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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILISATION OF INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTs) IN THE PROMOTION OF  
ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS: THE CASE OF THE MEDIA  
MONITORING PROJECT ZIMBABWE (MMPZ).

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## **Abstract**

Positive thinkers on the role of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in development, hold the idea that ICTs can bridge knowledge gaps or inequalities of access to technologies, and therewith contribute to information access. This point of departure is the base of this study in promoting access to information through the adoption of ICTs. Information is the currency of democracy. The problem observed at the Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe (MMPZ) was that there were no sufficient policies, enabling environment, organisational structure and skills inventory. Personal interviews, administration of questionnaires and observation were some of the data collection methods used to gather sufficient relevant information. Through the findings of this study MMPZ and other human rights organisations may advance in furthering their initiatives, forge networks and exchange information. Some of the findings of this study highlight that there is a need to embrace a Digital Opportunities Initiative framework, development of critical mass of core professionals with technical capabilities is crucial and there is need to develop a human rights approach in the utilization of ICTs. An informed citizenry is pro-democracy and this starts with the utilisation of ICTs.