

MOZAMBIQUE 2005

AFRICAN MEDIA BAROMETER MOZAMBIQUE

Sector 1: Freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, are effectively protected and promoted.

1.1. *Freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, is guaranteed in the constitution and protected by other pieces of legislation.*

ANALYSIS:

While freedom of expression is enshrined in the constitution, there is a lack of complementary legal tools that can in practice guarantee freedom of expression. During the 2004 electoral campaign, for example, some citizens in Angoche, in the northern province of Nampula, expressed an opinion deemed to be unfavourable to then President Joaquim Chissano, and were subsequently detained. The prosecutor insisted they had defamed the Head of State. Journalists are also systematically denied access to information, which by extension means that newspapers or broadcasters are not able to tell the full story.

The gap between theory and practise can further be exemplified by cases of interference by district administrators into the affairs of community radios. A community radio professional was fired by an administrator in a district in the central province of Zambézia. The journalist's 'fault' was to have reported that government vehicles were being used for personal purposes. He was removed from his position and demoted to a menial position.

Community radio stations are more open to abuse of power and thus curtailing of freedom of expression because most of their staff are not mainstream journalists and inevitably the authorities have more overt leverage in districts than in towns. Community broadcasters are usually teachers paid by the state.

Another example is the municipality of Nacala, where a community radio was set up when Frelimo was in power. The station was launched without a licence from Gabinfo (the state body that issues licences for new media outlets). However, it was left to operate as long as it was not considered to be broadcasting information contrary to the interests of the ruling party. When Renamo won the following municipal elections, wresting power away from Frelimo, the station was then seen to be pro-Renamo and subsequently ordered to close because it did not have a licence.

Another example are incidents of editors-in-chief of provincial bureaux of Radio Mozambique who were transferred during elections to give way to professionals from the capital Maputo to come and run the stations. This was not because the provincial editors-in-chief were unable to discharge their duties, but was rather motivated by the objective of controlling the flow of information.

The message is quite clear: the country is still not prepared to countenance different points of view.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 2, 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 2, 4

Average score: **2.6**

1.2. The right to freedom of expression is practised and citizens, including journalists, are asserting their rights without fear.

ANALYSIS:

Citizens' right to freedom of expression - enshrined in both the Constitution and the Press Law - is from time to time practised. For example, there have been protests recently against skyrocketing fuel prices: citizens expressed their freedom of expression without fear of reprisals.

But these are exceptions. The rule is repression of freedom of expression. One of the reasons for this state of affairs might be the decades of one-party rule in the country before the Peace Accord in 1992: some officials have yet to break out of the one-party mould as they still consider opposing views as antagonistic.

By and large, most people do not know that the right to freedom of expression is a constitutionally enshrined right.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 3, 3, 4, 4, 2, 3, 3, 2, 3

Average score: **3.0**

1.3 *There are no laws restricting freedom of expression such as excessive official secret or libel acts, or laws that unreasonably interfere with the responsibilities of media.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no overt restriction of freedom of expression. The Press Law guarantees a certain degree of freedom except in relation to national security. In that regard it is necessary to come up with a clear and unambiguous definition of a state secret. Foreign affairs also seems to be a no-go area for journalists.

There is a gap between the intention of the Press Law and reality. For example, although in other businesses foreign investors are allowed to own - in some cases - more than 50 percent of shares in companies, this is not the case in the media industry. The Press Law limits foreign participation in a media outlet to a 20 percent stake – this is seen as discouraging direct foreign private investment in the sector.

Another form of restriction is that of special treatment of the media in cases of breaching the law. While offences perpetrated by citizens fall under the common Penal Code, offences by the media seem to be governed by their own code and are considered urgent by the courts: cases based on allegations of slander or libel are usually rushed through the courts.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 4, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 5, 2

Average score: **3.3**

1.4 *Entry into and practice of the journalistic profession is legally unrestricted.*

.

ANALYSIS:

There is no restriction to the entry into and practice of the journalistic profession.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5

Average score: **5.0**

1.5 *Protection of confidential sources of information is guaranteed by law.*

ANALYSIS:

Article 30 of the Press Law gives journalists the right to keep their sources confidential without fear of reprisals. Despite this provision, judges and attorneys all too often challenge journalists to reveal their sources of information.

In some instances, the request to reveal sources arises out of ignorance. On some occasions journalists had to provide the text of the law to judges to make them give up their crusade of forcing media professionals to disclose a source's name.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 3, 5, 2, 1, 3, 4, 1, 4

Average score: **2.8**

1.6 *Public information is easily accessible, guaranteed by law, to all citizens, including journalists.*

ANALYSIS:

Public information is neither easily accessible nor is such access guaranteed by law. A case in point is a piece of legislation obliging all civil servants aspiring to a public position to declare their assets. However, the same legislation prohibits disclosure of declared assets to both journalists and the public. Recently, a minister disclosed his assets in a weekly newspaper, but when President Armando Guebuza was asked to declare his a week later, he said the time was not right for public officials to declare their assets.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

1.7 *Civil society in general and media lobby groups actively advance the cause of media freedom.*

ANALYSIS:

Civil society's influence is weak compounded by political infiltration of leading civil society groups. It is frequent for the chairpersons of leading civil society organisations to be associated with the ruling party, which generates a conflict of interests when lobbying

work is necessary. Furthermore, the number of civil society organisations doing advocacy work as a continuous activity is decreasing.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2

Average score: **1.9**

Overall score for sector 1: 2.8

Sector 2: The media landscape is characterised by diversity, independence and sustainability.

2.1 *A wide range of sources of information (print, broadcasting, Internet) is available and affordable to citizens.*

ANALYSIS:

There is a plethora of publications: newspapers, radio stations and television channels. However, newspapers are not easily affordable. The two dailies cost 12,000 MZM (US\$0.48) per copy. The weeklies cost the equivalent of a loaf of South African bread or a beer. There are 12 newsheets distributed by fax but these are unaffordable for the general public – an annual subscription can cost up to US\$450.

Circulation is low for a population of about 18 million, of whom 45 percent are literate: State-owned Notícias has an official circulation of 12,000, other newspapers cannot afford to increase their average circulation of 5,000.

Most of these publications are concentrated in urban areas and there is hardly any local publication in the rural areas.

Radio Mozambique claims to reach every nook and cranny of the country, but since the majority of the population is impoverished they find it hard to afford batteries for radios

let alone electricity, which means that accessibility is further limited. Commercial radio stations, being based in urban areas, are too far from most people to have much of an impact in terms of a wider audience.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 4, 2, 3, 3

Average score: **2.2**

2.2 *Citizens' access to domestic and international media sources is not restricted by state authorities.*

ANALYSIS:

Overall, citizens' access to media is not limited, but there are subtle ways to control such access. For example, a publisher offers free copies of his weekly to prisons. The officer in charge of the jail reads the paper first before passing it on to inmates. Whenever there is something he does not like, the paper is not distributed.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 5, 5, 4, 5, 5, 4, 5, 4

Average score: **4.3**

2.3 *Efforts are undertaken to increase the scope of circulation of the print media, particularly to rural communities.*

ANALYSIS:

There's hardly any effort being made. If any at all, it is not systematic.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.1**

2.4 *Broadcasting legislation has been passed and is implemented that provides for a conducive environment for public, commercial and community broadcasting.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no broadcasting legislation.

Rádio Moçambique (RM) hampers and stifles any development of would-be commercial radios by artificially dropping advertising rates. In addition, all state ads are broadcast exclusively by the national radio. This is one of the main reasons why commercial radio stations are not developing. Despite ongoing talks between *RM* and commercial radio stations, *RM* seems comfortable and happy with the current status quo.

Perhaps the main problem is that there is no strong and united interest group representing the owners of commercial radio stations who want to see something specific in a law legislating broadcasting. Furthermore, it does not seem clear who the regulatory entity is - whether the Press Office (Gabinfo) or Mozambique's National Institute of Communications (INCM). Gabinfo processes the applications and INCM allocates frequencies, but the latter can refuse to do so or simply delay the process. There is no link between the two institutions.

However, there is a feeling that the regulatory vacuum could be a blessing in disguise for freedom of speech.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

2.5 *Community broadcasting enjoys special promotion given its potential to broaden access by poor and rural communities.*

ANALYSIS:

There are three types of community radio stations: (i) those sponsored by UNESCO; (ii) those sponsored by IBIS (Danish NGO); and (iii) those financed by the government through the Instituto da Comunicação Social (ICS).

In the case of ICS stations, district administrators chair the radio management committee, which means they have the power to interfere and that ICS community radios are increasingly becoming a third tier of state media. There appears to be a coordinated strategy to transform them into a government media political tool.

The IBIS-backed stations, broadcasting mostly in some of the country's northern districts, suffered pressure to take some of their programmes off air during the election campaign in 2004 because of content that was deemed to be "unsuitable" for the moment.

UNESCO supports the bulk of community radio stations under its media project. At the height of the election campaign, some stations tried to be more independent and report on what happened in their communities, but they were threatened with cuts to funding. The UNESCO media project is nearing its end, and there is general pessimism that most of the community radio stations covered by the project will founder, as they are not sustainable.

Finally, support for community radios depends mostly on the authorities. The Catholic Radio used to receive support but as soon as they started addressing certain issues considered "delicate" they suffered the consequences: they had initially received approval to import equipment with tax exemption, but this was later reversed.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 3, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2

Average score: **1.7**

2.6 *The editorial independence of print media published by a public authority is protected adequately against undue political interference.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no protection of editorial independence. The state-owned newspaper *Notícias* hardly gives space to voices speaking out against the establishment. *Notícias* has adopted the opportunist habit of writing editorials on the opposition whenever it blunders.

Although it claims otherwise, *Notícias* is a state-owned paper, and this could explain its behaviour. Its shareholder structure is as follows: the Central Bank holds 42% of *Notícias* shares; 42% is held by the Ministry of Information, which no longer exists (in its place the government created Gabinfo), and the remaining shares are held by the State insurance company, EMOSE. The paper's director is appointed by the Central Bank, and

the chairperson of the board is the current Central Bank deputy-governor.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 3

Average score: **1.3**

2.7 *Local or regional independent news agencies gather and distribute information for all media.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no independent news agency. The country's only news agency, *AIM*, only distributes its material to selected media, namely *Notícias*, *RM* and the privately-owned *Diário de Moçambique*.

For international news, the Portuguese news agency, *LUSA*, is used. Although it has an agreement with *AIM* to distribute its information to other media, it prefers to deal directly with *RM*, *Notícias* and *Diário de Moçambique*. Other newspapers are not very interested in paying for the service because the news that sells papers is mostly local news and not international information.

English-language news agencies such as *IRIN*, *IPS* are not used because of the language barrier.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

2.8 *Media diversity is promoted through adequate competition regulation/legislation.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no regulation preventing diversity, but there is certainly no policy to promote it.

There is also no policy that prevents media institutions from diversifying into other types of media. For example, the *SOICO* group owns a newspaper, a radio station and a television channel. This contrasts with South Africa, where a clause on cross-ownership is part of the regulations on competition. The clause aims at preventing a media institution that is dominant in one area or sector from becoming a strong player in another

area/ sector.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

2.9 *Government promotes a political and economic environment which allows a diverse media landscape.*

ANALYSIS:

Government promotes only “public” media. For example, the heads of such institutions can benefit from tax exemption which is not extended to the independent players. Furthermore, publicly-owned institutions can get tax exemption for equipment, which is again not enjoyed by the independent media.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 3, 1, 2, 2

Average score: **1.4**

2.10 *Private media outlets operate as efficient and professional businesses.*

ANALYSIS:

Many independent media institutions live on donations. Lately some media institutions folded because there were no new donations, and they were not making a profit. But there are those that are well managed and survive by selling advertising space.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 5, 4, 4, 1, 3, 4, 3, 4, 1

Average score: **3.2**

2.11. *State print media are not subsidised with taxpayers' money.*

ANALYSIS:

State media must stay afloat, while at the same time on a short leash – whatever it takes, but without visibly weighing on public coffers. Firstly, by trying on its own (seek funding for the running of their institutions); then by virtue of a combination of reduced operational costs (tax exemptions) and a guaranteed captive/ biased market by stifling alternative voices to the state broadcaster. If all else fails, the security net triggers into action. If they are owned by the state-owned bank, state-owned insurance company and the information ministry – it stands to reason that shareholders will ensure that these “companies” are financially operative.

There is no question that they **are** being thus subsidised – at least indirectly.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

2.12. *Government does not use its power over the placement of advertisements as a means to interfere with media content.*

ANALYSIS:

There is some subtlety applied in this regard but not enough to camouflage the fact that government does use its power over the placement of advertisements as a means to exert control over the media. Recently, the weekly *Savana* published two background stories on the chairman of the board of a publicly-owned company. The paper received a letter from the company, cancelling a contract for the placement of advertisements which it had already signed. This is unfortunately a rather frequent occurrence. Whenever a paper publishes articles that seem to rattle the establishment, commercial sanctions are applied.

Most advertisements end up in state-run *Notícias* and *Domingo*. Sometimes *Notícias* does not even have enough space to publish the advertisements.

It is not clear whether there is an official recommendation for publicly-owned institutions to boycott a particular newspaper when it writes unfavourable reports. But certainly the president's office seems to be interested in knowing what the media is saying. Former President Chissano was subscriber number six of the independent news-sheet *Mediafax*, published by Mediacoop. During his mandate, Chissano subscribed to 13 newspapers. The current president subscribes to 24.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.3**

2.13. *The advertising market is large enough to maintain a diversity of media outlets.*

ANALYSIS:

The advertising market is still far too small to sustain a vibrant and diverse industry.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 3, 2, 1, 1, 1, 3, 1, 2

Average score: **1.7**

Overall score for sector 2: 1.7

Sector 3. Broadcasting regulation is transparent and independent, the state broadcaster is transformed into a public broadcaster.

3.1 *Broadcasting is regulated by an independent body adequately protected against interference, particularly of a political and economic nature.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no body, independent or otherwise, that regulates or tries to organise the broadcasting sector. Even the boards of the publicly-owned broadcasting media do not reflect the diversity of civil society. All appointments are made by government except for one which is the prerogative of the professionals.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

3.2 *The appointments procedure for members of the regulatory body is open and transparent and involves civil society.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no regulatory body.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

3.3 *The body regulates broadcasting in the public interest and ensures fairness and a diversity of views broadly representing society at large.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no regulatory body.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

3.4 *The body's decisions on licensing in particular are informed by a broadcasting policy developed in a transparent and inclusive manner.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no regulatory body. However, a glance at the workings of the INCM to see whether allocation of frequencies is done independently, transparently and inclusively shows that there is reason to believe that this is done subjectively. Furthermore, there is some confusion because Gabinfo handles the paperwork and which it may agree to grant a licence the INCM may still refuse alleging that the airwaves are saturated. This is happening at the present moment.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1

Average score: **1.2**

3.5 *The public broadcaster is accountable to the public through a board representative of society at large and selected in an independent, open and transparent manner.*

ANALYSIS:

The public/state broadcaster is not accountable to the public. There is no consultative body and neither is there a legal provision for its existence. Government has great power over the public broadcaster.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

3.6 *Persons who have vested interests of a political or commercial nature are excluded from possible membership in the board, i.e. office bearers with the state and political parties as well as those with a financial interest in the broadcasting industry.*

ANALYSIS:

There are no such provisions or exclusions.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Average score: **1.0**

3.7. *The editorial independence of the public broadcaster from commercial pressure and political influence is guaranteed by law and practice.*

ANALYSIS:

Editorial independence is guaranteed by law but never practised. Editorial independence is enshrined in Article 11 of the Press Law, but reality is different. It is alleged that the chairman of the board of *RM* is sometimes pressured to take certain positions, but that he refuses to do so based on the article. However, pressure is exercised at other levels. *RM*'s bureau chief in Sofala was suspended for broadcasting an interview with the Beira Archbishop, D. Jaime, who is a vocal supporter of Renamo.

In another incident, a *RM* director banned the rap song, "*O País da Marrabenta*", which is critical of corruption. Only when the print media started writing about the ban did the management of the radio order its reversal. This shows that some heads of departments will act when they perceive a danger to their own position.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 3, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3

Average score: **1.9**

3.8. *The public broadcaster is adequately funded in a manner that protects it from arbitrary interference with its budget.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no independent allocation of funds to the public/state broadcaster. Government

encourages the chairmen of public media boards to seek funding for the running of their institutions. They survive mainly on advertisements. Most of the time *RM* does not know how much it will have the following year because even though it submits its own budget, this will usually suffer cuts of all kinds.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1

Average score: **1.2**

3.9 *The public broadcaster is technically accessible in the entire country.*

ANALYSIS:

Although *RM* is accessible in all provincial capitals, it certainly does not reach every nook and cranny of the country. *TVM* covers not yet all ten provincial capitals. With the help of private partnerships in setting up repeaters the station now also reaches some district capitals.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1

Average score: **2.0**

3.10 *The public broadcaster offers diverse programming for all interests.*

ANALYSIS:

There are some efforts to make programming as diverse as possible. Every now and then, however, an interested party will approach the broadcaster to transmit its programme against payment. In this way, public service information is often sacrificed to make way for content that brings in some revenue. This has resulted in bona fide public service information creators having to pay to have content broadcast – for example, public health or gender issues.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 3, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2

Average score: **2.3**

3.11 *The public broadcaster offers balanced and fair information reflecting the full spectrum of diverse views and opinions.*

ANALYSIS:

Certain issues are just not debated or are simply swept under the carpet. Furthermore, news is ranked according to hierarchy, always starting with the president, ministers and so on.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 2

Average score: **1.7**

3.12 *The public broadcaster offers as much diverse and creative local content as economically achievable.*

ANALYSIS:

TVM is offering as much local content as economically achievable but the quality and creativity of the programmes are far from satisfactory.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2

Average score: **2.3**

Overall score for sector 3: 1.5

Sector 4. The media practice high levels of professional standards.

4.1 *The media follow voluntary codes of professional standards which are enforced by self-regulatory bodies.*

ANALYSIS:

There is no self-regulatory body. There were two attempts to establish such a voluntary organisation with little success. The Conselho Superior da Comunicação Social (CSCS) [Mass Media High Council, a state body charged by the constitution to ensure the independence of information institutions (read 'media'), press freedom, the right to information, as well as the rights of reply and right to airtime, among others] follows internationally accepted standards, but there is no specific code.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 1, 2, 4, 2, 4, 2, 3, 1

Average score: **2.3**

4.2 *The standard of reporting follows the basic principles of accuracy and fairness.*

ANALYSIS:

Not always. Sometimes the information in the stories looks incomplete. Some basic principles of journalism are simply not followed. It must be pointed out that this can not be generalised. Sometimes it has to do with the journalist not having enough knowledge of the subject matter or because the journalist tends to believe in the source unquestioningly and ends up producing stories with incorrect information. Most reporters are young and they try to gain immediate recognition by publishing sensational stories.

The shortcomings are worrying. Media professionals believe that there should be a self-regulatory body that would discipline the sector. Meanwhile, there is an increase in the number of court cases against journalists, and this will continue until journalists learn to respect the basic principles of the profession. But it is also a matter of editors making better decisions on whom to employ.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3

Average score: **2.0**

4.3 *The media cover the full spectrum of events, issues and cultures, including business/economics, cultural, local and investigative stories.*

ANALYSIS:

There are some efforts under way to cover the full spectrum but these are far from being satisfactory. Some areas are being left totally unreported while others are not covered properly and stories are not of good quality.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 4, 2, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2

Average score: **2.4**

4.4. *Gender mainstreaming is promoted in terms of equal participation of both sexes in the production process.*

ANALYSIS:

Some newsrooms do promote equal participation of both sexes. But there are few female journalists because they are difficult to recruit. One of the reasons why women turn their backs on journalism is the perceived libertarianism associated with the profession.

Most women journalists work as presenters at television and radio stations. But gradually there are more women joining the ranks of news journalism. The director of productions in *Televisão de Moçambique* is a woman and one of the deputy-editors at *Notícias* is a woman.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 3, 1, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1, 4

Average score: **2.2**

4.5. *Gender mainstreaming is reflected in the editorial content.*

ANALYSIS:

Gender mainstreaming is not reflected in the content. It is difficult to hear or see women's voices in the mass media. Furthermore, stereotypes are likely to affect editorial content. Unless the woman is a high profile person, very few get quoted by the media, which does not bode well for diversity. Mostly, women are quoted when the topic is a social issue. Rarely is the connection made that economics is interlinked to gender and human development.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3

Average score: **2.0**

4.6. *Journalists and editors do not practice self-censorship.*

ANALYSIS:

Self-censorship is practised although journalists and editors may say otherwise, citing their own editorial policies. There are various factors contributing to self-censorship, both political and economic. Self-censorship is rampant in the public/state media.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 3

Average score: **1.6**

4.7. *Owners of private media do not interfere with editorial independence.*

ANALYSIS:

Historically, the owners are journalists who have become businessmen. This is quite evident when editorial content clashes with economic interests. Invariably, the owner will decide to quash a story to survive. Furthermore, the situation becomes fuzzy when - as an example - the owner is also a media consultant for the country's telecommunications company and largest retail shop.

In the public sector, government may use subtlety to interfere, like dropping hints about – among other things - not renewing the appointment of the chairman of the board.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 3, 1, 1, 3

Average score: **1.9**

4.8. *Salary levels and general working conditions for journalists and other media practitioners are adequate to discourage corruption.*

ANALYSIS:

Salary levels vary. Independent papers have difficulties paying competitive salaries. The minimum wage at the weekly *O País* is 1.14 million meticaís (US\$46), and the *Zambeze* pays as much as 5 million meticaís. Some newspapers provide benefits to keep journalists interested. In contrast, new-comers to the paper *Notícias* earn around 8 million meticaís. The publicly-owned *Televisão de Moçambique* (TVM) tops the list. The minimum wage is said to be 10 million meticaís. However, *Notícias* and *TVM* are exceptions rather than the norm.

The low wages increase the risk of journalists being exposed to corruption. Some journalists receive money from ministers to look after their public image. Some journalists provide consultancy services to ministries and companies. There are rules against taking “presents” but they are not always adhered to.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3

Average score: **1.7**

4.9. *Training facilities offer formal qualification programmes for journalists as well as opportunities to upgrade their skills.*

ANALYSIS:

Training is offered through a plethora of courses, but there are doubts as to whether they meet the expectations of the beneficiaries. The main problem is the quality of courses, and the way they are designed.

Courses are offered at a pre-university level by the Journalism School and at degree level by the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) and the Instituto Superior Politécnico e Universitário (ISPU). Training is also offered by institutions such as NSJ, MISA, SARDC, but most of these courses are designed by the donors and most of the times their content does not arise out of the needs of the media.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 3, 3, 2, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 1

Average score: **2.3**

4.10. *Journalists and other media practitioners are organised in trade unions and/or professional associations.*

ANALYSIS:

There is a journalists' union. However, it has been moribund for over five years. Recently, the organisation held elections and there is now a new management team. It is still too early to see whether the team will be independent and creative. The criticism mostly levelled against the previous management was that it was too cosy with the ruling party.

Not every journalist can be a member of the union. This is because of a clause that says that owners can not be members. It is a paradox that most owners are journalists. Consequently, those whose voices are likely to be more vocal and critical are marginalised from decision-making in the union.

SCORES:

Individual scores: 3, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4

Average score: **2.1**

Overall score for sector 4: 2.1

The panel meeting took place at the Pestana Lodge, Inhaca, 1 to 2 October 2005.

The Panel:

Mr Abdul Carimo, religious leader; Mr Fernando Lima, journalist; Ms Alice Mabota, human rights lawyer; Mr Helder Maluana, community development manager; Mr Sergio Mamudo, radio journalist; Mr Salomao Moyana, media activist, journalist and newspaper director; Mr Alberto Tomas, democracy activist; Mr Albineiro Tsiro, photo journalist; Mr Bayano Valu, journalist; Ms Lucilia Xerinda, women's activist.

The Rapporteur:

Mr. Bayano Valy, translated by Mr. Rui Correia

The Facilitator:

Mr. Rui Correia

Sector 1 Freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, are effectively protected and promoted

1.1 <i>Freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, is guaranteed in the constitution and protected by other pieces of legislation.</i>	
1.2 The right to freedom of expression is practised and citizens, including journalists, are asserting their rights without fear.	
1.3 There are no laws restricting freedom of expression such as excessive official secret or libel acts, or laws that unreasonably interfere with the responsibilities of media.	
1.4 Entry into and practise of the journalistic profession is legally unrestricted.	
1.5 Protection of confidential sources of information is guaranteed by law.	
1.6 Public information is easily accessible, guaranteed by law, to all citizens, including journalists.	
1.7 Civil society in general and media lobby groups actively advance the cause of media freedom.	

Sector 2 The media landscape is characterised by diversity, independence and sustainability

2.1 <i>A wide range of sources of information (print, broadcasting, internet) is available and affordable to citizens.</i>	
2.2 Citizens' access to domestic and international media sources is not restricted by state authorities.	
2.3 Efforts are undertaken to increase the scope of circulation of the print media,	

particularly to rural communities.	
2.4 Broadcasting legislation has been passed and is implemented that provides for a conducive environment for public, commercial and community broadcasting.	
2.5 Community broadcasting enjoys special promotion given its potential to broaden access by poor and rural communities.	
2.6 The editorial independence of print media published by a public authority is protected adequately against undue political interference.	
2.7 Local or regional independent news agencies gather and distribute information for all media	
2.8 Media diversity is promoted through adequate competition regulation/legislation.	
2.9 Government promotes a political and economic environment which allows a diverse media landscape.	
2.10 Private media outlets operate as efficient and professional businesses.	
2.11 State print media are not subsidised with tax payers' money	
2.12 Government does not use its power over the placement of advertisements as a means to interfere with media content.	
2.13 The advertising market is large enough to maintain a diversity of media outlets.	

Sector 3 Broadcasting regulation is transparent and independent, the state broadcaster is transformed into a truly public broadcaster

3.1 Broadcasting is regulated by an independent body adequately protected against interference, particularly of a political and economic nature.	
3.2 The appointments procedure for members of the regulatory body is open and transparent and involves civil society.	
3.3 The body regulates broadcasting in the public interest and ensures fairness and a diversity of views broadly representing society at large.	
3.4 The body's decisions on licensing in particular are informed by a broadcasting policy developed in a transparent and inclusive manner.	
3.5 The public broadcaster is accountable to the public through a board representative of society at large and selected in an independent, open and transparent manner.	
3.6 Persons who have vested interests of a political or commercial nature are excluded from possible membership in the board, i.e. office bearers with the state and political parties as well as those with a financial interest in the broadcasting industry.	
3.7 The editorial independence of the public broadcaster from commercial pressure and political influence is guaranteed by law and practised.	
3.8 The public broadcaster is adequately funded in a manner that protects it from	

arbitrary interference with its budget.	
3.9 The public broadcaster is technically accessible in the entire country.	
3.10 The public broadcaster offers diverse programming for all interests.	
3.11 The public broadcaster offers balanced and fair information reflecting the full spectrum of diverse views and opinions.	
3.12 The public broadcaster offers as much diverse and creative local content as economically achievable.	

Sector 4 The media practice high levels of professional standards

<i>4.1 The media follow voluntary codes of professional standards which are enforced by self-regulatory bodies</i>	
4.2 The standard of reporting follows the basic principles of accuracy and fairness.	
4.3 The media cover the full spectrum of events, issues and cultures, including business/economics, cultural, local and investigative stories	
4.4. Gender mainstreaming is promoted in terms of equal participation of both sexes in the production process.	
4.5 Gender mainstreaming is reflected in the editorial content.	
4.6 Journalists and editors do not practise self-censorship	
4.7 Owners of private media do not interfere with editorial independence	
4.8 Salary levels and general working conditions for journalists and other media practitioners are adequate to discourage corruption	
4.9 Training facilities offer formal qualification programmes for journalists as well as opportunities to upgrade their skills.	
4.10 Journalists and other media practitioners are organised in trade unions and/or professional associations.	