



World Press Freedom Day 2025 Statement

Theme: Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TI Z) joins the global community and media stakeholders in commemorating World Press Freedom Day 2025 under the theme: ***“Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media.”***

This year’s theme critically explores the expanding influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping journalism and the broader media landscape. AI presents powerful tools to enhance storytelling, support corruption detection, and improve access to information. Access to timely, credible, and verifiable information lies at the centre of transparency and accountability, which are core values in the anticorruption fight. This means it also has immense potential to contribute towards the practice of effective investigative journalism.

However, whilst AI has the potential to improve access to information, it also poses new risks. These include the spread of misinformation, increased surveillance capabilities, digital manipulation, and threats to media independence.

In Zimbabwe, journalists continue to play an indispensable role in exposing corruption, advancing transparency, and amplifying the voices of marginalised communities. They have played a pivotal role in unearthing corruption, holding the powerful accountable, and informing public discourse on critical governance and development issues. As the information environment rapidly evolves, including the rapid adoption of technology in our country, we need to be fully conscious of both the benefits and risks of AI and implications for the fight against corruption.

Aligned with our mission to combat corruption and our vision of a corruption-free Zimbabwe, TI Z uses the occasion of World Press Freedom Day to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to defending press freedom and supporting journalists, particularly those contributing to the fight against corruption through investigative journalism. Investigative journalism thrives where public information is proactively disclosed, records are easily accessible, and journalists operate without fear of harassment or censorship. As AI increasingly shapes how information is created, managed, and shared, it is essential to harness its benefits while protecting the public’s right to access authentic, accurate, and publicly relevant data.

Our Call to Action

To the Government of Zimbabwe:

- Proactively disclose information of public interest, such as procurement documents, audit reports, and budget allocations, to reduce the need for formal access to information requests.
- Digitalise government records and archives to enhance accessibility, streamline bureaucratic processes, and promote institutional transparency.
- Adopt AI tools for internal data management and real-time public information dissemination, ensuring they are used in ways that are transparent, auditable, and aligned with constitutional rights.
- Protect the rights of journalists in both physical and digital spaces by rejecting the use of AI for surveillance, censorship, or intimidation.

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