

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA STATEMENT: THE MDDA BOARD APPROVES 34 COMMUNITY PRINT AND BROADCAST PROJECTS FOR GRANT FUNDING

Johannesburg, South Africa, 15 February 2022 – On the 26th of January 2022, the Board of the MDDA met and deliberated over and approved grant and seed funding for 24 community radio stations and 10 community and small commercial print projects across all provinces.

These approved projects were part of the total overall number of 266 applications that responded to the 2021/22 Call for Grant Funding Applications for a six-week period, which officially opened on 05 May 2021 and closed on 02 July 2022. Of these applications, 81 were community broadcast media projects, including radio and TV and 185 were community print and digital publications, which were a combination of community print, small commercial print, and digital media projects.

“All the applications received were evaluated by the Board against set criteria, most importantly of which being their compliance with the MDDA Act (2002), MDDA Regulations (2003), the Grant Funding Policy, and Treasury Regulations. Contracting with successful applicants has commenced in earnest. All applicants have been issued with outcomes letters – whether successful or not. Those applications that were not successful will not be held on a waiting list, but projects are welcome to reapply in the next call for applications if all compliance requirements are met,” said MDDA.

All the approved projects were drawn from all nine provinces of South Africa and are in line with the mandate of the MDDA to promote media development and diversity through supporting media projects that redress the historical exclusion of disadvantaged communities and persons from access to the media and media industry. As a result, the projects supported have an emphasis on those publishing or broadcasting in indigenous languages, and which bring disadvantaged communities and sectors – particularly women, people with disabilities, and the rural-based, working class and poor - into the information and communications loop.

All the approved community media projects for the 2021/22 financial year will be published on the 2021/22 annual report as a legislative requirement. Approved projects demonstrate the organisation's endeavour to strive for transparency and equity in all our business processes.

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