

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDDA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Johannesburg, South Africa, 1 September 2020. The Media Development & Diversity Agency (MDDA) is pleased to welcome four new members to the MDDA Board, for a three-year term effective from the 1st September 2020. The new members, who have been appointed by the President of South Africa, on recommendation of the National Assembly, are Ms Andiswa Ngcingwana, Ms Brenda Leonard, Mr Hlengani Mathebula and Ms Marina Clarke.

The new members bring with them a strong set of diverse skills, reinforcing the MDDA Board's strategic leadership of the Agency in the delivery of its mandate to promote media diversity through the growth of a sustainable community-based media sector in South Africa.

Ms Andiswa Ngcingwana is an innovative professional with a broad background in corporate governance and compliance in the public sector. Ms Ngcingwana has 15 years' experience in the public sector, working for, amongst others, the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and Provincial Treasury, where she held several positions in the fields of financial management, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation as well auditing. Ms Ngcingwana left full time employment in the public sector in 2016 to pursue entrepreneurship with a focus on SMME development. Whilst growing her strategic consultancy, she continued to serve the public sector in various governance structures, including several audit committees and boards. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA).

As a dedicated and experienced media practitioner, Ms Leonard is currently Managing Director of Bush Radio, South Africa's oldest community radio station. Committed to using media as a tool for social change, she is a founder and member of the Mitchell's Plain Memory Project, which records stories of people's experiences of the South African struggle for democracy. Ms Leonard has been deeply involved in the National Community Radio Forum, currently holding the position of Secretary for the Western Cape branch. She holds a BA Communication Science from UNISA.

An accomplished business leader with some 20 years' experience in the financial services industry, Mr Mathebula's involvement in this sector includes being a Managing Executive of ABSA Private Bank, and chairing the board of the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund, one of the largest self-administered

retirement funds in South Africa. He has also served on the central bank's Financial Stability Committee and the Governor's Executive Committee. He served on the board of BMW SA Group. Mr Mathebula holds a Master of Management from the University of the Witwatersrand and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), BTH (Hons) from the University of the North and has, amongst others, completed the Senior Executive Programme at Harvard Business School.

Ms Clarke is currently National Director for Epilepsy South Africa, having previously worked for the South African National Council for the Blind as Head of Entrepreneurial Development. Amongst her many professional appointments to advance the rights of people living with a disability, she is currently Chairperson of the South African Disability Alliance (SADA). Having previously served as Vice-Chairperson, African Chapter of the International Bureau on Epilepsy, she still serves as a member of the Executive Committee and the International Education Commission. She holds a BA (Drama) from the University of Pretoria.

MDDA Board Chairperson, Mr Norman Munzhelele commented, "The new Board members join the Board at a crucial time in the development of community media. The sector is facing significant changes, due to, amongst others, the rapid technological advances, tightening economic conditions, and the need for media to play a greater public information role, the importance of which has been highlighted by the current pandemic.

"The new Board members' range of experience from governance principles, through to business management, human rights policy development and advocacy and practical community media management experience, strongly complement the Board's existing skills in assisting the local media, successfully negotiate the current, very dynamic media landscape."

About the MDDA

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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