



James Basil Zulu – Cybersecurity Expert | ICT Strategist | Digital Inclusion Advocate

James Basil Zulu is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary ICT expert with a proven track record in designing, managing, and implementing robust cybersecurity systems and awareness strategies across diverse sectors including NGOs, media, government, and corporate environments. With professional experience, James brings a rare blend of technical depth, strategic insight, and a passion for digital inclusion, cybersecurity education, and ICT policy advocacy.

He is a certified expert in IT auditing, governance, risk management, and compliance with internationally recognized frameworks such as ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 22301, NIST, and COBIT. As a Lead Implementer and trainer, James has successfully conducted audits, risk assessments, and security implementations for high-impact organizations, while also leading national awareness initiatives that promote cyber hygiene, digital rights, and safe internet use, especially among marginalized groups.

James currently serves as ICT Security Consultant and Cybersecurity Awareness Specialist at **The Local Voice Literacy Network (LVLN)**, where he has conceptualized and implemented flagship projects like the *Cyber-Tech Debate Series*, *Cyber-Talk TV Show*, and *Women and Kids Tech Expo (W.A.K.E)*, advancing grassroots tech education in Zambia. He also plays a pivotal role in mobilizing partnerships, delivering digital literacy workshops, and engaging in ICT policy development and advocacy.

Previously, James served as a Cybersecurity Consultant, where he led technical audits, security architecture design, compliance assessments, and awareness trainings for both public and private institutions. His professional journey also includes roles in IT systems administration, quality assurance consultancy with the UN-WFP, and public prosecution with the Zambia Police Service, demonstrating his versatile expertise in both technical and legal aspects of ICT.

As a thought leader and media figure, James is the host and content developer of Zambia's first cybersecurity talk show *Cyber-Talk* on Prime Television. He frequently appears on major media platforms (ZNBC, Diamond TV, Joy FM) and contributes cybersecurity articles to outlets such as Zambia Daily Mail, Daily Nation, and News Diggers. His advocacy work has made a significant impact in shaping Zambia's digital safety landscape and national cybersecurity agenda.

He holds multiple certifications including:

- ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Implementer – PECB
- ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management – PECB

- Certified in Cybersecurity – (ISC)²
- Huawei Certified ICT Expert - Security (HCIE-Security)
- ProofPoint Certified Awareness Trainer
- COBIT Governance Framework
- NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- ISO 21500 Project Management – PECB

James is also a respected speaker and moderator, having featured at the **Law Association of Zambia AGM**, **Lusaka Internet Meet-Up**, and **Germany-Zambia Digital Innovation Forum**, among others. He is a **Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum (DRIF) (2026)** and has played a critical role in stakeholder engagements surrounding Zambia's **Cybersecurity and Cyber Crimes Act Amendment**.

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The Local Voice Literacy Network

THE LOCAL VOICE



THE LOCAL VOICE

Session proposal – The Local Voice Literacy Network

Session Title:

No One Left Behind: Cybersecurity, AI, and Digital Inclusion for the Underserved

Abstract:

As Zambia's digital transformation accelerates, there is a growing need to ensure that underserved communities — including persons with disabilities, rural populations, women, and youth — are not left behind. Digital tools, AI systems, and cybersecurity policies offer potential for empowerment, but can also deepen existing inequalities if designed without inclusivity in mind.

This session will bring together a diverse panel of stakeholders to explore how Zambia can build an inclusive and secure digital environment where everyone — regardless of ability, location, or socio-economic status — is protected and empowered. Discussions will focus on bridging digital divides, inclusive policy reform, and the responsible use of AI in public service delivery and digital rights protection.

Session Objectives:

1. Raise awareness of cybersecurity risks and digital exclusion faced by marginalized communities.
2. Examine the dual role of AI in either promoting inclusion or deepening inequality.
3. Assess Zambia's cyber laws and public digital service policies through an inclusion lens.
4. Promote rights-based digital governance, inclusive cybersecurity design, and AI accountability.
5. Encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration for inclusive digital transformation in Zambia.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify systemic barriers that hinder digital inclusion for underserved groups.
- Recognize cybersecurity and AI-related risks facing vulnerable populations.
- Understand how current laws and digital policies can be more inclusive.
- Apply inclusive digital governance approaches in their sectors or communities.
- Engage in dialogue and action to promote safe and accessible internet spaces for all.

Relevance to Sub-Themes:

- **Cybersecurity, Cybercrimes and Online Protection:**
The session will highlight how underserved groups are disproportionately affected by cyber threats and explore strategies to ensure their online safety.
- **Cyber Law and Policy:**
It will examine the inclusivity of existing digital laws and policies, and how reforms can better protect digital rights without limiting freedoms.
- **Digital Governance:**
The discussion will assess whether public e-services and AI-enabled platforms (e.g., digital IDs, e-payments, social services) are accessible and beneficial to all citizens.
- **Youth and Civic Engagement:**
The session will feature youth tech leaders advocating for inclusive internet access, civic tech tools, and digital rights education in rural and urban areas.

Target Audience:

- Persons with disabilities and disability rights organizations
- Women's digital empowerment groups
- Youth-led tech and civic organizations
- Cybersecurity experts and AI developers
- Civil society and digital rights advocates
- Policy makers and government agencies (e.g., SMART Zambia, ZICTA)
- Legal professionals and media
- ICT educators and inclusion researchers

Proposed Format:

Interactive Panel + Open Dialogue

- **Duration:** 60 minutes
- **Format:** Panel session with 4 speakers + 1 moderator
- **Structure:**
 - Opening remarks and framing (10 min)
 - Panelist insights and examples (30–40 min)
 - Audience interaction, Q&A, and solution exchange (20–30 min)
 - Summary and key takeaways (5–10 min)

Accessibility Measures: Sign language interpreters, large print handouts, and livestream with captions.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Improved understanding of how cybersecurity and AI affect inclusion and rights in Zambia.
2. Increased visibility of challenges faced by marginalized groups in digital spaces.
3. Practical, community-driven solutions and recommendations for inclusive digital policy and design.
4. Strengthened partnerships between government, civil society, and tech innovators.
5. Follow-up interest in policy advocacy, local digital literacy initiatives, and inclusive AI ethics.



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