



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDDA MEDIA STATEMENT

Johannesburg, South Africa, 5 April 2019. The Media Development & Diversity Agency (MDDA) has noted the coverage of the 5 April 2019 by the Mail & Guardian, with respect to the suspension of a senior manager “who is alleged to have embezzled the agency’s funds”. The MDDA confirms that the senior manager was suspended following an investigation by the Agency following the receipt of a whistle blowing email sent both to the MDDA hotline and the Acting CEO by employees of Forte Community Radio in the Eastern Cape. The senior manager has subsequently resigned. The MDDA has taken all necessary steps to ensure it is compliant with statutory obligation and shall inform its stakeholders once the process is completed.

The MDDA takes a zero tolerance approach to any incidences of fraud and corruption, both internally within the Agency and amongst the community media beneficiaries of its grant funding process.

The MDDA is a statutory development agency, deriving its mandate, from Section 16 and 32 of the Constitution Act No. 108 of 1996, thereby providing for freedom of expression and access to information. As a partnership between the South African Government and major print and broadcasting companies, it promotes and assists in the development of community media and small commercial media in South Africa and the transformation of the media, by providing support (financial, capacity building, etc.) in terms of the MDDA Act No 14 of 2002. It also aims to raise public awareness with regard to media development and diversity issues, and to encourage media literacy and a culture of reading. For further information: www.mdda.org.za

Issued by the MDDA

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