



Call for Investigative Journalism Story Pitches

Call Number: 003/2022 (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 (from planning to implementation), procurement processes, corruption and/or 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:

- (i) 1 (one)- in-depth investigative story with thorough investigations on accountability, illicit financial flows, budget processes, procurement processes, corruption, and maladministration.
- (ii) 1 (one)- ordinary story 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 courier services, transportation, communication, and lodging among other surface costs.

Deadline: Due date for submission of this application is COB Monday, 22 August 2022. All applications should be submitted to: programmes@vmcz.co.zw and copied to info@vmcz.co.zw and director@vmcz.co.zw

Attachments: Please submit the completed application form with 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.

{NB: DO NOT EDIT OR REMOVE ANY SECTIONS FROM THIS TEMPLATE- you can copy and paste this template to a fresh page}

COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS

Story Focus Area *(Tick appropriately)*

Illicit financial flows budget processes Corruption
Procurement Processes maladministration

FULL NAME: **SEX:**

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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 with timeframe).*

Number of follow up stories: An indication of proposed *total number of follow up stories* to the in-depth story to be written within 30 days after publishing the in-depth story.