



State of the Media Report 2009

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v Introduction

The signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) between Zimbabwe's major political players on 15 September 2008 culminating in the formation of the inclusive government undoubtedly raised hopes and opportunities for socio-economic and political reforms in Zimbabwe.

It is also within the context of the GPA that the inclusive government pledged to free the media environment to allow citizens to enjoy the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly in terms of Article 19 of the Agreement in question which deals with freedom of expression and communication.

Under Article 19.1 of the Agreement, the parties agreed among other issues that:

The government shall ensure the immediate processing by the appropriate authorities of all applications for re-registration and registration in terms of both the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) as well as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

More than a year after the government acceded to the above, no single new media player or those which were banned in terms of the draconian Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) have been registered or re-registered respectively, except for the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) and CNN which were admitted back into the country on the grounds that they were never banned from covering Zimbabwe.

v Political Context and Key Events of 2009

Progress in the envisaged socio-economic and political reforms was, however, stalled as the three major political parties haggled and maintained intransigent positions over so-called outstanding issues. Outstanding issues pertained to the appointment and retention of Attorney-General Johannes Tomana and Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono by President Robert Mugabe.

On the other hand, the MDC-M led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai refused to budge on the issue of the appointment of its Treasurer Roy Bennet as Deputy Minister of Agriculture and its five appointee provincial governors. Zanu PF led by President Mugabe insists that Gono and Tomana's appointments were constitutionally procedural and that the issue of Bennet would only be finalised pending conclusion of his treason trial in the High Court.

Disagreement over Western imposed targeted sanctions and foreign based stations manned by exiled Zimbabwean journalists in the Diaspora which Zanu PF describes as "pirate radio stations" further stalled full implementation of the Global Political Agreement. Zanu PF insists the onus is on the MDC-M to have the targeted sanctions against senior government and Zanu PF officials lifted as well as calling on the closure of the foreign based radio stations.

Ironically, the three signatories to the agreement collectively agreed that the stations in question namely Voice of America's Studio 7, SW Radio Africa and Voice of the People which

broadcast from the United States and United Kingdom should cease beaming into Zimbabwe. And if Zanu PF insists on the removal of sanctions and closure of the foreign-based radio stations as the *quid pro quo* for resolution of other outstanding issues, then the envisaged reforms are long time coming.

As these issues, among others, took centre stage and threatened the collapse of the inclusive government, things came to a head almost a year after the signing of the GPA when the Minister of Media, Information and Publicity announced arbitrary appointments to media regulatory and parastatal bodies.

The MDC-M which had hitherto consistently described the negotiations on the outstanding issues as “work in progress” suddenly changed tack. The appointments were made to the boards of the state-controlled Zimpapers, Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ), Transmedia, Kingstons, New Ziana and Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings Board of Governors. On 15 October 2009 the MDC-M announced its withdrawal from Cabinet meetings saying it was being treated as a junior partner in the inclusive government.

According to the MDC-M the appointments were a serious slap in the face given that the GPA states that Executive authority of the inclusive government shall vest in, and be shared among the President, the Prime Minister and Cabinet as provided for in this Constitution. It further stresses that decisions should be made by consensus as well as taking collective responsibility for all Cabinet decisions, including those originally initiated individually by any member of Cabinet.¹

Thus the MDC-M argued that it had not been duly consulted on these appointments forcing it to disengage from Cabinet meetings. SADC in its capacity as guarantor of the Agreement and through South Africa as the official mediator of the Zimbabwean crisis had to call for an emergency Troika Summit to rescue the inclusive government from imminent collapse².

These developments should be viewed in the context of the huge sigh of relief across the socio-economic and political divide when the post-27 June 2008 SADC mediation efforts to

¹ Article XX of the Global Political Agreement: Framework for a New Government.

² The Global Political Agreement was signed in Harare on 15 September 2008 following protracted negotiations between Zanu PF and the two MDC formations and mediated by former South African President Tabo Mbeki.

break the political impasse culminated in the signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in Harare on 15 September 2008. The impasse arose from the disputed results of the 27 June 2008 presidential election run-off from which the then MDC leader pulled out citing massive violence and terror campaigns against members and supporters of his party.

The results of the elections were condemned regionally and internationally as not having been free and fair in the face of unprecedented state sanctioned violence, abductions and murder of opposition party activists. This forced Tsvangirai to pull out of what eventually turned out to be a one-man presidential race that resulted in President Mugabe as the sole winner for a five-year presidential term. In the meantime the socio-economic decline continued in the wake of increased shortages of basic commodities, stratospheric inflation, collapse of the education and health institutions exacerbated by endemic strikes by doctors, nurses and teachers demanding for improved working conditions.

The signing of the Agreement and the subsequent swearing in of Tsvangirai as Prime Minister in January 2009 was therefore hailed as the best available option to halt the unprecedented socio-economic decline characterised by hyper-inflation. However, that was not to be. Bickering over the allocation of ministerial positions returned to haunt the traumatised nation thereby dealing a severe blow on the expected socio-economic and political reforms – hence the stalled nature of the expected media reforms and reversion to the *status quo ante* as espoused by the continued existence and retention of repressive media laws throughout 2009.

It is trite to note that the constitution making process which is expected to underpin the envisaged reforms and usher in a new political dispensation for Zimbabwe undoubtedly fell victim to the political power contestations compounded by lack of financial resources to kick-start its outreach activities. The exercise was put on hold for the greater part of the year.

Meanwhile, the pace-setter to the constitution-making process was to come in the form of the establishment of constitutional bodies notably the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC), the successor body to the state-controlled Media and Information Commission (MIC), Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission in terms of Constitutional Amendment No 19 of December 2008. Interviews were duly conducted by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Standing Rules and Orders (SROC).

As of December 18 2009 none of the envisaged bodies had been established notwithstanding that the interviews for the ZMC had been conducted way back in June 2009 and names of short-listed candidates duly submitted to the President for subsequent appointment to serve on the respective Commissions.

While the introduction of the multi-currency system in January 2009 to stem hyper-inflation resulted in the staffing of previously empty supermarket shelves with basic goods and commodities mostly imported from South Africa, the year 2009 was a complete write-off in terms of meaningful socio-economic and political reforms more so on the media freedom and freedom of expression front as will be clearly demonstrated in the next sections of this report.

v Media Environment

Regulation of the media

The afore-mentioned stop-go-stop-go nature of the negotiations over the outstanding issues and constitution making processs thus had a negative impact on the media environment which remained constricted through the continued existence of restrictive legislation notably the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), Broadcasting Services Act, Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act and the Public Order and Security Act (POSA). As highlighted in our State of the Media Report for 2008 it is trite to note that the amendments to AIPPA, POSA and BSA which were passed by Parliament in December 2007 and buttressed by Constitutional Amendment No 19 are inconsequential in so far as they relate to freeing the media space.

In terms of Article 19 of the GPA on Freedom of Expression which recognises statutory regulation of the media through the establishment of the ZMC, the government committed itself to ensuring the immediate processing by the appropriate authorities of all applications for re-registration in terms of both the Broadcasting Services Act as well as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA).

While the establishment of the ZMC and the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) is key to the registration and re-registration of media houses and new players wishing to enter the

print and broadcasting sector respectively, this could be longtime coming given the restrictive nature of the enabling legislation notably AIPPA and BSA.

It will be deceitful if not scandalous were the ZMC to proceed with the processing and licensing of media houses in terms of the existing AIPPA considering the role it played through the statutory but now defunct MIC in the decimation of privately owned newspapers. *The Daily News, Daily News on Sunday, The Tribune and Weekly Times* were banned by the MIC for alleged violations of AIPPA and remain closed. This is a serious grey area that needs to be cleared as a matter of urgency that both the Executive and Parliament should be seized with forthwith.

ZMC which is still to be constituted is tasked with the functions of media regulation, registration of mass media and accrediting of journalists. Members of the ZMC will consist of nine members appointed by the President from a list of persons nominated by the Parliamentary Committee on Standing Rules and Orders.

As far as MISA-Zimbabwe is concerned the ZMC is a transitional half-way house towards fully fledged media self- regulation as stipulated in terms of the Banjul Declaration on the Principles of Freedom of Expression in Africa.³

The existing legislation notably AIPPA and BSA should therefore be repealed as it is replete with restrictive provisions that make it impossible for media diversity and pluralism through the entry of new private players into both the print and broadcasting sector as envisaged under the 1991 Windhoek Declaration and African Charter on Broadcasting.

For instance foreign funding and ownership in the print media is still restricted and can only be considered at the “absolute discretion” of the responsible minister. In similar vein, the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) is on record admitting the restrictive provisions of the BSA as the major hindrance to the issuing of licenses to private players and free the airwaves from the stranglehold of the state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation.

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The Banjul Declaration explicitly and unequivocally states: *Self regulation is the best system of instilling professionalism in the media.*

While MISA-Zimbabwe welcomes media diversity and plurality to allow citizens access to alternative sources of information that will enable them to make informed decisions and choices, the licensing of any new player should be done openly and transparently. This should not be done in the opaque manner that saw the licensing of the Zimpapers Harare daily *H-Metro* in the absence of the licensing body that is to come in the form of the ZMC.

That as it may be, the media environment remains restricted with no new private players having been licensed to enter both the print and broadcasting sector in an environment in which the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation continues to enjoy monopoly of the airwaves. While the government pledged to process applications for re-registration and registration of media houses, this might not be immediately achievable given the restrictive nature of the licensing regime more so in the context of the restrictive provisions of the BSA.

The answer therefore lies in the reforms of these restrictive laws as political will alone will not suffice to attract potential investors into the media industry.

Arrests, harassment of journalists

The birth of the inclusive government coupled with its pledges and commitment to freedom of expression could somewhat be linked to the reduction in the number of cases involving the arrests of journalists. This also comes on the backdrop of the High Court ruling by Justice Bharat Patel on 5 June 2009 when he granted the application by four freelance journalists, Stanley Gama, Stanley Kwenda, Jealous Mawarire and Valentine Maponga challenging the legal status of the statutory Media and Information Commission (MIC).

The four journalists were represented by prominent media lawyer Selby Hwacha, who successfully argued that the MIC had been disbanded by operation of the law after the promulgation of Act No. 20 on 11 January 2008 which amended the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) creating the Zimbabwe Media Commission to replace MIC. The ZMC was later consolidated by constitutional Amendment 19 which made it a constitutional body.

Hwacha further argued that the effect of Act No. 20 was to remove the obligation compelling journalists to be accredited such that they could actually practice journalism without

accreditation although they would not be able to enjoy journalistic privileges as set out in section 79 of AIPPA.

Several journalists arrested in 2008 were accused of practicing journalism without being accredited by the then MIC and the marked reduction of such cases in 2009 could therefore be directly linked to the finding by the High Court that journalists could actually practice without accreditation.

In 2008 MISA-Zimbabwe recorded 25 cases involving the arrests of local and foreign journalists, media lawyers and representatives of media organisations compared to a total of eight during the period under review.

Cases that were still outstanding as of December 2009 pertain to the arrests of freelance photojournalist Andriison Manyere, Zimbabwe Independent editors Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure, Davison Maruziva, the editor of the Standard and freelance journalist Annie Mpalume. Kahiya and Chimakure are jointly charged on allegations of publishing or communicating a statement wholly or with the intention of undermining public confidence in law enforcement agents in terms of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. Maruziva and Manyere are facing separate charges under the same Act.

Mpalume is out of custody after she was arrested in Manicaland Province's Chiadzwa diamond fields on allegations of entering a protected area without a pass.

Media and government relations

Representatives of MISA-Zimbabwe's National Governing Council and its Secretariat on 4 March 2009 held a meeting with the Minister of Media, Information and Publicity Webster Shamu. The meeting focused on the state of the media, communication and technology sectors and MISA-Zimbabwe's role in advancing media freedom and freedom of expression. The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Minister Jameson Timba, the Permanent Secretary George Charamba and other senior ministry officials.

MISA-Zimbabwe took opportunity of the meeting to raise concerns on the restrictive media legislative environment and its toll on the Zimbabwean media industry and the profession at large.

Discussions also centred on the need for a three-tier broadcasting system, transformation of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation into a truly independent public service broadcaster, media ethics, media cross- ownership and the need for a constitutional provision that explicitly guarantees media freedom.

The Permanent Secretary George Charamba acknowledged the restrictive nature of the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) as hampering the entry of private players into the broadcasting sector and the establishment of community radio stations. Minister Shamu said such interactions should be encouraged adding that the Ministry would maintain an open door policy with key media stakeholders and organisations to foster professional relations on issues of concern to the industry.

The ministry then took it upon itself to organise a stakeholders meeting which was held in northern resort town of Kariba to thrash out the areas of concern and chart the way forward. While this move was commendable in dealing with the misconceptions between the government and media organisations notably MISA-Zimbabwe and its allies in the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ), resolutions of the Kariba Conference held in May 2009 have not resulted in any positive media reforms.

Although MISA-Zimbabwe and its MAZ partners did not attend the conference in question in protest against the re-arrest on 5 May 2009 of Zimbabwe Peace Project director Jestina Mukoko and freelance photojournalist Andriison Manyere, written submissions were submitted by way of input into the media reform process under the auspices of MAZ.

On 4 August 2009, MISA-Zimbabwe through its National Chairperson wrote to the Minister following-up on the resolutions of the Kariba conference. The letter stressed the need for a follow-up meeting to comprehensively deal with the resolutions/recommendations subsequent to formulation of a comprehensive media policy framework. The matter is still in *abeyance* as the ministry said it was still to produce a report on the Kariba conference.

The request for a mechanism to dialogue further on the proposed recommendations was made in the spirit and letter of the principle of a consultative follow up on the recommendations before

they are considered to be final given the importance of inclusive participatory decision making by relevant stakeholder more so at it pertains to media policy formulation.

The new year amid speculative media reports of some breakthrough on media reforms through the negotiation process, therefore, offers opportunity for further interactions and dialogue on the way forward concerning media reforms. Dialogue will not only be with the Ministry but with other key stakeholders that include the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Media, Information and Technology.

▼ Print Media

As mentioned earlier in this report, Article XIX of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) recognises the importance of the right to freedom of expression and the role of the media in a multi-party democracy. In that vein parties to the Agreement undertook to expedite the “immediate processing” of all applications for re-registration and registration in terms of both the Broadcasting Services Act and AIPPA.

The agreement further states that steps should be taken to ensure that the public media provides balanced and fair coverage to all political parties for their legitimate political activities. Both the private and public media are implored to refrain from abusive language that might instil hostility, political intolerance and ethnic hatred.

Since the signing of the GPA on the 15th of September 2009 and lamentably so, the public media have failed to embrace the new political order in the country. This was comprehensively articulated at a public hearing on the state of public media convened by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Media, Information and Communication Technology.

Speaker after speaker criticised the public media, notably *The Herald* and Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) for their partisan reportage and pro-Zanu PF propaganda coverage. Members of the public and media groups noted that the hate language and vitriol churned by the public media seriously contradicted and undermined the spirit and letter of Article 19 of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) which deals with freedom of expression and communication. Zanu PF, MDC-T and MDC-M signed the GPA which culminated in the formation of the inclusive government comprising the three leading political parties.

The public was agreed on the need to repeal repressive legislation such as AIPPA and Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) to allow the entry and proliferation of private players in both the print and electronic media including the establishment of community radio stations. There was also urgent need to curb the Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity from interfering with the editorial policies of the public media amid allegations that the ministry vetted stories before they were published.

Of concern to members of the public who attended the hearing, were the exorbitant license fees charged by ZBC despite its poor programming. The Media Alliance of Zimbabwe (MAZ) took opportunity of the hearing to present its ZBC model bill. MISA-Zimbabwe also presented its model Broadcasting and Telecommunications Bill. MAZ comprises MISA-Zimbabwe, Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe (MMPZ), Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ), Federation of African Media Women in Zimbabwe (FAMWZ) and Zimbabwe National Editors Forum (Zinef),

The unrepentant nature of the public media is compounded by retention of statutory media regulation and the failure to unconditionally lift the banning of the aforementioned publications in view of the GPA and the seemingly lack of political will to free the media environment in a country which has no privately owned daily newspapers save for *The Herald* and *The Chronicle* which are published by the government- controlled Zimbabwe Newspapers Group. The existing independent weeklies, notably *The Financial Gazette*, *Zimbabwe Independent* and *Standard* have limited circulation which is mostly restricted to urban areas due to the acute shortages of newsprint and prohibitive production and transport costs arising from the hyper-inflationary environment.

v Broadcasting and Telecommunications

Regulatory Framework

Since the enactment of the BSA in 2001, Zimbabwe has maintained its dubious distinction among the few countries that are still to liberalise their airwaves to allow for the establishment of privately owned television/radio stations let alone community radio stations as espoused

under the African Charter on Broadcasting (ACB) and SADC Protocol on Information and Communication Technologies.

The state controlled ZBH continues to maintain its monopoly of the airwaves despite spirited calls for its transformation into a truly independent public service broadcaster as stipulated under the ACB.⁴ This untenable situation is directly linked to the restrictive provisions of the BSA.

It is widely acknowledged that the BSA as a broadcasting regulatory framework has serious defects and flaws which fall far short of meeting regional and international benchmarks pertaining to the regulation and management of the broadcasting sector and thus impacts negatively on the right and enjoyment of freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information.

An independent regulatory body is therefore critical in that regard as opposed to the current status of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe. The Banjul Declaration states:

- *Any public authority that exercises powers in the areas of broadcast or telecommunications regulation should be independent and adequately protected against interference, particularly of a political or economic nature.*
- *The appointments process for members of a regulatory body should be open and transparent, involve the participation of civil society and shall not be controlled by any political party.*
- *Any public authority that exercises powers in the areas of broadcast or telecommunications should be formally accountable to the public through a multi-party body.*

This is far from the case in Zimbabwe where it concerns appointments to the BAZ which is appointed by the President thereby seriously compromising its administrative, financial and institutional independence. Little wonder the outcry that followed the Minister of Media, Information and Publicity Webster Shamu's announcement on 30 September 2009 of a new BAZ board without even an inkling of reference to the guiding principles outlined under the ACB.

⁴ The ACB states that the legal framework for broadcasting should include a clear statement of the principles underpinning broadcast regulation, including promoting respect for freedom of expression, diversity, and the free flow of information and ideas as well as a three tier system for broadcasting.

Even more worrying was the bouncing back of Dr Tafataona Mahoso who previously headed the now defunct statutory MIC infamously known for the closure of the *Daily News*, *Daily News on Sunday*, *The Tribune* and *Weekly Times*, as the new BAZ chair. Other members of the board included a retired army colonel and retired general.

The appointments have apparently been put on hold with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai being on record as saying the issue would be revisited.

ICTs and telecommunications

In June 2009, the government announced that an Information Communications Technology Bill was in the offing. The bill would merge the BAZ and Postal and Telecommunications Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) and create the National Information and Communications Technology Authority of Zimbabwe.

The Posts and Telecommunications Act, Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) are identified as some of the laws that will be taken into consideration towards the development of a national ICT Bill.

While the bill envisages the repeal of the Postal and Telecommunications Act and the Broadcasting Services Act. However, the Bill does not provide for the repeal of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) but merely proposes its amendment. MISA-Zimbabwe reiterates that AIPPA should be repealed in its entirety to secure the citizens' fundamental right to freedom of expression and access to information through a free and unfettered media.

In addition, the draft was crafted without any broad-based consultative process. This impacts negatively on the ability of the public to provide informed comment or input into the process taking into consideration that regulation should solely be for purposes of promoting freedom of expression and access to information by members of the public.

Regulation of both these sectors should be geared towards promoting their roles as enablers and conduits of free speech in line with declarations such as the African Charter on Broadcasting (ACB), which states that: *the legal framework for broadcasting should include a clear statement of the principles underpinning broadcast regulation, including promoting respect for freedom of expression, diversity, and the free flow of information and ideas as well as a three tier system for broadcasting...*

MISA-Zimbabwe, however, notes comments by the Minister of Information and Communications Technology Nelson Chamisa that the draft will be subjected to public scrutiny. The minister should, therefore ensure that the consultative process is as wide and inclusive enough to include key stakeholders such as civic society, business, Internet Service Providers and other interest groups. Suffice to say this process should not be divorced from public participation given its far reaching impact on the right to freedom of expression and access to information.

MISA-Zimbabwe therefore urges the government to take into consideration several regional and continental covenants such as the African Charter on Broadcasting (ACB), African Union (AU) Declaration on Principles of Freedom of Expression in Africa, SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport, Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on Information Societies held in Tunis, Tunisia in 2005.

These regional and international instruments stress among other fundamental principles governing regulatory bodies, the need to ensure access to usage of tools of communication such as the Internet, fixed telephones and mobile telephone networks by ordinary people. Further, all formal powers in the areas of broadcasting and telecommunications should be exercised by public authorities that are protected against interference, particularly of a political or economic nature.

It is MISA-Zimbabwe's strong submission that in their present state the laws in question and BSA and AIPPA in particular, do not even meet the benchmarks for the enactment of a progressive and democratic national ICT legislation more so as it relates to the establishment of an independent converged broadcasting, ICT, cellular and telecommunications regulatory authority.

As highlighted in the 2008 State of the Media Report, the long term viability of the broadcasting, telecommunications and ICT sectors lies in securing the independence of their regulatory frameworks. The argument for the independence of regulators in the field of telecoms, broadcasting and technological convergence is guided by several regional and continental covenants such as the African Charter on Broadcasting (ACB), Declaration on the Principles of Freedom of Expression in Africa and the SADC Protocol on Culture, Information and Sport.

The government should therefore be guided by the following principles that govern the operations of independent regulatory bodies:

- there should be clear separation of powers, with the government being responsible for policy development, an independent body being responsible for the implementation of policies and regulating the sector whilst privately owned media concentrates on service provision.
- regulation should be done in the public interest, with the aim of: creating and maintaining order in the sector, establishing fair competition and quality service, promoting free speech, access to information as well as consumer protection.
- providing distinct legal mandate of the regulator's duties and responsibilities, free of ministerial, commercial or private control.
- Involving every one, that is, the executive, legislature, civic society, business and the general public in the appointment process of the regulator's board.

▼ Way Forward in 2009

Given the lack of movement and progress towards the envisaged comprehensive media legislative and policy reforms in 2009 which was a write-off in terms of fulfilment of the media expectations, MISA-Zimbabwe resolutely remains guided by the resolutions of the All Stakeholders Media Conference of December 2008. Find below recommendations of the conference.

1. Constitutional Guarantee of freedom of the media.

We hold that because freedom of expression is a cornerstone of any truly democratic society and that the media is a key mechanism for its true realisation, any constitutional reform process must ensure that the right to media freedom is included in a bill of rights in a final people driven constitution.

2. Access to Information.

We hold that in tandem with universally accepted democratic principles, the right to access and impart information is an inalienable right not only for the media but for all of the citizens of

Zimbabwe and that is imperative for the state to ensure the necessary democratic legislation is enacted. This will entail

- The repealing of all repressive laws, such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, The Public Order and Security Act, that are currently affecting the media and the right of Zimbabwean citizens to access information.
- The enactment of new democratic legislation that is in tandem with the universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights as well as the Windhoek Declaration and the African Charter on Broadcasting.

3. Regulation and Registration of the media.

We hold that the media should voluntarily regulate itself through democratic, transparent and publicly legitimate voluntary media council. Where statutory regulation has existed, it has consistently led to the curtailment of media freedom and access to information and it therefore is an unacceptable form of control over the media. All laws that enable statutory regulation of the media should therefore be repealed in keeping with democratic practice.

4. Protection of Journalists.

We hold that, given the narrative of the harassments, arrests, detention and torture of journalists, the protection of all media workers must be a priority of any government, parliament as well as all security services. Where the government or security services have acted with impunity in curtailing freedom of expression, freedom of the media or access to information, we hold that these practices should cease and be replaced by a democratic, peaceful environment in which the media can operate.

5. Print Media.

We hold that the print media remains a key component of Zimbabwe's media diversity, and should be allowed to operate independently without undue influence from the state or government of the day. We also hold that the state and any government of the day should not have any direct stake or interest in the ownership or management of the print media as these compromises the sector's diversity and independence. Where the state has had direct control

in the media, we recommend that it disinvests in these print media houses and allow for independent control of the same.

6. Broadcasting Diversity and Independent Regulation.

a) With the full knowledge that Zimbabwe has not had any other broadcasters except the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, and that the Broadcasting Services Act remains undemocratic and should be repealed, we commit ourselves to the establishment of a broadcasting industry environment that is diverse and independent.

We further commit ourselves to a three tier broadcasting system that is outlined in the African Charter on Broadcasting. That is to say, we believe in the necessity of public service broadcasting, commercial service broadcasting and community broadcasting.

b) We also hold that all broadcasting in Zimbabwe must be independently regulated and free from undue state and political interference through an Independent Regulatory Authority appointed through a transparent and public process as well as with the endorsement of parliament.

In this vein, we hold that there should also be the conversion of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation from a state controlled broadcaster into a truly independent public service broadcaster governed by a democratic public service broadcasting law.

7. Media Professionalism.

We hold that journalists in Zimbabwe are professional workers and should be recognised as such through all laws that affect labour, as well as through the formation of a National Employment Council to serve their professional needs.

We hold that a professional environment for journalists augurs well for the fair, accurate and people centred discharge of their duties.

We hold that all journalists should be committed to practising their profession in an ethical, fair and balanced manner according to a commonly agreed to Code of Conduct established after a democratic and consultative process.

8. Media Training.

We hold that journalism training institutions are critical for the development of the profession, and therefore should be supported as far as is possible to train new entrants to the profession through ensuring academic freedom of the same, access to technological and relevant equipment.

We hold that all media employers should not in any way hinder or interfere with the training of their employees through seminars, workshops and press clubs and media centres.

We also urge media houses and media organisations to actively promote internships, on the job training to both their employees as well as media students.

9. New Media and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)

We hold that the use of ICTs is a key component in the development of alternative/new media and that all efforts should be undertaken to ensure access to these new technologies. This should be undertaken through enacting democratic legislation and monitoring access to ICTs by citizens of Zimbabwe.

10. Gender and the Media.

We hold that the fair coverage of both men and women in the media is a key component of any democratic media and that all media should strive to ensure that this is an established reality. This should be done through the establishment of internal gender and the media policies within media houses both in terms of news coverage as well as employment policies.

11. The Media and Civil Society

We hold that civil society organisations and community based organisations are an essential component of any democratic society, and therefore encourage, as far as is possible, the establishment of progressive linkages between civil society and the media, for the enhancement of democracy and good governance.

12. Media Development and Support

We hold that given the underdeveloped nature of Zimbabwe's media, an independent and free from political interference media development and support organisation be established by all media stakeholders to ensure that all necessary technical assistance is given to the latter.

v Conclusion

MISA-Zimbabwe is of the firm view that the restricted media environment in so far as it pertains to media diversity, pluralism and independence ostensibly arises from the absence of a constitutional provision that explicitly guarantees media/press freedom as this leaves room for the enactment and continued existence of restrictive legislation such as AIPPA, BSA, Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, Official Secrets Act, Insult Laws and the Interception of Communications Act (ICA) among others.

And as Zimbabwe embarks on its constitutional reform process it becomes even more imperative that media self-regulation underpinned by a constitutional provision guaranteeing media freedom and the establishment of an independent broadcasting and telecommunications authority is the best system of instilling professionalism in the media as well as an incentive for potential investors to invest in the media sector.

A free press as opposed to one controlled by the state as envisaged in terms of the proposed ZMC, will assist in keeping the Executive at arms length and foster media diversity, pluralism, independence and responsible journalism through a self-regulatory mechanism accountable to the reading and viewing public.

The media will thus be better placed to play an effective watchdog role over the three arms of the state as well as allowing the public to enjoy greater access to information and enjoyment of freedom of expression.

End

Media Violations Statistics 2009

Arrests / media law / litigations

Victim / concerned party	Issue	Date
Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project and Freelance photojournalist Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Lawyers representing Mukoko and Manyere on 5 January 2009 argued for the suspension of proceedings against their clients at the magistrates' courts pending the outcome of an appeal filed with the High Court before Justice Mary-Ann Gowora. The defence counsel filed an urgent chamber application on 5 January 2009 for Mukoko, Manyere and other co-accused to get access to medical treatment arguing that following their enforced disappearances they had been tortured and might not be in the right frame of mind to appreciate the proceedings of the court.	5 January 2009
Minister of Media, Information and Publicity	The government gazetted steep application and registration fees in terms of the repressive Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) which will see foreign based media houses required to fork out more than US\$30 000 in application and permission to operate	6 January 2009

	fees.	
Jestina Mukoko and Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Harare magistrate Olivia Mariga postponed the initial remand proceedings against Manyere and Mukoko. Initial remand proceedings against Manyere were postponed to 7 January 2009 while that of Jestina Mukoko was deferred to 14 January 2009 while they both remain in custody pending decisions on appeals filed with the High Court.	6 January 2009
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Manyere appeared before Harare magistrate Olivia Mariga on 7 January 2009 charged with alleged acts of banditry in contravention of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. Manyere is being charged together with six other alleged MDC activists under Section 23 (1), (2) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which criminalises acts of insurgence, banditry, sabotage or terrorism or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	7 January 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Harare Magistrate Archie Wochiunga on 14 January 2009 adjourned proceedings on hearings in the	14 January 2009

	application by detained Zimbabwe Peace Project director Jestina Mukoko seeking referral to the Constitutional Court challenging the violation of her fundamental rights as enshrined under section 24 of the Constitution	
Jestina Mukoko	Harare Magistrate Archie Wochiunga on 15 January 2009 deferred ruling on the application of the Zimbabwe Peace Project director, Jestina Mukoko in which the applicant sought an order for referral to the Constitutional Court. Mukoko's lawyer, Beatrice Mtetwa, based her application for referral on the fact that there had been violations to Mukoko's fundamental rights as enshrined in sections 13, 15 and 18 of the Declaration of Rights. The Sections deal with the right to personal liberty, protection from inhuman treatment and of the law.	15 January 2009
Jestina Mukoko	The ruling on the application in which the Zimbabwe Peace Project director, and veteran broadcaster, is seeking a referral order to the Constitutional Court set for 16 January 2009. Defence counsel maintained the argument that because Mukoko was abducted	16 January 2009

	and unlawfully brought before the Magistrates court, any subsequent legal proceedings were equally unlawful	
Freelance photojournalist Anderson Shadreck Manyere	Harare High Court judge Justice Tedious Karwi on 16 January 2009 dismissed bail application by freelance photojournalist Anderson Shadreck Manyere charged with alleged acts of banditry in contravention of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. Manyere is remanded to 7 February 2009 after the State has completed its investigations	16 January 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Harare Magistrate Archie Wochiunga on 16 January 2009 upheld application by the Zimbabwe Peace Project director, and veteran broadcaster, to seek audience before the Supreme Court sitting as the Constitutional Court. Mukoko alleged violation of her fundamental rights which entitled her to seek redress before the Constitutional court.	16 January 2009
Monica Gavela, Patrice Makova, Garikai Chaunza, Bright Paradza, Robert Tapfumaneyi and Sibonginkosi Mlilo	The Retrenchment Board ruled against the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH) bid to retrench the journalists who were suspended in June 2008 on allegations of 'acting in a manner inconsistent with the	20 January 2009

	fulfilment of the implied conditions' of their contracts. The Board ruled that ZBH failed to follow proper retrenchment procedures and should have met with the Works Council before coming up with the decision to retrench them. ZBH was advised to start the process afresh if they still wished to retrench the journalists	
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Harare Magistrate Gloria Takundwa on 23 January postponed to 26 January 2009 the case against freelance photojournalist Anderson Shadreck Manyere who is being charged with alleged acts of banditry in contravention of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act. The case was postponed after Manyere and his co-accused failed to turn up in court as expected. The reasons for their failure to appear in court could not be immediately ascertained.	23 January 2009
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	The alleged banditry case against freelance photojournalist Anderson Shadreck Manyere was on 26 January 2009 postponed yet again after he failed to turn up in court together with his co-accused.	26 January 2009

Andrison Shadreck Manyere	The matter of freelance photojournalist, Anderson Shadreck Manyere, who is held on allegations of banditry, was later on 26 January 2009 heard before Harare Magistrate Gloria Takundwa; who ordered police to investigate and present a report on allegations of Manyere's torture while in unlawful detention.	27 January 2009
Jestina Mukoko	High Court judge Justice Anne-Marie Gowora on 30 January 2009 postponed the hearing of a bail application by Zimbabwe Peace Project director Jestina Mukoko saying the defence should first file a written response on issues raised by the state against her quest to be granted bail. The state is arguing that her application cannot be heard in the High Court as she has not yet been formally charged and remanded by the magistrates' court.	30 January 2009
Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project and former news anchor with ZBC Television	High Court judge Justice Chitakunye heard submissions in a bail application by Mukoko who is suspected of committing acts of banditry and insurgence, with the defence arguing that there was no basis for denying her bail. Defence lawyer Harrison Nkomo argued that the state's assertions that Mukoko's bail	2 February 2009

	application cannot be heard in the High Court because she has not been formally charged were defective.	
Andrison Shadreck Manyere, freelance photojournalist	The magistrates' court heard how prison officers had whisked detained freelance photojournalist Shadreck Manyere from the Avenues Clinic in Harare on 6 February 2009 before he had been accorded full medical treatment. Defence lawyer Aleck Muchadehama described to Harare magistrate Gloria Takundwa how Manyere was forcibly taken away from the clinic by prisons officers without any explanation and without due regard to his medical condition. This was despite an existing order by High Court judge Justice Tedious Karwi for the state to complete investigations on allegations by the accused that they had been tortured while in unlawful detention.	9 February 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Harare magistrate Gloria Takundwa ruled that Mukoko should be released into the custody of a well equipped and functional hospital for medical examination and treatment. Magistrate Takundwa stated that she expected both parties to furnish the court with copies of the medical affidavits in	11 February 2009

	question before making a ruling on 13 February 2009 to determine whether or not Mukoko should remain detained at the Avenues Clinic in Harare.	
Jestina Mukoko	Mukoko was released into the custody of the Avenues Clinic for medical attention in compliance with Magistrate Takundwa's ruling on 11 February 2009.	12 February 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Magistrate Takundwa ruled for the further detention of Mukoko into the custody of the Avenues Clinic for medical treatment as recommended by a state doctor who said she was very ill. The magistrate ruled that both the medical affidavits submitted by the state and that of the accused's own doctor were in agreement pertaining to the critical condition of the accused.	13 February 2009
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Magistrate Takundwa postponed remand proceedings against Manyere after prisons officials failed yet again to bring him to court citing transport fuel shortages. The state told the court that it was not its duty but that of prison officials to ensure the accused is brought to court. Magistrate Takundwa, however, said the state should ensure such attendance. Magistrate Takundwa	16 February 2009

	deferred the matter to 18 February 2009.	
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Harare High Court judge Justice Yunus Omerjee postponed to 19 February 2009 ruling on a bail application by Shadreck Manyere accused of acts of banditry. The judge deferred ruling on the matter to allow the prosecution and defence to peruse a police report on allegations by Manyere that he was tortured while in unlawful detention. The allegations are supported by medical affidavits submitted by Doctors Douglas Gwatidzo, Frances Lovemore and Dr Harawa. The State represented by Ziyambi, argued against placing Manyere on bail stating that there were outstanding issues that needed revisiting which the accused was likely to interfere with.	18 February 2009
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Manyere is being charged under Section 23 (1) (2) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which criminalises acts of insurgence, banditry, sabotage or terrorism or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	19 February 2009
		20 February

Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Manyere is being charged under Section 23 (1) (2) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which criminalises acts of insurgence, banditry, sabotage or terrorism or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	2009
Jestina Mukoko	Magistrate Gloria Takundwa postponed Mukoko's case to 4 March 2009. The application for postponement by the defence counsel was not opposed by the state. Defence lawyer Alec Muchadehama cited the fact that postponement was necessary since there was an application before the Supreme Court which had a material bearing on the proceedings in the lower court. The lawyer also noted that they would soon make an application for refusal of further remand.	27 February 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Magistrate Guvamombe ordered Mukoko to surrender title deeds for property worth US\$20 000 as surety. She is also expected to report to Norton Police Station twice a week on Mondays and Fridays pending the finalisation of the case.	2 March 2009

Jestina Mukoko	Mukoko appeared before Harare Magistrate Gloria Takundwa. The case was postponed to 20 March 2009 after the State applied for the postponement. Her lawyer Alec Muchadehama was agreeable to the postponement but stated that Mukoko who has not been charged should be placed on formal remand at the next court sitting. Muchadehama also said a trial date should also be set in the matter	4 March 2009
Freelance photojournalist Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Manyere appeared before Harare Magistrate Archie Wochiunga on challenging his placement on further remand on alleged acts of banditry. Manyere is being charged under section 23 (1), (2) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which criminalises acts of insurgence, banditry, sabotage or terrorism or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	6 March 2009
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Manyere's application for refusal of further remand was on 9 March 2009 dismissed by	9 March 2009

	Magistrate Archie Wochiunga who said the state should be given time to conclude its investigations.	
Editor of The Chronicle Brezhnev Malaba and reporter Nduduzo Tshuma	Malaba and Tshuma are arrested and made to sign a warned and cautioned statement by police in Bulawayo following publication of a story by the state-controlled regional daily newspaper alleging police involvement in a Grain Marketing Board maize scandal.	17 March 2009
Andrison Shadreck Manyere	Harare High Court Judge Justice Yunus Omerjee grants Manyere leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against his continued detention on alleged acts of banditry. A bail application made to the High court on 19 February 2009 was thrown out by Justice Omerjee.	19 March 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Mukoko was remanded to 9 April 2009 to allow the state to prepare its indictment papers and formerly charge her at the next remand date. Defence lawyer Alec Muchadehama said a trial date should also be set failure to which the state should withdraw the matter and the court refuse having her placed on further remand. Muchadehama said the requirement for Mukoko to report to the	20 March 2009

	police twice a week was unnecessary and should be relaxed. Prosecutor Tawanda Zvekare, however, argued that Mukoko is properly on remand as she is on bail and dismissed the defence submission for the relaxation of her bail conditions.	
Anderson Shadreck Manyere	A ruling on an application for refusal of further remand of Manyere is deferred to 24 March 2009 by Harare Magistrate Gloria Takundwa.	23 March 2009
Anderson Shadreck Manyere	Harare Magistrate, Memory Chigwaza dismisses an application for refusal of further remand by Manyere. In her ruling the Magistrate upheld the application by the State to remand the accused to 30 April 2009 on the grounds that the state needed time to prepare indictment papers for the accused. She, however, cited the need to have the accused indicted by that date.	24 March 2009
Freelance photojournalist, Shadreck Andrison Manyere	Supreme Court Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku postponed the hearing of a bail application by Manyere to 6 April 2009 following an application for the postponement by the Attorney	2 April 2009

	General's Office. The application for postponement was made on the grounds that State Prosecutor, Chris Mutangadura not in the country.	
Freelance photojournalist, Shadreck Andrison Manyere .	Chief Justice Chidyausiku dismissed Manyere's bail application. In justifying his decision, Chidyausiku argued that he had found no evidence that the High Court had misdirected itself in denying bail to the accused in the initial application. He noted the distinction between Manyere's case and that of his co-accused, MDC activists Dhlamini and Ghandi, citing that whereas his co-accused had been implicated on the basis of confessions, Manyere had actually been found in the possession of the incriminating evidence	6 April 2009
The Editor of Bulawayo's State-controlled provincial daily newspaper, The Chronicle, Brezhnev Malaba and reporter Nduduzo Tshuma	Bulawayo magistrate John Masimba, charged Malaba and Tshuma were with defamation in contravention to Section 96 of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act. The charges arose from a story published in the paper in February which alleged police involvement in a maize	7 April 2009

	scandal at the Grain Marketing Board (GMB). On 17 March 2009, the two were arrested and made to sign a warned and cautioned statement by the police following the publication of the story.	
Shadreck Andrison Manyere	Police launched a search for Manyere who was released on bail together with co-accused MDC activists Gandhi Mudzingwa and Kisimusi Dhlamini. State Prosecutor Chris Mutangadura on 14 April, 2009 appealed against a bail grant before Justice Bhunu which was granted the same day that Manyere was released from Chikurubi Maximum Prison and automatically suspended the decision by Justice Hungwe to liberate the accused persons.	24 April 2009
Shadreck Andrison Manyere	The State made an application before Magistrate Catherine Chimanda, for a warrant of arrest for Manyere, whom they alleged was on the run. Defence lawyer, Alec Muchadehama denied the allegation producing a medical affidavit citing that Manyere was hospitalised after he fell seriously ill soon after his release on 17 April 2009	30 April 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Mukoko appeared before the Magistrates' court opposing State move to have her	30 April 2009

	indicted along with two, MDC activists Gandhi Mudzingwa and Chris Dhlamini. Mukoko's defence counsel consisting of Alec Muchadehama, Beatrice Mtetwa and Charles Kwaramba argued that the accused could not be indicted because they had not been formally charged and remanded. They also argued that Mukoko could not be indicted or tried before the High Court since she had an application that had already been set down for hearing before the Constitutional Court on 14 May 2009 30 April 2009	
Jestina Mukoko, former ZBC news anchor and director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project	Jestina Mukoko on 4 May 2009, appeared before Harare magistrate Catherine Chimanda with the defence objecting to her indictment on terrorism and sabotage charges. The magistrate who had deferred her ruling on the application by the prosecution to indict the accused to 4 May 2009, initially read her judgement in which she granted the State leave to indict Mukoko and those with whom she is jointly accused, but left all the other issues connected thereto, to the High Court for determination.	4 May 2009
Jestina Mukoko and	Jestina Mukoko and	5 May 2009

freelance photojournalist Andrisson Manyere.	freelance photojournalist Andrisson Manyere were on 5 May 2009 re-detained after a Harare magistrate suspended their bail conditions. Mukoko, Manyere and 14 other alleged saboteurs had their bail conditions revoked by Magistrate Catherine Chimanda who ruled that the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the matter on defence submissions that the accused had been released following political intervention in terms of the Global Political Agreement. Mukoko and Manyere had been granted bail on 2 March 2009 and 17 April 2009 respectively.	
Andrisson Shadreck Manyere	Detained freelance photojournalist Andrisson Shadreck Manyere on 7 May 2009 tendered yet another bail application before High Court Justice November Mtshiyi who postponed the matter to 8 May 2009. Manyere is facing charges of contravening section 23 (1), (2) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which criminalises acts of insurrection, banditry, sabotage or terrorism or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	7 May 2009

Andrison Shadreck Manyere.	High Court Judge, Justice November Mtshiya on 8 May 2009 reserved to 11 May 2009 judgement in the bail application of detained freelance photojournalist Andrison Shadreck Manyere.	8 May 2009
<i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> Editor, Vincent Kahiya and News Editor, Constantine Chimakure	Officials from the Law and Order Section on Saturday 9 May, 2009 visited the <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> offices looking for Editor, Vincent Kahiya and News Editor, Constantine Chimakure over a story titled, <i>CIO, police role in activists' abduction revealed</i> , naming members of the Central Intelligence Organisation and police who were allegedly involved in the abductions of human rights and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists amongst them freelance journalist Shadreck Andrison Manyere last year. Amongst those named are CIO Assistant Director External, retired brigadier Asher Walter Tapfumaneyi, Police Superintendents, Reggies Chikwete and Joel Tendere, Detective Inspectors, Elliot Muchada and Joshua Muzangano, CID Homicide Officer Commanding, Crispin Kadenge, Chief	9 May, 2009

	Superintendent Peter Magwenzi and Senior Assistant Commissioner, Simon Nyathi.	
Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure	Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure on 11 May 2009 reported to the Zimbabwe Republic Police' Law and Order Section, where they have spent almost the whole day. The two were accompanied by their lawyer Innocent Chagonda.	11 May 2009
Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure	Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure were on 11 May 2009 arrested and expected to appear in court on 12 May 2009 on charges of publishing or communicating a statement wholly or with the intention of undermining public confidence in law enforcement agents, under the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act.	11 May 2009
Shadreck Andrison Manyere	High Court Judge, Justice November Mtshiyi on 12 May 2009 heard submissions for a fresh bail application by detained freelance photojournalist Shadreck Andrison Manyere and reserved ruling on the matter to 13 May 2009.	12 May 2009
Media and Human rights lawyer, Alec Muchadehama	Prominent Media and Human rights lawyer, Alec Muchadehama was on 14 May 2009 arrested	14 May 2009

	over charges of obstructing the course of justice under Section 184(1) of the Criminal Law Codification and (Reform) Act. The charges arise from allegations that Muchadehama connived with Justice Bhunu's clerk in facilitating the release on bail of freelance photojournalist, Shadreck Andrison Manyere from Chikurubi Maximum Prison and Movement for Democratic Change activists Kisimusi Dhlamini and Ghandi Mudzingwa who were under hospital detention at the Avenues Clinic. They were released on 17 April 2009.	
<i>The Chronicle</i> editor, Brezhnev Malaba and reporter Nduduzo Tshuma	The trial of <i>The Chronicle</i> editor, Brezhnev Malaba and reporter Nduduzo Tshuma who are facing defamation charges in contravention to section 96 of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act was on 20 May 2009 postponed to 21 July 2009. The two are jointly charged with the <i>Zimpapers</i> Bulawayo branch General Manager, Sithembile Ncube court over a story that was published in their paper in February alleging that the police were involved in a major maize scandal at the Grain Marketing Board (GMB).	

Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure	Harare Magistrate, Catherine Chimanda on 28 May 2009 ruled that editors of the <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i>, Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure, appear for trial on 16 June 2009. The two are charged under Section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which criminalises the communication of statements that are likely to undermine public confidence in the law enforcement agents. The charges arise from a story published titled, <i>CIO, police role in activists' abduction revealed</i>. The story states that notices of indictment for trial in the High Court which begins 29 June 2009, served on some of the activists last week revealed that the activists were either in the custody of the CIO or police during the period they were reported missing.	28 May 2009
Alec Muchadehama	Harare Magistrate Catherine Chimanda deferred to 1 June 2009 ruling on the application for refusal of remand by Muchadehama.	28 May 2009

Alec Muchadehama, prominent media and human rights lawyer	Harare Magistrate Catherine Chimanda granted an application for refusal of remand by Muchadehama. The charges arise from allegations that Muchadehama connived with Justice Bhunu's clerk in facilitating the release on bail of freelance photojournalist, Shadreck Andrison Manyere from Chikurubi Maximum Prison and Movement for Democratic Change activists, Kisimusi Dhlamini and Gandhi Mudzingwa who were under hospital detention at the Avenues Clinic. They were released on 17 April 2009.	1 June 2009
Freelance journalists, Stanley Gama, Stanley Kwenda, Jealousy Mawarire and Valentine Maponga	The four journalists filed an urgent application with the High Court challenging the legal status of the Media and Information Commission (MIC), following a directive by the Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity instructing all journalists wishing to cover the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) summit set for 7 to 9 June 2009 to seek accreditation with the defunct MIC.	4 June 2009
Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure, <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> editors	Kahiya and Chimakure appeared before magistrate Moses Murendo applying for a referral to the Supreme Court where seeking to	16 June 2009

. .	challenge the constitutionality of section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, (Criminal Code) under which they are charged. The two appeared along with Michael Curling who is representing the <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i>. Chimakure and Kahiya are being charged for publishing or communicating falsehoods under section 31 of the Criminal Code. The charges arise from a story published in the <i>Zimbabwe independent</i> edition of 8-14 May 2009 titled, <i>Activist abductors named</i>; with the subtitle <i>CIO, police role in activists' abduction revealed</i>, stating that notices of indictment for trial in the High Court, served on some of the activists revealed that the activists were either in the custody of the Central Intelligence Office or police during the period they were reportedly missing.	
Alec Muchadehama	The trial of Muchadehama failed to commence after the Attorney General's office indicated that it could not continue with the proceedings as it need to gather evidence.	17 June 2009
Webster Shamu, Minister for Media, Information and Publicity and George Charamba, Permanent	Shamu and Charamba face contempt of court charges after four freelance journalists Gama, Maponga,	18 June 2009

Secretary in the same Ministry	Kwenda and Mawarire were barred from covering the COMESA Summit in violation of a High Court ruling authorising the journalists to cover the summit without accreditation. Security officials at the venue told the journalists they could not cover the event as they did not appear on the Ministry of Information's list of journalists accredited to cover the Summit.	
Information and Communications Technology Bill	A new Information and Communications Technology Bill is being proposed with the merging of the existing information and communication laws and repealing of the Broadcasting Services Act and Postal and Telecommunications Act being among its major objectives.	19 June 2009
Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and former news anchor with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC)	Mukoko appeared before the full bench of the Supreme Court sitting as a Constitutional Court challenging the infringement of her constitutional rights to liberty, full protection of the law and right to freedom from torture. The full bench comprised Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku, Justice Luke Malaba, Justice Wilson Sandura, Justice Vernanda Ziyambi and Justice Paddington Garwe.	25 June 2009
The Ministry of Media, Information and	The Ministry said it had no intention of defying	25 June 2009

Publicity	a provisional High Court order granted in favour of four freelance journalists but attributed delays in complying with the order in question to financial constraints.	
Webster Shamu and George Charamba	Shamu and Charamba are challenging a High Court interim judgment which declared the MIC defunct and allowed four freelance journalists to cover the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) summit without MIC accreditation cards. Ironically this comes hardly after the same Ministry issued a statement saying it would unconditionally and unreservedly abide by Justice Bharat Patel's ruling on 5 May 2009.	29 June 2009
Freelance photojournalist Andirson Manyere`	Manyere and five other alleged Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists are facing charges of contravening Section 23 (1) (a) (i) (ii) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, Chapter 9:23 which criminalises acts of insurgency, banditry, sabotage or terrorism, or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	1 July 2009
<i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> editors Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure	Kahiya and Chimakure are being charged with publishing or communicating	9 July 2009

	falsehoods in terms of section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act following a story published in the <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> edition of 8-14 May 2009 titled, <i>Activist abductors named</i> ; with the subtitle <i>CIO, police role in activists' abduction revealed</i> .	
Freelance journalist Andriison Manyere and 15 Movement for Democratic Change-T (MDC-T)	Manyere and five other alleged Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists are facing charges of contravening Section 23 (1) (a) (i) (ii) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, Chapter 9:23 which criminalises acts of insurgency, banditry, sabotage or terrorism, or alternatively Section 143 of the same Act which relates to aggravating circumstances in relation to malicious damage to property.	20 July 2009
Freelance journalist Sydney Saize	Police in Mutare on 21 July 2009 detained and questioned Mutare-based freelance photojournalist Sydney Saize while he was covering proceedings during the funeral ceremony for the Member of the House of Assembly for Mutare North Honourable Charles Pemhenayi.	22 July 2009
Zimbabwe Independent editors Constantine	<i>Independent</i> editors, Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure	31 July 2009

Chimakure, Vincent Kahiya and Director of Zimbabwe Independent Michael Curling	who are challenging the constitutionality of section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act, (Criminal Code) under which they are charged.	
Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana and Standing Rules and Orders Committee	Parliament has reportedly set aside results of interviews for statutory Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC). The public is also owed an explanation on why the SROC bundled the ZMC interviews with those for BAZ when the advertisements placed for applications to be submitted for interviews by the Committee were specifically for the ZMC.	4 August 2009
The Speaker of Parliament Honorable Lovemore Moyo, President of the Senate Edna Madzongwe and her deputy Naison Ndlovu and Zimbabwe Media Commission	Lovemore Moyo has dismissed media reports of a deadlock resulting in the alleged setting aside of results from the interviews conducted with potential candidates for eventual appointment to the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC).	5 August 2009
Zimbabwe Media Commission	Confusion continued over nominations for the proposed Zimbabwe Media Commission on media commission nominations. The state-controlled national weekly <i>The Sunday Mail</i> reported in its edition of August 16-22 2009 that the process to nominate candidates to the ZMC, Zimbabwe Human	17 August 2009

	Rights Commission (ZHRC) Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), had been put on hold.	
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Media and Information Commission	The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) has ruled that the Zimbabwean government should repeal sections 79 and 80 of the repressive Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) which contravenes Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. The government has since amended AIPPA only to replace it with yet another statutory body in the form of the Zimbabwe Media Commission and in terms of Constitutional Amendment No 19 of 2008.	28 August 2009
Former Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) news reader and director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project Jestina Mukoko	The Supreme Court upheld an application by Jestina Mukoko in which she argued that her constitutional rights to liberty, full protection of the law and right to freedom from torture had been infringed. Mukoko was facing charges of breaching Section 23(1) (a) (i) (ii) of the criminal Codification Act. The Section deals with organising banditry and	28 September 2009

	terrorist activities.	
Freelance journalist Annie Mpalume	Freelance journalist Annie Mpalume was on 8 October 2009 arrested in Manicaland province's Chiadzwa diamond fields on allegations of entering a protected area without a pass.	12 October 2009
Freelance journalist Annie Mpalume	Freelance journalist Annie Mpalume was arrested and detained on allegations of breaching the Protected Areas Act was on 12 October 2009 granted US\$ 30 bail by Mutare Magistrate Mr Fechete.	12 October 2009
Media lawyer Alec Muchadenha and a clerk with the High Court.	Muchadehama and Gambanga were charged with contravening section 182(1) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act which deals with contempt of court. The charge arises from the two's alleged involvement in the improper release and committal to bail of the three accused. The three clients include Manyere and two Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) activists Kisimusi Dhlamini and Gandhi Mudzingwa who are all facing charges of sabotage, banditry and terrorism.	The two were remanded out of custody to 22 October 2009.
Media lawyer Alec Muchadenha,	The trial of prominent lawyer Alec	22 October 2009

Clemence Gambanga a clerk with the High Court and state prosecutor Andrew Kumire.	Muchadehama was adjourned on 14 October 2009 after Harare magistrate Chiwoniso Mutongi ruled that state prosecutor Andrew Kumire be imprisoned for five days for contempt of court. Kumire had defied the magistrate arguing that he had not asked any leading question.	
al Jazeera news crew Reporter Haru Mutasa and cameraman Austin Gundani	An al-Jazeera news crew which reports from Zimbabwe was on 20 October 2009 detained for filming events outside Munhumutapa Building which houses the Offices of the President and Cabinet in the capital.	23 October 2009
Dadirai Chikwengo chairperson of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), national director Cephas Zinhumwe and secretary Godfrey Phiri	The three civil society leaders were arrested on 24 October 2009 in the resort town of Victoria Falls under the draconian Public Order and Security Act (POSA). They were arrested for allegedly failing to notify the police of a strategic retreat meeting convened by NANGO for national directors of civic society	26 October 2009

Beaten

Victim	Incident/issue	Date
Regis Nyandima, chief photographer with <i>The Herald</i> .	Nyandima was assaulted by police in Harare while covering a demonstration by	19 June 2009

	members of the pressure group Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA).The police said the demonstration was illegal	
State prosecutor Andrew Kumire and lawyer Alec Muchadehama	High Court Judge Justice Tedious Karin on 26 October 2009 confirmed the conviction for contempt of court and sentence to imprisonment of state prosecutor Andrew Kumire in the ongoing trial of prominent lawyer Alec Muchadehama. He, however, evaded immediately serving his term after he was granted US\$30 bail by Harare provincial magistrate Mishrod Guvamombe pending review of his conviction.	28 October 2009
Freelance journalist Annie Mpalume	Mpalume was arrested on 8 October 2009 in Manicaland province's Chiadzwa diamond fields on allegations of entering a protected area without a pass.	28 October 2009

Abducted/ Threats/ Banned/ Deported/ Denied work permit

Victim	Case	Date
Sandra Mandizvidza, journalist with <i>The Standard</i>	Mandizvidza was reportedly verbally assaulted by the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) chief executive officer Karikoga Kaseke who allegedly called her a "whore".	13 January 2009
Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation chief	The journalists and senior managers with the state	9 February 2009

correspondent, Reuben Barwe; diplomatic correspondent Judith Makwanya; current affairs producer Musorowegomo Mukosi; acting chief executive officer (CEO) Happison Muchechetere, <i>Zimbabwe Newspapers</i> (CEO) Justin Mutasa, Herald editor Pikirai Deketeke ;Herald senior assistant editor Caesar Zvayi and <i>Sunday Mail</i> political editor Munyaradzi Huni.	media are added to the European Union's (EU) targeted sanctions lists for whipping up a government orchestrated terror campaign before and during the June 2008 presidential election runoff. They are also accused of being involved in activities that seriously undermined freedom of expression and the media in Zimbabwe. Jongwe Printers, a company owned by Zanu PF and the political party's mouthpiece <i>The Voice</i> were also placed on the sanctions list.	
Freelance journalist Kudzanayi Musengi	Gweru-based Musengi was reported missing on 31 March 2009 after he failed to return home prompting his wife to check with colleagues as to whether they knew of his whereabouts. He had been last seen by colleagues late on Tuesday afternoon after attending a meeting they held to plan for the World Press Freedom Day commemorations. Musengi had earlier on 26 March 2009 received threats at a local hotel over reports of fresh invasions of commercial farms.	1 April 2009
Freelance journalist Kudzanayi Musengi	On 1 April 2009, at 1900hrs, Musengi was released by his abductors. He said that 3 men blindfolded and bundled him into a car and drove to a bushy area where he was subjected to intense interrogations over his alleged involvement with reports on the Voice of America's Studio 7 on fresh farm invasions. He was threatened with	2 April 2009

	death and surveillance and ordered not to report anything pertaining to the land issue or his ordeal.	
Tatenda Chitagu, reporter for <i>The Mirror</i> (Masvingo's provincial private paper)	Chitagu was allegedly threatened by Zanu PF Masvingo provincial chairlady, Shylet Uyoyo, following a story written by him alleging that Uyoyo was involved in a spate of armed robberies that had been prevailing in the town of Masvingo. On 2 April 2009, Golden Maunganidze, the editor of the weekly, and Chitagu made a report to Masvingo Central police station on the alleged threats.	17 June 2009
Musician Hosiah Chipanga and the ZBC	Musician threatens to sue ZBC for reportedly banning his latest album, <i>Hero Shoko</i> , from receiving airplay through the state-controlled broadcaster.	4 August 2009
Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity, Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) Ministers	THE Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity reportedly ordered the state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation and other state-controlled newspapers to stop covering ministers belonging to the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai until the party reverses its decision to suspend contact with Zanu PF.	26 October 2009
Veteran journalist Barnabas Thondlana	Veteran journalist Barnabas Thondlana and editor-designate of Newsday was fired in circumstances described by ZimInd publisher Trevor Ncube as	28 October 2009

	amicable.	
Zimbabwe Broadcasting Services (ZBH) managers O'brien Rwafa, Jacob Phiri and Freedom Moyo.	The three managers O'brien Rwafa, Jacob Phiri and Freedom Moyo were accused of leaking information on a government directive to stop covering government ministers who are members of the Movement for Democratic Change led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. They were initially suspended for 10 days and indefinitely suspended on full salaries pending investigations and ordered to surrender ZBC property	8 November 2009

Victory

Parties	Matter	Date
Acting Minister of Information and Publicity, Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana	The Acting Minister said the government would 'make provisions under the law' to allow the entry of private players into the broadcasting sector of which the state-controlled Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation has sole monopoly. Mangwana stated that there was a need to improve the broadcasting standards in the country so that people do not opt for alternative radio stations that broadcast from outside the country.	15 January 2009
Media organisations	Zimbabwe media organisations have been licensed to sell their newspapers and other products in both local and foreign currency. Zimpapers chief executive officer Justin Mutasa said 75% of the newspapers printed by the state-controlled group would	22 January 2009

	be sold in foreign currency whilst the remaining 25% would be sold in local currency to selected Government departments and designated selling points that include Herald House in Harare.	
Professor Welshman Ncube, Chairperson of the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) for the month of February	Ncube urged Zimbabwe's public and private media to shun hate language and work towards promoting national healing as Zimbabwe takes baby steps towards the implementation of an inclusive Government. He was speaking at a meeting with representatives of media houses on 6 February 2009 saying the media has an important role to play in reducing the political tension that gripped Zimbabwe over the past 10 years	6 February 2009
Morgan Tsvangirai, Prime Minister-designate	Prime Minister-designate Morgan Tsvangirai assured Zimbabweans of intense efforts underway to release by 11 February 2009 detained photojournalist Shadreck Manyere and human rights activist Jestina Mukoko detained together with other pro-Movement for Democratic Change activists. Tsvangirai said the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) were urgently seized with the matter.	10 February 2009
The Committee to Project Journalists (CPJ)	The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) wrote to Zimbabwe's new Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai urging him to act swiftly and scrape repressive media laws and lift the ban on several newspapers including the Daily News forced to close six years ago by the Media	16 February 2009

	and Information Commission, a statutory media regulatory body. The CPJ also implored Tsvangirai to secure the release of Shadreck Manyere and Jestina Mukoko. They reminded Tsvangirai that he and his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party had long campaigned for a free press and should live up to their promise.	
Jameson Timba, The Deputy Minister of Media, Information and Publicity	The newly appointed Media, Information and Publicity deputy minister Jameson Timba promised to restore media freedom in Zimbabwe by immediately returning closed publications, and freeing the airwaves in accordance with Article 19 of the Global Political Agreement (GPA).Article 19 of the GPA states the government shall ensure the immediate processing by the appropriate authorities of all applications for re-registration and registration in terms of both the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA).).	20 February 2009
Ministries of Media, Information and Publicity, and Information Communication Technology	Ministries of Media, Information and Publicity, and Information Communication Technology on 24 February 2009 reportedly met with the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) and the chief executives of the country's cell phone and telephone service providers to probe a review of the current tariff structure.	24 February 2009

Zimbabwe Community Radio	A new radio station, Zimbabwe Community Radio, is broadcasting from the United Arab Emirates in a bid to create awareness on the value of community radio for development, freedom of speech and promotion of local culture especially among marginalised minorities in the country. Zimbabwe Community Radio's daily broadcasts are aired between 10PM-11PM on shortwave on 5995 KHz.	1 March 2009
Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and former news anchor with the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC)	Mukoko who had been languishing in custody since December 2008 on allegations of banditry was finally granted bail by Harare Provincial Magistrate Mishrod Guvamombe. Her release followed an urgent bail application by her lawyer Harrison Nkomo which was not opposed by the state represented by Teddy Kamuriwo. Bail was set at US\$600	2 March 2009
ZimInd Publishers	ZimInd Publishers announces plans to launch a daily newspaper, Newsday. ZimInd Publishers chairman Trevor Ncube said Newsday which would hit the streets soon, and would play a vital role in rebuilding the nation as a forum and market place for ideas and debates to create a prosperous economy as the nation thrives to revive the education, health and social sectors. He said the project was expected to create 300 jobs in the publishing sector.	14 March 2009
Postal and Telecommunications	POTRAZ reduces all telephone tariffs by ranges of	18 March 2009

Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ)	between 25- 40 percent pending the completion of a detailed tariff review exercise. The review of the tariffs applies to all categories and chargeable services and is intended to balance the affordability of services by consumers and the viability of operators.	
Freelance photojournalist, Shadreck Andrison Manyere	High Court Judge Charles Hungwe granted bail of USD1000 to Manyere and asked him to report once a week at the Malbereign police station.	9 April 2009
Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and ZBC former news anchor	Harare Magistrate Archie Wochiunga dismissed Mukoko's application for refusal of further remand. He gave the prosecution up to 30 April 2009 to serve the accused with indictment papers; but, agreed with the defence counsel's argument that the reporting conditions were too harsh and needed to be relaxed.	9 April 2009
Jestina Mukoko	Jestina Mukoko was on 6 May 2009 granted bail by Harare Magistrate, Catherine Chimanda after the defence reached a mutual agreement with the Attorney General's office to that effect	6 May 2009
Shadreck Andrison Manyere	High Court Judge, Justice November Mtshiyi on 11 May 2009 ruled that freelance photojournalist, Shadreck Andrison Manyere's bail application was properly done before the court, dismissing State arguments that the Manyere was precluded from making a fresh bail application.	11 May 2009

Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure	Harare Magistrate, Catherine Chimanda on 12 May 2009 granted the <i>Zimbabwe Independent</i> editors, Vincent Kahiya and Constantine Chimakure, bail of USD200 each, remanding them to 28 May 2009. The two face charges of publishing or communicating a statement wholly or with the intention of undermining public confidence in law enforcement agents, under Section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act.	12 May 2009
Shadreck Andrison Manyere	High Court Judge, Justice November Mtshiya on 13 May 2009 granted bail to detained freelance photojournalist Shadreck Andrison Manyere and his co-accused Gandhi Mudzingwa and Chris Dhlamini. The three were released on USD1000 bail each. The Judge, however stated that the bail was only payable only if bail granted on 9 April 2009 had been not been retained by the State.	13 May 2009
Alec Muchadehama	Harare Magistrate Archie Wochiunga on 15 May 2009 granted prominent media and human rights lawyer, Alec Muchadehama bail of US\$100 and remanded him out of custody to the 28 May 2009. Muchadehama who is charged for obstructing the course of justice in terms of Section 184(1) of the Criminal Law Codification and (Reform) Act was also asked to report to the police once a week before	15 May 2009

	appearing on 28 May 2009.	
Parliamentary Committee on Standing Rules and Orders	The Committee called on Zimbabweans to apply to be considered for the appointment to serve as Commissioners on the envisaged independent commissions among them the Zimbabwe Media Commission, as provided for in Zimbabwe's Constitution.	5 June 2009
Stanley Gama, Stanley Kwenda, Jealousy Mawarire and Valentine Maponga	Justice Bharat Patel granted the application by the four journalists, challenging the legal status of MIC. The journalists were represented by prominent media lawyer Selby Hwacha. Hwacha argued that the effect of Act No. 20 was to remove the obligation compelling journalists to be accredited, such that they could actually practice journalism without accreditation although they would not be able to enjoy journalistic privileges as set out in section 79 of AIPPA.	5 June 2009
Stanley Gama, Valentine Maponga, Stanley Kwenda and Jealousy Mawarire	Justice Patel granted the applicants interim relief sought and ordered that the Minister of Media, Information and Publicity, Webster Shamu and his permanent secretary George Charamba make a retraction of the statements published on 22, 23 and 24 May 2009 relating to matters of accreditation of journalists and media houses by the MIC and that the applicants be allowed to cover the COMESA Summit without producing MIC-issued accreditation cards.	8 June 2009
Settlement. Chikwinya and Douglas Mwonzora,	Chikwinya and Mwonzora moved a motion for	16 June 2009

Members of Parliament	government to urgently address the matter of media reforms as contemplated in Article 19 of the Global Political Agreement (GPA).	
Minister of Finance Tendai Biti	The minister announced the scrapping of the 40 percent import duty on foreign newspapers distributed in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean and <i>Zimbabwean on Sunday</i> weeklies published abroad by exiled Zimbabwean publisher Wilf Mbanga had prior to that reportedly forked out R2,85 million in import duty levies since June last year to get their newspapers into Zimbabwe.	21 July 2009
Econet Wireless	Econet Wireless reduced the price of its bundled handset starter-packs following the removal of duty on mobile phones. This should enable more people to buy the handsets which are an essential communication and access to information tool.	23 July 2009
Cable News Network (CNN) and British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)	BBC and CNN now free to resume operations in Zimbabwe following meetings they held with the Minister of Media, Information and Publicity, Webster Shamu, his Permanent Secretary, George Charamba, and Principal Director, Sylvester Maunganidze. The BBC and the government agreed that the latter would employ locals at its proposed Harare Bureau.	29 July 2009
Parliamentary Committee on Standing Rules and Orders	The Parliamentary Committee on Standing Rules and Orders was on 3 August 2009 set to conduct interviews with applicants who want to be considered	29 July 2009

	for appointment to serve as Commissioners on the statutory Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC).	
Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe (ANZ) publishers of The Daily News and The Daily News on Sunday	Zimbabwe's popular mass circulating newspaper banned in 2003 under the draconian Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (AIPPA) is set to bounce back after it was granted licence to resume operations ending a six-year agonising legal battle to be duly registered in terms of the law.	31 July 2009
Zimbabwe Media Commission/ Parliamentary Standing Rules and Orders Committee.	Interviews of potential commissioners to serve on the statutory Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) commenced and ended in Harare setting in motion the process for final appointment by the President Robert Mugabe.	3 August 2009
Parliamentary Standing Rules and Orders Committee (SROC), Clerk of Parliament Austin Zvoma, Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Media Commission nominees.	The Parliamentary Standing Rules and Orders Committee (SROC) on 18 August 2009 said it had endorsed 12 persons whose names have been submitted to the President for appointment to the statutory Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) contrary to media reports that the process had been put on hold. A six-person list for the consideration to serve on the board of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) was also submitted.	19 August 2009

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