

**Call for Investigative Journalism Story Pitches: accountability, illicit financial flows, budget processes, procurement processes, corruption and maladministration stories**.

**Call Number:** 001/2022 (SMAZ)

The Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe (VMCZ) is inviting and hereby makes a call to journalists to pitch story ideas on investigative journalism (IJ) on illicit financial flows, budget processes, procurement processes, corruption and maladministration stories. This call for investigative story pitches is part of VMCZ’s objective of strengthening watchdog journalism and media reporting for accountability. An investigation that will result in a series of stories will be highly considered for funding.

The main criterion for eligibility is that the pitch should include the following:

1. 1 (one)- in-depth investigative story with thorough investigations on accountability, illicit financial flows, budget processes, procurement processes, corruption, and maladministration.

Pitches and investigative story ideas that will be supported are stories that break new ground and expose wrongdoing relating to and affecting the public. Each successful pitch will be supported with a ceiling payment in the amount of **US $600**. The support shall cover direct costs that shall be incurred by the journalists in the field on the production of investigative journalism stories that are limited to transportation, communication, and lodging among other surface costs.

{NB: DO NOT EDIT OR REMOVE ANY SECTIONS FROM THIS TEMPLATE}

**FULL NAME: SEX:**

**Call Number:** *(Refer to the call)*

**AGE:** *(Tick appropriately; X Below 35years ; Y Above 35years.*

**MEDIA HOUSE:** (If you are a freelance, indicate) **Duty Station:** (Indicate City/Town)

**MEDIUM:** *(where the story/stories will be published)*

**CONTACT DETAILS:** *(email/phone number)*

**PROJECT OVERVIEW *(max 150 words)***

*Briefly summarize your topic(s).*

**STORY PITCH *(max 400 words)***

*Story pitches must demonstrate research and answer the following KEY QUESTIONS: WHY is this story important? WHO are my sources? WHAT is the context?*

**HOW** *will the story/stories be presented (eg. Multi-media, digital print with photos, newspaper with sidebars and photos, etc.)?*

**WHEN** *do you expect to start and complete the investigation stories? (Submit investigation format).*

**Attachments:** Please submit with this application form a signed acknowledgment note from an editor as a guarantee that your story will be published after a successful application process and production. Freelance journalists can make their applications directly.

**Deadline: Due date for submission of this application is COB Friday, 1April 2022. All applications should be submitted to:** programmes@vmcz.co.zw and copied to info@vmcz.co.zw and director@vmcz.co.zw