



United in defense of free expression

The Chairperson
Zimbabwe Media Commission
Media Centre
Rainbow Towers Grounds
P.O Box BE Belvedere
Harare



16 May 2011

RE: MAZ Response to invitation to discuss the formation of a Media Council

Dear Sir

We, the members of the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe acknowledge your invitation to discuss the formation of a media council.

We recognize that the formation of this council is a legal requirement according to the terms of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

However, we are members of the Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe whose mandate specifically is to promote a professional and free media environment through voluntary self-regulation of the media.

The statutory nature of the council envisaged under AIPPA completely undermines this position. In addition, the council will be obliged to operate under the excessively restrictive and punitive provisions of the law in the course of its duties of regulating media activity.

As a result, the Members of the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe cannot, in any way, support the operation of this council in its present form and calls on the Commission to campaign for the repeal of AIPPA in its entirety as envisaged in the resolutions of the government's own media stakeholders' conference held in Kariba in May 2009.

It is with regret, therefore that the undersigned members of MAZ will be unable to accept your invitation.

Organization**Name****Signature**

Media Institute of Southern Africa (Zimbabwe)

~~Nthandiso Nkomo~~ Nthandiso Nkomo

Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe

Andy Moyse

Zimbabwe National Editors' Forum

IAEN WETHERELL

Zimbabwe Union of Journalists

FOSTER DONGOZI

Federation of African Media Women Zimbabwe

Delaphele Mapuruzwa

African Community Publishing Development Trust

Kathy Bond-Stewart
K. Bond-Stewart