in poor reception in most parts of the targeted areas; and (c) high failure rate resulting in long service outage.

Thus ZNBC took over the project and government sourced a total of K4.2 billion in 2005, to ensure that some of the 26 transmitters installed by CASAT were rehabilitated and new ones purchased. In 2006, government released an additional K3.1 billion to ZNBC to continue this programme. The funding has also allowed ZNBC to rebroadcast at districts via a downlink from the Multichoice satellite.<sup>1</sup> He assured the House that there was no more CASAT project anywhere in the country at present and that all the existing installations belong to the Zambian government.<sup>2</sup>

Interestingly, despite the success in establishing radio and television networks, the situation regarding production of radio and television programmes was such that there was very limited capacity with obsolete or inadequate equipment resulting in poor delivery of radio and television programmes. On many occasions crews from organisations like ZNBC and ZANIS were unable to cover important events due to lack of cameras or other field recording facilities and transportation.

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<sup>1</sup>In this way, ordinary Zambians are able to access ZNBC signal without the use of decoders. Multichoice Zambia has a Zambian Government shareholding of 30 per cent through ZANBC, and as Minister responsible I appoint three directors to the board of Multichoice Zambia, including the chairperson of the board, Mwaanga said.

<sup>2</sup>The Government recently paid CASAT an amount of K180 million as settlement of a dispute which arose over the termination of the contract. This was been done by mutual consent.

By the end of 2006, Lusaka had five television stations namely; ZNBC television, Muvi TV, TBN, My TV and Mobi TV, while another one in Ndola is currently on the way towards commencing its operations. Most notable, is that the number of community radio stations outside Lusaka and the Copperbelt has increased with almost every province having one or two or even more community radio stations, and in some cases, more are still being planned. With regard to television, the more significant progress was recorded on the rural television project where additional TV transmitters were installed at 16 rural sites and 10 sites had their power upgraded. ZNBC can now be watched along the whole line of rail at provincial centres and in 42 other rural districts centres. There has also been significant improvement in ZNBC production facilities which now include the following: (a) Digitalisation of radio studios at ZNBC in 2005, in which the old analogy equipment was replaced with new digital studio equipment; (b) the introduction of new digital format on television and acquisition of digital video cameras and editing suites. New digital video (DV) cameras editing and transmitting facilities were also procured by ZNBC to improve the quality of production; (c) the acquisition of transport for all the ZNBC provincial centres, headquarters and Kitwe on the Copperbelt was eased the transport problems, as the corporation was sourcing in covering national events and carrying out maintenance of equipment which is dotted in various parts of the country; (d) The putting of ZNBC TV programmes on the DSTV satellite platform through collaboration of Multichoice African Limited, for distribution of TV programmes to ZNBC rural sites for rebroadcast to local communities.

Besides the reintroduction of TV license fees in December 2002 through the amendment of the ZNBC Act of 1997, made it possible for ZNBC to make improvements in its programmes and the rehabilitation of broken down infrastructure. At K3, 000 per year, this should be regarded as a nominal fee. Following the launch of Fifth National Development Plan by His Excellency the President, Mr. Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC, recently, there is hope for further improvements in the electronic media.

The Government plans to continue with the process of not only taking television to all parts of the country, but emphasis is on development of the radio network infrastructure. Consequently, the following is expected to be done: (a) The installation of FM radio transmitters for radio 1 and 2 in all the 72 districts of Zambia; (b) the installation of additional TV transmitters in the 19 remaining districts as well as upgrading of TV transmitters in some districts to increase coverage area. This will be extended to other basic populated centres where electricity exists. (c) The replacement of the aged and obsolete television transmitters along the line of rail and at provincial centres. (d) The provision of additional production facilities to improve the acquisition on materials for broadcast. New cameras, editing equipment and other transmission equipment will also be procured. This is aimed at the establishment of provincial production centres to allow for greater participation by the public and also to improve the collection and processing of news and other programme materials.

During the debate Mufumbwe Member of Parliament Bonshe complained that rural television was restricted to the district headquarters commonly known as the boma. According to Bonshe the radius covered TV was very limited though the people were told that this would soon be extended. In this regard Bonshe wanted to know if the minister could provide a time frame because of complaints from the community and because the public were suggesting that television was brought only to the district commissioners and government offices.

In response Mwaanga reminded MPs that he had repeatedly told the House that the ZNBC Rural Programme was district-based. As government acquired more transmitters this was going to be decentralised.

“We intend to cover all the seventy-two districts and improve the radio reception in areas where this is inadequate. We have made provision for this in the Fifth National Development Plan and under our current on-going programme to ensure that areas,” he said.

During the debate MPs expressed various concerns that illustrate a high level of understanding of media as it affects the ordinary people. For instance Chililabombwe MP hon. Chitonge wanted to know how the five TV stations the minister had talked about would share proceeds from TV licence fees or Kabwata Member of Parliament hon Lubinda who wanted to know whether the TV licence would be extended to other stations “that are being run for the benefit of informing the Zambian population and Chadiza MP hon Mbewe asked about the incentives government was giving to people investing in rural TV, while Mwansa Kapeya (Mpika) asked as to when ZNBC would open regional radio stations.

In response to all these Mwaanga were for ZNBC and consideration of budget measures was the prerogative of the minister of finance. With regard to investment in rural areas referred to what the Media trust fund had already done and also to plans by government to set up a development fund which people wanting to invest would access. On ZNBC provincial radio stations Mwaanga said the position was that resource permitting an attempt would be made in the Fifth National Development Plan to cover as many of these provincial centres as possible.<sup>1</sup> But a similar question was posed by Kalomo MP Request Muntanga who wondered why government was concentrating on Pemba and Livingstone while in Kalomo we are completely off the television signals. Mwaanga avoided addressing the issue by saying that his statement did not touch on specific questions of Kalomo and Zimba.

“However, if the hon. Member would like a specific question on that issue, our technical department will be happy to provide me with answers so that I can give him a more meaningful reply,” he added.

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<sup>1</sup>You have noticed that during the last one year, we have opened up the Livingstone Station. We also intend to open up other offices in other provinces as we go along and as funds become available, he said. However, there is no broadcasting station in Livingstone, only a newsroom type of representation.

And just as the minister evaded Muntanga's question a similar one was raised by Chilubi MP Hon. Chisala who complained about TV reception in Chilubi. He said most people in Chilubi cannot access the television and wondered when the information ministry would extend the television to Chilubi? Again Mwaanga was at pains to restate what he had said in his ministerial statement.

"I made it clear in my statement that we have not yet covered all the seventy-two districts," he said, adding: "We have made a provision not just in the Fifth National Development Plan, but from the money that was released even as late as December 2006 to ensure that we continue expanding our networks for both radio and television with the ultimate objective of covering all the seventy-two districts."

Mwaanga's ministerial statement was delivered before the Supreme Court made its ruling. Pemba MP hon. Matongo wanted to know what the developments were regards the appointing or bringing the approved names of people to serve as members of the board for ZNBC. In keeping with the tradition of the House, Mwaanga observed that matter is currently before the Supreme Court of Zambia and until the court disposed of this matter, he was constrained to talk about it.

Chifunabuli MP hon. Mwansa wanted to know whether the invitations for private radio in particular include short wave transmissions and Mwaanga told the House that the invitation included invitations to discuss everything that has to do with his ministry. According to the minister once the invitation is accepted details of what frequency can then be discussed with members of the Technical Committee. "There is an impression that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services makes these decisions alone. That is not the position," he said.<sup>1</sup>

Away from Parliament Mwaanga launched the Multichoice Zambia win so much more promotion on February 1. Speaking at the function Mwaanga urged radio and TV station operators to provide quality programmes and adhere strictly to licence regulations. According media policy in Zambia recognized the need for multiplicity of media that included print and electronic. The principle function of educating and informing the public should not be sacrificed for the sake of entertainment.<sup>2</sup>

Similarly, deputy information minister David Phiri made a lot of news during his tours of media organization on the Copperbelt and Central provinces. At Radio Maranatha in Kabwe the minister challenged community radio and television stations to take the recruitment of qualified journalists as a priority issue and advised community media to employ qualified journalists. And peaking when he paid a courtesy call on Central Province Permanent Secretary, Denny Lumbama the minister said the media was cardinal to national development and that government was an avid believer in a free media

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<sup>1</sup>These decisions are made by a Technical Committee, which involves officials from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services and Zambia National Broadcasting Services. Once an approach has been made to my ministry, the professional advice will be given to hon. Members to assist them make decisions and advice the communities where they live, he said.

<sup>2</sup>Mail February 2, 2007

because free media fosters national development. The minister called on both the public and the private media to work together and promote unity in Zambia because they were both working for the same cause.<sup>1</sup>

On a tour of the Copperbelt deputy minister David Phiri commended Catholic Church for responding positively to the MMD policy of a liberalized media. Speaking on February 12 when he toured Radio Icengelo the minister said Catholic Church had managed to set up community station in at least all provinces.<sup>2</sup>

A short break from ministerial news-making Radio Icengelo fired six journalists who worked as volunteers at the community station. Station manager Fr Frank Bwalya said the station had stopped engaging volunteers. A few that remained were placed either on part-time or on contract. But those affected claimed they had been working for the station for more than ten months.<sup>3</sup>

In March Parliament again took centre stage on media issues. On March 13 information minister Vernon Mwaanga<sup>4</sup> told Parliament that there was need to recapitalise the public media institutions in Zambia.<sup>5</sup> Policy debate of the information ministry budget continued the following day.<sup>6</sup>

The debate continued into March 14 and Honourable Mulasikwanda an MMD Member of parliament claimed that ZNBC in installing the new equipment had opened up television and radio stations in districts which, she said “we never dreamt about has been put in place and today, more citizens are watching TV and listening to the radio and are well informed about the happenings in the world over.”<sup>7</sup> She also talked about community radio stations. She noted that there were several districts with these radio stations and she proposed that more individuals should set up more radio stations in the districts because the Government has already facilitated the move. “We need to do it because the Government has brought this important milestone that will help the people of Zambia listen to the radio and watch television,” she added.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* February 11, 2007. Lumbama said Central Province was experiencing news blackout compared to other provinces like Lusaka and Copperbelt. He said media organisations were now well-equipped but wondered what was happening among the practitioner.

<sup>2</sup>*Mail* February 13, 2007

<sup>3</sup>*Mail* February 23, 2007

<sup>4</sup>Parliamentary Debates for March 13, 2007.

<sup>5</sup>*Times* March 14, 2007. He said prior to the 2006 elections, the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC), the *Times of Zambia* and the *Zambia Daily Mail* were all funded, which helped them to cover the polls effectively. But in supporting the estimates for the ministry, opposition members of Parliament (MPs) led by Roan MP Chishimba Kambwili (PF) condemned the public media for what he termed biased coverage towards the ruling party.

<sup>6</sup>Parliamentary Debates March 14, 2007

<sup>7</sup>Mulasikwanda was referring to the rural TV project ZNBC took over from CASAT.

<sup>8</sup>Ms Mulasikwanda appears to lack clarity on the issues she is debating. For instance she says “two cameras were mentioned in the House yesterday, and I would like to put this straight. It is unfortunate for a hon. Member to talk like that. A research revealed that there were sixteen cameras at Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation in Lusaka and Kitwe, while the Zambia News Information Services (ZANIS) had eleven cameras, but people are complaining about cameras. This Government is efficient in terms of information.” She did not say who conducted the research or whether it was her own findings. Also she did not say when such findings were made.

Request Muntanga, the Kalomo UPND Member of Parliament supported the ministry's Vote. However, he noted that a few things did, in his view raise concern. "There is no Budget for ZNBC in this House," he said, "because it is a quasi Government organisation, but there is Programme 8, Activity 01 — Issuance of Radio and Television Licences — K5, 400,000, which is being spent by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services." He asked the hon. Minister how much money was raised from television licences? The ministry was spending money from television licence issuance, but the House has not been told how much money was coming from television licences. "I know that Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation does not have to disclose information of their revenue and how much they use, but if the Government is going to spend money to support them, we should also be told their income," he said.<sup>1</sup>

What is interesting during this debate is the revelation that government had budgeted for the establishment of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA). According to Muntanga Programme 10, Activity 01 dealt with the Appointment of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Board with a budget of K2,000,000,000 (K2 billion). What worried Muntanga was the fact that he and other MPs were aware about what had gone on and also the problem over the Independent Broadcasting Authority. "Some names were brought to the House, but this authority is not in place. Now, we are going to spend K2 billion to formulate this authority which is approved. Can the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services ensure that what was approved in the House is put in place since there was a lot of effort made?" he asked and observed: "It has taken this Government more than three years to constitute the Independent Broadcasting Authority Board and now we have to spend K2 billion."

However, Muntanga should, perhaps have also wondered why this budget provision was made when the matter was still before the courts of law. In fact this was Mwaanga's response to an earlier question on this issue. Further, and because of the vents that followed, did the government already know what the decision of the Supreme Court would be?

Muntanga also talked about rural radio stations (or community radio). He said these stations were operating better than ZNBC. According to Muntanga Kalomo hardly received television signals. "I have asked the hon. Minister why we have this problem. The reply I got was that Sinkobo Signal got burnt. In fact, we do not have radio signal either. The only signal I get is the Voice of America and Radio Botswana. I really do not know what the problem is for ZNBC television," he said and added: "A radio is important in any given area because it is used to inform people. In fact, Hon. Mwaanga has been in this ministry for many years and so he is supposed to understand that change should

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<sup>1</sup>In this regard Muntanga also talked about Programme 8, Activity 02 — Inspection of Radio and Television Stations — K89, 520,000, inspections will be done on these stations and this amount will be spent by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services. While the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services is spending such amounts of money, they should care to help us understand. Some years back, there were issues of how the money was being spent from the television licences.

move with time.” Jokingly, Muntanga said: “We do not want to remain with old equipment just because he is old.”<sup>1</sup>

Further Muntanga emphasised problem areas where there was no ZNBC signal. According to Muntanga it was areas like Kalomo, Kazungula, Mbabala and Zambezi where people listen to Radio Angola. He added: “If I go to Kasama, the best radio I can listen to is the local radio. If you go to Eastern Province, you will find that it is the same. They say that mountains in Chipata block the radio signal from Lusaka. You can only listen to Radio Maria in Chipata. In fact, Radio Malawi is very clear. What signal is Malawi using?”<sup>2</sup>

Muntanga continued to worry about radio and television reception in some parts of the country. He said it was not possible to hear announcements that are made on radio and television, especially the summoning of hon. Members to Parliament because of the bad radio signals. He urged government to look into this issue and make sure that something was done about it. In his view the private media was very powerful while the government media is not. “Anything that the Government gets involved in is too slow. What is the problem? I want the hon. Minister when winding up debate to inform us why we do not have signals in Kalomo, Mbabala, Kazungula, Chipata, Zambezi and elsewhere. Should these areas be surrendered to Botswana and other countries?” he asked.

In winding up the debate the minister thanked hon. Members who participated in the debate in which a lot of suggestions made were constructive. “I regret that there seems to be a tendency that unless you debate emotionally, you can not get Government to respond or act on your proposals. This is a fallacy,” he said. According to Mwaanga ZNBC was the only national broadcaster in the country. He went on “we do issue community licences from time to time and these community radio licences are intended to serve the communities where they are operating. They must bear a degree of relevance to the areas where they are operating and that is the basis on which community radio licences are issued and also the basis on which they will continue to be issued until the criterion has changed. For now, the criterion has not changed at all.” In this regard, it was obvious that Mwaanga, preferred that government would continue restricting Community broadcasters.<sup>3</sup>

And on the question whether ZNBC would be given a grant or not, the minister assured the House that there was a grant provided in this Budget under programme 13, entitled

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<sup>1</sup>“We want change. We should be able to watch television and listen to the radio on ZNBC. At the moment, what is happening is that you stop listening to the radio immediately you leave Lusaka. We start listening to Radio Sky. If anything, work out a system where you can use the equipment of Radio Sky so that you can beam through them. Otherwise, it does not exist,” he emphasised.

<sup>2</sup>Muntanga also referred to emergency equipment exposed when the tunnels were opened. “We were told that there was a big 5 megawatt radio at State House. Where is it? Why not surrender it to ZNBC so that they can use it? People want to listen to Bemba or Lozi or Tonga programmes. I should not be subjected to the Chewa programme from South Africa. The Government is always talking about improving on the signals by contracting countries like China and Japan and I think soon or later, it will be India. When are we going to improve radio and television signals? Why not go to South African and find out how the South African Broadcasting Corporation is able to beam? I am sure those involved in communications always involve the satellite for easy communication. I urge the ministry to look into this issue seriously.

<sup>3</sup>Mail March 15, 2007

Electronic Media Support, where ZNBC would be given K2.1 billion. The minister, however, did not comment on the issue of the budget for the IBA mentioned by Muntanga in his debate earlier.

However, on March 15 the Supreme Court finally made its ruling on the IBA/ZNBC case. The court set aside the High Court decision that ordered the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services to take to Parliament for ratification names of the board members recommended by the Ad hoc appointments committee. Six media bodies sued then Information and Broadcasting Services minister, Mutale Nalumango, for refusing to submit some of the names recommended to sit on the Independent Broadcasting Act (IBA) of 2002 and the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) amendment Acts.<sup>1</sup>

And delivering judgment, Chief Justice Ernest Sakala, sitting with Deputy Chief Justice David Lewanika, justices Sandson Silomba, Dennis Chirwa and Florence Mumba said the court was satisfied that there was no illegality in the minister vetting certain names recommended to her and that she was the only one with powers to appoint members of the two boards in the entire process. Mr. Justice Sakala noted that the court had agreed with the submissions of the Attorney General that the minister could not be a rubber stamp or a conveyor belt in the process of appointments of members to the two boards. “We are of the view that nothing more should be said on this matter and that the minister’s decision could not be said to be outrageous or irrational,” the Chief Justice said.<sup>2</sup>

Speaking to journalists outside the courts Dr Patrick Matibini said the judgment should be respected and accepted and that the appointing process must continue with the minister of Information. PAZA vice-president, Amos Chanda, said it was sad news not only for the association but that the ruling defeated the whole media reform programme as the status quo would continue where the State played a central role. That was bad news for democracy, he added. But *Post* Freedom Committee chairperson, Webster Malido, advised government not to take the ruling as an opportunity to find ways of frustrating the entire object of the existence of the two laws.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* March 15, 2007. Six media bodies namely the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA), Zambia Union of Journalists (ZUJ), Zambian Media Women Association (ZAMWA), the Press Association of Zambia (PAZA), Society of Senior Zambian Journalists (SSZJ) and the Post Newspapers took the minister of information to court over the two Acts.

<sup>2</sup>The court noted that the trial judge in his interpretation of the two Acts — IBA and the ZNBC — erred in that he never defined or construed the importance or definition of the word recommendation in the two sections despite his findings that the two sections were plain and unambiguous.

The trial judge, having found that the two sections were plain and unambiguous, should have given their meaning by applying the maximum interpretation of statutes but instead he decided the issue on the moral of the two statutes and the democratisation of the media.

“Issues of the moral of the two statutes and democratisation of the media would perhaps have been relevant if the validity of the two sections were constitutionally challenged and we were asked to rule whether the two sections were valid, but this was not the case here,” he said.

<sup>3</sup>*Also Mail* March 16-07 – Supreme Court has squashed a High Court judgment which ordered the state to submit the names of people recommended to sit on ZNBC and IBA boards to Parliament. Judgment delivered on Mar 15 by Chief Justice Ernest Sakala sitting with deputy CJ David Lewanika, judges Florence Mumba, Dennis Chirwa and Sandson Silomba. CJ Sakala said the minister not

But following its triumph in court the state apparently offered an olive branch to the media. In an interview on March 16 Mwaanga asked the media to continue cooperating with government despite Supreme Court judgment on the ZNBC and IBA Acts. He said there was no need for government to view itself as the victor in the case.

“I believe we still have a common interest and duty to promote press freedom in Zambia. Let us engage each other in a constructive way and not in a confrontational way,” he said.<sup>1</sup>

The quarter ends with the report that President Levy Mwanawasa had launched the country’s ICT policy. He said because of the convergence of technology there was need to rationalize the regulatory framework in order to eliminate duplication. He, therefore called upon the ministries involved to harmonise the regulatory framework in the sector.<sup>2</sup>

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bound to accept the names recommended by ad hoc committees. Minister could not be a rubber stamp or conveyor belt in the process of appointment, the paper reported.

<sup>1</sup>Mail March 17, 2007.

<sup>2</sup>Mail Mar 29/07 - Levy launches ICT policy – The directed institutions are the Communication authority of Zambia which regulates the telecoms sector, ministry of Communication and Transport which regulates Postal and Courier services and ministry of Information and broadcasting which regulates broadcasting

#### **4.0 Freedom of Information during the first Quarter of 2007**

On Freedom of Information the quarter was influenced by the ministerial statement on the state of the media in the years 1996-2006.<sup>1</sup> As result of the statement by the information minister Mr. Mwiimbu (Monze) asked whether the ministry was considering re-introducing the Freedom of Information Bill in the National Assembly. According to Mwiimbu this would allow broadcasting stations throughout the country to have access to information they would want to broadcast to the nation. In response the minister told the House that he had deliberately left out the issue from his statement.

“Since it has been raised, I wish to inform the hon. Member for Monze that we have circulated to all the stakeholders a questionnaire as to how best we should improve on our Freedom of Information Bill that was withdrawn by the Government. Once we have received the necessary comments from the stakeholders, we intend to submit it to the Ministry of Justice for scrutiny so that we can have a look at it and see how we can avoid some of the pitfalls the countries that are operating this law have run into. It is no secret that countries that operate this law have run into pitfalls because this requires appointment of officers in all the ministries who will be able to handle information that members of the public are going to request,” Vernon Mwaanga said.<sup>2</sup>

Interestingly MISA Zambia seems not to have received the questionnaire the minister spoke about and appears not to have been aware of this development. Of further interest is the fact that this was not the first time that the ministry has acted in this manner. On several occasions the ministry has issued statements that it was consulting stakeholders when no such consultations were in actual fact taking place. However, the minister was right to dispel the assertion that the Freedom of Information about the news media, but the Zambian public as a whole. He was nevertheless not right to suggest that he could not see, what information the public were, at the moment, not able to have which they would like to have and for what purposes they would like it. By such a statement the minister was in reality cancelling out his positive sentiment that the Freedom of Information was a right for the people. Further, the minister then discussed his favourite argument about governments being sensitive due to the increase in acts of terrorism and that as such had to be sure that the people who obtain information and the people they pass it on to did not use it for unconstructive purposes.

Within the month of February MISA Zambia organised a consultative meeting involving Members of Parliament and journalists.<sup>3</sup> The *Times* highlighted the differences of views between opposition Members of Parliament on whether the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill should be reintroduced to Parliament in the absence of a statutory ethics regulatory body for journalists. In a heated discussion some MPs said they would only support the FOI Bill if the issue of media ethics was addressed. They wondered why, despite a self-regulatory media ethics council being in place, *The Post* newspapers opted

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<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 1, 2007.

<sup>2</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 1, 2007. Mwaanga’s response to Hon Mwiimbu’s question.

<sup>3</sup>*Times* February 27, 2007. Also in *Mail* and *Post* of the same date.

not to subscribe to it. They said this confirmed Government fears that some journalists were not being sincere in their dealings. However, other MPs argued that it would be detrimental to address the two issues together because they were both contentious and would in turn derail the whole process. In this regard United Liberal Party (ULP) Livingstone MP Sakwiba Sikota and PF's Given Lubinda for Kabwata argued that while the issue of ethics was paramount, the two issues should be separated because the FOI law concerned all citizens. Presenting a paper on the need for MPs to support the FOI Sikota however laboured amid interjections, to try and convince his fellow MPs about the issue. They accused him of supporting *The Post* regards not being regulated. Mr. Muntanga said only a statutory code of ethics for journalists would help check excesses at *The Post*. He was joined by Mr. Sejani, Dr Machungwa, Mr. Mukanga and Maj Chizhyuka who all said they would move a private members motion urging Government to introduce a statutory code of ethics for journalists before the enactment of the FOI Bill.

In response to the attacks, *Post* newspapers managing Editor Amos Malupenga and News Editor Webster Malido said their company had reasons why it was not part of the Media Ethics Council of Zambia (MECOZ). Both Malupenga and Mr. Malido urged the MPs not to tie their support towards the FOI on the problems they had with *The Post*.

And prominent Lusaka lawyer Patrick Matibini warned that if the two issues were addressed together, the whole process of having the FOI legislation would be derailed. Dr Matibini said currently, there were lapses in the fight against corruption because of selective disclosure of information and that is why the FOI sought to address the imbalance in power by those entrusted with the responsibility to govern. Supporting Dr Matibini's call, MISA-Zambia chairperson Fr Frank Bwalya and Press Association of Zambia (PAZA) vice president Amos Chanda said the concerns of the MPs on the issues of excesses would be addressed but that it should not be a condition for supporting the FOI Bill.<sup>1</sup>

The *Mail* carried a similar report but stressed in their story the fact that MPS had called for a mass movement for the enactment of the FOI Bill because it had been pending since 2002.<sup>2</sup> However, the report added, the MPs demanded that the new law must be backed by a strong media ethics body. This was at a one day MISA Zambia workshop at TAJ Hotel on Feb 26 where MPs and journalists debated the need for an FOI Bill.<sup>3</sup>

About two days following the consultative meeting information minister Vernon Mwaanga noted that a number of statements had been made regarding Freedom of Information laws. He added: "I am glad that there was a workshop which was organised

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* February 27, 2007

<sup>2</sup>*Mail* Feb 27, 2007. The consultative meeting was held at Taj Pamodzi Hotel on February 26, 2007.

<sup>3</sup>"But a heated debate erupted when some MPs from the UPND insisted that they would condition their support for FOI Bill on the creation of a statutory ethics body to which all journalists must belong. UPND Ackson Sejane, Request Muntanga, Robby Chizyuka, Regina Musokotwane and PFs Yamfwa Mukanga said a credible media ethics body was necessary if journalists were to have a legitimate claim of the FOI law," the *Mail* story said.

by the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia not very long ago in which hon. Members of Parliament were invited to participate. I had been invited to open that workshop, but I politely declined because I wanted to give hon. Members of Parliament an opportunity to interact with journalists to find out what is it that they wanted.<sup>1</sup>

Mwaanga followed this with what is very important regards the arguments for or against the FOI. Mwaanga told the House that there was a misleading notion that the Freedom of Information Bill was about the press. “It is not about the press, but the citizens of Zambia. Every citizen has got an interest in the Freedom of Information Bill,” he emphasized.

But according to Mwaanga there were still a number of issues that needed to be resolved. He asked members to recall that the original FOI was not a Government Bill. “It was a Private Member’s Bill which was taken over by the Government and after it was taken over by the Government, we discovered that there were a number of flaws that needed to be corrected before the Bill could be brought back to Parliament for enactment,” he said.

Mwaanga went on list the flaws in the Bill that, he said, remained included things like ‘what kind of information do the citizen want now which they are not getting?’ Secondly, what do they intend to use that information for? Thirdly, who else is going to have access to that information through them? What are they going to do with that information which they are going to get? What sanctions would there be for people who transgress the confidentiality of that information? Those aspects are missing, he said.

Apart from this list of flaws Mwaanga also discussed the protection for citizens, saying they should be protected from unfair attacks. He said the press was capable of unleashing as a fourth estate, because they know that they had the last word. “These questions have not been answered yet. I have said that we should continue this dialogue and learn from what others are doing,” he said.

Mwaanga referred to his usual example of the United Kingdom (UK) having introduced the Freedom of Information Bill in 2005, after so many hundreds of years. They introduced it in 2005, he emphasized.<sup>2</sup> Another of Mwaanga’s examples is the United States of America. They have had the Freedom of Information Bill for a longer period; there are a number of requests which have been unattended for nine years to date. This is because the information being requested has not been declassified yet to be made available to the public. In this age of terrorism, governments have to be very careful with

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<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates – Budget debate February 28, 2007 – Vernon Mwaanga contributing.

<sup>2</sup>He continued: “Next month, they have called a workshop to which Zambia has been invited to discuss the problems they have discovered in an effort to administer that Bill. They have requests, yes, they do get requests from citizens, some of them well meaning while some of them are less so.

Sir, the kind of requests they are getting requires the kind of information which is requested. It requires that they employ additional officers in each ministry to handle these requests. You will be very surprised to learn that when I was in the UK recently, I was shown what these requests represent by one of my colleagues, a ministerial colleague. They want to know how many pens were used in each ministry, for instance. They have to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to look for that kind of information.”

the manner they give out information. We are not resisting the introduction of the Freedom of Information Bill, but there are some critical questions that need to be answered before progress can be made on this matter. “Once these questions have been answered, I can assure the House that I will not hesitate, for as long as I remain Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services, to come back to the House and bring a Freedom of Information Bill which is not meant for the press, but for the whole citizenry or all the people of Zambia because they have a stake and an interest in this particular matter,” he concluded.

The *Mail* highlighted Mwaanga’s views in its headline FOI Has Flaws in the next day’s edition of the paper.<sup>1</sup> The *Times* referred the Information Minister, Vernon Mwaanga, as being ready to table the FOI Bill in Parliament the moment all flaws associated with it are addressed.<sup>2</sup>

On March 13, 2007 information minister Vernon Mwaanga presented his ministry’s budget.<sup>3</sup> In tabling the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Information Ministry Mwaanga talked of the important role information played in people’s lives. He said information is recognised as part of the fourth factor of production next to land, capital and labour. And according to Mwaanga information and knowledge transform people’s lives and the way business is done. He placed on record his appreciation of the value being placed on information and the development of the media sector in general. He recalled that in the past few years, information had also become accepted as a basic need besides food, shelter and clothing and people are always clamouring for their right to information and the right to communicate. Besides in this information age and with the information revolution, which is rapidly changing the way we live, it is important for us to accord the information sector the recognition and priority it justly deserves.

Government’s commitment to create a conducive environment for media operations, my ministry will this year review the 1996 Media Policy in order to remove any remaining hindrances to greater press freedom and investment in the information sector. I wish to point out that if the funding continues to improve as it has this year; the ministry will effectively execute its functions in the provision of information and enabling the public and private media to play a greater role.

Contributing to the March 13 debate Sikota, Livingstone Member of Parliament challenged the information minister on the question of the Freedom of Information Bill. He said certain people believe that the FOI was for journalists when in fact, the FOI Bill was not designed for journalists, but for each and every individual in Zambia, including

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<sup>1</sup>*Mail* March 2, 2007

<sup>2</sup>*Times* March 2, 2007 - Contributing to the motion of supply in Parliament on February 28, Mr. Mwaanga said the FOI was not only for the media but the entire citizenry. He said among the flaws that he anticipated to be addressed before he presented the bill were the kind of information that the citizens should be subjected to, who apart from the media would have access to that information, what sanctions would be meted on the media if it deliberately defamed a citizen and how would the citizens be protected from unwarranted attacks by the media.

<sup>3</sup>Parliamentary Debates March 13, 2007 - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services – Headquarters – K26,366,395,376)

MPs. He said Journalists were only going to benefit as a by-the-way. Sikota then recalled that the Freedom of Information Bill in its genesis was supposed to help us fight the scourge of corruption. This is because where you have light shining on any situation; it is very hard to hide corruption. The light that the Freedom of Information Bill would cast on any dealings of the Government, public and private bodies, which impact on society in general, would then laid them bare for everybody to scrutinise. That way, we would have less corruption in this country. By holding back the Freedom of Information Bill, we are delaying a very important tool which is needed to fight against corruption. We are hampering the fight against corruption by not putting in place the Freedom of Information Bill,” he said.

Sikota also recalled that there were certain reasons which were given in 2003 when the Bill was withdrawn from the House. One of them was the 9/11, but this had happened two years previously. So that was rather an ingenious excuse for removing the Bill from the Floor of this House. The reasons advanced then were that there was a need to have some consultations made before it was reintroduced. “Four years have passed and it has not been reintroduced. Four years is a long time for consultation. However, we have not heard who exactly has been consulted. There are certain people who were sponsors of the Private Members’ Motion for that Bill such as Hon. Charles Banda and myself. Neither one of us was consulted. Surely, if there was going to be some consultations, the sponsors of the original Bill would have been consulted. However, there has not been a single attempt to even consult the sponsors of the original Bill,” he added.

He referred to certain questions raised by the minister which he said needed to be resolved before the Freedom of Information Bill could be reintroduced. Sikota went on: “If my memory serves me right, some of the questions he was posing were like; what type of information would the people be asking through the Freedom of Information Bill? What would it be used for? Is it going to be for research? Who would it be passed on to?” Sikota decried the fact that the minister asked these questions when there was no opportunity for members or the public to answer back. He proposed that the minister should call the interested parties and stakeholders to some kind of meeting or seminar where these stakeholders would attempt to give him answers. “So long as he poses them without us having an opportunity to answer, we will not progress,” Sikota emphasised.

For example, the minister asked questions such as; ‘if somebody gets this information through the Freedom of Information Bill, who will they pass it on to?’ Government is worried but there is a simple answer to this. “If the information is not security sensitive, it matters not whom the information is passed on to. If the matter is security sensitive, then under the rules of the Freedom of Information Bill, that information in the first place would not be released. The fears that the Government has with regards to that particular question would not arise because of that,” he said.

Thus according to Sikota, a question such as - what would it be used for? - did not matter again. In his view it can be for mere curiosity, research or to embarrass a Government official. “This is a very important thing. If a Government official or anybody else has done something for which they should be embarrassed, we should not shield them. We should have them exposed. They should be embarrassed. We need to get into a situation where people should be ready to have an open society where nothing is hidden under the carpet.”

The *Times* covered both the minister and Sikota on the FOI. In the case of Sikota’s contribution the paper reported that the MP “wondered why government was dillydallying on the re-introduction of the FOI Bill which was cardinal to tackling corruption as it would expose wrong-doing and embarrass the culprits.”<sup>1</sup>

And closing the debate on his ministry’s Mwaanga thanked everyone who had contributed to the debate. However, he apparently had special thanks to Hon. Sakwiba Sikota, for talking on his “usual subject of freedom of information”. Mwaanga assured the House that he would continue to consult with the stakeholders. On Sikota’s assertion that the FOI was not just for journalists but for all citizens the minister agreed. “You were very correct in stating that this does not only affect journalists, but the citizens of Zambia as a whole,” he said but quickly added: “It also affects the lives of Members of Parliament, the life to privacy and the respect for ethics in terms of how they are reported so that there is a certain amount of protection given to them. We will not be blind to these realities in considering the issue of the freedom of information.”

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* March 14, 2007 - He said it was wrong to think that the proposed piece of legislation was only meant to benefit journalists. On the contrary the public at large would benefit as well through easy access to information of public interest, the paper reported.

## 5.0 Print Media during the first Quarter of 2007

Early in January police harassed Times photojournalist, Richard Mulonga for taking pictures of Lusaka motorists renewing their vehicle licences.<sup>1</sup> According to the report in the newspaper four officers harassed and threatened to lock up Mulonga at the Road Traffic and Safety Agency (RTSA) branch where he was assigned to take pictures. Also in n Lusaka TIMES Printpak inaugurated an HIV/AIDS workplace committee and management made a serious commitment to the employees to assist in fighting the pandemic. Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, human resources manager, Martin Chikoti, said the company acknowledged the impact of HIV/AIDS on its employees, their families and their financial stability.<sup>2</sup>

As in the case of broadcasting print media was also included in the information minister's ministerial statement of February 1, 2007.<sup>3</sup> Minister Vernon Mwaanga discussed what he termed developments taking place in the information sector and prospects for the future. He recalled that since the MMD came to power in 1991 the party brought about a changed media landscape in the country, because, he claimed, that for the first time in the history of the media, the Government came up with an international media policy.<sup>4</sup> It is not clear why Mwaanga suddenly referred to the 1996 government media policy as "an international media policy". Interestingly the 1996 media policy was put in place when now National Assembly Speaker Amusaa Mwanamwambwa was the information minister. However, part of the MMD approach influencing the 1996 media policy was its decision that it would not sale the two Government owned daily newspapers, namely the *Times of Zambia* and the *Zambia Daily Mail*. And according to Mwaanga's revisit of that decision interested players were invited to set up their own newspapers.

However, Mwaanga noted that the liberalisation of the media industry had led to the growth of both the private and community media across the country especially along the line of rail. This growth has, however been noticeable more in the electronic media sector than in the print media that still remains largely in urban centres due to lack of printing infrastructure in the rural areas. Of interest is Mwaanga's allusion to support to the private media. In this regard, he said, Government had included the establishment of a media development fund in the Fifth National Development Plan. According to Mwaanga, this would be in the form of a revolving credit fund for those wishing to set up newspapers, radio and television stations.<sup>5</sup> Further the fund was expected to be

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<sup>1</sup>Times January 6, 2007

<sup>2</sup>Times January 16, 2007 – According to Chikoti the company found it necessary to have an HIV/AIDS policy to help respond to the pandemic, which was a real threat to the survival of the company as it targeted the most productive age group. A number of successes had been made since the launch of the policy in January 2005 as realised in the reduction of HIV/AIDS related death and hospital admissions. Mr. Chikoti also said the HIV/AIDS committee was appointed by management to consolidate the policy and help in the implementation of activities. HIV/AIDS coordinator, Susan Kapema, said the most important thing was to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and that could easily be achieved through input from the committee. The Lusaka committee is headed by Mr. Davis Mataka with Ms Margaret Mangani as secretary.

<sup>3</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 1, 2007

<sup>4</sup>Mwaanga was referring to government's media policy of 1996.

<sup>5</sup>*Mail* carried this story but hid it in an inside page.

operational in 2008 while the modalities and guidelines, including a manual on the same would be put in place before or by the end of 2007.

And Mwaanga also referred to the revival of vernacular newspapers by Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS). He claimed that the newspapers had managed to bridge the gap left by the mainstream English newspapers whose circulation and coverage was to some extent, largely confined to the line of rail. But this assessment was against the reality on the ground reported in earlier State of the Media reports where district information officers complained about these newspapers as being out of date and out of touch with the communities they were supposed to serve.<sup>1</sup>

In the same statement, however, Mwaanga admitted that the newspapers were not produced regularly due to limited resources. Yet despite this serious constraint Mwaanga claimed that the newspapers provided a reliable conduit of information flow between the Government and the rural population on the latest happenings or other developmental challenges within their localities and beyond. Mwaanga also mentioned another serious constraint affecting vernacular newspapers. This related to ZANIS experiencing difficulties in distributing these papers though measures had now been worked out to solve this problem, he said.<sup>2</sup>

With regard to the *Times of Zambia* and the *Zambia Daily Mail* which are 100 per cent government owned, Mwaanga claimed they continued to enjoy editorial independence besides being run commercially, a statement highly questioned by Patriotic Front members in the house.<sup>3</sup>

Mwaanga observed that the newspapers' printing equipment was in a poor state and that in past the companies lacked transport thereby affecting the distribution of newspapers. This restricted the distribution of the two newspapers mainly to the line of rail with little going to rural areas until in 2007 when Government bought delivery vans for the two companies. He claimed that the two newspapers were providing good services to the people of Zambia. "I am proud to report that the two newspapers have contributed a great deal in provision of information in a two way channel from the Government to the public and from the public to the Government," he said.

He said the necessity to have the two newspapers have never been greater today than ever before because of need for an information channel to project Government policies and programmes to the people. When funds permit, the Government, as a shareholder, will have to find ways of assisting the two companies procure printing presses and other necessary equipments, he added.

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<sup>1</sup> These complaints came to light during visits by the information ministry officials to assess the impact of these newspapers.

<sup>2</sup>Hon. Members may also wish to know that though these papers are being sold, my ministry had decided that free copies be made available to Their Royal Highnesses, civic leaders, schools and other selected institutions. From what I have just said, it will be observed that this exercise is largely a public service to our rural communities, Mwaanga added.

<sup>3</sup>The editor of Zambia daily Mail was fired for reporting that opposition PF leader was leading in the September 27 polls.

Further Mwaanga observed that *Times Printpak Limited* the publishers of *Times of Zambia* and *Sunday Times*, which until about fifteen years ago was one of the main printing companies on the Copperbelt, had been reduced to a mere facility of a newspaper. He blamed this on lack of capitalisation in the past twenty-five years, especially, since Government bought the company from the then almighty United Nations Independence Party (UNIP). Reference to government purchasing this media company from UNIP is not accurate because after its defeat in the 1991 election the former ruling party was not in a position to “sell” the company to government.<sup>1</sup>

On the poor state of the printing press which, Mwaanga observed, breaks down frequently, has resulted in the *Times of Zambia* not printing in full colour like the other two dailies. He said the company required about K5 billion to procure a new printing press.<sup>2</sup> But with regard to transport, the company had benefited from a donation of eleven motor vehicles, eight of which are specifically for newspaper deliveries to rural areas, an exercise which is being undertaken at great loss, Mwaanga said.

Apart from *Times Printpak* Mwaanga also talked about the *Zambia Daily Mail* company, publishers of the *Zambia Daily Mail* and *Sunday Mail* newspapers. He said the company faced a similar predicament to the *Times* in terms of printing presses. He further said that though the company can print in full colour the quality was not as good as it should be. “Besides there are frequent breakdowns experienced almost every night. Like *Times Printpak Zambia*, the company also needs to replace its printing press,” Mwaanga said.<sup>3</sup>

In concluding his ministerial statement Mwaanga thanked the cooperating partners, in the name of the People’s Republic of China and Japan for the generous assistance. And apart from these countries, government had requested the Republic of Korea for computer assistance to support the rural operation, he said.<sup>4</sup>

During the debate that followed Chasefu FDD Member of Parliament Chifumu Banda acknowledged that the information ministry had made a lot of strides in ensuring that its operations improved. But, the MP asked, could the minister tell the House what strides, if any, the ministry made in revamping the Zambia Printing Company? And in his response the minister admitted that the Zambia Printing Company was a problematic company for Government for many years past. He said a committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Information Minister has been set up to working with officials from other ministries to make a final recommendation as to what should happen to that company. He noted a number of options could be considered, one of which was

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<sup>1</sup>With the political climate of the time UNIP was in no position to “sell” let alone negotiate anything with the government.

<sup>2</sup>The printing press which is there is what I left when I was Editor-in-Chief of the *Times of Zambia* and the *Sunday Times of Zambia* in 1972, Mwaanga said, soliciting laughter in the House. The company will also need to downsize its workforce by about 100 workers, but this is not possible until there is an injection of funds to meet retrenchment costs, Mwaanga added.

<sup>3</sup>As in the case of *Printpak* the Government has also helped the company with eleven motor vehicles, eight of which are for newspapers deliveries to rural areas, again at great loss to the company.

<sup>4</sup>As has become custom Mwaanga did not forget to mention the president. Thus “with the support of President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, SC, the Minister of Finance and National Planning, Hon. Ng’andu Peter Magande, MP and above all, with the support of my colleagues in Government and the support of this House, I am confident that a lot more will be achieved,” he concluded.

liquidation. The other is the management buy-out and another, the possible merger with the Zambia Education Publishing House.<sup>1</sup>

“These are options which have been considered, but a final decision will only be made after this committee has submitted its final recommendation so that a decision is made which will also be in the best interest of the workers some of whom have been retrenched but whose benefits have not been paid,” he said

But Roan Member of Parliament hon. Chishimba Kambwili, who regarded the minister’s statement as flowery asked whether Government was committed to the independence of the Editorial Comments by the *Zambia Daily Mail* and the *Times of Zambia*. He asked why it was that all the editorial comments in these two newspapers were always pro-Government and never at any time have they spoken against the Government. But in response Mwaanga reminded the MP that he had made it clear in his statement that the newspapers were 100 per cent by Government owned.<sup>2</sup>

He went on: “these newspapers do not always support the Government. They have attacked the Government, the ministers and have criticised actions that have been taken by the Government. It is an editorial function in which my ministry does not get involved. It is left to the editors to use their professional discretion and decision on behalf of their boards and on behalf of the Zambian people.” He repeated to say that it was not true that there was censorship or control by the information ministry.<sup>3</sup>

And Nakonde Member of Parliament hon. Silavwe while observing that the distribution of *Times of Zambia* and *Zambia Daily Mail* to rural areas was very poor he noted that this worked against government programmes undertaken in rural areas.

“To this fact, we have given advantage to private owned papers. When is the ministry going to improve the distribution of these papers so that our people in rural areas could be able to appreciate what this Government is doing?” he asked.

This remained the government’s objective, Mwaanga responded, adding: “We are doing this exercise by allocating eight vehicles to the distribution of newspapers to the *Times of Zambia* and eight vehicles to the *Zambia Daily Mail*.”<sup>4</sup> The Speaker was pleased with the frequency Cabinet was volunteering ministerial statements for the benefit of the people of Zambia through this House.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>As a general comment MMD government has not responded well to problems of its companies providing printing services. However, this observation could apply to all parastatals. Under President Chiluba these were regarded as Kaunda/UNIP companies that needed to be destroyed. The position has not improved under President Mwanawasa’s New deal government.

<sup>2</sup>The minister’s response solicited a comment in Bemba from hon. Sichilima saying Kabilia nifwebo tuleteka (meaning “We are ruling or governing”) causing laughter in the House.

<sup>3</sup>“We do not get involved in the editorials which they write. They have written many editorials which have been critical of the Government,” he concluded amid cheers from the government bench.

<sup>4</sup>Mwaanga believed it would take some time for the measures to work. “It is therefore, our objective to ensure that we increase this even if we are doing it at a loss in order to be able to serve members of the Zambian public, particularly, those who live in rural areas. I am sure that my colleague who has been a member of the Government is aware of Government’s constraints in this matter,” he said.

<sup>5</sup>I urge them to continue in this spirit, the Speaker said.

In mid February Government commended the Mail for what the deputy information minister David Phiri, was consistently covering stories on gender. In his view this was contributing to the attainment of millennium goals.<sup>1</sup>

The National Assembly was in March still debating the motion of supply when on March 13 information minister Vernon Mwaanga presented his ministry's budget.<sup>2</sup> One of the issues Mwaanga highlighted was the need to recapitalise the public media in Zambia. Mwaanga, however, noted that prior to the 2006 elections, all public media institutions, namely the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC), the *Times of Zambia* and the *Zambia Daily Mail* were funded. He said this funding helped these institutions to effectively cover the polls thus allowing the two public dailies to reach the remote parts of Zambia before midday while ZNBC was also able to cover the whole country.<sup>3</sup> But in supporting the estimates for the information ministry, opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) led by Roan MP Chishimba Kambwili (PF) condemned the public media for what they termed, coverage biased towards the ruling party.

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<sup>1</sup>*Mail* Feb 12-07 – Deputy minister of Information David Phiri was on a tour of Mail newspaper offices in Ndola.

<sup>2</sup>*Times* March 15, 2007. Also in Parliamentary debates for March 13, 2007. The debate of the information ministry budget was over two days.

<sup>3</sup>The Government acquired vans and other equipment, which included a printing press for the Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) to boost their operations. Apart from the printing press at ZANIS headquarters, Government under its five-year development plan is to establish such facilities at provincial centres which would be open for use by the public, especially those investing in community newspapers and magazines in rural areas. "K500 million has been set aside for a pilot project. When decentralised, the provincial printing presses would enable ZANIS to localise the print of vernacular newspapers which presently are centrally printed in Lusaka and distributed down to districts at very high cost," Mr. Mwaanga said.

## **6.0 Attacks on MISA members and non-MISA members during the first Quarter of 2007**

Early in January 2007 police harassed *Times* photojournalist, Richard Mulonga for taking pictures of Lusaka motorists renewing their vehicle licences.<sup>1</sup>

According to a report in the *Times* newspaper four officers harassed and threatened to lock up Mulonga at the Road Traffic and Safety Agency (RTSA) offices where he was assigned to take pictures.

“I was approaching the main gate to gain entry into the premises and take a few human interest shots of Lusaka motorists in a queue. It was at this moment that an unidentified officer emerged in front and tried to pull down my camera. He accused me of taking a picture of him,” Mr. Mulonga explained.

Mulonga said the policeman later called for reinforcement and another officer came and the motorists watched as the two men grabbed and lifted the photojournalist by the belt dragging him into the RTSA offices. Inside, two female officers threatened Mulonga with a beating for taking a picture of a fellow police officer.

A verbal argument ensued as the uncompromising constables maintained that the photojournalist had not obtained permission before switching on his camera.

And a RTSA official identified only as Mr. Chifumpe intervened to settle the matter. Mr. Chifumpe said journalists experienced such hostile working environment in their course of duty. He said sources and journalists should cooperate with each other in such situations.

In an interview, Mr. Mulonga said the police officers behaved unprofessionally because they exhibited hooliganism instead of facilitating his work

“The police officers wanted me to go into the RTSA offices and get permission from the director before taking the human interest pictures. I could have missed a good picture. Such human interest and action pictures do not wait for you. You only negotiate for permission to publish after you have already taken the picture,” Mulonga explained.

In the National Assembly, MP Brian Ntundu (UPND) attacked the media in his maiden speech prompting the Speaker, who did not want to interrupt a maiden speech, to issue the warning. Ntundu attacked an unnamed editor of a newspaper who, he said thought was cleverer than anybody and even had the audacity to insult President Mwanawasa. Ntundu praised President Mwanawasa as a kind person to have allowed such an editor to continue working freely. He wondered why the said editor could say parliamentarians were greedy by asking for salary increase when the said journalist was driving a Jaguar. Mr. Ntundu said the editor could afford to raze a house and immediately start

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<sup>1</sup>*Times* January 6, 2007

constructing another one on the same site. “Let some of these editors advertise their pay slips. We will rise against them, sometimes he promotes tribalism but we don’t know where he comes from,” Ntundu said.<sup>1</sup> The *Times* carried the Ntundu story in its Saturday edition under the headline “Speaker ‘gags’ MPs over attack on journalists.”<sup>2</sup>

But Speaker Amusaa Mwanamwambwa, cautioned Members of Parliament (MPs) against unwarranted attacks on journalists because they can not defend themselves in the House. Mwanamwambwa gave the warning in Parliament on February 22, 2007<sup>3</sup>. He observed that there were 47 journalists accredited to the National Assembly indicating that the media held the House in high esteem. He advised the MPs to work in harmony with the media and not to be unnecessarily antagonistic to journalists.

“The media reports what we say here. It is a conveyor belt; it is inevitable that you work in harmony with reporters. Avoid acrimonious debates with the media. In any case, it would be difficult for them to work with you,” Mr. Mwanamwambwa said.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 22, 2007 - Mr. Ntundu: Mr. Speaker, let me come to the press. I want to particularly condemn some of these newspapers in their writings. For instance, there is one editor of a named newspaper in this country who thinks he is cleverer than everyone else. He can even write that the President is stupid and get away with it. He can write that hon. Members of Parliament are greedy and are looking for higher perks, which is demeaning Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, let some of these editors advertise their pay slips so that we see who gets more money.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ntundu: Mr. Speaker, I cannot afford to buy a jaguar which some of these editors drive. His Excellency President Mwanawasa, SC, is just too good because some of these editors should have been followed. Mwanawasa is a very decent President. He is too good.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ntundu: In fact, he is very kind. Some of these editors can buy houses, raze them down and put up mansions. We need to bring sanity in this country. We want the press to respect Parliament and the President.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ntundu: We will not tolerate this, Mr. Speaker. If this continues, we will rise against them.

Interruptions

Mr. Ntundu: Mr. Speaker, sometimes they promote tribalism. We do not even know where they come from because they have names which we do not know.

Laughter

Mr. Ntundu: They are the only ones who have such names.

Interruptions

Mr. Mabenga: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Ntundu: Mr. Speaker, coming to the Budget.

Interruptions

Mr. Ntundu: Sir, I need your protection.

Sir, it is a known fact that on the day of elections, one newspaper was supporting a political party. They had put a picture on the front page. They should come out in the open and state which political party they support. They should put it straight so that we know that in their writing, they support a named political party.

Hon. UPND Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ntundu: We know the political party they support. In fact, some of these editors, even if they are demeaning Parliament, have never worn a tie and suit. They do not even know how to wear a tie and suit.

<sup>2</sup>Times February 24, 2007. SPEAKER of the National Assembly, Amusaa Mwanamwambwa, has cautioned Members of Parliament (MPs) against unwarranted attacks on journalists who can not defend themselves in the House.

Mr. Mwanamwambwa sounded the warning in Parliament on Thursday evening. The speaker said there were 47 journalists accredited to the National Assembly; a scenario he said was an indication that the media regarded the House in high esteem. He said the MPs should work in harmony with the media and not to unnecessarily antagonist journalists. “The media reports what we say here. It is a conveyor belt; it is inevitable that you work in harmony with reporters. Avoid acrimonious debates with the media. In any case, it would be difficult for them to work with you,” Mr. Mwanamwambwa said.

<sup>3</sup>Times February 24, 2007. Also Parliamentary Debates February 22, 2007.

<sup>4</sup>Parliamentary Debates February 22 - Mr. Speaker: The august House is aware that it is not in keeping with the procedures and practices of this House to interrupt a maiden speaker. As such, I did not wish to interrupt the maiden speaker who just delivered his speech. There are approximately fifty to sixty reporters accredited to the National Assembly. I am trying to get the exact number. This signifies the importance of the interdependence of the media and this House. The media reports what we say here. It is a conveyor belt of what we say here to the people of Zambia. I am aware that reporters, including their editors, are human beings, but it is inevitable for all hon. Members of this House to work harmoniously with the media at all levels. As such, I would like to caution the House to avoid acrimonious debates that make reference to members of the media with whom we should work. In any case, it will be difficult for them, if you criticise them, to come here and defend themselves. The interesting thing is that the media, particularly the press, has the last word on this debate. I thought the House would benefit from this. A lot of studies have been done, even at Commonwealth

But within a week the Speaker was forced to make another ruling regarding the relationship between MPs and journalists. However, this time the Speaker's ruling was couched in stronger words as he literary ordered that the skirmishes between the media and Parliament must stop. The Speaker made the ruling following a point of order raised by Namwala MP, Robbie Chizyuka, who wondered whether an editor of the Post Newspaper was in order to attack members of Parliament and in the process cast aspersions on the integrity of the House.

Mwanamwambwa said Zambia was governed under a number of laws passed by Parliament in the past and at present times, which laws were designed to ensure that every citizen was given sufficient room to live and operate without fear. He said Parliament itself was guaranteed of freedom of speech as provided for under the Constitution through an Act of Parliament Cap 12, which dealt with privileges of the MPs to ensure they were protected. He said other laws and the Constitution protect the freedom of speech of other persons outside the House too. He termed the situation as right versus right.

“Because of this situation, MPs and the public outside the House should stop provoking each other because if this hide-and-seek game continue, such a game will not end peacefully,” he said.<sup>1</sup>

According to the speaker said if the trend continued, there would be no loser or winner and a pin-pong kind of communication between the House and the media was not healthy. Major Robbie Chizyuka's point of order was extensively quoted in the Post newspaper edition of February 26, and 27. The MP wondered whether the newspaper was in order to call MPs hyenas, visionless and that the House offered no hope to Zambians. Maj Chizyuka said in his view the earlier ruling by the Speaker notwithstanding the Post Newspaper editor had opened flood gates by continuing to write in a derogatory manner questioning the integrity of the House.

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level, on how and why national parliaments or any parliament should work closely with the media in general, and the press in particular.

<sup>1</sup>Parliamentary Debates - February 2007 and *Times of Zambia* February 2007. “In as much as the House required the media to assist with information dissemination, the Speaker said the opposite was true for media houses that even made huge sums of money through sales arising from Parliament news.

“The media should not consider itself enjoying a field day of what we say in this House and must be constructive. Arising from this symbiotic existence, I call for a stop to this kind of skirmish between Parliament and the media,” the Speaker said.

## 7.0 Media violations during the first Quarter of 2007

<b>Date</b>	<b>Victim</b>	<b>Attacked/harassed</b>	<b>Arrested/Detail</b>	<b>Legal/Action</b>
Jan 6	Richard Mulonga <i>Times</i> Photojournalist	Harassed by Police		MISA Zambia Alert and Press statement
Feb 22	Unnamed editor but believed to be Post newspaper editor	Verbal attack on the floor of the National Assembly by Ntundu		Speaker cautions MPs not to attack the Press
Feb 25	Post Editor	Point of order raised on Post newspaper editorial calling MPs hyenas		Speaker ordered MPs to stop skirmishes with the media