

DECLARATION

I, Monde Mundia, declare that this dissertation:

- (a) Represents my own work;
- (b) Has not previously been submitted for a degree at this or any other University; and
- (c) Does not incorporate any published work or material from another dissertation.

Signature:

Date: September, 2013

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APPROVAL

This dissertation of Monde Mundia has been approved as fulfilling the partial requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Mass Communication by the University of Zambia.

Signed:

Date:

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the mass media's quest for freedom of information in Zambia; opportunities, challenges and lessons. The purpose of the study was to determine the reasons why there is lack of freedom of information in Zambia despite an attempt by the government to present the Freedom of Information Bill (FOIB) in parliament more than 10 years ago. The specific focus of the study was to identify the barriers that affect free flow of information to the public.

The study used both quantitative methods and qualitative surveys to ensure that all the required data were collected. For the quantitative survey, a total of 150 questionnaires were administered in Lusaka and Mongu using multistage cluster sampling. Focus group discussions using a prompt list of questions and topics, and In-depth Interviews using interview guides were used to collect qualitative data from the same areas. The quantitative data were analysed through the use of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software while Paradigm Interpretive was used to analyze qualitative data.

The major findings of the study were that this country was at the time of writing still far from achieving freedom of information. Among the factors inhibiting the effective enactment, implementation and enforcement of freedom of information laws in Zambia were the low levels of awareness within the general population about the existence of the freedom of information laws elsewhere in the world and how useful they are.

It was, therefore, recommended that there was need for positive and speedy action to put in place relevant awareness programs and new progressive media legislation. Other actions to be taken include repealing existing laws that impede freedom of the media and freedom of information. The findings from this study are also expected to encourage the government to urgently increase funding on FOI Act research projects in order for people to know and appreciate these laws.

DEDICATION

To my loving husband Dr. Raphael Mumeka Malamo, my dear parents, Mr. Namabanda Wamunyima Mundia and Mrs. Ireen Simasiku - Mundia.

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I thank the almighty God for providing me with good health and knowledge so that I can successfully undertake and complete this academic program. Thank you dear God for making me what I am today. Without the blessings that you have been showering upon me each and every day, I would not have successfully completed my studies.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
APPROVAL.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
DEDICATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	xi
LIST OF TABLES.....	xii
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	xiii
APPENDICES.....	xiv
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Background.....	1
1.2. Statement of the problem.....	5
1.3. Justification of the research.....	6
1.4. Objectives of the study.....	6
1.4.1. Main objective	7
1.4.2. Specific objectives	7
1.5. Research questions.....	7
1.6. Scope of the study.....	7
CHAPTER TWO	8
THE MEDIA IN ZAMBIA.....	8

2.0. Introduction.....	8
2.1. Brief history of the media in Zambia.....	8
2.2. The role of the media in society.....	11
2.3. Media legislation and regulation in Zambia.....	13
2.4. The need for the FOI Act in Zambia.....	15
CHAPTER THREE.....	19
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	19
3.0. Introduction.....	19
3.1. The media and FOI Acts.....	19
3.2. The public interest.....	23
3.3. The Protection of Information Bill of South Africa.....	25
CHAPTER FOUR.....	29
THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS.....	29
4.0. Introduction.....	29
4.1. Theoretical framework.....	29
4.1.1. Democratic Participant Media Theory.....	29
4.1.2. Social Responsibility Theory.....	30
4.1.3. Authoritarian Theory.....	30
4.1.4. Libertarian Theory.....	30
4.1.5. Soviet System.....	31
4.1.6. Public Interest Theory.....	31
4.1.7. The Knowledge Gap Theory.....	32
4.2. Conceptual and operational definitions.....	33
CHAPTER FIVE.....	35

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	35
5.0. Introduction.....	35
5.1. Methods.....	35
5.1.1. Quantitative survey	35
5.1.2. Qualitative survey	35
5.2. Target group.....	36
5.3. Sample size	37
5.4 Sampling procedure	37
5.5. Data analysis	38
5.6. Limitations of the study	38
CHAPTER SIX.....	39
PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS.....	39
6.0. Introduction.....	39
6.1. Presentation of findings from the Quantitative research.....	39
6.1.1. Sample of members of the public	39
6.1.2 Profile of the respondents.....	39
6.1.3 Substantive responses from members of the public.....	43
6.2. Presentation of findings from the Qualitative research.....	54
6.2.1. In-depth interviews with media organisations management officials.....	54
6.2.2. Focus group discussions with journalists.....	60
6.3 Discussion of Findings.....	63
CHAPTER SEVEN	71
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	71
7.0. Introduction.....	71

7.1. Conclusion	71
7.2. Recommendations.....	73
7.3. Further research	73
REFERENCES	74
APPENDICES	81

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Sex of respondents who were interviewed.....	39
Figure 2: Age of Respondents.....	40
Figure 3: Responses to whether interviewees had heard of the FOI Bill.....	43
Figure 4: Respondent’s views regarding usefulness of a FOI Act to Zambia.....	44
Figure 5: Responses to how possible it is for Zambia to have a FOI Act.....	45
Figure 6: Responses to the Gabon air disaster findings by government of Zambia.....	46
Figure 7: Responses regarding ease of access to information from government offices.....	47
Figure 8: Responses regarding ease of access to information on corruption cases.....	49
Figure 9: Responses regarding whether Zambia was ready for a FOI Act.....	50
Figure 10: Respondents views regarding a FOI Act in Zambia.....	51
Figure 11: Responses to Zambia’s need for a FOI Act.....	52
Figure 12: Responses to media being free from government interference.....	53

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Responses to whether respondents had heard of the FOI Bill or not according to sex..	41
Table 2: Responses to people of various Education Levels on whether they had heard of the Freedom of information Bill.....	41
Table 3: Effect of employment status on Newspaper reading.....	42
Table 4: Effect of sex on the response of whether it was possible for Zambia to have the Freedom of Information Act Effect.....	46
Table 5: Responses to whether FOI Act can be a powerful tool for inducing disclosure by the government.....	54

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FOIB	Freedom of Information Bill
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
JCTR	Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MMD	Movement for Multi-Party Democracy
NAIS	National Agriculture and Information Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ORL	Oblate Radio Liseli
PAZA	Press Association of Zambia
PF	Patriotic Front
RTI	Right to information
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SSZJ	Society of Senior Zambian Journalists
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UNIP	United National Independence Party
USA	United States of America
ZAMWA	Zambia Association of Media Women
ZANIS	Zambia News and Information Service
ZIMA	Zambia Independent Media Association
ZNBC	Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation
ZUJ	Zambia Union of Journalists

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire.....	81
Appendix II: In-depth Interview.....	89
Appendix III: Focus Group Discussion.....	91