

Zambia media welcome online *Watchdog*

 By Gregory Gondwe

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The newly launched Zambian online newspaper, *The Watchdog* is expected to change the media terrain in the country, according to the paper's editor.



“This would be possible because this is the first, and maybe only one for sometime to come, Zambian news website that will be updated as news happens,” said the paper's editor.

“Most Zambian news media are updated once a day and usually contain news of the previous day. We update immediately [when] we get the news. We believe this is the status of the technology.”

The editor said many Zambians living outside the country have difficulties finding out in good time what is happening in Zambia due to 'static' media.

“They depend on international media, which is only interested in big tragedies leaving out news that affects Zambians daily.”

The editor cited the death of President Mwanawasa which was mongered as a mere rumour in and outside Zambia,. Zambians living in the diaspora had difficulties finding out what was really going on. And when he finally died, the international media largely ignored the story.

“We want to bridge this gap and make sure there is a reliable news source about Zambia,” the editor said.

The editor for this round-the-clock news coverage provider bemoaned that there are some websites that write news about Zambia in an unprofessional manner and sometimes “... just copy news from the existing Zambian media. In fact some hide their identity.”

The Watchdog newspaper which is published by Zambian Watchdog Media is a member of the Zambia Media Ethics Council of Zambia (MECOZ) registered under the laws of Zambia, operating a traditional weekly newspaper and this online version.

The editor said *The Watchdog* team consists of professional journalists with proven records of accomplishment expected to churn out top-quality news that will attract all and sundry.

"I can't project the number of visitors to the website but we intend to be the most visited website in Zambia in a short time," said the editor.

They are currently working on partnerships with community radio stations based outside Lusaka so that they can re-broadcast *Watchdog* news on their radio stations.

"This is because, as you know, Zambia's political and business news is concentrated in Lusaka and therefore community media have no access to news sources but people in those areas want to know what government is doing," the paper's editor said. This is the only way they will be able to change the media terrain of Zambia.

"For now, we are only updating daily occurrences in the country but we will soon embark on serious investigative journalism," the editor said.

[Visit the website here.](#)

ABOUT GREGORY GONDWE

Gregory Gondwe is a Malawian journalist who started writing in 1993. He is also a media consultant assisting several international journalists pursuing assignments in Malawi. He holds a Diploma and an Intermediate Certificate in Journalism among other media-related certificates. He can be contacted on gregorygondwe@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at @Kalipochi.

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