

ZIMBABWE



PRESS STATEMENT



STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING SERVICES ON THE 2024 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Zimbabwe joins the rest of the world in commemorating the World Press Freedom Day. This year's celebrations are being held under the theme: " **A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis**".

The theme focuses on the importance of journalism and freedom of expression in the context of the current global environment crisis. It also highlights the important role played by press in accessing and dissemination of information. This guarantees a secure and sustainable future that respects freedom of expression, media plurality and gender equality.

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The Second Republic under the astute leadership of His Excellency President Dr E.D Mnangagwa has made tremendous progress in the creation of an enabling environment in the media sector. The Second Republic has made significant progress in ensuring a safe, free and competitive operating environment for all media to thrive. This was done through enactment of media friendly laws and repealing of laws that impinged on media operations such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA). This led to the opening up of airwaves for both radio and television thus ensuring media diversity which resonates well with His Excellency, President Dr E.D Mnangagwa's philosophy of leaving no one and no place behind.

As we commemorate this important day, I am pleased to say that the Government of Zimbabwe is amending the Zimbabwe Media Commission Act and the Broadcasting Services Amendment Act. Also, the Media Practitioners Bill is under consideration. The

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amendments will professionalize, allow the independence and co regulation of the media sector and ensure growth and development of the media industry. We are also celebrating a major milestone achieved in the broadcasting sector which has witnessed the operationalization of all licensed 14 community radio stations which are broadcasting in vernacular languages.

The world is faced with climate change, biodiversity loss, and air pollution crisis and disinformation and misinformation about these pertinent issues can exacerbate them. I implore the media to report objectively on environmental issues and possible solutions.

As we celebrate World Press Freedom today, I want to assure you that The Second Republic will continue to work towards eradication of polarization through constructive engagements with

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the media. Government of Zimbabwe confirms to work with the media fraternity.

The Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) developed with stakeholders Sexual Harassment Policy for the sector which will eradicate sexual harassment in the media houses.

Happy World Press Freedom Day!

Issued by : Hon.Dr.J.Muswere

Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services