



mdda
MEDIA DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY AGENCY



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2025/2026



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PART **A**

GENERAL INFORMATION



1 PUBLIC ENTITY'S GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTERED NAME:	Media Development and Diversity Agency
REGISTRATION NUMBER:	PE63
PHYSICAL ADDRESS:	GSM Building, SABC Auckland Park Campus, 26 Canary St, Auckland Park, 2006
POSTAL ADDRESS:	P.O. Box 42846 Fordsburg Johannesburg South Africa 2033
TELEPHONE NUMBER/S:	Tel: +27 (0)11 643 1100
EMAIL ADDRESS:	info@mdda.org.za
WEBSITE ADDRESS:	https://www.mdda.org.za
EXTERNAL AUDITORS:	Auditor-General South Africa
BANKERS:	Absa Bank South African Reserve Bank
COMPANY SECRETARY:	Adv. Menischia Du Plessis

2 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AFS	Annual Financial Statements
AGSA	Auditor-General of South Africa
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
BBBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CSBS	Community Sound Broadcasting Service
CSCM	Community and Small Commercial Media
DoC	Department of Communications
EDF	Economic Development Fund
EHWP	Employee Health and Wellness Programme
FPB	Film and Publications Board
GCIS	Government Communications and Information Systems
GRAP	Generally Recognised Accounting Practice
ICASA	Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	Electoral Commission of South Africa
IPM	Institute of People Management
ITP-R	Invitation to Pre-Register
MDDA	Media Development and Diversity Agency
MDPMI	Media and Digital Platforms Market Inquiry
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MICT SETA	The Media, Information, and Communication Technologies
MMA	Media Monitoring Africa
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTDP	Medium-Term Development Plan
NDP	National Development Plan
NEMISA	National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa
NPO	Non-profit organisations
OD	Organisational Design
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act No.1 of 1999
RFS	Radio Frequency Spectrum
SANEF	South African National Editors' Forum
SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SMMEs	Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises
TR	Treasury Regulations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

3 FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY



Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, MP
Minister in the Presidency

The 2025/ 2026 Annual Report of the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) demonstrates the important role that the MDDA continues to play in advancing media diversity, strengthening democratic participation, and ensuring that all South Africans have access to information and communication platforms that reflect their realities, languages, and aspirations.

The importance of the work of the MDDA cannot over-emphasised. Access to information is fundamental to citizen participation, accountability, social cohesion, and development. Community and small commercial media remain among the most accessible and trusted sources of information for millions of South Africans, particularly in rural, township, peri-urban, and historically underserved communities. It is therefore important to report that the MDDA achieved 100% on its performance targets across all four quarters of the 2025/26 financial year. This achievement reflects not only sound governance and effective leadership, but also the MDDA's commitment to continuously deliver on its mandate and set targets.

During the 2025/26 financial year, the MDDA provided funding support to twenty-two (22) community broadcasting projects and exceeded its target for small commercial print and digital media support by funding ten (10) projects more. This represents efforts aimed at strengthening local journalism, promoting media plurality and creating opportunities for community participation while ensuring that diverse voices remain part of South Africa's public discourse.

In addition, the MDDA continued to advance digital transformation within the sector by providing digital support to twenty-six (26) community media projects ensuring that community media remains competitive and accessible.

This is more important because audiences are increasingly consuming content through digital platforms. Digital capabilities are essential for the future sustainability and relevance of the community media. As the world continues to navigate profound technological, economic, and social changes, the role of community and small commercial media becomes even more important.

Work on the sustainability of the sector continue to be informed by the findings of the MDDA's Community and Small Commercial Media Sustainability Model which highlighted funding constraints, limited advertising opportunities, and the need for collaboration across government, industry, and society. As such, the MDDA revised its Fundraising Strategy for the period 2025 to 2030 for the purpose of strengthening the Agency's resource mobilisation efforts and expanding the support available to community and small commercial media.

The work reflected in this year's Annual Report aligns fully with the priorities of government particularly our commitment to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting social inclusion, supporting economic participation, and ensuring that no community is left behind. The community media platforms preserve linguistic and cultural diversity, provide localised information, strengthen community identity, and serve as a bridge between citizens and the institutions that serve them. We can ensure that community and small commercial media remain a vibrant force for democracy, development, and social cohesion through continued partnership and investment.

Deputy Minister, Kenny Morolong and I, commend the Board, management, and staff of the MDDA, and the shareholder Department – the GCIS, for their commitment and dedication during the 2025/ 26 financial year. Their efforts have contributed significantly to strengthening South Africa's community media landscape by advancing the Agency's developmental mandate.

Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, MP
Minister in the Presidency

4 FOREWORD BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY



Mr Kenny Morolong, MP
Deputy Minister in the Presidency

When we tabled the 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan, we affirmed our commitment to building an inclusive, innovative, and diverse media landscape that serves all South Africans. This Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in giving practical expression to that commitment and on the contribution of the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) to strengthening our democracy.

The 2025/26 financial year was marked by meaningful progress, demonstrating the impact that focused leadership, strategic investment, and effective partnerships can have in supporting community and small commercial media. The Agency's achievement of 100% of its performance targets across all four quarters is particularly commendable and reflects an institution that is delivering consistently against its mandate.

The 2025/26 APP placed emphasis on digital innovation, transformation, and the need to equip media practitioners with the tools and skills required to thrive in a rapidly changing environment. During the year under review, this commitment was advanced through targeted support to the sector, including the unveiling of eleven community media studios in provinces across the country, from QwaQwa in the Free State to De Aar in the Northern Cape and Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape, among others.

These occasions reinforced an important reality: community media continues to play a vital role in connecting people, strengthening local democracy, and expanding access to information. In many communities, local broadcasters and publishers remain the primary platforms through which residents engage with issues affecting their daily lives, access critical information, celebrate local culture, and participate in public discourse.

As government, we remain committed to ensuring that all South Africans have equitable access to information and communication platforms, regardless of where they live. This commitment is particularly important in rural and underserved communities, where community media often serves as a vital bridge between citizens, government institutions, and development opportunities.

The MDDA's work advances government's broader objectives of inclusion, social cohesion, and equitable development by strengthening media platforms that are rooted in the communities they serve. Our democracy is strengthened when community and small commercial media are enabled to fulfil their mandate: providing access to information, preserving local languages and cultural heritage, and amplifying voices that are often absent from mainstream discourse.

As South Africa continues its digital transformation journey, the importance of supporting community media cannot be overstated. These platforms must be empowered to adapt to technological change while continuing to fulfil their developmental and democratic responsibilities. The work undertaken by the MDDA during the year under review positions the sector to respond to this challenge with greater resilience and confidence.

I commend the Board, management, and staff of the MDDA for their dedication and hard work in driving this mission forward. I also extend my appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, and the broader media community for their continued collaboration in advancing a media environment that is inclusive, representative, and reflective of our democratic values.

The progress reflected in this report gives us confidence that the MDDA remains well positioned to support a media sector that is inclusive, diverse, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of all South Africans.

Together, through continued partnership and investment, we will continue to build a media landscape that strengthens democratic participation, amplifies local voices, and leaves no community behind.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Morolong', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Kenny Morolong, MP
Deputy Minister in the Presidency

5 FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MDDA BOARD



Mr Philly Moilwa
Chairperson of the MDDA Board

The year under review has been one of meaningful progress for the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), while also bringing into sharper focus the challenges confronting the broader media sector.

The MDDA has continued to play an important role in broadening development and participation in South Africa's media landscape by supporting community and small commercial media to give expression to voices that might otherwise remain unheard. As we reflect on this journey, we are reminded that the strength of our democracy is closely linked to the strength, diversity and accessibility of the media through which citizens receive information and participate in public life.

Community radio, television, print and digital media continue to play a vital role in connecting communities, facilitating dialogue and supporting informed participation in many hidden pockets of our country. Their contribution is particularly important in communities where mainstream media may not always reflect local realities or adequately address hyper-local concerns.

Considered against a media environment undergoing profound structural change, it is hard to ignore how audiences are increasingly consuming news and information through digital and online platforms, while advertising revenue also continues to migrate towards these spaces. This shift presents opportunities for media organisations to reach new audiences and develop innovative forms of content, but it also places significant pressure on traditional community media models that have historically depended on conventional advertising and broadcast audiences for their sustainability.

The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies adds another dimension to this transformation.

AI is already changing how content is produced, distributed and consumed, creating opportunities to improve efficiency, expand access to information and develop new forms of storytelling. At the same time, it raises important questions about misinformation, ethical journalism, intellectual property, employment, editorial independence and the preservation of public trust. For community media, the challenge will be to embrace technological innovation without losing the local knowledge, human connection and public-interest orientation that define their value.

These developments reinforce the importance of ensuring that the MDDA itself remains sustainable, capable and fit for purpose. The Agency must have the institutional strength, resources and appropriate funding mechanisms required to fulfil its legislative mandate and respond effectively to the changing needs of the media sector. As such, sustainability not only becomes an organisational concern but central to our ability as a country to maintain a diverse media environment in which community and small commercial media can survive, adapt and contribute meaningfully to democratic life.

As the Board, we therefore recognise the importance of strengthening the MDDA's institutional resilience while ensuring that the Agency continues to demonstrate sound governance, accountability and measurable impact, as demonstrated through the Agency's achievement of 100% of its performance targets across all four quarters. Our responsibility is not only to safeguard the resources entrusted to the Agency, but also to ensure that those resources translate into meaningful and sustainable outcomes for the communities and media organisations we serve.

At the same time, the sustainability of the broader community media sector cannot be addressed through institutional support alone. It requires an enabling policy and legislative environment that recognises the realities of a rapidly changing media ecosystem. Legislative reform is therefore increasingly important. As the media landscape evolves, the policy and regulatory frameworks governing media development and diversity must evolve with it. This includes ensuring that legislation such as the MDDA Act of 2002, which underpins the Agency's mandate, is responsive to contemporary realities and provides the Agency with the tools necessary to fulfil its mission effectively and sustainably.

Creating an enabling environment also requires stronger collaboration across government, regulators, industry, civil society, technology companies, development partners and the private sector. The challenges facing community media are complex and interconnected, and no single institution can address them in isolation. Greater collaboration is essential to expand access to technology, strengthen digital capabilities, develop new revenue opportunities and ensure that community media organisations are equipped to participate meaningfully in the digital economy.

The progress achieved by the MDDA, as outlined in this report, provides a strong foundation from which to build. Yet, the changing media environment requires us to be neither complacent about what has been achieved nor hesitant about what must change.



Mr Philly Moilwa

Chairperson of the MDDA Board

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S OVERVIEW



Ms Shoeshoe Qhu

Chief Executive Officer of the MDDA

The 2025/26 financial year unfolded at a consequential moment for South Africa's media and democracy. As the country prepares for the 2026 Local Government elections, the importance of credible, diverse and accessible information at community level has become even more pronounced. Community and small commercial media are closest to the everyday realities of citizens and have a critical role in enabling civic participation, supporting voter education and ensuring that communities have access to information that allows them to participate meaningfully in democratic processes.

This role is becoming more important as the information environment itself changes. Audiences are increasingly fragmented across traditional and digital platforms, patterns of media consumption are shifting, and misinformation and disinformation compete with credible journalism for public attention. At the same time, algorithmically driven platforms can reinforce echo chambers by repeatedly exposing audiences to similar perspectives. In this environment, access to timely, accurate, credible and diverse sources of information, is not simply a media imperative, it is essential to an informed and vibrant democracy.

For the MDDA, these shifts bring renewed urgency to our mandate. Media diversity is no longer only about expanding the number of platforms, or voices in the media landscape, it is about ensuring that communities can access credible information, in languages, and through platforms that are relevant to them, that local voices and perspectives are visible, and that grassroots media have the capacity to operate and remain trusted in an increasingly complex information environment.

The work of the Agency during 2025/26 was therefore anchored in both delivery and impact, strengthening the institutions that serve communities while preparing the sector to respond to the changes reshaping how information is produced, distributed, discovered and trusted.

At the heart of this work are community and small commercial media, giving expression to local voices, languages and lived realities while providing access to relevant, locally grounded information. Their contribution extends further, they nurture skills and talent, create pathways for young people into the broader media and creative industries, support employment and livelihoods, and stimulate economic activity in the communities they serve. This is particularly important in townships, villages, rural and peri-urban areas, where opportunities for skills development, employment and economic participation are often limited.

Our responsibility as the MDDA is therefore not simply to support media projects, but to strengthen institutions that contribute to voice, skills, employment and local economic participation, while building a community and small commercial media sector that is capable, sustainable, innovative and equipped for the future.

Partnership remained central to our ability to extend the reach and impact of the MDDA's mandate. By working across government, industry and the broader media ecosystem, we strengthened our collective contribution to a more credible, diverse and resilient media sector. We also continued to strengthen the capability of the Agency itself, recognising that an institution tasked with developing a changing sector must itself be agile, evidence-led and equipped to respond to change.

The achievement of our mandate is inextricably linked to the sustainability of the MDDA's own funding model. As a development agency, our capacity to support community and small commercial media is largely dependent on resources made available through contributions from the broadcasting industry, together with government support and strategic partnerships. The characterisation and treatment of certain of these industry contributions is presently the subject of ongoing engagement with the National Treasury, further details of which are set out in the notes to the Annual Financial Statements. These resources enable the MDDA to invest in media institutions that serve communities often overlooked by mainstream markets, ensuring access to information, strengthening local content production, promoting indigenous languages and supporting media participation by historically disadvantaged communities. As the demands on community media continue to evolve, the sustainability and growth of these funding mechanisms remain essential to preserving media diversity, advancing democratic participation and ensuring that local voices continue to be heard across South Africa.

The sustainability of community and small commercial media remains at the centre of our work. This requires us to look beyond funding towards the broader conditions that enable media institutions to endure, sound governance, capable people, financial resilience, relevant skills and the ability to understand and respond to their audiences.

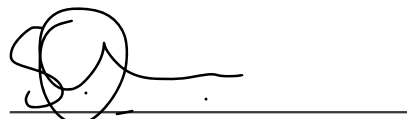
The future sustainability of the sector is also inseparable from digital transformation. Shifting audience behaviour, changing revenue models and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, are reshaping how media is produced, distributed and consumed. For the MDDA, the challenge is to ensure that community and small commercial media are equipped to participate meaningfully in this transition, without deepening existing inequalities or leaving local and indigenous-language media behind.

Technology will continue to transform the media landscape, but it cannot replace the lived experience, cultural understanding, editorial judgement and local trust that distinguish community media. Our task is to enable the sector to harness innovation while protecting the credibility, diversity and human connection on which its value rests.

As we look ahead, our focus is on translating institutional performance into sustainable sector impact. This means building stronger and more resilient media institutions, widening the diversity of voices in South Africa's media landscape and ensuring that community and small commercial media are equipped not merely to navigate change, but to shape their place in the future of media.

I extend my appreciation to the Board for its strategic direction and oversight; to the Minister in the Presidency, Hon. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, and the Deputy Minister, Hon. Kenny Morolong, for their continued support; and to our funding and strategic partners for their contribution to our mandate.

Finally, I thank the employees of the MDDA. The achievements of 2025/26 reflect their commitment to the Agency and its mandate. Our responsibility now is to build on this performance, deepen our impact and ensure that the MDDA continues to respond with purpose to the changing needs of the sector and the communities it exists to serve.



Ms Shoeshoe Qhu
Chief Executive Officer of the MDDA

7 STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CONFIRMATION OF ACCURACY FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I confirm the following:

All information and amounts disclosed in the annual report are consistent with the annual financial statements audited by the Auditor-General.

The annual report is complete, accurate and is free from any omissions.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines on the annual report as issued by National Treasury.

The Annual Financial Statements (Part G) have been prepared in accordance with the GRAP standards applicable to the public entity.

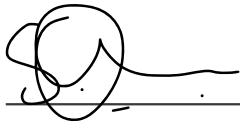
The Accounting Authority is responsible for the preparation of the annual financial statements and for the judgements made in this information.

The Accounting Authority is responsible for establishing and implementing a system of internal control that has been designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the performance information, the human resources information and the annual financial statements.

The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements.

In our opinion, the annual report fairly reflects the operations, the performance information, human resources information and the financial affairs of the public entity for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

Yours faithfully



Ms Shoeshoe Qhu
Chief Executive Officer of the MDDA
Date: 31 August 2026



Mr Philly Moilwa
Chairperson of the Board
Date: 31 August 2026

8 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

8.1. Vision

Accessible, developmental, diversified, and sustainable community and small commercial media.

8.2. Mission

To support the development of a vibrant, innovative, sustainable, and people-centred community and small commercial media sector through resourcing, critical sector insights, capacity-building, and ensuring inclusive participation of historically disadvantaged communities.

8.3. Values

The guiding principles that inform our organisation's culture and leadership and management style are embedded in the African ethos of Ubuntu/Botho. We are developmental in our orientation and character and a responsive, accountable, and empathetic organisation. This spirit is embedded in the following values that sustain us.

	VALUE	WHAT THAT MEANS IN PRACTICE
1	Integrity	We are honest, trustworthy, transparent, reliable, fair, accountable, and responsible for our actions.
2	Caring	We care for our people, our customers, our communities, industry stakeholders and the environment.
3	Excellence	We strive to achieve the best possible results in everything we do. We are efficient, effective, service delivery orientated, punctual, performance-driven and work collectively.
4	Commitment	We are passionate, go the extra mile, responsive, have a strong work ethic, are consistent and accessible.
5	Innovative	Future forward, thought leadership, open, dynamic, moving with the times, receptive to new ideas.

9 LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MANDATES

CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

Section 32:

Everyone has a right to access to information.

Section 15 (1)

Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.

Languages – Section 6 (1)(2)

(2) Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages.

Freedom of Expression – Section 16 (1) (a)(b)

(1) Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes-

- (a) freedom of the press and other media.

LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

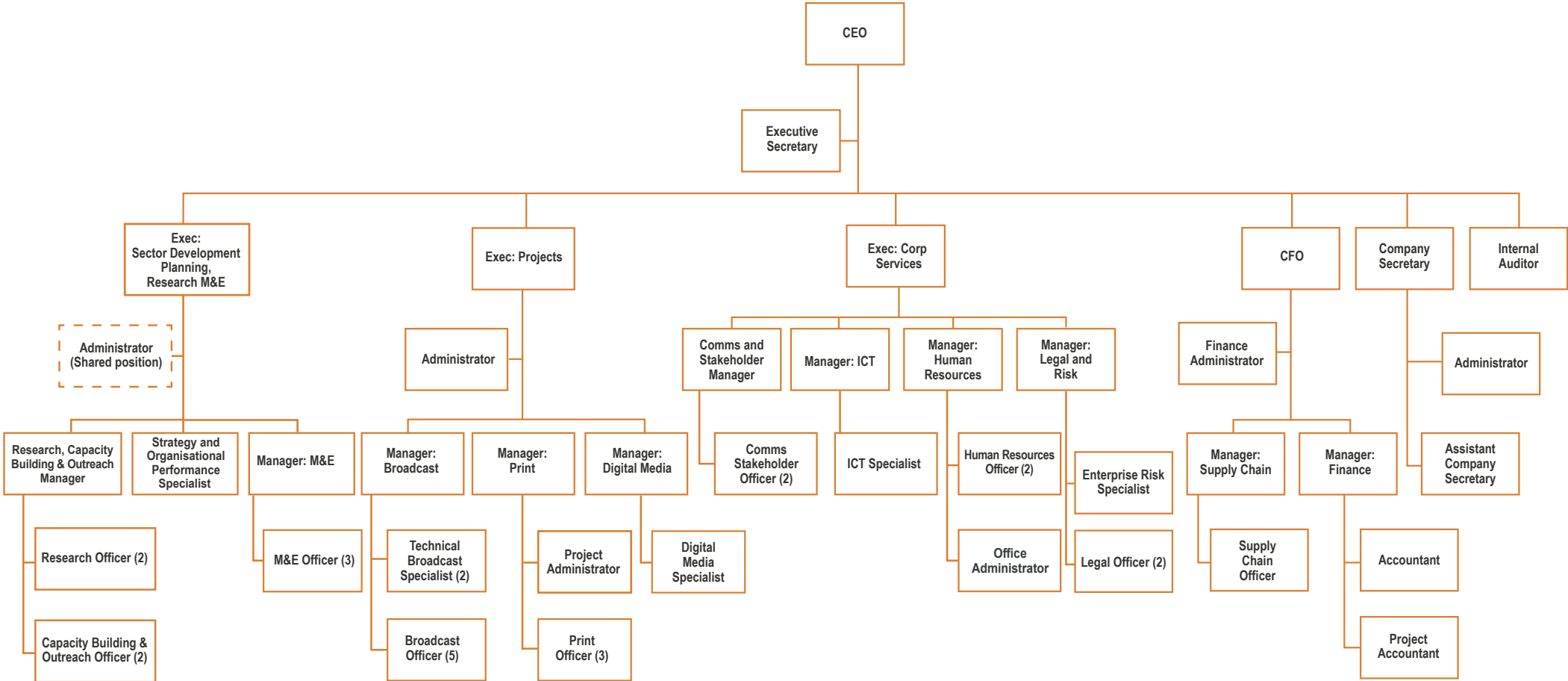
The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA)’s mandate is to:

- Create an enabling environment for media development and diversity that reflects the needs and aspirations of all South Africans.
- Redress exclusion and marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and persons from access to the media and the media industry.
- Promote media development and diversity by providing support primarily to CSCM projects.
- Encourage ownership and control of, and access to, media by historically disadvantaged communities as well as by historically diminished indigenous language and cultural groups.
- Encourage the development of human resources and training, and capacity building, within the media industry, especially among historically disadvantaged groups.
- Encourage the channelling of resources to the community media and small commercial media sectors.
- Raise public awareness regarding media development and diversity issues.

The key concepts in the agency’s mandate that makes up its name are defined in the Act as follows:

- **Media** – means all forms of mass communication, including print, publications, radio, television and new electronic platforms for delivering content
- **Development** – means the development of media and infrastructure so that historically disadvantaged communities and persons have access to media as owners, managers, producers, and consumers of media.
- **Diversity** – regarding media, means access to the widest range of sources and information, as well as equitable representation within the media in general.
- **Agency** – media development and diversity agency established by section 2 of the Act.

10 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



MDDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr Philly Moilwa
Chairperson



Ms Moipone Malefane



Mr Qondile Khedama



Mr Thembelani Mpakati



Ms Jayshree Pather



Mr Collin Mashile

EXECUTIVES



Ms Shoeshoe Qhu
Chief Executive Officer



Ms Tintswalo Baadjie
Chief Financial Officer



Mr Mzuvukile Kashe
Executive Manager:
Projects



Ms Noxolo Bhangaza
Executive Secretary

OFFICE OF THE CEO

FINANCE



Mr Simphiwe Mthembu
Finance Manager



Ms Possel Mabilo
Accountant



Ms Mokgaetji Mashao
Project Accountant



Mr Mojaki Mohibidu
Supply Chain Officer



Ms Kholofelo Kekana
Finance Administrator

LEGAL AND RISK



Mr Dawid Moreroa
Legal and Risk Manager



Mr Isaac Makhuvele
Enterprise Risk
Management Specialist



Ms Elenkie Matsimela
Legal Officer



Mr Motsamai Tsotetsi
ICT Manager



Mr Andrew Phaahla
ICT Specialist

ICT

COMPANY SECRETARY (COSEC)



**Adv. Menischia
Du Plessis**
Company Secretary



Mr Chwano Koosentse
Administrative Assistant



Ms Winnie Kubheka
Human Resources
Manager



Ms Lindokuhle Nkosi
Human Resources
Officer



Ms Yesani Maseko
Office Administrator

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH



Mr Lethabo Dibetso
Outreach and
Sector Development Manager



Ms Thembelihle Sibeko
Monitoring and
Evaluation Manager



Ms Khanyisa Mahlawule
Research Specialist



Ms Nompumelelo Maduna
Monitoring and Evaluation
Officer



Ms Gugulethu Bonnet
Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer



Mr Thebeetsile Letsapa
Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer



Ms Desiree Lebaea
Capacity Building &
Outreach officer



**Mr Phathutshedzo
Netshifhefhe**
Strategy and Organisational
Performance Specialist



Ms Sedihoa Sithole
Research and
Sector Development
Administrator

COMMUNITY PRINT AND DIGITAL PROJECTS



Ms Boikhutso Tsikane
Manager Print and Digital



Ms Bulali Dyakop
Digital Specialist



Ms Pamela Mkhize
Madonsela – Print Officer



Mr Michael Sive
Print Officer



Mr Mpumelelo Magasela
Print Officer

COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS



Mr Ayabulela Poro
Manager:
Communications and
Stakeholder Relations



Ms Margaret Ndawonde
Communications and
Stakeholder Relations
Officer

COMMUNITY BROADCAST PROJECTS



Ms Siphokazi Mgudlwa
Programme Manager



Ms Danielle Baloyi
Project Officer



Ms Tabani Nkomo
Project Officer



Ms Ouma Moatsi
Project Administrator



Mr Sfiso Maphanga
Project Officer



Mr Chimba Chibesa
Project Officer



Mr Luvuyo Nyembezi
Technical Broadcast
Specialist





PART **B**

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

1 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT: PREDETERMINED OBJECTIVES

The AGSA/auditor currently performs certain audit procedures on the performance information. The level of assurance provided may be reasonable (an opinion), or limited (a conclusion) or none (findings) as predetermined by the AGSA. Assurance in the form of an audit opinion or conclusion on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information is currently included in the management report. Material findings are reported in the auditor's report.

Refer to page 97 to 101 of the Report of the Auditors, published as Part G: Financial Information.

2 OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

2.1. Service Delivery Environment

During the 2025/2026 financial year the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) continued to fulfil its statutory mandate of promoting and developing a diverse, vibrant, and sustainable media sector, with a particular focus on community and small commercial media.

During the year under review, the MDDA:

- Approved 32 new grant funding projects, comprising 21 community radio, 1 community television, and 10 print/digital media outlets.
- Twenty-six (26) community media projects were provided with digital support in 2025/26.
- Conducted 29 capacity-building and training workshops, benefiting participants in areas including financial management, governance, and digital skills development and ethics and disinformation.
- Undertook 60 monitoring and evaluation visits to funded projects to assess compliance, governance, and impact.

Key achievements included the successful rollout of targeted digital migration and transformation support for community broadcasters and publishers, enabling beneficiaries to expand their online presence, diversify revenue streams, and adapt to evolving audience behaviours.

Challenges encountered included:

- Escalating operational and compliance costs within beneficiary organisations.
- Skills gaps in emerging technologies and digital content production.
- Economic pressures resulting in declining advertising revenue for small and community media.

Corrective steps taken by the Agency included:

- Strengthening partnerships with development finance institutions, government departments, and private sector stakeholders to leverage additional resources.
- Streamlining the funding application and adjudication process to reduce turnaround times.
- Introducing tailored mentorship programmes to improve beneficiaries' sustainability and governance.

External developments that shaped service delivery included continued audience migration to digital platforms, requiring media outlets to diversify distribution channels, and broader macroeconomic conditions that placed financial strain on media operations. The MDDA's programmes responded directly to these challenges through strategic technical support and digital readiness interventions.

2.2. Organisational environment

Internally, the MDDA implemented measures to enhance institutional capacity, governance, and operational efficiency.

Key organisational developments included:

- Upgrading of ICT systems.
- Strengthening of monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure better tracking of funded projects' impact.
- Implementation of refined internal audit and risk management frameworks, which improved compliance and reduced audit findings compared to the previous financial year.

The Agency experienced no significant disruptions such as labour strikes or systemic operational failures. Management maintained continuous engagement with staff through performance reviews, training opportunities, and wellness programmes to ensure organisational resilience.

Internship Programme and Appointments

The MDDA's internship programme continued to play a pivotal role in nurturing young talent and fostering diversity within the Agency. Over the past year, fourteen interns were welcomed into various units, where they actively contributed to projects and gained valuable hands-on experience. Moving forward, the MDDA remains committed to expanding and refining the internship programme to cultivate future leaders and strengthen our organisational resilience.

2.3. Key policy developments and legislative changes

There were no major legislative amendments affecting the MDDA mandate during the 2025/26 financial year. However, the Agency remained aligned to the overarching government priorities outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024–2029 and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030.

The Agency aligned its operations with the revised White Paper on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, which emphasises digital inclusion and transformation in the media sector.

Additionally, the MDDA contributed to policy dialogues on community media sustainability and participated in national forums addressing misinformation and media ethics.

Internally, the MDDA reviewed and updated several policy frameworks to strengthen governance and improve service delivery, including:

- The Grant Funding Policy, to enhance transparency, efficiency, and equitable distribution of resources.
- Procurement guidelines, to align with National Treasury regulations and promote efficiency in service acquisition.

These developments ensured that the MDDA remained responsive to the evolving needs of the community and small commercial media sector, while upholding the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in the allocation of public resources.

2.4. Progress towards achievement of institutional Impacts and Outcomes

In line with this revised framework, the entity had four outcomes and functions through five programmes: Governance and Administration; Grant and Seed Funding; Partnerships, Public Awareness and Advocacy; Capacity Building and Sector Development; and Research.

The MDDA is reporting against the 2025/2026 Annual Performance Plan. There are sixteen (16) annual targets for 2025/26. All sixteen (16) of these were achieved, which means that the Agency achieved 100 percent of its annual targets.

Programme 1 - had two annual targets that contributed to one outcome, 'a sustainable and capable Agency in support of the delivery of the MDDA mandate by 2029/30'. Both annual targets were achieved.

Programme 2 - Sub-Programme 2.1 had three annual targets that contributed to one outcome, 'a sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future-forward agency by 2029/30'. All three targets were achieved.

Programme 2 - Sub-Programme 2.2 had two annual targets that contributed to one outcome, 'a sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30.' Both targets were achieved.

Programme 3 - had three annual targets that contributed to one outcome, 'a sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30.' All three targets were achieved.

Programme 4 - had four annual targets that contributed to two outcomes, 'a sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30' and 'Capacitated Community media incredible and diverse news and information generation and dissemination by 2029 /30.' All targets were achieved.

Programme 5 - had two annual targets that contributed to one outcome, 'a capable, effective and efficient organisation in support of the delivery of the MDDA mandate. All targets were achieved.

3 INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

3.1. MDDA Programme Performance Information 2025-2026 Financial Year

The following pages present the Performance Information Report as required in terms of Treasury Regulations and Section 55(2)(a) of the PFMA. The objectives are measurable and aligned to the budget. This assists the Accounting Authority (the Board) to ensure that the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements fairly present the performance against predetermined objectives of the Agency.

Accordingly, this Performance Information Report is a subject matter/agenda item of every Board and Executive Management meeting in line with the regulatory requirements, good corporate governance and proper oversight. This ensures that the Agency complies with the requirements of the Auditor-General's audit findings in terms of Section 20(2)(c) of the Public Audit Act No 25 of 2004 on the reported information relating to performance against predetermined objectives.

The MDDA is reporting against the Annual Performance Plan of 2025/2026 as tabled in Parliament on 25 April 2025. The Annual Performance Plan was developed to give effect to the MDDA Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2025/2026 - 2030/2031, which was tabled on 25 April 2025. Both the Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan have been developed in terms of the Revised Framework for Strategic Plans & Annual Performance Plans (2019) and Guidelines for the Development of 2025-2030 Strategic Plans and 2025/26 Annual Performance Plan (Updated February 2025).

The 2025/2026 MDDA Annual Performance Plan has five (5) programmes, which include sixteen (16) output indicators.

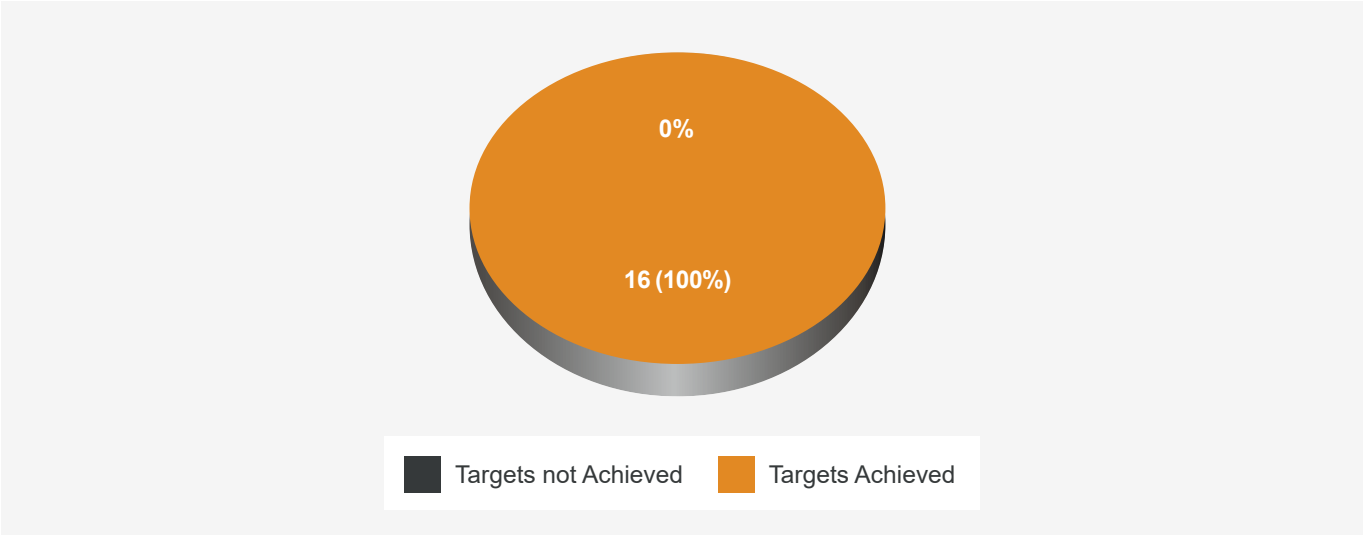
MDDA Programme Structure

The MDDA programme structure comprises five programmes, as shown below.

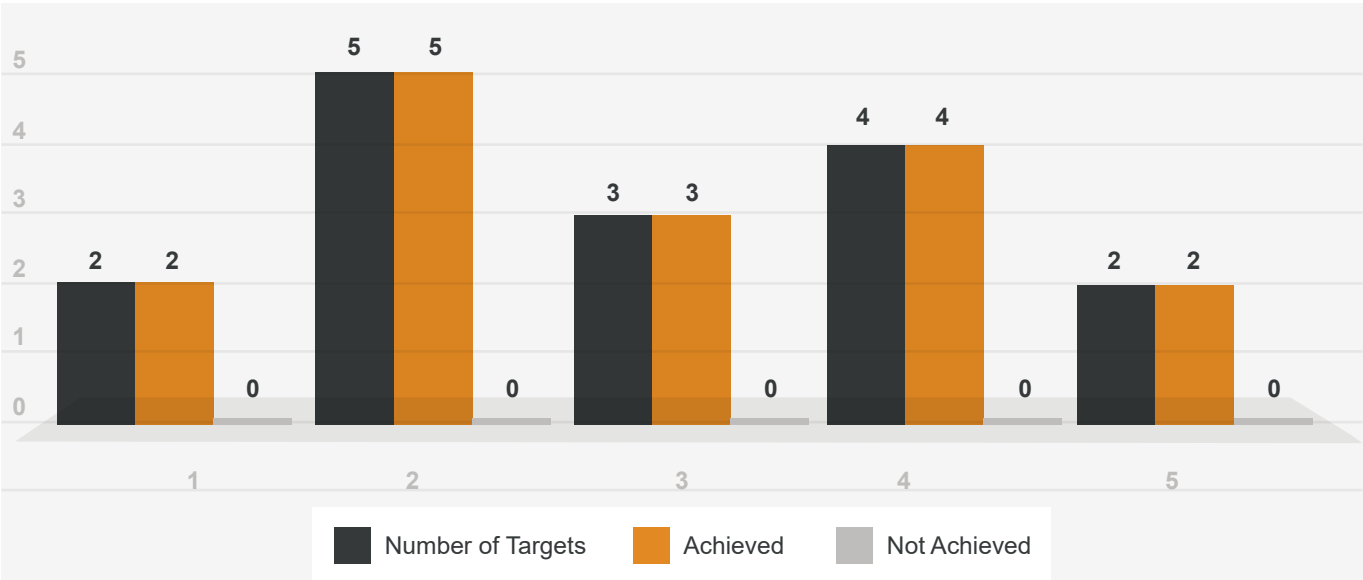


The MDDA is reporting against the 2025/2026 Annual Performance Plan. Annual targets for 2025/26 are sixteen (16). All sixteen (16) of these were achieved, resulting in a 100 percent achievement of their annual targets.

Annual Overall Performance



Annual Performance by Programme



PROGRAMME 1 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Purpose: The programme ensures effective leadership, strategic management, and operations, through continuous refinement of organisational strategy and the implementation of the appropriate legislation and best practice.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A sustainable and capable agency in support of the delivery of the MDDA mandate by 2029/30	Unqualified audit.	1. Unqualified audit opinion.	Qualified audit opinion for 2022-23 financial year.	Qualified audit opinion for 2023-24 financial year.	Unqualified audit opinion.	Unqualified audit opinion for the 2024-25 financial year.	-	Target Achieved.
	Improving Agency's financial position.	2. Improvement in funding	New Indicator.	New Indicator	Reviewed funding strategy.	Reviewed funding strategy.	-	Target Achieved

PROGRAMME 2 GRANT AND SEED FUNDING

Purpose: The programme promotes media development and diversity through financial and non-financial support for community broadcasting as well as community and small commercial print projects. The programme consists of two strategic objectives, encapsulated in two sub-programmes.

Sub-Programme 2.1: Community and Small Commercial Media

Purpose: The purpose of this sub-programme is to facilitate ownership, control and access to information and content production of community and small commercial media by historically disadvantaged communities.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30	Community broadcast project funding	3.Number of grant funding applications for community broadcast projects approved	22	26	22	22	-	Target Achieved.
	Community and Small Commercial Media digital/print project funding	4. Number of grant funding applications for small commercial print or digital media projects approved	8	7	6	10	4	Target Achieved. Variance is due to adopting a leaner funding approach aligned with the MDDA Sustainability Model Report, prioritising high-cost carriers and cost-efficient, high-impact projects.
	Community Media digital strategy implemented	5. Number of media projects provided with digital support	23	70	20	26	6	Target Achieved. 20 projects were initially targeted. The demand for intervention exceeded the planned number, which then resulted in overachievement

Sub-Programme 2.2: Monitoring and Evaluation

Purpose: The purpose of this sub-programme is to monitor and evaluate input, output, and compliance with MDDA grant-in-aid contracts to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of MDDA support.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30	Annual evaluation of Monitoring and Evaluation reports	6. Number of annual evaluation reports generated	1	1	1	1	-	Target Achieved.
	Monitoring reports on input, output, and compliance to MDDA grant-in-aid contracts	7. Number of monitoring reports generated on funded projects	51	57	56	60	4	Target Achieved. Three (3) projects were visited as part of data collection for evaluation to be finalised in Q3, and a responsive monitoring visit had to be conducted in one project.

PROGRAMME 3 PARTNERSHIPS, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

Purpose: This programme seeks to position the MDDA as a leading influencer and authoritative voice in the community and small commercial media, through the implementation of strategic partnerships to carry out media development and diversity interventions and create a positive image in pursuance of MDDA's mandate to grow the community and small commercial media.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30	Stakeholder engagements for (non-financial support) of the community and small commercial media	8. Number of stakeholder engagements for non-financial support held	18	14	8	20	12	Target Achieved. The Agency capitalised on existing strategic partnerships, which enabled it to leverage additional collaboration opportunities and exceed the planned number of stakeholder engagements.
	Thought Leadership media engagements to position the brand MDDA	9. Number of media engagements held	23	29	20	47	27	Target Achieved. Unit has widened media contact list, resulting in significantly broader media reach and more frequent coverage across print, broadcast, and digital platforms. This expanded network enabled the MDDA to secure 47 media engagements against a target of 20, more than doubling the planned output. The increased visibility strengthened the

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30								Agency's public profile and enhanced awareness of its mandate among key audiences.
	Fundraising initiatives for sustainable development of community and small commercial media	10. Number of proposals for funding presented to potential and existing stakeholders	10	8	4	10	6	Target Achieved. Working with other units within the committee increased the potential list of funders approached. The collaborative efforts of the fundraising committee enabled the Agency to identify and engage a wider pool of prospective donors, resulting in 10 funding proposals being submitted against a target of 4. This cross-functional approach strengthened the quality and relevance of proposals, contributing to improved funding outcomes and positioning the MDDA for greater financial sustainability.

PROGRAMME 4 CAPACITY BUILDING AND SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Purpose: One of the Agency's objectives outlined in the MDDA Act of 2002 is to "encourage the development of human resources, training and capacity building within the media industry, especially amongst historically disadvantaged groups". In response to this, the Agency has developed capacity-building programmes, which aim to provide community and small commercial media with the necessary skills needed for effective performance in day-to-day work.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A sustainable community and small commercial media sector led by a future forward agency by 2029/30	Training interventions aimed at capacitating the community media with skills aligned to sector specific needs	11. Number of training interventions aimed at capacitating community media with skills	10	15	8	17	9	Target Achieved. Overachievement resulted from Board-approved governance training conducted ahead of the grant call to strengthen applicant compliance, particularly in provinces with a limited Agency footprint.
	Media and information literacy initiatives held	12. Number of media and information literacy initiatives held	5	11	4	8	4	Target Achieved. Partnered with Media Monitoring Africa and the North West Department of Basic Education in commemorating Child Protection Week in two schools in Rustenburg
	Accredited training Programme implemented	13. Number of accredited training programme implemented	New Indicator	1	1	1	-	Target Achieved.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
Capacitated community media in credible and diverse news and information generation and dissemination by 2029 /30	Developing specialised and targeted skill sets	14. Number of community media and small commercial media projects trained in ethics and disinformation	New Indicator	New Indicator	1	3	2	Target Achieved. Overachievement was driven by the Agency's partnership with the IEC, SANEF, SALGA, Moxii Africa and Africa Check to implement additional pre-election journalist training ahead of the 2026/27 Local Government Elections.

PROGRAMME 5 INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Purpose: The MDDA Act 14 of 2002 on Section 3 (VI) outlines the objectives of the Agency to include (amongst others) to “encourage research regarding media development and diversity”. There is also a lack of research and information specific to the sectors that inform programme development and strategic focus (e.g., not much information on the number of indigenous language newspapers in SA, the number of readers of such newspapers, etc.). The purpose of this programme is therefore to champion research, development, and innovation to create a media development and diversity body of knowledge.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	Audited Actual Performance		Planned Annual Target 2025/26	Actual Achievement 2025/26	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2025/26	Reasons for deviations
			2023/24	2024/25				
A capable, effective, and efficient organisation in support of the delivery of the MDDA mandate	Research projects on key trends/developments impacting the community media sector	15. Number of research projects undertaken on key trends/developments impacting the community media sector	2	4	2	3	1	Target Achieved. Overachievement resulted from supplementary desktop research undertaken by the Research Unit to support the ABC audience measurement study, including analysis of municipal IDPs and SDBIPs across four provinces where 14 ABC-certified community and small commercial publications operate.
	CSCM Audience Measurement Research Conducted	16. Number CSCM Audience Measurement Research Conducted	New Indicator	1	2	2	-	Target Achieved.

Linking performance with budgets

The Agency achieved all set targets for 2025-26 financial year.

Programme/activity/ objective	2025/2026			2024/2025		
	Budget	Actual Expenditure	Over/Under Expenditure	Budget	Actual Expenditure	Over/Under Expenditure
	R	R	R	R	R	R
Governance and Administration	40,186,099	39,869,436	316,663	36,467,566	37,488,949	-1,021,383
Grant and Seed Funding	73,602,000	46,531,744	27,070,256	70,473,477	61,977,238	8,496,239
Partnerships, public awareness and advocacy	4,023,000	3,812,176	210,824	3,297,300	2,796,796	500,504
Capacity building and sector development	3,290,000	3,569,646	-279,646	3,069,586	2,301,172	768,414
Innovation, Research and Development	13,594,000	12,462,805	1,131,195	18,736,659	11,365,433	7,371,226
Total	134,695,099	106,245,807	28,449,292	132,044,588	115,929,588	16,115,000

Strategy to overcome areas of under performance

The Agency achieved all set targets for the 2025-26 financial year.

4 REVENUE COLLECTION

Sources of revenue	2025/2026			2024/2025		
	Estimate	Actual Amount Collected	Over/(Under) Collection	Estimate	Actual Amount Collected	(Over)/Under Collection
	R	R	R	R	R	R
Government grants & subsidies	40,296,000	40,296,000	-	38,568,000	38,568,000	-
Broadcast funders contributions	64,664,401	64,892,404	-228,003	65,541,223	65,736,319	-195,096
Interest received - investments	5,618,655	5,628,328	-9,673	5,366,432	5,356,826	9,606
Total	110,579,056	110,816,732	-237,676	109,475,655	109,661,145	-185,499

Levy collections exceeded the set target by R228,003 while interest earnings reflect that interest exceeded the estimate by R9,673. The over performance in levy collection was achieved through strengthened compliance monitoring, timely invoicing, and proactive debtor engagement, which resulted in more consistent payments.

Interest earnings were slightly above the budget due to effective management of available cash balances and the timely investment of funds during the year. Improved cash flow forecasting and monitoring of available balances supported the favourable performance. The favourable variance had no significant impact on service delivery, as levy revenue remained the primary funding source.

The entity implemented revenue efficiency practices that included debtor communication, real time monitoring through age analysis, immediate referral of arrears to the legal unit, and engagement with ICASA to assist in achieving 100 percent levy collection from commercial radio stations, particularly those with delayed responses or payments. These initiatives contributed to exceeding levy targets and will strengthen future revenue collection.

5 CAPITAL INVESTMENT

• Capital and Asset Plan

Progress was made in implementing the capital, investment and asset management plan through accurate record keeping compliance with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA, Act 1 of 1999), and adherence to Treasury Regulations on asset management.

• Infrastructure Projects

No infrastructure projects exist.

• Facilities Management

The entity operates primarily through leased office space. No closures or downgrades of facilities were undertaken.

• Maintenance of Assets

No asset-maintenance backlog exists.

• Expenditure Impact

Expenditure impacts arose mainly from IT upgrades and replacement of obsolete computer equipment.

• Asset Holdings Changes

Asset holdings changed through disposals of outdated IT hardware, replacement of computer equipment, and minor losses due to theft. All disposals were processed in line with MDDA Assets Policy and National Treasury Asset Management Guidelines.

• Asset Register Accuracy

The asset register was kept up to date through monthly reconciliations, tagging of new acquisitions, and periodic physical verification, in compliance with GRAP 17 (Property, Plant and Equipment).

• Condition of Assets

- 55 percent in good condition
- 30 percent in fair condition
- 15 percent in poor condition (scheduled for replacement)

• Maintenance Backlog

No backlog exists in relation to Capital Expenditure.

Capital Expenditure	2025/2026			2024/2025		
	Budget	Actual Expenditures	Over/Under Expenditure	Budget	Actual Expenditures	Over/Under Expenditure
	R	R	R	R	R	R
New replacement assets	370 000	414 725	44 725	1 579 000	727 518	851 482
Total	370 000	414 725	44 725	1 579 000	727 518	851 482

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

Projects Funded

The MDDA mandate is to support community and small commercial media projects as well as projects targeting historically disadvantaged communities, the support was weighted heavily towards media projects in rural areas.

Print Projects			
No	Project Name	Province	Approved Funding Amount
1	Pondoland Times	Eastern Cape	R 666 221.67
2	Mamba Online	Gauteng	R 264 000.00
3	Digital Afrikan	Gauteng	R 474 000.00
4	Ulwazi Magazine	KwaZulu-Natal	R 450 000.00
5	UThukela News Times	KwaZulu-Natal	R 413 980.00
6	Highveld Chronicle	Mpumalanga	R 504 000.00
7	The Opinion Weekly	Limpopo	R 518 000.00
8	iLiso Labantu	Western Cape	R 602 000.00
9	Suiderpers	Western Cape	R 430 000.00
10	TCOE – Inyanda Community News	Western Cape	R 474 944.00

Broadcasting Projects			
No	Project Name	Province	Approved Funding Amount
1	Radio Kingfisher	Eastern Cape	R 670 000.00
2	Isajonisi Youth Radio	Eastern Cape	R 659 400.00
3	Ndlambe FM	Eastern Cape	R 933 000.00
4	Nkqubela CR	Eastern Cape	R 1 995 000.00
5	Maluti FM	Free State	R 1 148 000.00
6	Eldos FM	Gauteng	R 517 000.00
7	Sedibeng FM	Gauteng	R 1 995 000.00
8	Alex FM	Gauteng	R 1 995 000.00
9	Tshwane TV	Gauteng	R 4 127 000.00
10	Radio Hindvani	KwaZulu-Natal	R 1 995 000.00
11	Nguna FM	KwaZulu-Natal	R 2 339 160.00
12	Blouberg FM	Limpopo	R 775 000.00
13	Sekhukhune CR	Limpopo	R 2 195 000.00
14	Botlokwa FM	Limpopo	R 1 995 000.00
15	Waterberg Wave	Limpopo	R 670 000.00
16	Radio Bushbuckridge	Mpumalanga	R 1 125 000.00
17	Mkhondo CR	Mpumalanga	R 2 225 000.00
18	Mmabatho FM	North West	R 500 000.00
19	Kgatlang FM	North West	R 1 995 000.00
20	Mahikeng FM	North West	R 517 000.00
21	CC FM	Western Cape	R 751 119.00
22	Heartbeat FM	Western Cape	R 1 045 000.00

The above projects were approved during the third quarter of the 2025-2026 financial year, and disbursement will take place in the first quarter of the 2026-2027 financial year.

COMMUNITY PRINT, SMALL COMMERCIAL AND DIGITAL APPROVALS

1 HIGHVELD CHRONICLE



The Highveld Chronicle is a local weekly community newspaper serving the Mpumalanga Highveld Area, specifically the Nkangala District Municipality. The publication was established in May 2016 by Myaba Media Tech, an ICT and media business. The publication was established to address the absence of a newspaper that tells stories of the local black community in the Delmas area.

Their vision is to be a leader in delivering hard-hitting content that bridges society divides through innovative and inclusive technological solutions.

Highlights since establishment include being known as the paper for the people by the people, reaches over 50,000 weekly readers. It employs two (2) full-time experienced staff and eighteen (18) interns. It is recognised by all local municipalities within the Nkangala District and various provincial government departments. The publication has been listed on the supplier database and serves as a media partner to Exxaro, a champion of SMME support.

The publication serves as the voice for the voiceless, telling the stories of the local Black community in English and IsiNdebele. It educates, informs, and empowers, particularly the youth, by highlighting opportunities, showcasing talents, raising awareness on drug abuse, and giving women a platform to speak out against social challenges in their communities.

This is the first time the publication has been approved for MDDA funding. In this current funding cycle, the publication was approved for R504 000.00 to cover operational costs, stipends and administration costs.

2 ILISO LABANTU



Iliso Labantu News is a fortnightly community newspaper founded to fill a critical language and service gap in the media landscape of Cape Town's townships. Launched in 2013 under the name "D-Town," the publication was formalised in 2015 with the registration of IRSI Media SA Pty Ltd.

The founding editor is an award-winning journalist with a track record at national publications who recognised that Xhosa-speaking residents, many from the rural Eastern Cape,

were being excluded from local public discourse. These are especially the elderly, who are literate in isiXhosa and rely on printed material. With most local papers published in English or Afrikaans, the voice of the township's poorest residents was being silenced.

Iliso Labantu News exists to provide these communities with news in a language they understand, covering grassroots, township service delivery issues that mainstream media frequently ignore. Distributed for free, door-to-door in shacks and township homes, and dropped off at shopping centres and taxi ranks, Iliso Labantu News circulates 11,000 copies per edition. It is published twice a month, on the second and last Tuesdays, and runs stories in isiXhosa and English. Funding is sourced primarily from advertising revenue, and operations are run by a small core team with stipends. The paper's survival has relied on sacrifice, community trust, and a deep understanding of local conditions.

This is the first time the publication has been approved for funding by the MDDA. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R602 000.00 to cover operational costs, stipends and administrative costs.

3 INYANDA COMMUNITY NEWS



Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)

Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE) is an NPO that supports a variety of local movements, associations, local forums, and labour organisations in rural and peri-urban areas nationally.

TCOE operates a community newspaper known as Inyanda Community News which is the voice of the rural poor. It is published in isiXhosa, English, Afrikaans, Sesotho and Xitsonga. It focuses mainly on rural development issues, human rights, campaigns against Gender-Based Violence and xenophobia, water and land struggles, food security as well as food sovereignty, advocates for socioeconomic justice and social cohesion. Through media content, it seeks innovative ways to address these challenges.

Inyanda Community News is committed to building and supporting vibrant movements of farmers, forest and farm workers, labour tenants, fishers, small-scale producers, rural women and youth. They challenge patriarchy, political power and corporate capture of the commons, as they advance the rights of the rural poor to access and control the commons for sustainable livelihoods, with capacity to resist and contribute to a post COVID-19 society that is in harmony with nature.

Inyanda Community Newspaper's funding application demonstrates strong alignment with the MDDA's mandate, particularly in advancing multilingual media, strengthening independent community journalism, and supporting rural development through agricultural education.

The publication intends to grow its distribution footprint in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Limpopo, Gauteng (peri-urban), Western Cape and Northern Cape while simultaneously building and maintaining a database of readers for distribution on digital platforms to ensure maximum distribution.

Inyanda Community News was previously funded by the MDDA. In this current funding cycle, it has been approved for R474 944.00 to cover administration, printing and capital costs.

4 MAMBA ONLINE



The MambaOnline.com website was established in 2001 but was only registered as a closed corporation in 2005. The website publishes in English and reaches more than 25,000 unique readers a month (September 2025). Mamba Online (www.MambaOnline.com) is South Africa's longest running and most trusted LGBTIQ+ online community platform, founded to address the glaring absence of news, stories, resources, and visibility for the country's queer community.

The platform has evolved into a vital voice for the historically marginalised LGBTIQ+ community and its allies, providing news, analysis, cultural content, and advocacy coverage. Their work in reporting on and documenting LGBTIQ+ hate crimes in South Africa has been internationally recognised by organisations such as Human Rights Watch. Mamba Online's content spans a diverse range of areas, as reflected in their four content pillars, which are HEALTH & WELL-BEING, SAFETY & JUSTICE, UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD, and JOY, EMPOWERMENT & VISIBILITY.

Mamba Online's target audience is LGBTIQ+ individuals and allies across South Africa, especially queer women and men, transgender and non-binary people, across all demographics. The platform is a vital voice for the disadvantaged LGBTIQ+ community, providing news, analysis, cultural content, and advocacy coverage that is significantly neglected by mainstream media.

The MambaOnline.com website is a first-time recipient of the MDDA funding. In this funding cycle, it has been approved for R 264 000.00, which will cover content production.

5 THE OPINION WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



The Opinion Weekly is a community rooted newspaper established in 2009 in the Vhembe District of Limpopo. Originally launched as a modest print newsletter, it has since grown into a trusted and consistent weekly publication that reflects the voices, culture, and concerns of local communities. Over the years, it has become a vital platform for storytelling, journalism, and sociopolitical commentary in a region where mainstream media often overlook grassroots realities.

Driven by a commitment to authentic representation, The Opinion Weekly seeks to bridge the gap between rural communities and media access by empowering the public with credible and relevant local news content. The newspaper is published in Tshivenda and English.

The Opinion Weekly operates within the Vhembe District Municipality, Limpopo Province. The area is largely rural, with high unemployment levels, particularly among youth. Many households rely on social grants and informal trading. Access to quality health care and education is uneven, with limited resources in rural schools and clinics. Service delivery challenges persist in water, sanitation, and road infrastructure. Despite these difficulties, the community is rich in culture, with strong social networks and a growing demand for access to reliable, locally relevant news and information.

Now entering a transformative phase, The Opinion Weekly is preparing to introduce digital storytelling platforms aimed at reaching a wider, tech-savvy youth audience while preserving the intimacy and accessibility of community.

The Opinion Weekly is receiving funding from the MDDA for the first time. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R518 000.00 to cover capital expenditure and administration costs.

6 PONDOLAND TIMES



Pondoland Times is a community-owned print and digital newspaper based in Bizana, serving the four local municipalities of the Alfred Nzo District —Mbizana, Matatiele, Ntabankulu and Umzimvubu. Pondoland Times' first edition was published in March 2021 and since then the newspaper has been growing steadily. The newspaper is published in English every Friday, and distributed to Bizana, Port Edward, Lusikisiki, Flagstaff, Kokstad, Ntabankulu, Mount Ayliff and Mount Frere.

The publication bridges the information gap between rural citizens and decision-makers by producing credible, accessible and development-focused journalism that empowers readers with practical knowledge. It aims to link communities of Mpondoland to opportunities, combat unemployment and misinformation, through quality journalism and innovative storytelling, empowering a brighter future for Pondoland through print and digital media.

This is the first time Pondoland Times will be funded by the MDDA. In this current cycle it was approved for R666,221.67 which will cover capital expenditure.

7 SA HOMESCHOOLING AND BEYOND



The Digital Afrikan (Pty) Ltd was established in 2023 and acquired SA Homeschooling & Beyond from Isikhova Publishing in February 2025. The original publication was first launched in September 2020 by Isikhova Publishing. The organisation is owned by three members, Taahir Hoorzook, Earl Joseph and Stanley Moloto. The publication is published in English and aims to build on its existing foundation to create a more inclusive, diverse, and community-driven platform that supports families, educators, and child development professionals across South Africa.

As a digital publication, SA Homeschooling & Beyond offers professionally produced content that is both credible and accessible. It provides weekly website updates, monthly newsletters, and quarterly themed digital magazines focused on education, parenting, and childhood development. The project seeks to grow SA Homeschooling & Beyond into a comprehensive resource that responds to the realities of South Africa's education and parenting landscape.

The publication uses multiple platforms, such as website, e-mail newsletters, social media, digital magazine, and WhatsApp to distribute accessible, evidence-based and community-driven content. This approach ensures that parents, caregivers, and professionals have access to practical information that supports children's learning and development. The Digital Afrikan is a 100 percent Black-owned Level 1 B-BBEE SMME that aims to become the most trusted and supportive resource for families, bridging educational divides.

This is the first time the SA HOMESCHOOLING AND BEYOND has qualified for MDDA funding. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R474 000.00 to cover capital costs, stipends, operational and administrative costs.

8 SUIDPERS



Suiderspers/Southern Post is a bilingual (Afrikaans and English) small commercial print newspaper based in Bredasdorp in the Overberg within the Cape Agulhas Municipality in the Western Cape. This newspaper was initially founded in 1928 and has been an independent newspaper throughout its existence.

Suiderspers has a quintessential Overberg flavour and a strong affinity for cultural heritage, tradition and social issues unique to its community, making it popular across racial groups and different LSMs. The newspaper is distributed free of charge at libraries, schools, old-age homes and select coffee shops in the area to ensure accessibility.

Suiderspers has remained an independent community publication throughout dedicated to community news. Importantly, the newspaper is not a 'jacket for ads'. The paper covers news, culture, sport and community issues, complemented by profiles, in-depth features, columns and quality photography.

The publication is committed to literacy, and access to quality writing and excellent journalism. The publication runs regular book give-aways, crossword puzzles and other word-related activities, and covers book club news, book launches and book-related topics extensively.

This is the first time the publication is being funded by the MDDA. In this funding cycle, the publication was approved for R518 000.00 to cover administrative costs, stipends and capital expenditure.

9 ULWAZI MAGAZINE



Ulwazi Magazine is a quarterly magazine for teenagers launched in 2023, born out of a passionate vision by its founder and former schoolteacher, who witnessed firsthand the significant gaps in resources and information available to township learners. It is published in IsiZulu and English.

Ulwazi Magazine is dedicated to educating, inspiring, and motivating young people between the ages of 13 and 19. The magazine's mission is to provide high-quality, relevant, and engaging content that empowers teenagers to make informed decisions and positively shape their future. Ulwazi Magazine was founded with the vision of creating a comprehensive resource for high school learners in Umlazi and beyond. Recognising a gap in the market for accessible and relatable content tailored to the needs and interests of teens.

It covers topics such as careers, bullying, mental health, body image, social issues, entrepreneurship, music, and sports. Each issue includes interactive elements like quizzes and games, as well as reader submissions like letters, poetry, and artwork. The content is designed to be relatable and relevant to high school learners, encouraging their engagement.

The print edition is distributed for free to 10,000 high school learners in Umlazi, KwaZulu-Natal, while the online presence through a dedicated website and social media platforms extends the magazine's reach to a wider audience.

The magazine was previously funded by the MDDA in 2023. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R450 000.00 to cover operational and printing costs.

10 UTHUKELA NEWS TIMES



UTHukela News Times is a non-profit company that was established in 2022 as an online news and media platform dedicated to serving the communities of the UThukela District in KwaZulu-Natal. The publication operates as a digital

publication and was founded by four media enthusiasts, who share a commitment to providing accurate, relevant, and community-focused news.

The digital publication operates in The UThukela District, specifically in Alfred Duma, a largely rural area, with three local municipalities: Okhahlamba, Inkosi Langalibalele, and Alfred Duma. Residents largely depend on grants, agriculture, and informal trading, while urban centres such as Ladysmith and Estcourt provide some formal employment opportunities through factories like Dunlop, Defy, and Nestle.

By publishing content in isiZulu, the platform ensures inclusivity and cultural relevance. The digital publication produces original articles, podcasts, and vodcasts, offering a variety of formats to engage the community effectively and encourage civic participation through local journalism.

The publication is aligned to MDDA's objectives of promoting indigenous languages and operating in an underserved community where media diversity is much needed.

In this current funding cycle, UThukela News Times was approved for R413 980.00, which will cover administrative, capital and operational costs.

COMMUNITY RADIO BROADCAST APPROVALS

1 ALEX FM



Alex FM is a community-based radio station that broadcasts to 350 000 listeners in Alexandra Township, located next to the affluent suburb of Sandton, which is part of the Johannesburg Metro in the Gauteng province. It was established by the people of Alexandra in recognition of the critical role that community media plays in promoting development and social cohesion.

The station was founded in 1994 and attained its first broadcast licence on 10 October 2013. It was created as a platform for information sharing, education, and empowerment, driven by the belief that a community radio station can be a powerful vehicle for self-reliance, local participation, and sustainable development.

The community radio station broadcasts 24 hours a day on the frequency 89.1 MHz. It broadcast in: IsiZulu 20%, English 15%, IsiXhosa 15%, Setswana 10%, Xitsonga 10%, SeSotho 8%, Tshivenda 5%, and other languages 2%.

Alex Fm was last funded by the MDDA in 2006, and for this current funding, the station was approved for R1 995 000.00,

which will cover capital expenditure and administration costs.

2 BLOUBERG FM



Blouberg FM is a community radio station situated at Senwabarwana TVET College in Bochum, within the Blouberg Local Municipality of the Capricorn District, Limpopo Province. With a confirmed listenership of 172,60, the station broadcasts on the 95.0 MHz frequency, covering areas extending approximately 60 to 100 KMs from Senwabarwana town.

The community radio station was established in 2019, with the mandate to educate, entertain, empower, and promote dialogue across various sectors of the community, as well as to encourage active community involvement, job creation, skills development, and overall community growth. Blouberg FM specifically targets the Sehanwanwa-speaking community, a dialect of Sepedi, ensuring that programming remains locally relevant and culturally grounded.

Blouberg FM broadcasts in Sepedi 60%, Sehanwana 30%, and English 10%. Surrounded by small towns, villages, and both farming and mining communities, Blouberg Community Radio leverages its unique position to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage and rich mining landscape.

The station was previously funded in 2022, and in this current funding cycle it has been approved for R775 000.00 to cover transmission fees, content production and administration costs.

3 BOTLOKWA FM



Botlokwa FM is a community radio station based in the Capricorn District, within the Molemole Local Municipality of Limpopo Province on the frequency 89.3 MHz. It has a listenership of 45 000. Its studios are located at the Machaka Thusong Service Centre, Mphakane Botlokwa, conveniently situated along the N1 highway between Polokwane and Makhado.

The station was established in 1996 and officially went on air in 2000; it continues to broadcast 24 hours a day in Sethlokwa also referred to as Setlokoa (a Sepedi dialect/Northern Sotho) and in English. The language breakdown is Sepedi 90% and English 10%.

The founding members of Botlokwa FM created the station to revive, promote and retain Batlokwa cultural heritage, traditional art, traits, norms and language, including the Tswana/Bakgatla group, with histories of migration, chieftaincy, and rich tradition. Botlokwa FM helps maintain those cultural ties through broadcasting in the local dialect and by focusing on local cultural content.

The station was last funded by the MDDA in 2008. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R1 995 000.00. The funds will be used for capital expenditure which includes on-air and production studios, and insurance.

4 BUSHBUCKRIDGE COMMUNITY RADIO



Bushbuckridge Community Radio broadcasts on the frequency 88.4 FM from Bushbuckridge, 20km north of Nelspruit, in the Mpumalanga. The station's area of broadcast covers Bushbuckridge, Phalaborwa, Blyde River Canyon, Lydenburg, Waterval Boven, Sabie and White River. The programming is multilingual, including Sesotho, Siswati, Tsonga and English, with a mix of 55% music and 45% talk, directed at its 340 000 listeners.

The station is owned and managed by community members through the elected board of directors. Radio Bushbuckridge, which is often referred to as BBR, originated from a health seminar that was held in Bushbuckridge in October 1993. The seminar was co-hosted by the Kaizer Family Foundation of South Africa, Open Society Foundation of South Africa, the Health System Trust, the Wits University Learning Information Networking Knowledge (LINK) project and the community of Bushbuckridge.

BBR has been previously funded by the MDDA in the following years, 2011, 2020 and 2022. The current approved funding is R1 125 000.00, which will cover capital expenditure and administration costs.

5 CCFM



Cape Community FM (CCFM) is a Christian community radio station based in Muizenberg, Cape Town, in the Western Cape. Radio CCFM has two frequencies, 107.5fm which serves the greater Cape Metropolitan area (main coverage) and 96.7fm that goes into the FishHoek Valley and surrounds.

The station's objective is to provide its community with important news and information of significant value, underpinned by a commitment to broadcasting a transformative message of hope and love rooted in Christian principles. It broadcasts in English 80%, Afrikaans 10% and IsiXhosa 10%.

It was established in 1993 as Radio Fish Hoek by the Fish Hoek Baptist Church, CCFM has grown to serve a diverse audience across Cape Town and its surrounding areas. The station broadcasts a blend of contemporary Christian music, engaging talk shows, interviews, and provides up-to-date news, weather, and traffic information. CCFM's mission, encapsulated in its slogan "Changing lives for good," reflects its commitment to uplifting and positively impacting the community through faith-based content.

CCFM was last funded by the MDDA in 2022. In the current funding period, it has been approved for R751 119,00 to cover capital expenditure, content production and transmission fees.

6 ELDOS FM



Eldos FM is a community radio station based in Eldorado Park, a predominantly Coloured township in the Johannesburg Metro, Gauteng province. The station has 153 000 listeners and is licensed to broadcast around Eldorado Park & surrounding areas such as Slovo Park, Freedom Park & Kilton.

It was founded in 2007 and started broadcasting on a special events licence in 2008, was granted its first 5-year license in July 2009. The station started broadcasting for 24 hours every day from 04 December 2009. The station's language component is made up of 50% Afrikaans, 40 % English and 3.33% isiZulu, 3.33% isiXhosa and 3.33% SeSotho.

Eldos FM takes its responsibility of nation-building and celebrating the country's diversity seriously. The station also promotes the culture of reading in the local languages and has partnered with Die Boek Feetjie- A local home-based literacy project and Nali Bali to talk about the importance of reading and fostering a culture of reading among children.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2010, 2014, and 2021. In this current funding cycle, Eldos FM has been approved for R517 000.00 to cover administration costs and content production.

7 HEARTBEAT FM



Heartbeat FM is Christian community radio station broadcasting on 103.9 FM in George and 107.4 FM in Oudtshoorn, serving the Greater Oudtshoorn and Kannaland municipal areas in the Western Cape. The station has 190 000 listeners spread across the Eden District and Kannaland Municipality.

The station was established on 29th May 2014 by Avril and Clorida Ahrends with the mission of developing the physical, psychological, spiritual, technical and commercial talents within their community, creating an environment for individuals to reach their full potential.

Heartbeat FM broadcasts in Afrikaans 60%, English 20% and isiXhosa 20% to advance development, peace, rights of children, youth, women and the physically challenged. The station provides sustainable Christian programming that serves and promotes the interests of its communities, targeting anyone who enjoys gospel activities or identifies as a Christian believer.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2021. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R1 045 000,00 to cover capital expenditure, transmission fees (Sentech), content production and administration costs.

8 HINDVANI FM



Radio Hindvani is a community radio station under the Hindi Shiksha Sangh (HSS). It has approximately 90,000 listeners

spread across Durban, Chatsworth, Pietermaritzburg, Stanger, and Umkomaas, in KwaZulu-Natal.

The station was established in 1998 and has been a pivotal platform for promoting the Hindi language and culture in South Africa. It is licensed by ICASA, and broadcasts on 91.5 FM in Durban and 102.3 FM in Pietermaritzburg.

The broadcast language split is Hindi 50% and English 50%, and it promotes Hindi language, music, and Hindu scriptures, while also focusing on community development, engagement, volunteerism, education, and nation-building.

Radio Hindvani addresses various community issues, including employment for young people, legal matters, fundraising for local charities, and awareness on social challenges like gender-based violence and substance abuse. Its programming is community-driven, with significant involvement from local stakeholders.

This is the first time Radio Hindvani is being funded by the MDDA. In this current funding cycle, it has been approved for R1 995 000.00 to cover capital expenditure and administration costs.

9 KGATLENG COMMUNITY RADIO



Kgatlang FM is a community radio station based in Rustenburg, Moses Kotane Local Municipality within the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, in the North West province. The station has 20 000 listeners and broadcasts on frequency 91.3 MHz covering Rustenburg and surrounding areas such as Phokeng, Tlhabane, Boitekong, and nearby villages.

The idea to create a community radio station came from the emancipated youth of Moses Kotane local municipality, in 2012 and it finally went on air in 2016. The languages of broadcast are Setswana 90% and English 10%. The format of the license is 60% talk and 40% music.

Kgatlang Community Radio has cemented itself within its community as an ideal tool to disseminate information, broadcast local news, educate the community and address socio-economic issues.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2015. In this current cycle of funding, it has been approved for R1 995 000.00 to cover capital expenditure, transmission fees (Sentech) and administration costs.

10 KINGFISHER FM

Kingfisher FM is a Christian community radio station based in Gqeberha, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality in the Eastern Cape. The station broadcasts on the frequency 107.5 and 103.8 MHz and has been serving the community of Nelson Mandela Bay for nearly three decades. It was established in 1995, and has become a trusted voice in the region, offering programming that addresses the holistic needs of its listeners, spiritual, social, and personal.

Kingfisher FM has a listenership of 53 020, which reaches audiences across the whole of Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and surrounding areas where community members live, study, and work. The languages of broadcast are IsiXhosa 30%, English 50%, and Afrikaans 20%. Recognising the impact of technological advancement on media, Kingfisher FM is now positioning itself to expand beyond traditional radio broadcasting into digital media platforms such as video production, podcasting, and vlogging.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2022. For this current funding cycle, the station has been approved for R670 000.00, to cover capital expenditure, content development and transmission fees.

11 MAHIKENG FM

Mahikeng FM is a community radio station based in Mahikeng in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, North West province. The station has a listenership of 107 000 that are keen followers of its 60% talk and 40% music, which is on the pulse of the evolving Mahikeng culture. Mahikeng FM has succeeded in reaching the hearts of its listeners with content that informs, entertains, and inspires various age groups and genders.

The station was founded in 2008, aiming to be the number one community radio station in the North West to unite listeners across the region. It broadcasts in Setswana 60%, English 20% and Afrikaans 40%, creating a platform for the residents of Mahikeng to fully express itself.

Mahikeng FM was previously funded by the MDDA in 2016, 2020 (Covid19 relief fund) and 2023. In this current cycle of funding, it was approved for R 517 000.00, to cover capital expenditure, content production and administration.

12 MALUTI FM

Maluti FM is a community radio station based in Bethlehem in the Dihlabeng Local Municipality, Free State province. The station is self-transmitting with two of their own transmitters, one in Bethlehem with a frequency on 97.1 and in April 2025 a second transmitter was put up in Clarens with the frequency on 103.1.

It broadcasts in Afrikaans 80% and English 20% and has a listenership of 59 000. To further serve its diverse audiences, Maluti FM collaborates with Dihlabeng FM by training Sesotho presenters and then offering them a platform to present on Dihlabeng FM.

Maluti FM supported the establishment of Dihlabeng FM by providing a transmitter, studio equipment and furniture. The two stations continue to work together in serving the specific needs of their local community by providing a platform for diverse voices, fostering community engagement and promoting social development.

This is the first time Maluti FM has been funded by the MDDA. They were approved for R1 148 000.00. The funds will be used for capital expenditure and administration costs.

13 MKHONDO FM

Mkhondo FM is a community radio station based in Piet Retief in the Mkhondo Local Municipality, Gert Sibande in Mpumalanga. It broadcasts on frequency 96.6 MHz to a listenership of 76 000. The station is a fast-growing community radio station with a broadcast reach of over 100 km and an estimated daily listenership of around 100,000, including a growing online audience. This community radio station was founded by a group of young people led by Sabelo Hlatshwayo, the vision bearer, whose efforts from 2007 culminated in the official establishment of the station in 2014.

The station broadcasts in IsiZulu 97.7%, English 1.18%, IsiSwati-1.18% and Afrikaans 0.68%. The station focuses its energy on programmes that promote multicultural development, poverty alleviation, socio-economic awareness, education, local talent promotion, health awareness (particularly regarding HIV/AIDS), human rights, child and women abuse, and overall community welfare.

Mkhondo FM was previously funded by the MDDA in 2011 and 2022. In this current funding cycle, the station has been approved for R2 225 000,00 to cover capital expenditure, transmission fees and administration costs.

14 MMABATHO FM



Mmabatho FM is a Christian community radio station based in Mmabatho, Ngaka Modiri Molema district in the North West province. The station broadcasts on frequency 107.7 MHz, which covers several villages and towns including Mahikeng, Lichtenburg, Koster, Itsoeseng, Bodibe, Kraaipan, Lehurutshe, Zeerust, Ventersdorp, Khunwana, Madibogo, Disaneng and Botswana.

The station broadcasts in Setswana 75%, IsiXhosa 15%, English 5%, and Afrikaans 5%. Driven by a commitment to empower local voices, Mmabatho FM continuously promotes emerging talent and independent artists while creating opportunities for dialogue and knowledge exchange. Its community-centred broadcasting approach ensures that Mahikeng residents and surrounding areas remain informed, engaged, and connected.

The station has been previously funded by the MDDA in 2014 and 2022. During this current cycle of funding, Mmabatho FM was approved for R500 000.00 to cover capital expenditure, specifically to assist with the station's studio relocation.

15 NDLAMBE FM



Ndlambe FM 99.0 is a community radio station serving the Ndlambe Local Municipality in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality (SBDM), formerly known as Cacadu District Municipality, the largest district municipality in the Eastern Cape. The station has a listenership of 85 000 spread across the communities of Alexandria, Bathurst, Boknesstrand, Cannon Rocks, Kenton-on-Sea, and Port Alfred.

Ndlambe FM broadcasts in English 75%, Afrikaans 10%, and isiXhosa 15%. The station falls within the Eastern Coastal Zone area, which is described as an area with major tourism potential, and it also prides itself with being strong on diversity and inclusivity, as the staff complement is 60% youth, 30% female and 10% people with disabilities.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2019. In this current funding cycle, Ndlambe FM was approved for R933 000.00. The funds will be used for transmission fees (self-transmission) and capital expenditure (studio refurbishment, inverter and OBE device).

16 NGUNA FM



Ngunu FM, also known as Ulundi Christian Radio Station, is a community radio station serving Ulundi and the surrounding areas within the Zululand District Municipality. With a listenership of 56 000, on frequency 89.0 MHz, the station reaches audiences across Zululand, King Cetshwayo, uMkhanyakude, and parts of the iLembe and uMzinyathi districts.

Ngunu FM's languages of broadcast are IsiZulu 80% and English 20%, its programming is deeply rooted in the community, broadcasting a unique blend of Christian-focused programming, hyper-local news, and cultural content primarily in isiZulu. One of the station's key objectives are to promote and preserve the Zulu culture by broadcasting content that celebrates the language, oral traditions, history, and cultural practices, honouring Ulundi's status as the royal seat of the Zulu nation.

This is the first time the station is funded by the MDDA, and it was approved for R2 339 160.00. The funds will be used for cover, capital expenditure, administration, and transmission fees.

17 NKQUBELA COMMUNITY RADIO



Nkqubela Community Radio Station is based at Ziyabuya Shopping Centre in KwaDwesi, a Township complex in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Gqeberha, in the Eastern Cape. The station broadcasts on the frequency 97.0 FM, reaching Kirkwood, Jeffery's Bay and the outskirts of Nelson Mandela Bay.

Nkqubela Community Radio was granted its broadcasting licences in 2003 by ICASA and officially went on air on the 8th of May 2004 to date. The broadcasting languages are Xhosa 60 %, Afrikaans 10% and English 30%.

The station is proud of its spirit of diversity and inclusivity, showcased in its staff complement of 65% youth, 33% female, 2% people with disabilities. To give back to the community Nkqubela Community Radio recruits interns from local Universities and TVET colleges.

The MDDA previously funded Nkqubela in 2022. In this current funding cycle, the station has been approved for R1 995 000.00 to cover administrative fees and capital expenditure (on air studio and production studios).

18 SAJONISI YOUTH RADIO

Sajonisi Youth Radio is a community radio station that is based in Port St John's in the O.R. Tambo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape. The station broadcasts on the frequency 88.5 MHz, which spreads across Ingquza Hill Local Municipality, KSD Local Municipality, Mhlontlo Local Municipality, Nyandeni Local Municipality and Alfred Ndzo District Municipality Areas.

Boasting a listenership of 93 000, Sajonisi Youth Radio is one of the few radio stations in the area that broadcasts the majority of its programs in IsiMpondo, which is 60% with IsiXhosa getting 20% and 10% allocated to English. This strategic move has ensured the preservation of the IsiMpondo indigenous language, and it continues to be spoken in various areas such as Port St Johns, Lusikisiki, Flagstaff, Bizane, Port Shepstone, Mount Frere, Ntabankulu, Ntlaza, Libode, Mthatha, Xhora, Mqanduli, Ngqeleni, Coffee Bay and Engcobo.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2016, 2018 and 2022. In this current funding cycle, it was approved for R 659 400, 00 to cover capital expenditure, transmission fees (Sentech), content production and administration costs.

19 SEDIBENG FM

Sedibeng FM is a community radio station based in Bedworthpark in the Emfuleni Local Municipality under Sedibeng District Municipality in Gauteng. The station was established in 2012 by the community of Sedibeng led by Mr. Jeoffrey Seleka who is highly experienced in the media industry. It first went on air in May 2014 and has been on air ever since, now boasting a listenership of 140 000.

The station broadcasts on the frequency 104.8 MHz, which covers (Vaal triangle) Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Meyerton, and Heidelberg. With streaming, the station's footprint extends to surrounding areas, including Johannesburg and parts of the Free State, North West, and Mpumalanga provinces. Sedibeng FM broadcasts in Sesotho 90%, IsiXhosa 13%, IsiZulu 7%, English 15%.

This is the first time the station is being funded by the MDDA. In this current funding cycle, Sedibeng FM has been approved for R1 995 000.00. The funds will be used for capital expenditure which includes on-air and production studios, and administration costs.

20 SEKHUKHUNE COMMUNITY RADIO

Sekhukhune Community radio also known as SKFM is based in Jane Furse in the Sekhukhune District Municipality, in Limpopo. The station broadcasts on the frequency 98.7 FM, and focuses on local news, community issues and entertainment. Its footprint extends to parts of the Mpumalanga province.

It broadcasts in Sepedi 92%, English 5%, and IsiNdebele 3%. Sekhukhune Community Radio was established through the initiative of the Hlatlolanang Health Nutrition and Education Centre, whose staff members had visited Cape Town and were impressed by the Zibonele Community Radio station in Khayelitsha. They brought the concept back and shared it with their community.

The station was launched in 1997 and successfully acquired offices, studio equipment, and a transmission tower with funding from the Kaizer Family Foundation (KKF). Over time, the station developed its operational systems and gained valuable experience by hosting two special broadcast events in 2001 and 2002, which involved both staff and community members in community radio broadcasting.

Sekhukhune Community Radio has previously benefited from the MDDA funding in 2014. In this current funding cycle, the station was approved for R 2 195 000.00 to cover capital expenditure (on-air and production studios), insurance and transmission fees.

21 TSHWANE TV

Tshwane TV is a community television broadcaster based in Pretoria, within the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, in Gauteng. It broadcasts in IsiZulu 12.5%, English 12.5%, Setswana 12.5%, Sepedi 12.5%, Afrikaans 12.5%, Tshivenda 12.5%, and IsiXhosa 12.5%.

The station began broadcasting in 2010, after initially applying for a license during the period when the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) was issuing temporary community television licenses under an unclear regulatory framework. Due to limited funding and resources at the time, Tshwane TV officially went on air in 2011, following the award of a seven-year license by ICASA.

Tshwane TV serves a diverse set of communities from the suburban city dwellers to the surrounding townships including Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Soshanguve, Mabopane, of untold stories.

The station was last funded by the MDDA in 2011. In this funding cycle, Tshwane TV has been approved for R4 127 000.00. The funds will be used for capital expenditure which includes inverter back-up, automated schedule system, sound and recording booth, transmission fees (Sentech & Telemedia), and content production.

22 WATERBERG WAVE FM



The Waterberg Wave Community Radio station is situated within the UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve in Leseding, Vaalwater, within the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. It broadcasts on frequency 92.8 FM. The station is a community-led initiative dedicated to serving the marginalised and previously disadvantaged rural communities of the Modimolle-Mookgophong and surrounding areas within the Waterberg District Municipality.

Waterberg Community Radiobroadcasts in Sepedi 60%, English 20%, Setswana 10%, Afrikaans 5% and Ndebele 5%. The station has a listenership of between 15 000 and 30 000, which are benefitting from its mission to provide a crucial platform for underrepresented rural and farming communities, particularly women, youth, and people with disabilities, to enhance their media literacy and voice their concerns.

The station was previously funded by the MDDA in 2023. In this current funding cycle, the station has been approved for R670 000.00, which will cover costs for content production, administration and capital expenditure.

SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND OUTREACH – 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

PRE-GRANT CALL WORKSHOPS & GOVERNANCE TRAININGS

The Sector Development, Research and Outreach Unit in partnership with the Projects Division, Legal and Risk Unit and the Communications and Stakeholder Relations Unit hosted a sector wide pre-grant call, Governance and compliance workshops in seven (7) provinces. Other government entities that play a critical role in the MDDA Grant Process were also invited. These stakeholders include the Department of Social Development (DSD), the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), Sentech, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

The 3-day programme was designed to empower community media leaders, board members, and the public with critical skills in leadership, ethics, media management, and governance. This training forms part of the MDDA's commitment to strengthening the capacity of community media organisations, ensuring they are better equipped to lead sustainable, ethical, and well-governed institutions that meet the information and communication needs of their communities.

The workshops were implemented as follows:

- 02 – 04 June 2025 – North West
- 19 June 2025 - Mpumalanga
- 07 July 2025 – Cape Town
- 09 July 2025 – East London
- 14 – 16 July 2025 – Pietermaritzburg
- 22 – 24 July 2025 – Bloemfontein
- 28-30 July 2025 – Polokwane

MARKETING & SALES TRAINING

The Agency partnered with Mediamark in implementing a three-day Marketing and Sales training targeted for both print and broadcast media projects. Mediamark, a leading radio sales house under Kagiso Media, to co-design and implement a Marketing and Sales Training Programme for MDDA-supported grantees. The training took place in August, on the 26th – 28th at the Mediamark offices.

GRANTEE ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

On the 30th September 2025, the Sector Development, Research and Outreach Unit collaborated with other Business Units to implement an online Grantee Orientation Refresher Workshop targeted at beneficiaries under disbursement during the period under review. This session was aimed at taking grantees through the compliance requirements of the MDDA Grant Process and re-emphasise the importance of adhering to the Grant-In-Aid Agreement and the Schedule of Particulars. The Workshop was attended by 80 community media representatives.

BROADCAST TECHNICAL TRAINING

This two-phased accredited training program was designed to provide radio operators with the technical skills and knowledge

needed to operate and maintain a community radio station equipment. The training comprised of both theory and practical sessions which covered a range of topics, including the use of various types of radio equipment (microphones, mixing boards, and audio software, radio transmitters and antennas), broadcast spectrum management, how to operate and monitor equipment, fault finding, maintenance and repair, control signal strength and sound quality, and general day-to-day operations of a studio. During the period under review, community broadcasters in coastal provinces were targeted. The first phase of the training took place from the 30th June – 03rd July 2025 and phase two from the 08th – 10th September 2025. Phase two covered the practical training and students that successfully submitted their POEs received their certificates.

PARTNERSHIP WITH FRAY COLLEGE, UNAIDS, UN Women, SANAC AND THE UNITED NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: TIK TOK TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA JOURNALISTS AND CONTENT CREATORS – INTERSECTION BETWEEN GBV AND HIV

South Africa continues to face interlinked crises of HIV and gender-based violence. These dual epidemics share common drivers such as inequality, economic stress, harmful gender norms, coercive relationships, and stigma. Communities often lack accurate and accessible information about how GBV increases HIV risk and how HIV stigma can silence survivors. Community journalists and content creators play a key role in shifting narratives and amplifying survivor-centred, fact-based and youth-friendly messaging. TikTok has become one of the most influential platforms for reaching young people and shaping public dialogue.

The Agency partnered with Fray College, UNAIDS, UN Women, the United Nations Communications Group and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) in implementing a one-day training for Community Media Journalists and Content Creators exploring the Intersection between GBV and HIV.

The training was held on the 04th December 2025 and the purpose of the training was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to communicate the HIV and GBV connection in ways that are impactful, ethical and tailored for TikTok audiences. It includes practical demonstrations, hands-on tool usage and opportunities to create videos.

Nineteen (19) participants attended the training, seven were male and 12 were female. Three of the participants were interns in the Sector Development, Research and Outreach Unit. Eighteen of the participants were African/Black and one Indian.

Participants were from the following organisations: Loxion News, Globe Post, SABC, Wits Vuvuzela, Xenor Project, Express Yourself magazine, Guardian Report, Wits, Inner City Gazette, Rosebank College, Olifants News and THISABILITY Newspaper.

PARTNERSHIP TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA JOURNALISTS AND CONTENT

As part of the MDDA's mandate to promote media diversity, development, and sustainability; particularly amongst historically disadvantaged and community-based media there is a critical need to build the capacity of grassroots publishers. Engagements with the sector and sector assessments have highlighted ongoing challenges in audience development, digital adaptation, and content presentation, all of which directly impact the viability and reach of small publishers.

Critical gaps identified include:

- Audience development and digital engagement.
- Design and layout for print and digital platforms.
- Photography and visual content curation; and
- Audio-visual storytelling to improve content diversity and audience reach.

These gaps impact not only the quality of content but also audience retention, advertising potential, and long-term financial sustainability. On the 08th – 09th December 2025 the Unit implemented a two-day workshop for selected community and small commercial publishers which covered the following thematic areas:

- **Module 1:** Audience Development and Engagement Strategies - strategies for building loyal readership and growing community audiences.
- **Module 2:** Design and Layout for Print and Digital Publications - improving publication aesthetics for both print and digital formats.
- **Module 3:** Photography and Visual Communication - using compelling imagery to enhance storytelling.
- **Module 4:** Audio-Visual Storytelling for Grassroots Media - integrating video and digital storytelling to diversify content delivery and engagement.

The training was attended by 21 participants, six were female and 15 males. Twenty were African/Black and one Indian. The organisations in attendance include Inner City Gazette, Loxion News, Express Yourself Magazine, Womanity Magazine, Weekly SA Mirror, Religious News, NEMISA Students, Multi Soul Solutions, Imbizo Magazine, Desire for Life Foundation, News Ezimtoti, Joburg Brief, Soweto Life News, Tshwane Bulletin Newspaper, KwaNdebele News, Step Up News and 3Ps Media House.

GOOGLE NEWS INITIATIVE (GNI) COMMUNITY MEDIA DIGITAL SKILLS PROGRAMME

In January 2026, the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) in partnership with Google successfully implemented a national Community Media Digital Skills Programme through the Google News Initiative (GNI). The initiative formed part of the MDDA's mandate to promote media development and respond to the digital capacity and sustainability gaps within community media sector.

The programme was delivered across five provincial clusters: Cape Town and Paarl (Western Cape), East London (Eastern

Cape), Durban (KwaZulu-Natal), Johannesburg (Gauteng), and Polokwane (Limpopo) respectively. Provincial Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) offices provided critical coordination and free venue support in the four provinces while in KwaZulu-Natal, Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) also contributed venue leading to a successful and cost-effective implementation.

The program combined both formal indoor presentations and practical outdoor demonstrations delivered through the Mobile Learning Lab, facilitated by Daily Maverick and GNI trainers. These were conducted in selected local languages including English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Afrikaans and Sepedi to ensure comprehension and inclusivity.

Participants were introduced to key emerging technologies for integration within their newsrooms including Google Trends, Google Analytics, audience growth strategies, News Consumer Insights, digital safety practices and AI-enabled applications (Gemini). These tools were presented as mechanisms to improve audience understanding, enhance content planning and development, and maximize digital revenue opportunities. Short quizzes with prizes were incorporated during the outdoor activities which contributed to active participation. This blended learning approach ensured both conceptual understanding and practical exposure to digital tools that are relevant to the sustainability of community media institutions.

In terms of attendance, each session accommodated between 20 and 35 participants reaching a total of 177 community media practitioners overall. This includes station managers, editors, journalists, content producers and digital marketing personnel representing community radio, print publications and emerging digital media practitioners (attendance data attached).

Post-event survey data indicates strong participant satisfaction and engagement with an average satisfaction rating of 4.88 out of 5. Participants expressions reflects improved confidence in applying digital tools, better understanding of audience analytics, and increased awareness of diversified revenue opportunities. They also expressed a strong need for deeper, more hands-on training and advanced modules to strengthen the implementation. This broadly has implications beyond immediate satisfaction, that the digital capacity building is not a once-off intervention but should be continuous to align with a rapidly evolving media landscape. It also highlights the need for sustained and structured training programmes, including refresher sessions to ensure that skills acquired translate into measurable improvement.

In conclusion, this programme represented a successful public-private partnership that has promoted local language inclusion, contributed meaningfully to strengthening digital capacity and transformation, sustainability and media diversity within South Africa's community media sector. The geographic spread across provinces, including local areas further ensured equal access and broad sector participation.

Below is the summary of workshop implementation and attendance breakdown:

MDDA/GOOGLE PUBLISHER WORKSHOPS					
Date	Province	Location	Language(s)	Venue TBC	Number
19-Jan-26	WC	Cape Town	English /IsiXhosa	Iziko Museum	39
20-Jan-26	WC	Paarl	Afrikaans	Paarl Thusong Centre	21
22-Jan-26	EC	East London	IsiXhosa	Cambridge Hall, EL	33
26-Jan-26	KZN	Durban	IsiZulu	Mangosuthu University	24
29-Jan-26	GP	Johannesburg	English	Google SA Office, JHB	23
31-Jan-26	LP	Polokwane	Sepedi	University of Limpopo	37
Total Attended					177

GOVERNANCE, COMPLIANCE, RISK AND STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS

During the period under review the Unit in collaboration with the Legal and Risk and Broadcast Units implemented a Governance, Compliance, Risk Management and Strategic Planning training as part of the pre-conditions set out in the grant approval of Kgatleng FM and Tshwane TV. The training was implemented on the 5th of March 2026. The following thematic areas were covered: Legal- Corporate Governance in Community Media: Roles, Powers and Functions; SDRO - Grantee Strategic Planning, Performance Management and Accountability; and Risk Management and The Role of Leadership in Risk Management, Embracing a Culture of Risk Management, Common Risks in the Community Media Sector, Essential Risk Management Strategies for Nonprofits.

COMPUTER LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAM-PARTNERSHIP WITH DIZINDABA AND ZIBONELE FM

The Agency partnered with Dizindaba and Zibonele FM in implementing a Computer Literacy Program aimed at empowering females and members of the community who identify as LGBTQI with essential technical skills, including proficiency in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

This is in line with our mandate to ensure a culture of reading and digital literacy. The focus is on key calendar events such as the observation of 16-Days of Activism against GBV, Safer Internet Day and Human Rights Month. Through this outreach programme we have trained over a hundred women. Not only does the training highlight the importance of skills in enhancing the right to access information, it also targets provinces where the MDDA does not have a large footprint/presence, and it is anticipated that the initiatives will create greater awareness about the MDDA and its work.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

The Unit partnered with Media Monitoring Africa (now Moxii Africa) in implementing an online Safety programme for Child Protection Week (CPW) from the 28 – 29 May 2025, targeting four schools in North-West. Child Protection Week (CPW) is a prevention campaign that was initiated in 1997 and has since become a government annual program of action to mobilise all sectors and communities towards embracing the holistic development, care, and protection of children.

In South Africa, the underpinnings for child protection measures can be found in sections 28(1)(d) to (g) of the Constitution. These sections spell out the child's right to protection from abuse, neglect, premature or exploitative employment, unnecessary detention and exposure to conditions which are unsuitable for children. The constitutional provisions in turn give effect to articles 19, 20 and 32-37 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which refer to the right to protection from abuse and neglect, as well as protection from child labour and various forms of exploitation, trafficking, 'cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment', and deprivation of liberty.

Articles 15, 16, 21, 25 and 26 are key provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child relating to child protection. These refer to the rights of the child to be protected from labour, abuse and torture, harmful social and cultural practices and sexual abuse, and the right to special assistance if deprived of a family environment.

Traditionally child protection was focused on protecting children in their physical spaces where they face physical, emotional, sexual abuse, or neglect. With the introduction of social media and the internet; children are no longer just vulnerable in their physical space but have also become victims/survivors of abuse that is facilitated using technology. There are predators who have found the internet as the best tool to target unsuspecting children to lure them into compromising situations that lead to their abuse online and at times taking the abuse offline as well.

The programme was implemented as follows:

• 28 May 2025

- o School 1: Tshepagalang Secondary School, 329 Modisaotsile St, Lethlabile-B, Brits, 0264 -Grade 8s only.
- o School 2: Mmadikete Lion Secondary School, Maboloka, 0197 - Grade 8s only.

• 29 May 2025

- o School 1: Hoërskool Grenswag, Rustenburg Rural, Rustenburg -Grade 8s only
- o School 2: President Mangope Technical High School, 3503 Mokale St, Tlhabane, 2999 - Grade 8s only.

YOUTH MEDIA AND DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMME – PODCASTING AND EFFECTIVE STORY TELLING

According to research by Statista, the podcasting market in South Africa is expected to reach a projected revenue of US\$ 1,846.3 million by 2030. A compound annual growth rate of 34.8 percent is expected of South Africa's podcasting market from 2025 to 2030. This signifies that South Africa's podcasting industry is not just growing; it's soaring past global averages.

With 33.4 percent of South African internet users tuning into podcasts weekly, the country significantly surpasses the global podcast listenership rate of about 20 percent (Meltwater, 2024). By 2023, podcast listeners in South Africa numbered around 3.2 million, with projections forecasting growth to 4.8 million by 2027, reflecting the medium's explosive adoption (The Media Online, 2024).

The rapid growth of digital platforms has created new opportunities for young people to participate in media creation, entrepreneurship, storytelling and public discourse. Platforms like TikTok, YouTube and podcasting channels have become powerful tools for:

- Creative expression and social influence
- Community information sharing
- Skills development and employment creation
- Revenue generation through monetisation models
- Despite this potential, many young people lack formal training in:
- Digital literacy and media ethics
- Audio-visual content production
- Audience engagement and growth
- Safe and responsible online behaviour
- Platform policies and monetisation strategies

On the 08th – 09th December 2025 the Unit implemented a two-day structured programme aimed at empowering young aspiring content creators with the skills to use digital tools responsibly and effectively, enhancing their media literacy, technical production skills and income-generating potential.

The training was attended by 20 female aspiring media practitioners from VUT FM, Alex FM and Sedibeng FM.

The thematic areas covered include Media and Digital Literacy Foundations, Starting a Podcast, TikTok Content Creation, YouTube Channel Development, Monetisation and Digital Entrepreneurship.

Media Literacy – Umlazi FM

Implemented a three-day Media and Digital Literacy Programme targeting journalists and volunteers from Umlazi FM and aspiring radio presenters and producers from surrounding areas. The training was on 23-25 February 2026. Umlazi FM is a KwaZulu Natal community radio station that currently broadcasts online established to serve the Umlazi community and surrounding areas. The station was established in September 2024, with a focus on information dissemination, education, youth development, and community empowerment. The station targets mainly youth and working-class audiences, delivering content on current affairs, skills development, health, education, and local issues.

ETHICS, DISINFORMATION AND FACT CHECKING TRAINING

The Agency partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF), South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Moxii Africa (formerly Media Monitoring Africa) and Africa Check to roll out a nationwide training programme for journalists ahead of the 2026/27 Local Government Elections. This is a move aimed at strengthening credible reporting and safeguarding the integrity of South Africa's electoral process. The training initiative began in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, on March 10. The second session was in Polokwane, Limpopo on 17 March and in Mahikeng, North West on 25 March.

The Local Government Elections represent a pivotal milestone in South Africa's democratic journey. These will be the first elections to be held following the formation of the Government of National Unity in 2024. A total of 508 political parties registered to participate in the elections. The total number of voting districts heading into the elections stands at 4,488. As of December 2025, a total of 27.67 million South Africans were registered to vote, according to the Electoral Commission. The largest voting block was citizens aged 30 through 39 years old. Fifty-five percent (55%) of registered voters were female. These elections and the context outlined above present a perfect opportunity for the media to help ensure citizens can make their voices heard and hold the powerful to account. It is anticipated that the proposed training will address the following objectives:

- Enhance the capacity of community and small commercial media to report accurately, ethically and responsibly on the 2026 Local Government Elections.
- Improve public understanding of local government roles, electoral processes, and democratic participation.
- Reduce misinformation and inflammatory reporting during the election period.
- Strengthen the sustainability and credibility of grassroots media institutions.

To date, through this initiative, the Agency has trained over 150 media practitioners in KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo and North West.

As part of this partnership, during the period under review the Agency formalised its partnership with SANEF through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) where both parties seek to

amongst other things collaboratively support, strengthen, and professionalise the community and small commercial media sector and advance skills development, capacity building, mentorship, and leadership development for editors, journalists, and media practitioners, with particular emphasis on youth, women, and marginalised groups.

RESEARCH

GIZ- SAFEGUARDING FEMALE JOURNALISTS ONLINE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) was appointed in December 2024 by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to undertake research and develop a report aimed at promoting online safety for women journalists. This forms part of GIZ's flagship intervention to prevent online gender-based violence (GBV) against women journalists. A key objective of this initiative is to encourage media organisations to commit to creating workplaces that uphold a zero-tolerance policy towards online GBV.

In quarter one of the period under review a draft report with findings was prepared and submitted to the GIZ and the Research Advisory Committee on the 11th July 2025. A draft statement of commitment and call to action was also prepared and submitted. An article was also published on BizCommunity. The article is [Reflections on World Press Freedom Day amid rising online attacks on journalists - Media Development and Diversity Agency](#).

In quarter two of the period under review the Unit implemented three validation workshops for the GIZ project. These workshops took place on 04 August 2025 in Johannesburg, 11 August 2025 in Durban and 13 August 2025 in Cape Town. The purpose of the validation workshops is for key stakeholders to review and confirm the preliminary findings of the flagship.

The MDDA completed the research, and the research highlights the alarming prevalence of online abuse particularly gendered and sexualised harassment targeting women and queer journalists; its devastating psychological, professional, and democratic consequences, and the significant gaps in institutional, legal, and platform responses.

The findings call for urgent, collective action from government, media houses, regulators, and civil society to protect press freedom and ensure safer digital spaces.

Audience Measurement Research – Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC)

The MDDA and the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) entered into an agreement on 31 March 2025 by signing the contract form, rendering of service (SBD 7.2) for the membership and audit of circulation data for twelve (12) months for a total of two hundred (200) titles that will be supplied by the Agency.

The selected titles were identified through enlisting the help of sector body organisations which include the Association

of Independent Publishers (AIP), the Black Media Owners Association (BMOA) and the African Chamber of Media (ACM). MDDA funded community print projects would also form part of this exercise.

Implementation of the project will be done in three (3) phases:

- Phase 1:
ABC certified titles for April to June 2025 – 33 titles
- Phase 2:
ABC certified titles for July to September 2025 – 70 titles
- Phase 3:
ABC certified titles for October to December 2025 – 97 titles

For phase 1 the ABC only confirmed circulation, issue certification and ABC membership to nine (9) publications out of the 33 titles as per the objectives of the study.

A total of 19 publications were not ready/or were not visited for audit and five were removed from audit.

Major reasons for not visiting or not being ready to submit data:

- Unable to contact publishers due to absence of contact details.
- Required: Physical address, contact person (name, telephone, email)
- Clients not reachable or unavailable to set up meetings.
- Clients did not print and had no data to submit

For phase 2 the ABC only confirmed circulation, issue certification and ABC membership to fourteen (14) publications out of the 70 titles as per the objectives of the study.

Major reasons for not visiting or not being ready to submit data:

- Clients unavailable to set up meetings.
- Clients did not print and had no data to submit
- Client use Social Media distribution (WhatsApp, twitter, Facebook, etc)
- Client has no documents during audit verification / does not submit documents.

Revision of Research Agenda 2025 -2030

The Media Development and Diversity Agency is a statutory body that was created as a statutory organ in order to foster the promotion and also ensuring the development and diversification of media in South Africa. The MDDA Act 14 of 2002 on Section 3 (VI) outlines the objectives of the Agency to “encourage research regarding media development and diversity”.

One of the objectives of the Agency outlined in the MDDA Act of 2002 is to “encourage the development of human resources, training and capacity building within the media industry, especially amongst historically disadvantaged groups”. In response to this, the Agency has developed capacity building programmes, which aim to provide community and small commercial media with necessary skills needed for effective performance in day-to-day work. During the period under review the Unit reviewed its research agenda for the medium term.

The Research Agenda, therefore, will guide the research work of the MDDA for 2025-2030 and seeks to ensure the development of community and small commercial media sectors.

Central to this mandate is the need to generate and apply research-based evidence that strengthens inclusive media ecosystems, supports innovation, and safeguards democracy. As South Africa navigates the Fourth and emerging Fifth Industrial Revolutions, the media landscape faces new challenges; from AI-driven content generation and algorithmic bias to misinformation, disinformation, and the economic precarity of community media. These developments necessitate a recalibrated research agenda that ensures that the MDDA remains responsive to technological, social, and economic transformations shaping the future of media diversity.

Analysis of Municipal Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) to enhance audience measurement research.

The MDDA and the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) entered into an agreement on 31 March 2025 for the provision of membership and audit of circulation data for 12 months for a total of 200 titles that will be supplied by the MDDA.

The 200 titles were identified through enlisting the help of sector body organisations which include the Association of Independent Publishers (AIP), the Black Media Owners Association (BMOA) and the African Chamber of Media (ACM). MDDA funded community print projects would also form part of this exercise.

Audience measurement research remains one of the most persistent challenges within South Africa's community media sector. Reliable data on listenership, readership, and viewership is critical for sustainability, advertising revenue, policy development, and strategic funding decisions. Yet community media frequently operate in data-poor environments, where formal measurement systems are either absent or financially inaccessible.

For the MDDA, strengthening audience measurement is not merely a technical exercise, it is a strategic imperative tied directly to its mandate of promoting media diversity, sustainability, and equitable access to information. One underutilised, yet highly valuable resource lies within local government planning instruments: the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP).

Based on the second quarter report submitted by the ABC, this document analyses the IDPs and SDBIPs of municipalities in four (4) provinces where the 14 community and small-commercial media publications that were certified by the ABC operate in. These provinces are Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal and Free State.

The IDP provides a deeply localised socio-economic profile. It captures demographic trends, settlement patterns, infrastructure backlogs, digital access realities, economic activity, migration pressures, and community priorities. For audience measurement, this allows the MDDA to move beyond generic listenership/readership figures and interpret media consumption within real community conditions.

The SDBIP adds a dynamic layer. While the IDP describes development intentions, the SDBIP reflects actual implementation, spending patterns, and performance targets. This is extremely useful for understanding shifts in information demand.

Changes in service delivery often drive changes in audience behaviour:

- Infrastructure rollouts → rising digital/media access
- Housing developments → new audience clusters
- Public health campaigns → spikes in information seeking
- Election cycles → changing political content consumption

By aligning audience measurement cycles with SDBIP timelines, the MDDA can detect whether community media are effectively responding to emerging public information needs.

Assessment and analysis of skills and qualifications of projects pre-shortlisted for grant verification

This assessment evaluates the governance, management, staff qualifications, and digital skills profile of community media organisations pre-shortlisted for grant verification assessments. It identifies capacity gaps that affect:

- Compliance with MDDA grant agreements
- Regulatory adherence (ICASA, Companies Act, PFMA-aligned reporting)
- Operational sustainability and public accountability

An assessment and analysis of skills and qualifications of projects pre-shortlisted for grant verification is important because it strengthens governance, accountability, sustainability, and impact throughout the grant lifecycle. In the context of public-interest funding such as that administered by the MDDA this step is both a risk-management tool and a developmental intervention.



PART **C**

GOVERNANCE

1 INTRODUCTION

The MDDA is committed to upholding the highest standards of corporate governance, ethical leadership, and accountability in the execution of its mandate. This Governance section outlines the Agency's governance framework, oversight structures, and risk management processes, reflecting our dedication to transparency and responsible stewardship.

In alignment with national legislation and best practice guidelines, the MDDA Board and its committees provide strategic direction and rigorous oversight, ensuring that the Agency's activities are conducted with integrity and in the public interest. Our governance structures are designed to foster effective decision-making, robust risk management, and continuous improvement, enabling the MDDA to respond proactively to emerging challenges and opportunities within the media sector.

The Agency's approach to governance is informed by a culture of ethical conduct, stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to sustainable value creation. Through regular evaluation of governance practices and adherence to established codes of conduct, the MDDA strives to maintain stakeholder confidence and support the achievement of its strategic objectives.

This section details the composition and functioning of the Board, the roles and responsibilities of its committees, and the mechanisms in place for risk identification, assessment,

and mitigation. It also highlights the Agency's ongoing efforts to strengthen governance processes, enhance accountability, and ensure compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements.

In compliance with legislative requirements, the MDDA submits quarterly and annual performance reports to the Executive Authority, National Treasury, and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). These reports provide comprehensive updates on the Agency's progress against its Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan, including financial performance, risk management, and the achievement of key performance indicators. For the reporting period, the following submissions were made:

- **Quarter 1 Performance and Finance Report:**

31 July 2025

- **Quarter 2 Performance and Finance Report:**

31 October 2025

- **Quarter 3 Performance and Finance Report:**

31 January 2026

- **Quarter 4 Performance and Finance Report:**

30 April 2026

Additionally, the Agency submitted its Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan as required by the PFMA. These submissions enable the Executive Authority to exercise effective oversight, monitor the Agency's performance, and ensure alignment with government priorities.

2 PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

During the 2025/26 financial year, the MDDA maintained active and transparent engagement with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, fulfilling its oversight and accountability obligations as required by the Public Finance Management Act and the MDDA Act. Throughout the year, the MDDA participated in several formal briefings and oversight sessions with the PCCDT. In the first quarter, the Agency briefed the Committee on the 2024/25 Third and Fourth Quarter Expenditure and Financial Reports, supported the GCIS in discussions on the sustainability of Community Radio Stations and community print media funding, and presented its 2025–2030 Strategic Plans and 2025–2026 Annual Performance Plan. During the second quarter, the Portfolio Committee provided guidance on the shortlisting and recruitment process for Board vacancies.

In the third quarter, the MDDA briefed the Committee on the 2024/25 Annual Report and Financial Statements, presented the first Quarter 2025/26 Performance and Expenditure Report, updated on filling critical vacancies and governance matters, and reported on the Third and Fourth Quarter Expenditure and Financial Reports.

In quarter four of the financial year under review, the Agency participated in an oversight visit by the PCCDT, which focused on governance, financial sustainability, operational performance, and alignment with national digital development priorities. Key areas of attention during the visit included governance and Board oversight, procurement practices, labour relations, and operational performance.

3 EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The Executive Authority provides strategic direction and guidance to the MDDA, ensuring that the Agency's mandate is fulfilled in accordance with national objectives. Regular engagements between the MDDA and the Executive Authority facilitate the identification of emerging risks, the discussion of operational challenges, and the alignment of strategic priorities. Issues raised by the Executive Authority during the reporting period were addressed through targeted action plans and ongoing dialogue, demonstrating the Agency's commitment to responsive and accountable governance.

The MDDA's governance framework ensures that the Executive Authority is kept informed of all material developments, including financial management, risk mitigation, and compliance matters.

This approach is consistent with leading practices observed in other state-owned entities, where the Executive Authority's role is formalised through governance agreements, regular reporting, and structured oversight mechanisms.

4 THE ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY / BOARD

The Accounting Authority of the MDDA, represented by its Board, plays a central role in ensuring sound governance, strategic leadership, and effective oversight of the Agency's operations. Throughout the 2025/26 financial year, the Board remained steadfast in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities, upholding the principles of accountability, transparency, and ethical conduct as mandated by the MDDA Act, the Public Finance Management Act, and relevant governance frameworks.

The Board is composed of members with diverse expertise in media, finance, law, and public administration. Regular Board meetings were convened to deliberate on strategic priorities, review financial and operational performance, and monitor the implementation of the Agency's Annual Performance Plan and Strategic Plan.

The Board also provided guidance on risk management, compliance, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that the MDDA's activities remained aligned with its mandate and national development objectives. During the reporting period, the Board oversaw the work of its committees, including the Audit and Risk Committee, Corporate Affairs Committee, Research, Capacity Building and Monitoring & Evaluation Committee as well as the Projects Oversight Committee.

The Board also engaged proactively with the Executive Authority, Portfolio Committee, and other stakeholders, fostering a culture of openness and accountability. Issues raised during oversight engagements were addressed through targeted action plans and ongoing dialogue.

The MDDA Board has provided leadership, ensuring that the Agency operates with integrity, transparency, and a focus on sustainable impact. Its governance approach has contributed to enhanced performance, improved risk management, and strengthened stakeholder confidence in the MDDA's ability to deliver on its mandate.

The role of the MDDA Board also includes the following:

- The Board ensures that the MDDA mandate is met
- Ensures that the MDDA complies with applicable laws, regulations, and policy
- Formulates, monitors, reviews corporate strategy, major plans of action, risk policy, annual budgets, and business plans
- Ensures that the board members' performance objectives are achieved
- Manages potential conflicts of interest and develops a clear definition of levels of materiality

Board Charter

The MDDA Board Charter is a foundational governance document that articulates the roles, responsibilities, and operating framework for the Board, its committees, and executive management. The Charter is designed to ensure that the Board upholds the highest standards of corporate governance, ethical leadership, and accountability, in line with the MDDA Act, the Public Finance Management Act, King Code on Corporate Governance, and other relevant legislation.

The Charter sets out the Board's mission to provide strategic direction, retain effective control over the Agency, and ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. It details matters reserved for Board decision-making, such as risk oversight, approval of strategic plans and budgets, appointment of key executives, and monitoring of operational performance. The Charter also defines the delegation of authority to Board committees, while emphasising that ultimate accountability remains with the Board itself. It mandates the establishment of key committees, including the Audit and Risk Committee, Corporate Affairs Committee, Projects Oversight Committee, and Research, Capacity Building, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. Each Committee has clear terms of reference and reporting obligations which are reviewed by the Board regularly.

A strong emphasis is placed on ethical conduct, transparency, and the management of conflicts of interest. The Charter requires Board members to act with integrity, uphold confidentiality, and participate actively in Board and committee meetings. It also provides for regular Board and committee evaluations, induction and ongoing training for members, and the maintenance of a compliance framework to ensure adherence to all relevant codes, laws, and regulations.

During the reporting period, the Board made significant progress in complying with the Charter. Regular Board and committee meetings were convened, with high attendance and active participation from members. The Board consistently reviewed and updated its policies, frameworks, and operational plans to align with the Charter's requirements. Induction and training sessions were held for new and existing members, and the Board undertook self-

assessments to evaluate its effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. The Board also ensured that all statutory and regulatory reporting obligations were met, and that the Agency's activities remained aligned with its strategic objectives and governance standards.

The Board's approach to implementing the Charter has strengthened governance, enhanced accountability, and promoted a culture of ethical leadership within the MDDA. This commitment is reflected in the Agency's improved risk management, compliance, and stakeholder engagement, as well as its ability to respond effectively to emerging challenges. The Board continues to review the Charter regularly to ensure its ongoing relevance and alignment with best practices. This ongoing process of review and improvement ensures that the MDDA Board remains a custodian of good governance and a driver of sustainable value for all stakeholders.

Composition of the Board

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board Directorships (List the entities)	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g.: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Prof Hlengani Mathebula	Board member and Chairperson of the MDDA Board	8 June 2021	7 June 2026	Ph.D. Master of Management from the University of the Witwatersrand and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), BTH (Hons) from the University of the North completed the Senior Executive Programme at Harvard Business School.	An accomplished business leader with more than 20 years' experience in the financial services industry.	Makhuva investment Group Mathebula Tourism and Agriculture Ignite Africa Advisory Group Hlengani Wa Makhuva Investment HPCSA University of Limpopo BBEC Shoprite Holdings HMI BRANDSA Trust Giyani Private Hospital Group Opco	Corporate Affairs Committee	8

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board Directorships (List the entities)	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g.: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Ms Jayshree Pather	Board member	21 February 2024	Active	Master of Sciences in Development Planning (Wits University)	Human rights activist, communications professional, researcher	Current: Evolve 5: Women Transforming Digital Communications Previous: ABC Ukwazi Sonke Gender Justice Project	Research, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and Projects Oversight Committee	15
Mr Thembelani Mpakati	Board member	21 February 2024	Active	Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree and a National Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting (CCMA) Institution UNISA and Walter Sisulu University respectively	Lawyer, leadership, negotiator and mediator	Nako Mpakati Nontuli Project (Pty) Ltd Ayathemba Trading and Projects	Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and Projects Oversight Committee	16

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board Directorships (List the entities)	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g.: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Mr Qondile Khedama	Board member	21 February 2024	Active	Advanced Diploma in Public Management, Programme in Management Development for Municipal Finance as well as Developmental Communications. Digital Marketing certificate, Public Relations and Leadership certificate, Feature Writing certificate, Newspaper Management, Project Management and Events Managements	He is currently Head of Communications for the Mangaung Metro Municipality and a contributor to the PAN African Foundation (PAN), University of the Free State, Centenary Public Lectures as well as Eyewitness News (EWN)	ZADNA	Research, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, Corporate Affairs Committee (Alternate Audit and Risk Committee member)	17

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board Directorships (List the entities)	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g.: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Mr Philly Moilwa	Board member	13 March 2025	Active	Master's Degree in Business Leadership (MBL), Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Bachelor of Arts in Education (BA Ed), Bachelor of Arts in Education (Hons)	Broadcasting-ICT, Legal, Governance, Policy and Regulation	Reagoka Trading and Projects DC Swan Trading and Projects Former member of the Board of the SABC Pension Fund. Currently serves as a Non-Executive Member of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). Previously served as a Board Member of the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa (ASA).	Corporate Affairs Committee, Projects Oversight Committee	8

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Mr Collin Mashile	Board member	11 December 2024	Active	Master of Communications: Management Science Strathclyde Business School University of Strathclyde- Glasgow, Scotland Post Graduate Diploma in Communications & Media Regulation European University Institute's Florence School of Regulation (FSR), San Domenico di Fiesole (FI) Florence – Italy; and BA Dramatic Arts (Honours) (Theories of Communications, Television and Media Studies), University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	Media Diversity and Pluralism, Ownership and Control, International Public Policy and Strategies, Digital Media and Information Literacy Community Media Regulatory Policy Development, Research and Analysis	None	Corporate Affairs Committee, Projects Oversight Committee, Alternative member of the Audit and Risk Committee	10

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Ms Malefane	Board member	03 November 2025	Active	BA in Communication (University of Johannesburg formerly RAU), Executive Programme in Media Leadership, Basic Accounting (UJ)	Journalist, media strategist, and emerging media entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in some of South Africa's most influential newsrooms.	Vutivi Business News, Vutivi News Foundation NPC, Moi Media Investments	Corporate Affairs Committee, Projects Oversight Committee, Research, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, Audit and Risk Committee	4
Ms Carol Mohlala	Board member	19 May 2022	18 May 2025	BA Degree (majored In Industrial Sociology and Media Studies)	An experienced researcher, writer, and communications expert. Extensive experience in the media sector at large.	Mohlala Motors	Projects Oversight Committee, Corporate Affairs Committee, Research, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee	2
Dr Natalie Skeepers	Board member	03 November 2025	15 December 2025	Phd in Engineering Management, Master of Safety Health and Environment, National Diploma Public Health, Executive Development Programme, MPhil (HIV/ AIDS	Governance, Risk and Compliance Specialist and Safety Engineer	Global Safety Resources CC, Catwalk Holdings, Disruptive Safety PTY LTD, SADPMR, Onderstepoort Biological Products, National Heritage Council,	NA	0

Name	Designation (in terms of the Public Entity Board structure)	Date appointed	Date resigned	Qualifications	Area of Expertise	Board	Other Committees or Task Teams (e.g: Audit committee / Ministerial task team)	No. of Meetings attended
Dr Natalie Skeepers (Continued)				Management, Postgraduate Diploma in HIV/ AIDS Management, National Higher Diploma Environmental Health, Certificate in Money Laundering Control, National Diploma Public Health		Projects Oversight Committee, Corporate Affairs Committee, Research, Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (Chairperson)		

Committees

The MDDA Board has established four committees to effectively discharge its duties and provide oversight on specific aspects of the Agency's business affairs. These committees ensure transparency, accountability, and full disclosure of their activities. Below is a brief overview of the committee structure:

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC):

Purpose: Plays a pivotal role in corporate governance, focusing on governance, risk management, and internal control practices.

Activities: Reviews organisational performance, internal audit reports, risk management, and legal matters. It also considers policies and compliance frameworks.

Projects Oversight Committee (POC):

Purpose: Supports the Board in overseeing funding activities and ensuring alignment with the MDDA mandate.

Activities: Reviews grant funding applications, monitors funding activities, and addresses policy considerations for community media.

Research, Capacity Building, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee:

Purpose: Focuses on research, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation within the organisation.

Activities: Reviews quarterly reports on research, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation initiatives

Corporate Affairs Committee (CAC):

Purpose: Oversees human resources, ICT, stakeholder engagement, and communications.

Activities: Processes reports from HR, ICT, and communications units, and addresses organisational development matters.

Each committee is chaired by a non-executive member of the Board, with membership reviewed regularly to ensure relevant skills and expertise. Committees provide recommendations to the Board and do not have independent decision-making powers unless specifically authorised. Committees meet regularly to review reports, policies, and organisational performance.

This structure ensures that the MDDA Board maintains effective oversight and governance across critical areas of the Agency's operations.

Committee	No. of meetings held	No. of members	Name of members
Audit and Risk Committee	6	5	Prof Rajesh Mahabeer Ms Margaret Phiri Ms Nompumelelo Phasha Mr Dalson Modiba Ms Moipone Malefane (Alternate Board Representative) Mr Qondile Khedama
Corporate Affairs Committee	4	3	Mr Collin Mashile Mr Qondile Khedama Ms Moipone Malefane Mr Philly Moilwa (Former Members) Mr Thembelani Mpakati Ms Carol Mohlala Prof Hlengani Mathebula
Projects Oversight Committee	5	3	Ms Jayshree Pather Mr Thembelani Mpakati Mr Collin Mashile Mr Philly Moilwa (Former Member) Ms Carol Mohlala
Research, Capacity Building, Training, and Monitoring and Evaluation Committee	4	3	Mr Thembelani Mpakati Mr Qondile Khedama Ms Jayshree Pather Ms Moipone Malefane

Remuneration of board members

The remuneration of MDDA Board members is determined in accordance with the National Treasury Regulations and the Agency's approved Board and ARC Members' Remuneration Policy. This policy outlines the structure of meeting fees and allowances, ensuring alignment with public sector governance

standards and the principles of fairness and transparency. Board members who are employed by the State or state-owned entities are not eligible to receive remuneration for their service on the Board. Prof Hlengani Mathebula opted not to receive any fee for the period under review.

Non-executive Directors

Name	Remuneration	Other allowance	Other re-imbursements	Total
Prof. Hlengani Mathebula (Chairperson)	-	-	-	0.00
Mr. Thembelani Mpakati	128 504.83	18 000.00	0.00	146,504.83
Ms. Jayshree Pather	135 679.92	18 000.00	0.00	153,679.92
Ms. Carol Mohlala	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Mr. Qondile Khedama	0.00	0.00	34,882.68	34,882.68
Mr Philly Moliwa	0.00	16 500.00	2 401.92	18,901.92
Ms. M. Malefane	30,981.59	9 000.00	0.00	39,981.59
Ms. N. Skeepers	7,818.00	1 500.00	0.00	9,318.00

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

Name	Remuneration	Other allowance	Other re-imbursements	Total
Prof. Rajesh Mahabeer	137 937.60	12 000.00	623.39	150,560.99
Ms. Margaret Phiri	41 094.00	12 000.00	0.00	53,094.00
Ms. Nompumelelo Phasha	0.00	12 000.00	0.00	12,000.00

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Media Development and Diversity Agency continued to strengthen its Enterprise Risk Management arrangements during the 2025/26 financial year. The Board retained overall accountability for risk governance, supported by the Audit and Risk Committee, while Management remained responsible for the identification, assessment, treatment and monitoring of strategic and operational risks.

The Agency's approved strategic risk profile was monitored and reported on throughout the year. The principal areas of exposure included legal and regulatory compliance, funding sustainability, fraud and corruption, reputational risk, digital transformation, organisational capacity, business interruption, ICT governance and cybersecurity, beneficiary compliance and the adequacy of due-diligence processes.

During the reporting period, the Agency strengthened the structure, consistency and traceability of risk information

through the implementation of an integrated risk assessment tool, enhanced control-effectiveness assessments and the introduction of Key Risk Indicators for selected strategic risks. Risk appetite and tolerance considerations were also incorporated into risk reporting to support the identification and escalation of exposures approaching or exceeding approved thresholds.

Quarterly risk reporting provided Management, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board with information on inherent and residual risk exposure, the effectiveness of existing controls, progress with risk-treatment actions, emerging risks and alignment with the approved Risk Appetite and Tolerance Framework. These improvements strengthened the Agency's ability to monitor changes in its risk environment and support informed governance and strategic decision-making.

The Agency also commenced the operational rollout of risk assessments across business units and continued awareness initiatives to strengthen management ownership of risk. The implementation of Key Risk Indicators during the fourth quarter established an initial baseline, with trend analysis and further organisation-wide awareness and risk-assessment engagements to be progressively strengthened during the 2026/27 financial year.

Business Continuity Management and Combined Assurance were progressively integrated into the broader risk and governance approach. At year-end, the foundational BCM governance arrangements were in place, and awareness

activities were underway. However, Business Impact Analyses, departmental continuity plans and organisation-wide testing had not yet been completed and were scheduled for implementation during the 2026/27 financial year.

Overall, the Agency made progress towards a more integrated, evidence-based and proactive risk management approach. Further work remains necessary to complete business-unit risk assessments, strengthen risk ownership, improve the monitoring of risk-treatment actions and fully operationalise Business Continuity Management and Combined Assurance arrangements.

6 INTERNAL CONTROL UNIT

The MDDA's Internal Audit Function is fully "Outsourced."

The Internal Audit Function provides independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management, and internal control processes. During the reporting period, the function implemented the approved risk-based Internal Audit Plan, reported audit findings and recommendations to management and the Audit and Risk Committee, and monitored the implementation of agreed management action plans.

In addition to the approved Internal Audit Plan, an "Expansion Engagement" was undertaken to perform assurance activities relating to significant post-year-end matters that were critical to the 2025/26 financial year-end reporting process. These activities enhanced assurance over key governance and financial reporting processes and contributed to strengthening the MDDA's overall system of internal control, governance, and accountability.

7 INTERNAL AUDIT

a. Purpose and Mandate

The Internal Audit Function provided independent and objective assurance and advisory services to enhance governance, risk management, and internal controls. The function operated in accordance with its approved Internal Audit Charter, the Global Internal Audit Standards, and applicable legislative and governance requirements.

b. Strategy of the Internal Audit Function

The Internal Audit Function adopted a risk-based approach to support the achievement of the organisation's strategic objectives. Audit activities are aligned with the organisation's risk profile, emerging risks, and the priorities of the Board and Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), while providing assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management, and control processes.

c. Charter, Methodology and Internal Audit Plans

The Audit and Risk Committee approved the Internal Audit Charter and the risk-based Internal Audit Plan. Audit engagements were conducted in accordance with the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) using a structured methodology encompassing planning, execution, reporting,

and follow-up. The Internal Audit Plan was reviewed throughout the year and, where appropriate, updated to respond to emerging risks, changing organisational priorities, and evolving assurance needs, ensuring the continued relevance of assurance provided to the Audit and Risk Committee, the Board, and management.

d. Independence and Objectivity

The Internal Audit Function maintained its independence and objectivity by reporting functionally to the Audit and Risk Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer. Internal auditors performed their duties without undue influence and declared any potential conflicts of interest before undertaking audit engagements.

e. Internal Audit Modality

The MDDA continued to utilise a outsourced internal audit model, combining the expertise of an external service provider with internal management oversight. This approach ensured access to specialist skills and enhanced the effectiveness and independence of the Internal Audit Function while remaining responsive to the MDDA's needs.

f. Staffing

The Internal Audit Function was adequately resourced through the appointed internal audit service provider. Specialist resources were utilised where necessary to perform audits requiring technical expertise (e.g., Information Communication Technology)

g. Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme

The Internal Audit Function maintained a Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme to monitor compliance with professional standards and to continuously improve audit processes. Internal quality reviews were performed throughout the year, and recommendations arising from these reviews were incorporated into audit methodologies and practices.

h. Stakeholder Relationships

The Internal Audit Function maintained constructive working relationships with management, the Audit and Risk Committee, external auditors, and other assurance providers. Regular communication ensured that audit findings, recommendations, and emerging risks were addressed in a timely manner.

i. Combined Assurance

The Internal Audit Function supported the principles of combined assurance through coordination with management, external audit, and other assurance providers. A Combined Assurance Framework and associated reporting dashboard were developed and adopted towards the end of the reporting period; however, formal implementation and full

operationalisation remain in progress. Notwithstanding this, assurance activities were coordinated during the year to enhance assurance coverage, minimise duplication of effort, and support a more integrated view of governance, risk management, and internal control effectiveness.

j. Value Add of Internal Auditing

In addition to providing independent assurance, the Internal Audit Function added value by identifying opportunities to strengthen internal controls, improve operational efficiency, enhance compliance, and support sound governance practices. Recommendations issued during the year assisted management in addressing control weaknesses and improving organisational performance.

k. Limitations to the Activities and Objectives of the Internal Audit Function

During the reporting period, the Internal Audit Function experienced some limitations relating to the availability, maintenance, and retrieval of supporting documentation, which impacted the timely completion of certain reviews, particularly in the areas of Governance and Information and Communication Technology. Management is strengthening records management practices and controls to address these challenges. Risk management maturity also remained an area of focus, with ongoing improvements being made to enhance the organisation's risk management framework and practices. Despite these limitations, Internal Audit continued to provide assurance over key risk areas and reported significant matters to management and the Audit and Risk Committee.

8 SUMMARY OF INTERNAL AUDIT WORK DONE

a. Planned and completed audits completed from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

- i. Performance Information – Quarter 4 (2024/2025);
- ii. Unaudited Annual Performance Report (2024/2025);
- iii. Review of Unaudited Annual Financial Statements (2024/2025);
- iv. Performance Information – Quarter 1 (2025/2026);
- v. Human Resource Management (Payroll & Leave Management);
- vi. Performance Information – Quarter 2 (2025/2026);
- vii. Internal Financial Controls;
- viii. Grant and Seeding;
- ix. Review of Draft Annual Performance Plan;
- x. Governance and Compliance – Report 01 – Follow Up Risk Management;
- xi. Governance and Compliance – Report 02 – Follow Up POPI;
- xii. Governance and Compliance – Report 03 – Governance Committees;
- xiii. Governance and Compliance – Report 04 – Fraud Awareness Status;

- xiv. Supply Chain and Expenditure Review (All Thresholds);
- xv. Information Communication Technology (Focus on Security Controls);
- xvi. Performance Information – Quarter 3 (25/26); and
- xvii. Follow Up Review – External Audit Findings.

b. Audits rolled over

No audits were rolled over from the approved Internal Audit Plan during the reporting period. The Internal Audit Function completed all planned engagements, achieving the objectives of the risk-based Internal Audit Plan and providing the Audit and Risk Committee and management with assurance over key governance, risk management, and internal control areas.

c. Ad hoc projects – Approved Expansion of Contract to cover part of the 2026/2027 Internal Audit Operational for year-end reporting purposes

- i. Performance Information – Quarter 4 (2025/2026);
- ii. Unaudited Annual Performance Report (2025/2026);
- iii. Review of Unaudited Annual Financial Statements (2025/2026); and
- iv. SCM Probity Review – Rental Office Space.

d. Status of audit findings addressed

	Number of findings	Total Addressed	Not Yet Due	Total Not Addressed	No. of recurring findings Last 3 Financial Years
IAF Findings	20	8	9	3	3
AGSA Findings (2025/2026)	21	17	4	0	5

9 AUDIT COMMITTEES

The Audit and Risk Committee of the MDDA is established in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act and its own approved Charter. Its primary purpose is to provide independent oversight of financial reporting, internal controls, risk management, compliance, and governance processes. The ARC supports the Board in fulfilling its statutory and fiduciary responsibilities, ensuring the integrity of financial statements and the effectiveness of risk management systems.

The ARC is composed entirely of independent, non-executive members. The committee regularly affirms that all members are free from conflicts of interest, and declarations are made at each meeting.

The ARC safeguards the independence of the internal audit function by ensuring that internal auditors report functionally to the committee. The ARC reviews and approves the internal audit plan, monitors the execution of audits, and ensures that management responds appropriately to audit findings. The committee also has the authority to meet privately with internal auditors without management present.

ARC discharges its statutory duties by reviewing annual financial statements, monitoring compliance with relevant legislation, and overseeing the implementation of audit recommendations. The committee ensures that the Agency's financial reporting is accurate, timely, and compliant with applicable standards.

The ARC adopts a combined assurance approach, coordinating the work of internal audit, external audit, management, and other assurance providers and for enhanced reliability of risk management and control processes, and it ensures that significant risks are adequately addressed.

The ARC consists of members with expertise in finance, governance, and risk management. The committee affirms that members' additional responsibilities outside the ARC do not impair their ability to serve effectively. Regular reviews of member independence and capacity are conducted.

ARC meetings are held regularly, with high attendance rates reported in quarterly and annual disclosures. Attendance is monitored and reported to ensure effective oversight.

Reports covering financial oversight, risk management, compliance, and the status of audit recommendations are submitted regularly to the Board and the Minister in the Presidency.

The ARC maintains constructive relationships with key stakeholders, including management, external auditors, the Auditor-General, and relevant Treasury officials. These relationships support effective oversight and the resolution of audit issues.

Where necessary, the ARC raises concerns with the Accounting Authority, Executive Authority, Treasury, or the Auditor-General. Issues raised typically relate to financial controls, risk exposures, or compliance matters. The committee tracks the resolution of these concerns.

Regarding resolution of recommendations, the ARC monitors the implementation of its recommendations and those of external auditors. Management is required to provide regular updates on progress, and outstanding issues are tracked until resolved.

The table below discloses relevant information on the audit committee members.

Name (Full Name and Surname, including professional titles)	Qualifications	Professional Affiliation (e.g. SAICA, IIA, IOD(SA))	Appointment: Term of Office		No. of meetings attended 2025/26		Has the AC member declared private and business interests in every meeting? (Yes/No)	Is the AC member an employee of an organ of state? (Yes / No)	No. of other ACs that the member served on during the reporting period (whether in the public sector or not)	No. of other governance structures the member served on during the reporting period, e.g. Boards, Risk Committee, IT Committee, etc, whether in this or any other institution(s)
			Start date	End date	Ordinary Meetings	Special Meetings				
Prof Rajesh Mahabeer	CA(SA) FCMA CGMA FCA (England & Wales) BFP FCCA CIA FIIASA M.Inst.D SARIPA INSOL MBA (Derby) MCom (UKZN) Post Grad Dip Acc (UKZN) N Dip Cost Acc (DUT) PhD (Candidate) (WITS)	Institute of Directors of South Africa (IODSA) South African Restructuring and Insolvency Practitioners Association SAICA CIMA ACCA ICAEW IIA SARIPA INSOL	01 October 2024	30 September 2027	4	2	Yes	No	1	6

Name (Full Name and Surname, including professional titles)	Qualifications	Professional Affiliation (e.g. SAICA, IIA, IOD(SA))	Appointment: Term of Office		No. of meetings attended 2025/26		Has the AC member declared private and business interests in every meeting? (Yes/No)	Is the AC member an employee of an organ of state? (Yes / No)	No. of other ACs that the member served on during the reporting period (whether in the public sector or not)	No. of other governance structures the member served on during the reporting period, e.g. Boards, Risk Committee, IT Committee, etc, whether in this or any other institution(s)
			Start date	End date	Ordinary Meetings	Special Meetings				
Ms. Margaret Phiri	BCom. Accounting Degree CTA/B Compt Honours CA(SA)	SAICA IODSA IRBA	01 May 2024	30 April 2027	4	1	Yes	No	4	5
Ms. Nompumelelo Phasha	LLM, LLB, Bachelor of Arts in law	IODSA	01 May 2024	30 April 2027	2	0	Yes	Yes	0	1
Mr. Dalson Modiba	Bachelor of Rations/BCom Acc (4 year from the University of the North or Turfloop (now Limpopo) in 1995;	IODSA	02 May 2024	01 May 2027	4	1	Yes	Yes	0	0

Name (Full Name and Surname, including professional titles)	Qualifications	Professional Affiliation (e.g. SAICA, IIA, IOD(SA))	Appointment: Term of Office		No. of meetings attended 2025/26		Has the AC member declared private and business interests in every meeting? (Yes/No)	Is the AC member an employee of an organ of state? (Yes / No)	No. of other ACs that the member served on during the reporting period (whether in the public sector or not)	No. of other governance structures the member served on during the reporting period, e.g. Boards, Risk Committee, IT Committee, etc, whether in this or any other institution(s)
			Start date	End date	Ordinary Meetings	Special Meetings				
Mr. Dalson Modiba (Continued)	Higher Diploma in Computer Audit from University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 2001; Bachelor of Commerce Honours Degree in Business Management from University of South Africa (UNISA) in 2011; Master of Management in Digital Business from University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in 2024.									

Name (Full Name and Surname, including professional titles)	Qualifications	Professional Affiliation (e.g. SAICA, IIA, IOD(SA))	Appointment: Term of Office		No. of meetings attended 2025/26		Has the AC member declared private and business interests in every meeting? (Yes/No)	Is the AC member an employee of an organ of state? (Yes / No)	No. of other ACs that the member served on during the reporting period (whether in the public sector or not)	No. of other governance structures the member served on during the reporting period, e.g. Boards, Risk Committee, IT Committee, etc, whether in this or any other institution(s)
			Start date	End date	Ordinary Meetings	Special Meetings				
Mr Collin Mashile	Master of Communications - Management Science, Post Graduate Diploma in Communications and Media Regulation, BA Dramatic Arts (Honours) (Theories of Communications, Television and Media Studies)	IODSA	05 December 2024	06 December 2025	1	0	Yes	No	0	1

Name (Full Name and Surname, including professional titles)	Qualifications	Professional Affiliation (e.g. SAICA, IIA, IOD(SA))	Appointment: Term of Office		No. of meetings attended 2025/26		Has the AC member declared private and business interests in every meeting? (Yes/No)	Is the AC member an employee of an organ of state? (Yes / No)	No. of other ACs that the member served on during the reporting period (whether in the public sector or not)	No. of other governance structures the member served on during the reporting period, e.g. Boards, Risk Committee, IT Committee, etc, whether in this or any other institution(s)
			Start date	End date	Ordinary Meetings	Special Meetings				
Mr Qondile Khedama (Alt Board Representative)	Advanced Diploma in Public Management, a Programme in Management Development for Municipal Finance as well as Developmental Communications. certificates covering Digital Marketing, Public Relations and Leadership, Feature Writing, Newspaper Management, Project Management and Events Managements among others	IODSA	21 February 2024	Active	2	2	Yes	Yes	0	1

10 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The MDDA is committed to full compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and codes of good practice, as mandated by the MDDA Act, the Public Finance Management Act, National Treasury Regulations, and other relevant legislation. The Agency's compliance framework is anchored by a comprehensive compliance matrix, which details all legislative requirements and is monitored on a quarterly basis. This matrix is reviewed and updated regularly, with compliance status and any gaps reported to the Audit and Risk Committee each quarter for oversight and action. The ARC monitors the effectiveness of compliance systems, investigates instances of non-compliance, and ensures corrective actions are implemented.

The Board Charter and governance documents require all Board members and employees to be conversant with the statutory and regulatory framework, and the Board oversees the development and implementation of policies to ensure alignment with legislative requirements.

Compliance activities are integrated into the risk management framework, with regular assessments and key performance indicators established to measure compliance. Ongoing training and communication ensures that all employees understand their obligations, and the Company Secretary supports compliance monitoring and reporting.

11 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The Media Development and Diversity Agency maintained a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption during the 2025/26 financial year. Fraud risk management continued to form part of the Agency's broader Enterprise Risk Management and ethics governance arrangements, with fraud risks considered through risk assessments, control reviews, awareness initiatives and quarterly governance reporting.

The Agency's fraud risk assessment covered potential exposure across key operational areas, including supply chain management and procurement, grant funding, financial administration, payroll and human resources, asset management, conflicts of interest, information security and cyber-enabled fraud. The assessment supported the identification of preventative and detective controls and areas requiring continued management attention.

The Agency continued to operate an independent whistleblowing hotline managed by an external service provider. The hotline enabled employees, service providers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders to report suspected fraud, corruption and unethical conduct confidentially or anonymously. The reporting channels and protections available to whistleblowers were reinforced through internal ethics and fraud-prevention awareness communications.

Reports received through the hotline or other authorised channels are recorded and subjected to an initial assessment to determine the nature of the allegation, whether the matter falls within the Agency's jurisdiction and whether further verification or formal investigation is warranted. Where allegations are substantiated, appropriate disciplinary, civil, recovery or criminal referral processes may be initiated. Matters are reported to the relevant governance structures while maintaining confidentiality, procedural fairness and whistleblower protection.

At the end of the reporting period, the Agency's Quarter 4 governance reporting reflected no confirmed fraud cases and one whistleblowing matter. The matter was therefore reported as a whistleblowing case under assessment and not as a confirmed incident of fraud or corruption. The same reporting reflected one gift declaration and one ethics-awareness initiative during the period.

The Audit and Risk Committee continued to oversee fraud risk management, whistleblowing arrangements, ethics initiatives and the implementation of related preventative controls. While the Agency strengthened fraud-risk visibility during the year, fraud-risk maturity remained under development, with continued emphasis required on finalising and embedding the Fraud Risk Register, strengthening preventative and detective controls and increasing awareness and utilisation of the available reporting channels.

12 MINIMISING CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Media Development and Diversity Agency continued to strengthen measures aimed at preventing and managing actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest during the 2025/26 financial year.

The Agency's conflict-of-interest arrangements are supported by the approved Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and related declaration requirements. Board members, employees and members of governance and decision-making structures are required to disclose financial interests, directorships, business interests, external appointments and relationships that may influence, or reasonably be perceived to influence, the impartial performance of their official duties.

Annual declarations of interest are completed by employees and designated officials, while newly appointed employees are required to complete declarations as part of the induction process. Declaration requirements are also incorporated into recruitment, procurement, bid evaluation, committee and other decision-making processes. During the reporting period, compliance with declaration requirements for newly appointed employees was reported at 100 percent.

Where an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest is identified, the affected individual is required to disclose the interest and may not participate in the related discussion, evaluation, recommendation or decision. The disclosure and

recusal must be recorded in the relevant meeting minutes, declaration form or procurement record. The previous annual-report approach similarly required annual employee declarations, declarations within recruitment and supply chain processes and recusal where a conflict existed.

The Agency recognises that disclosure alone does not resolve a conflict of interest. Declared interests must be assessed to determine the nature and extent of the conflict and the appropriate management response. Depending on the circumstances, this may include recusal, reassignment of responsibilities, restriction of access to information, approval of external remunerative work, termination of the conflicting arrangement or another appropriate control measure.

During the year, ethics-awareness communications reinforced employee obligations relating to conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality, fraud prevention and whistleblowing. Management continued maintaining declaration and gift registers to support monitoring, transparency and governance oversight.

Further control improvements will focus on strengthening the verification and documented assessment of declarations, ensuring that recusals and management decisions are properly recorded, and integrating conflict-of-interest monitoring with recruitment, procurement and other high-risk decision-making processes.

13 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) upholds a comprehensive Code of Conduct and Ethics that serves as the foundation of its organisational culture and governance. This Code combines aspirational ethical values with specific behavioural standards to guide all employees, management, and stakeholders in conducting themselves with integrity, professionalism, and accountability at all times.

The Code is designed to:

- Promote the highest standards of competence, honesty, and ethical behaviour.
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies, including the South African Constitution, Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), and Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI).
- Foster a respectful, inclusive, and harassment-free workplace where dignity and diversity are valued.
- Encourage transparency, openness, and responsible decision-making aligned with the MDDA's mandate to support media development and diversity.
- By embedding these principles, the Code strengthens the MDDA's reputation, builds stakeholder trust, and creates a work environment where ethical dilemmas are addressed proactively and consistently.

Effect of the Code on the Public Entity

The Code of Conduct and Ethics has a profound impact on the MDDA by:

- **Guiding Behaviour:** It provides clear direction on acceptable and unacceptable conduct, helping employees make ethical choices even in complex situations without constant supervision.
- **Enhancing Governance:** The Code reinforces accountability mechanisms and supports compliance with governance frameworks, thereby reducing risks related to fraud, corruption, and misconduct.
- **Supporting Organisational Values:** It nurtures a culture of integrity, respect, and professionalism, which directly contributes to improved organisational performance and stakeholder confidence.
- **Protecting Reputation:** By upholding ethical standards, the MDDA safeguards its credibility and legitimacy as a statutory body committed to public service.

Process Followed for Breach of the Code of Conduct

The MDDA has established a clear, fair, and transparent process to address breaches of the Code of Conduct and Ethics:

- **Reporting:** Employees, managers, or stakeholders who become aware of suspected breaches are encouraged to report concerns promptly. Reporting channels include direct supervisors, Human Resources, the internal audit unit, or confidential whistleblowing mechanisms designed to protect the identity of the reporter.
- **Preliminary Assessment:** Upon receipt of a report, the relevant unit conducts an initial assessment to determine the validity and seriousness of the allegation.
- **Formal Investigation:** If warranted, a formal investigation is initiated by designated officials or an independent investigator. The process ensures confidentiality, impartiality, and adherence to due process.
- **Disciplinary Action:** Where a breach is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary measures are taken following the MDDA's disciplinary code and relevant labour laws. Actions may range from warnings and counselling to suspension, dismissal, or legal referral depending on the severity of the misconduct.
- **Right to Respond:** The employee or official accused of a breach is allowed to respond to the allegations before any final decision is made, ensuring fairness and transparency.
- **Reporting and Oversight:** Outcomes of investigations and disciplinary actions are reported to senior management and the Audit and Risk Committee to ensure oversight and to inform continuous improvement in ethics management.
- **Prevention and Education:** Following breaches, the MDDA reviews policies and conducts targeted training to prevent recurrence and reinforce ethical awareness.

14 HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The MDDA strives to foster and maintain a stable, healthy, safe and productive working environment and implements a wellness scheme, with frequent desktop wellness awareness information, that is available for all employees. The Agency has a policy which does not unfairly discriminate against persons who choose to smoke. However, all general work areas have been designated as "smoke-free".

The MDDA policy makes it compulsory to belong to a medical aid and currently administer its medical aid through the Discovery Medical Aid Scheme where all employees, with the exception of those employees who are, and wish to remain members of an alternative scheme of which their spouses or partners are already members.

In accordance with the Agency's corporate responsibility to comply with Laws and Regulations, and its intent to provide its employees with a safe and secure working environment, the Agency nominated new members into the Occupational Health and Safety committee. A compliance letter of good standing as issued by the Department of Labour was issued for Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act. It takes all reasonable steps to provide secure premises and safe equipment. The controlled access to the Agency's work areas and general premises is maintained in accordance with relevant security and safety procedures to protect property, possessions and persons. The Occupational Health and Safety Act is accessible to all employees as it is displayed on the notice board.

15 COMPANY SECRETARY

The Company Secretary at the MDDA plays a critical governance role, serving as the principal advisor to the Board and its committees on matters of compliance, ethics, and statutory obligations. The Company Secretary is responsible for ensuring that the Agency adheres to all legislative and regulatory requirements, including those set out in the Companies Act, the MDDA Act, and the Public Finance Management Act.

Key responsibilities include:

- Providing guidance on governance best practices, Board procedures, and compliance with statutory and regulatory frameworks.
- Coordinating Board and committee meetings, preparing agendas, circulating documentation, and ensuring accurate minute taking and record keeping.
- Overseeing the Agency's compliance with the Companies Act and other relevant legislation, including the timely lodgement of statutory reports and returns.
- Facilitating induction and ongoing training for Board members to ensure they are aware of their legal duties and governance responsibilities.
- Maintaining statutory registers and ensuring that all required records are up to date and accessible.

16 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) has a crucial social responsibility to promote media diversity, inclusivity, and access to information. This social responsibility is realised through creating an inclusive, diverse, and responsible media environment that empowers all South Africans to access and participate in the media landscape. By fulfilling these responsibilities, MDDA contributes to a more democratic and informed society.

Promoting Media Diversity:

- MDDA's primary responsibility is to foster diversity in the media industry by supporting and encouraging the establishment of community and small commercial media projects. This includes initiatives that represent historically disadvantaged, marginalised communities and ensure a plurality of voices in the media.
- MDDA aims to bridge the digital divide and improve media access for historically disadvantaged groups, including rural communities, women, youth, and people with disabilities. By providing support and resources, MDDA enables these groups to participate in media creation and consumption.

- MDDA's social responsibility extends to empowering media entrepreneurs, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. By providing financial support and capacity-building programs, the agency helps aspiring media professionals to establish viable and sustainable media ventures.

Fostering Media Literacy and Critical Thinking:

- MDDA's social responsibility includes promoting media literacy among citizens to enable them to critically analyse media content, identify misinformation, and make informed decisions. This helps to create an informed and responsible media audience.

Supporting Diverse Content Creation:

- MDDA encourages media organisations to produce content that reflects the diversity of South Africa's society. This includes content that represents various cultures, languages, genders, and perspectives, thus promoting social cohesion and understanding.

17 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We are pleased to present our report for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

Part 1: Audit and Risk Committee Reflections

As the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee, I am pleased to reflect on the Committee's key objectives and activities for the reporting period. The ARC has maintained its independence throughout the year, ensuring that all deliberations and decisions were free from undue influence or conflicts of interest. Regular declarations of interest were made by all members, and any potential conflicts were proactively managed to uphold the integrity of the Committee's work.

Strategically, the ARC focused on strengthening the Agency's governance, risk management, and internal control environment. The Committee provided counsel to management and the Board on financial reporting, risk mitigation, and compliance matters, and ensured that the independence and objectivity of the internal audit function were always protected. The Internal Audit Unit was empowered to operate independently and, where necessary, provided input beyond the internal audit function to support broader governance objectives.

The ARC maintained constructive relationships with key stakeholders, including management and the Auditor-General. The Committee provided detailed reports and briefings to the

Board after each meeting, outlining main issues deliberated, challenges identified, and proposed solutions.

In fulfilling its statutory responsibilities, the ARC confirms that it has complied with Section 51(1)(a)(ii) of the Public Finance Management Act and Treasury Regulation 27.1. The Committee has adopted and operated in accordance with its formal terms of reference, as set out in the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and has discharged all responsibilities contained therein. The ARC recognises its duty to serve the public interest and has diligently upheld this responsibility, functioning without hindrance, limitations, or threats to its independence throughout the reporting period.

The ARC Charter explicitly references adherence to the Institute of Internal Auditors Standards and the King Report on Corporate Governance, ensuring that the internal audit function is guided by international best practices and that its independence is appropriately safeguarded.

The ARC regularly reviews and approves the Internal Audit Charter, ensuring it clearly defines the purpose, authority, and responsibilities of the internal audit function and is aligned with the MDDA's governance framework and risk environment. The ARC also oversees the appointment and performance of the Internal Audit Unit. The Committee monitored the adequacy of internal audit's resourcing. Internal and external quality assessments are conducted as required by the IIA

Standards, and the ARC ensures that internal audit activities are coordinated with the Auditor-General and other assurance providers to maximise effectiveness and avoid duplication.

Throughout the reporting period, the ARC applied professional scepticism in the execution of its duties. Committee members critically evaluated all information placed before them, requested additional information when necessary, and continuously assessed whether internal audit, management, and other assurance providers maintained high ethical and professional standards. The ARC's meeting protocols require members to declare any conflicts of interest, and the committee's independence is further reinforced by its composition of independent, non-executive members with relevant expertise.

The ARC's approach is further evidenced by its regular engagement with the Internal Audit Unit, management, and Auditor-General, as well as its oversight of combined assurance activities.

Part 2: Audit Committee Composition and Meeting Attendance

In accordance with its Charter, the Audit and Risk Committee consists of five (5) members in total, minimum of three (3) being external members and one (1) Representative from the MDDA Board, (1) representative from the Shareholder; and one of which is an alternative member of the Board representative. The committee is properly constituted, with a balanced representation of independent members with a diverse and appropriate mix of qualifications, expertise, and experience. The committee convened six times during the year with four being ordinary meetings and the two special meetings.

Part 3: Audit and Risk Committee Focus Areas

Effectiveness of Internal Control Systems:

The ARC regularly reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the Agency's internal control systems through quarterly reports, internal audit findings, and management feedback. The Committee noted improvements in internal controls, particularly in financial management and compliance, but also identified areas requiring further strengthening, such as asset management and procurement. Action plans such as the audit improvement plan were implemented to address these gaps, and progress was monitored throughout the year.

Effectiveness of the Internal Audit Function:

The ARC reviewed the Internal Audit Unit's annual plan, audit coverage, and the quality of audit reports. The Committee confirms that the Unit operated independently, was adequately resourced, and provided objective assurance on key risk areas. The ARC also ensured that management responded promptly to audit recommendations, and follow-up audits confirmed improvements in targeted areas.

Effectiveness of Risk Management:

Risk management was a standing agenda item, with the

ARC reviewing risk registers, mitigation strategies, and the implementation of the risk management policy. The Committee concluded that risk management practices were sound, with regular risk assessments and updates provided to the Board.

Adequacy, Reliability, and Accuracy of Financial and Performance Information:

The ARC scrutinised financial and performance reports submitted by management, focusing on accuracy, completeness, and alignment with legislative requirements. The Committee confirmed that financial and performance information was generally reliable, with improvements noted in the quality of reporting. Any discrepancies identified were addressed through corrective actions.

Adequacy and Effectiveness of ICT Governance:

The ARC reviewed ICT governance through internal audit reports and management updates. The Committee noted progress in strengthening ICT controls and data management.

Accounting and Auditing Concerns:

The ARC considered findings from both internal and external audits, addressing concerns related to asset management, procurement, and compliance. The Committee worked closely with management to implement corrective measures and monitored the resolution of audit findings through regular follow-up reports.

During the year under review, the Committee considered a matter relating to expenditure arising from the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, following an audit finding raised by the Auditor-General regarding compliance with the Media Development and Diversity Agency Act, 2002. The matter was the subject of litigation before the Johannesburg High Court, which was withdrawn by the applicant subsequent to the financial year-end. National Treasury did not support a departure to defer the assessment of this matter pending finalisation of that litigation. Accordingly, the related irregular expenditure for the current and prior years, together with the cumulative balance since the date of appointment, has been disclosed in the Annual Financial Statements. The Board has instructed its legal representatives to review the disputed facts pertaining to the appointment, and the Committee will continue to monitor this matter.

Retention of surplus funds

The Committee also considered a dispute between the Agency and National Treasury concerning the retention of surplus funds of R9,958,483, which National Treasury has determined must be surrendered to the National Revenue Fund in terms of section 53(3) of the PFMA. The Agency's position is that these funds derive from ring-fenced statutory levy income protected under section 88 of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005.

The Agency continues to engage with National Treasury on the matter. Further details are set out in the notes to the Annual Financial Statements.

Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Provisions:

Compliance was monitored through quarterly compliance reports and updates from the Company Secretary. Based on the reports considered by ARC, the Committee is aware of the material non-compliance with key legal and regulatory requirements.

Quality of In Year Management and Monthly Quarterly Reports:

The ARC reviewed the quality and timeliness of monthly and quarterly reports submitted to Treasury, as required by the PFMA. The Committee confirmed that the Agency met its reporting obligations, with reports being comprehensive and submitted on time.

Combined Assurance:

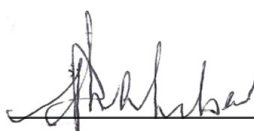
The ARC adopted a combined assurance approach, coordinating the work of internal audit, the Auditor-General, management, and other assurance providers. This approach enhanced the reliability of assurance activities and ensured that significant risks were adequately addressed.

Evaluation of Annual Financial Statements:

The ARC reviewed the annual financial statements prepared by the Agency, ensuring that they were prepared in accordance

with applicable standards and fairly presented the financial position of the MDDA. The Committee recommended the approval of the statements to the Board. The ARC reviewed the AFS, considered the Auditor-General of South Africa audit outcome, and recommended approval to the Board.

The ARC's comprehensive oversight and regular engagement with management, internal audit, and the Auditor-General of South Africa ensured that the Agency's governance, risk management, and assurance frameworks remained appropriately safeguarded and effective throughout the year.



Prof. Rajesh Mahabeer

**Chairperson of the Audit Committee
MDDA**

Date: 31 August 2026

18 B-BBEE COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The following table has been completed in accordance with the compliance to the BBBEE requirements of the BBBEE Act of 2013 and as determined by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

Has the Department / Public Entity applied any relevant Code of Good Practice (B-BBEE Certificate Levels 1 – 8) with regards to the following:		
Criteria	Response Yes / No	Discussion (include a discussion on your response and indicate what measures have been taken to comply)
Determining qualification criteria for the issuing of licences, concessions or other authorisations in respect of economic activity in terms of any law?	N/A	The MDDA does not issue licences or concessions.
Developing and implementing a preferential procurement policy?	N/A	The MDDA is implementing the Preferential Policy Framework Act (Act 5 of 2000), Preferential Procurement Regulations 2022 and National Treasury Instructions and Practices Notes.
Determining qualification criteria for the sale of state-owned enterprises?	N/A	There are no State-Owned Entities under MDDA control.
Developing criteria for entering into partnerships with the private sector?	N/A	The MDDA engages in strategic partnerships and collaborations with government, industry, development partners and private-sector stakeholders in support of its legislative mandate. However, the MDDA does not develop specific B-BBEE criteria for entering into partnerships with the private sector, as contemplated in this provision.
Determining criteria for the awarding of incentives, grants and investment schemes in support of Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment?	N/A	The MDDA provides grant funding in accordance with its legislative mandate to promote and support the development and sustainability of community and small commercial media. However, the MDDA does not offer specific incentives or investment schemes in support of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment as contemplated in this provision.



PART **D**

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

The 2025/26 financial year was marked by significant progress in advancing the MDDA human capital objectives and strengthening organisational capability. The Human Resources (HR) Unit continued to position itself as a strategic business partner, supporting the implementation of the MDDA Strategic Plan 2025/26-2029/30 through initiatives focused on talent acquisition, employment equity, leadership development, employee wellness, organisational culture, governance, and performance management. Throughout the year, the HR function remained committed to building a capable, engaged, and high-performing workforce while ensuring compliance with legislative and governance requirements.

The HR Unit's work was guided by six strategic pillars. Firstly, talent acquisition and workforce planning remained a key priority, with efforts aimed at attracting, retaining, and developing skilled employees to support organisational sustainability. Through focused recruitment interventions, the Agency successfully filled several critical positions, including the ICT Manager, Technical Broadcast Specialist, Company Secretary, Enterprise Risk Management Specialist, and ICT Specialist. These appointments contributed to organisational stability and reduced the vacancy rate from 11 percent at the beginning of the financial year to 4.4 percent by year-end on funded vacancies, significantly exceeding the organisational target of maintaining vacancies below 10 percent. The MDDA also continued investing in youth development initiatives through internship and work-integrated learning programmes, while pursuing additional funding opportunities through the MICT SETA to support future skills development interventions.

Secondly, transformation and inclusivity remained central to the HR agenda. The implementation of the Employment Equity Plan continued to guide recruitment and workforce transformation initiatives. During the reporting period, the Agency successfully achieved its Employment Equity targets in the African, Coloured, and Gender categories, demonstrating measurable progress towards building a representative workforce. The Employment Equity Committee continued to provide oversight on implementation, and the Employment Equity Report was successfully submitted to the Department of Employment and Labour. While progress was achieved, focused interventions remain necessary to improve representation within the disability, White, and Indian categories.

Thirdly, learning, development, and capacity building remained important components of the HR strategy. The implementation of the Workplace Skills Plan focused on enhancing employee capabilities through formal training interventions, workshops, conferences, bursary opportunities, and professional memberships. Employees participated in learning programmes covering leadership,

project management, governance, ethics, public speaking, advanced Excel, human resources management, and other technical disciplines. During the year, bursaries were awarded to employees to support ongoing professional development, while the Agency also submitted a discretionary grant proposal valued at approximately R7.6 million to the MICT SETA to secure funding for internships, employee bursaries, student bursaries, and community media placements. These initiatives support MDDA's commitment to developing a skilled and future-ready workforce. A significant achievement during the reporting period was the MDDA's recognition by the South African Board for People Practices (SABPP), where the Agency was awarded the 2025 SABPP Award for Leading Organisation Supporting Youth Empowerment and Development: Learnerships, Graduate Programmes and YES Programmes. This prestigious recognition acknowledges the MDDA's continued investment in youth development through its internship and workplace learning programmes, which provide valuable workplace experience, skills development opportunities, and career pathways for young professionals. The award affirms the Agency's commitment to building future talent, supporting transformation within the media sector, and contributing meaningfully to South Africa's broader skills development and youth employment agenda.

Performance management and succession planning continued to form the fourth strategic pillar. The Agency successfully concluded the moderation of the 2024/25 performance cycle and implemented performance incentives for qualifying employees in accordance with the approved Performance Management Framework. During the reporting period, the organisation also embarked on the implementation of the SAGE 300 Performance Management and Personal Development Planning system to strengthen performance monitoring, improve reporting capabilities, and automate performance management processes. In addition, substantial progress was made in succession planning, culminating in the development and consultation of a Succession Planning Framework that will support leadership continuity and talent retention in future years.

Fifthly, organisational culture, employee engagement, and change management initiatives received increased attention during the year. Stakeholder relations also remained a priority through ongoing engagement with organised labour and employees regarding organisational transformation initiatives. These include the implementation of job evaluation outcomes, collective bargaining processes, and the development of succession planning interventions. The Agency further strengthened employee engagement through wellness campaigns and recognition initiatives that promoted collaboration, inclusivity, and organisational cohesion.

Lastly, employee health, wellness, governance, and compliance remained key components of the HR portfolio. The Employee Wellness Programme continued to expand through the #MyWellbeingWednesdayWisdom (WWW) initiative, which provided employees with regular wellness resources, awareness campaigns, webinars, and access to counselling and support services through the Employee Assistance Programme. Topics addressed mental health, physical wellbeing, financial wellness, emotional resilience, and work-life balance. A notable achievement was the successful hosting of the MDDA Annual Wellness Day, which combined employee wellbeing activities, health screenings, and long-service recognition awards. Governance and compliance were further strengthened through the successful implementation of the HR Power Hour Drive, which achieved 100 percent employee coverage on approved HR policies and contributed to improved organisational awareness and policy compliance.

The 2025/26 financial year represented a period of organisational strengthening, transformation, and innovation within the Human Resources environment. The progress achieved in recruitment, employment equity, performance management, policy implementation, employee wellness, leadership development, and succession planning has established a strong foundation for the continued development of a capable, engaged, and high-performing workforce. These achievements demonstrate MDDA's ongoing commitment to investing in its people, fostering an inclusive workplace culture, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

2 HUMAN RESOURCE OVERSIGHT STATISTICS

As at the end of the reporting period, the MDDA had a permanent staff complement of 43 employees against an approved organisational structure of 55 positions. Of the 12 vacant positions on the approved structure, only two were funded, resulting in a vacancy rate of 4.4 percent.

During this period, the MDDA made five permanent appointments, one was an internal promotion. These appointments included several critical positions, namely ICT Manager, Technical Broadcast Specialist, Company Secretary, Enterprise Risk Management Specialist, and ICT Specialist, thereby strengthening organisational capacity, enhancing key organisational capabilities, and reducing reliance on acting arrangements.

Employee turnover remained relatively low, with three terminations processed during the year, due two resignations and one contract expiry. In addition, internship resignations and fixed-term contract expiries were managed in line with organisational policies and operational requirements. The stable workforce environment contributed positively to business continuity and the retention of institutional knowledge.

In support of youth development, skills transfer, and succession planning objectives, the MDDA continued to invest in internship and workplace learning opportunities. At the end of the reporting period, the Agency employed fourteen (14) interns and three (3) employees on temporary contracts. The internship programme was extended into the new financial year while awaiting the finalisation of the MICT SETA discretionary grant process, ensuring continuity of development opportunities and organisational support capacity.

The improvement in vacancy levels, the successful recruitment of critical skills, continued investment in talent development, and progress made towards Employment Equity targets contributed to maintaining a capable, diverse, and sustainable workforce aligned to the MDDA's strategic objectives.

2.1 Personnel related expenditure

Personnel Cost by Programme/Activity/Objective

The MDDA continues to apply a Total Cost to Company (TCTC) remuneration model, which provides a transparent and flexible approach to employee remuneration. The model ensures that employee compensation remains competitive, equitable, and aligned with market-related remuneration practices while enabling employees to structure their remuneration packages according to their individual needs. Under the TCTC model, all statutory contributions and employee benefits are consolidated into a single remuneration package, providing a holistic view of the Agency's investment in its workforce.

As part of its employee value proposition, the MDDA provides a range of benefits that form part of the total remuneration package. These include membership of the Liberty Provident Fund, Discovery Medical Aid, study assistance to support employee development, professional memberships, and cell phone allowances for qualifying employees. During the reporting period, the Agency continued to invest in employee development through bursaries, training interventions, professional memberships, wellness initiatives, and leadership development programmes aimed at strengthening organisational capability and supporting succession planning.

A significant milestone during the reporting period was the successful conclusion of the Job Evaluation Project. The Agency completed the job evaluation process and concluded extensive consultations with employees, management, and governance structures on the outcomes and proposed implementation approach. The project confirmed the grading of positions across the approved organisational structure and provided the MDDA with a framework for promoting internal equity, strengthening its employee value proposition, and aligning remuneration practices with organisational requirements. The work undertaken during the year laid a solid foundation for the phased implementation of the Job Evaluation outcomes in subsequent financial years.

The personnel expenditure for the 2025/2026 financial year reflects the Agency's continued investment in attracting, retaining, developing, and rewarding a capable workforce that is able to deliver on the MDDA's mandate. Personnel costs include remuneration and benefits for permanent and temporary employees, interns, and work-integrated learning participants appointed during the reporting period. The personnel cost structure also supports key organisational priorities, including employment equity, talent management, leadership development, succession planning, employee wellness, and organisational sustainability.

The MDDA allocated R1,570,248.48 in performance rewards during the 2025/2026 financial year as part of its commitment to recognising and rewarding employee contributions. The performance rewards programme supports the Agency's objective of fostering a high-performance culture by recognising excellence, motivating employees, and reinforcing the alignment between individual performance and the achievement of strategic objectives.

In support of building organisational capability, the MDDA invested R732,980.61 in employee training and development during the 2025/2026 financial year. This investment represented 1.81% of total personnel expenditure and enabled the implementation of targeted learning and development initiatives aimed at strengthening technical competencies, leadership capability, and overall organisational performance in support of the Agency's strategic objectives.

Programme/activity/objective	Total Expenditure for the entity (R)	Personnel Expenditure (R)	Personnel exp. as a % of total exp. (R)	No. of employees	Average personnel cost per employee (R)
Office of the CEO	3,710,191.00	2,826,114.48	76%	2	1,413,057.24
Finance	9,161,368.64	6,175,226.80	67%	6	1,029,204.47
Corporate Services	22,966,093.00	9,749,413.65	42%	11	886,310.33
Company Secretary	2,817,294.28	1,963,929.48	70%	3	654,643.16
Internal Audit	5,026,537.00	748,126.88	15%	1	748,126.88
Projects	46,531,872.34	11,695,375.26	25%	17	687,963.25
Sector Development, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation and Research	16,032,450.89	7,231,964.90	45%	10	723,196.49

Personnel cost by salary band

Level	Personnel Expenditure)	% of personnel exp. to total personnel cost	No. of employees	Average personnel cost per employee
Top Management	6,541,639.55	16%	3	2,180,546.52
Senior Management	14,295,046.40	35%	9	1,588,338.49
Professional qualified	18,140,673.97	45%	30	604,689.13
Skilled	1,299,850.78	3%	1	1,299,850.78
Semi-skilled	112,940.74	0%	7	16,134.39
Unskilled	-	0%	0	-
Total	40,390,151.44	100%	50	807,803.03

The variance between personnel expenditure of 40,390,151.44 and employee costs of 40,867,255 arises from movements in provisions, leave pay, and internship payments, which are reflected only under employee costs in the income statement.

Performance Rewards

Programme//activity/objective	Performance rewards	Personnel Expenditure	% of performance rewards to total personnel cost (R)
Top Management	193,695.00	6,541,639.55	3%
Senior Management	502,035.70	14,295,046.40	4%
Professional qualified	874,517.78	18,140,673.97	5%
Skilled	-	1,299,850.78	0%
Semi-skilled	-	112,940.74	0%
Unskilled	-	-	0%
Total	1,570,248.48	40,390,151.44	-

Training Costs

Programme//activity/objective	Personnel Expenditure (R)	Training Expenditure (R)	Training Expenditure as a % of Personnel Cost.	No. of employees trained	Avg training cost per employee
Training & Development	40,390,151.44	732,980.61	1,81%	33	22,211.53

Employment and vacancies

During the period under review, the MDDA had ten vacant positions on its approved organisational structure that were unfunded. These positions were therefore excluded from the recruitment drive. This left two funded vacancies within the approved establishment. One funded vacancy was placed on hold pending the finalisation of litigation, while the recruitment process for the second funded vacancy had not commenced by the end of the reporting period as management was still engaging on the appropriate recruitment process.

The Agency remains committed to attracting and retaining suitably qualified employees through market-related remuneration, opportunities for professional development, and the implementation of Employment Equity principles in all recruitment and selection processes. In the coming financial year, management will continue to address the funded vacancies, subject to the resolution of the outstanding litigation and the conclusion of internal engagements on the recruitment process. The Agency will also continue to strengthen its succession planning framework to build internal capability and support future workforce requirements.

Programme/activity/objective	2025/2026 (April) No. of Employees	2025/2026 Approved Posts	2025/2026 No. of (March) Employees	2025/2026 Vacancies	% of vacancies
Top Management	3	5	3	2	40%
Senior Management	9	11	10	1	9%
Professional qualified	23	33	24	9	27%
Skilled	5	5	5	0	0%
Semi-skilled	1	1	1	0	0%
Total	41	55	43	12	-

Programme/activity/objective	2025/2026 (April) No. of Employees	2025/2026 Approved Posts	2025/2026 No. of (March) Employees	2025/2026 Vacancies	% of vacancies
Office of the CEO	2	2	2	0	0%
Internal Audit	1	1	1	0	0%
Corporate Services	9	14	10	4	29%
Sector Development, Planning, M&E and Research	7	11	7	4	36%
Projects	13	17	14	3	18%
Company Secretary	3	3	3	0	0%
Finance	6	7	6	1	14%
Total	41	55	43	12	-

Employment changes

The organisation recorded a net increase in employment during the reporting period, with the staff complement rising from 41 employees at the beginning of the period to 43 employees at year-end. This growth was supported by five appointments across salary bands, mainly within the professionally qualified and senior management categories.

A total of three terminations occurred during the year, of which two were resignations and one was contract expiry. This represents an overall turnover rate of approximately 7.3% based on the opening staff complement. The professionally qualified category recorded the highest movement, with three appointments and two terminations, while senior management recorded two appointments and one termination.

The increase in headcount reflects the MDDA's continued efforts to strengthen organisational capacity, fill critical vacancies, and support the achievement of its strategic objectives. Recruitment and appointment processes continued to be guided by the Employment Equity Plan to promote diversity and representativity across occupational levels.

Salary Band	Employment at beginning of period	Appointments	Terminations	Employment at end of the period
Top Management	3	0	0	3
Senior Management	9	2	1	10
Professional qualified	23	3	2	24
Skilled	5	0	0	5
Semi-skilled	1	0	0	1
Total	41	5	3	43

Reasons for staff leaving

During the reporting period, a total of three employees left the organisation with two departures attributed to resignations and one contract expiry. The primary reasons cited were personal career development opportunities and relocation.

Reason	Number	% of total no. of staff leaving
Death	0	0%
Resignation	2	100%
Dismissal	0	0%
Retirement	0	0%
Ill health	0	0%
Expiry of contract	1	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	3	

Labour Relations: Misconduct and disciplinary action

Nature of disciplinary Action	Number
Verbal Warning	0
Written Warning	0
Final Written warning	0
Dismissal	0
Total	-

Equity Target and Employment Equity Status

The MDDA continued to implement its Employment Equity (EE) Plan during the 2025/26 financial year with the objective of promoting an inclusive, diverse, and representative workforce in line with the Employment Equity Act and the National Economically Active Population (EAP). The Employment Equity Committee continued to monitor progress and provide oversight on the implementation of the plan throughout the reporting period.

As at 31 March 2026, the MDDA had a permanent staff complement of 43 employees against an approved organisational structure of 55 positions. During the reporting period, the Agency achieved its Year 1 Employment Equity targets in the African, Coloured, and Gender categories, demonstrating continued progress towards building a representative workforce. Strategic appointments made during the year contributed positively to the achievement of these targets while strengthening organisational capacity.

The MDDA continued to advance its transformation objectives through targeted recruitment and talent management initiatives. During the year, several critical positions were successfully filled, including the ICT Manager, Technical Broadcast Specialist, Company Secretary, Enterprise Risk Management Specialist, and ICT Specialist. In support of employee development and career progression, one internal employee was successfully appointed to the position of ICT Manager through a competitive recruitment process, demonstrating the Agency's commitment to developing, recognising, and retaining internal talent.

The Agency continued to integrate Employment Equity considerations into all recruitment and selection processes and intensified efforts to improve representation within underrepresented designated groups. The Employment Equity Committee regularly reviewed workforce demographics and recruitment outcomes to ensure that progress towards transformation objectives remained on track and aligned with the approved Employment Equity Plan.

Despite the progress achieved, representation gaps remain in certain designated groups, particularly persons with disabilities and selected race categories. The Agency will continue to implement targeted recruitment interventions, strengthen partnerships that support diverse talent sourcing, and align workforce planning initiatives with its transformation objectives and legislative obligations.

The MDDA remains committed to building a diverse, inclusive, and equitable work environment that supports organisational effectiveness, promotes equal opportunity, and reflects the demographics of the communities it serves.

Levels	MALE							
	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Current	Target	Current	Target	Current	Target	Current	Target
Top Management	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Professional qualified	11	10	0	1	0	1	0	1
Skilled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semi-skilled	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	17	0	2	0	1	0	1

Levels	FEMALE							
	African		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Current	Target	Current	Target	Current	Target	Current	Target
Top Management	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	4	4	1	0	0	1	0	1
Professional qualified	13	14	0	0	0	1	0	1
Skilled	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semi-skilled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	25	1	1	0	2	0	2

Levels	STAFF WITH DISABILITIES			
	Male		Female	
	Current	Target	Current	Target
Top Management	0	0	0	0
Senior Management	0	0	0	0
Professional qualified	1	1	0	0
Skilled	0	1	0	0
Semi-skilled	0	0	0	0
Unskilled	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	0	0



PART **E**

PFMA COMPLIANCE REPORT

1 IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE AND MATERIAL LOSSES

1.1. Irregular expenditure

a) Reconciliation of irregular expenditure

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Opening balance	7 910 096	4 846 297
Adjustment to opening balance	-	-
Opening balance as restated	-	-
Add: Irregular expenditure confirmed	9 078 607	3 063 799
Less: Irregular expenditure condoned	-	-
Less: Irregular expenditure not condoned and removed	-	-
Less: Irregular expenditure recoverable	-	-
Less: Irregular expenditure not recoverable and written off	-	-
Closing balance	16 988 703	7 910 096

Reconciling notes

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Irregular expenditure that was under assessment	-	-
Irregular expenditure that relates to the prior year and identified in the current year	2 537 195	-
Irregular expenditure for the current year	6 541 412	3 063 799
Total	9 078 607	3 063 799

b) Details of irregular expenditure (under assessment, determination, and investigation)

Description ¹	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Irregular expenditure under assessment	-	2 045 697
Irregular expenditure under determination	-	-
Irregular expenditure under investigation	-	-
Total	-	2 045 697

c) Details of irregular expenditure condoned

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Irregular expenditure condoned	-	-
Total	-	-

d) Details of irregular expenditure removed - (not condoned)

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Irregular expenditure NOT condoned and removed	-	-
Total	-	-

e) Details of irregular expenditure recoverable

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Irregular expenditure recoverable	-	-
Total	-	-

f) Details of current and previous year irregular expenditure written off (irrecoverable)

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Irregular expenditure written off	-	-
Total	-	-

Additional disclosure relating to Inter-Institutional Arrangements

g) Details of irregular expenditure where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is responsible for the non-compliance)

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Not applicable		
Total	-	-

h) Details of disciplinary or criminal steps taken as a result of irregular expenditure

Disciplinary steps taken
None

1.2. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

a) Reconciliation of fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Opening balance	574 870	574 870
Adjustment to opening balance	-	-
Opening balance as restated	-	-
Add: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure confirmed	-	-
Less: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable	-	-
Less: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure not recoverable and written off	-	-
Closing balance	574 870	574 870

Reconciling notes

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure that was under assessment	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure that relates to the prior year and identified in the current year	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the current year	-	-
Total	0	0

b) Details of fruitless and wasteful expenditure (under assessment, determination, and investigation)

Description ²	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under assessment	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under determination	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under investigation	-	-
Total	-	-

c) Details of fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable	-	-
Total	-	-

d) Details of fruitless and wasteful expenditure not recoverable and written off

Description	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure written off	-	-
Total	-	-

e) Details of disciplinary or criminal steps taken as a result of fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Disciplinary steps taken
None

1.3. Additional disclosure relating to material losses in terms of PFMA Section 55(2)(b)(i) &(iii)**a) Details of material losses through criminal conduct**

Material losses through criminal conduct	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
Theft	-	-
Other material losses	-	-
Less: Recoverable	-	-
Less: Not recoverable and written off	-	-
Total	-	-

b) Details of other material losses

Nature of other material losses	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
(Group major categories, but list material items)	-	-
Total	-	-

Information related to material losses must also be disclosed in the annual financial statements.

c) Other material losses recoverable

Nature of losses	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
(Group major categories, but list material items)	-	-
Total	-	-

d) Other material losses not recoverable and written off

Nature of losses	2025/2026	2024/2025
	R	R
(Group major categories, but list material items)	-	-
Total	-	-

2 LATE AND/OR NON-PAYMENT OF SUPPLIERS

Description	Number of invoices	Consolidated Value
		R
Valid invoices received	274	33,163,516.84
Invoices paid within 30 days or agreed period	271	33,016,100.73
Invoices paid after 30 days or agreed period	3	147,416.11
Invoices older than 30 days or agreed period (unpaid and without dispute)	-	-
Invoices older than 30 days or agreed period (unpaid and in dispute)	-	-

3 SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

3.1. Procurement by other means

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R
Caseware License Renewal	Adapt IT	Sole Provider	N/A	128 476.87
IoDSA Training	IoDSA	Sole Provider	N/A	150 470.00
Ethics Conference	The Ethics Institute	Sole Provider	N/A	19 678.30
Membership Fees	IIASA	Sole Provider	N/A	3 694.38
Press Office	Bizcommunity	No suitable suppliers are available from the list of prospective suppliers	N/A	40 500.00
Risk Workshop	The Institute of Risk Management	No suitable suppliers are available from the list of prospective suppliers	N/A	134 550.00
Caseware Training	Adapt IT	Sole Provider	N/A	36 359.88
Media Conference	Farmers Change	Sole Provider	N/A	23 750.00
IPM Membership	Institute of People Management	Sole Provider	N/A	14 950.00
Risk Membership	The Institute of Risk Management	Sole Provider	N/A	2 902.60

Project description	Name of supplier	Type of procurement by other means	Contract number	Value of contract R
IPM Membership	Institute of People Management	Sole Provider	N/A	4 478.40
SAIPA Membership	South African Institute of Professional Accountants	Sole Provider	N/A	10 073.87
SAICA Membership	The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants	Sole Provider	N/A	8 851.67
NAB Membership	National Association of Broadcasters	Sole Provider	N/A	76 514.61
SABPP Membership	SA Board for People Practices	Sole Provider	N/A	19 745.00

3.2. Contract variations and expansions

Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type (Expansion or Variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous contract expansion/s or variation/s (if applicable)	Value of current contract expansion or variation
				R	R	R
SharePoint and BIS Services	DAITA	Expansion	N/A	R 956 992.05	N/A	-



PART **F**

ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPE AND FUNDING

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL MEDIA

The MDDA Act No. 14 of 2002 established the MDDA to help create an enabling environment for media development and diversity that is conducive to public discourse and reflects the needs and aspirations of all South Africans.

Despite the fact that transformation of the media remains a challenge for South African democracy, the media landscape has changed considerably since 2004, with the MDDA being the largest contributor to enabling access to, control of, and management of the sector by historically disadvantaged individuals.

Now more than ever before, all South African languages are actively used to communicate and engage with communities, with the community broadcast sector far outstripping their mainstream counterparts in this regard.

The MDDA has invested significantly in the purchase of world-class radio equipment, and to further enable quality productions, since 2019/2020, including an allocation for content production in the grant funding package.

Similarly, the community and small commercial print sector has grown significantly in recent years with South Africa now boasting more than 200 small publishers.

FUNDING OF THE AGENCY

Section 15 of the MDDA Act provides for funding of the Agency consisting of:

- Money appropriated by Parliament;
- Money received in terms of agreements contemplated in section 21;
- Domestic and foreign grants;
- Interest derived from any investments; or
- Money lawfully accruing from any other source.

The money referred to above must be utilised to:

- Fund projects and activities connected therewith, including project evaluation, feasibility studies, needs analyses, research, and training;
- Defray expenses, including expenses regarding remuneration, allowances, pensions, and other service benefits referred to in section 12 (6) of the Act, incurred by the Agency in the performance of its functions under the Act as long as such expenses do not exceed the prescribed percentage of the funds referred to above.

Description	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	R	R	R	R	R	R
Total budget from GCIS	32 279 000	60 187 627	51 753 326	45 475 146	38 568 000	40 296 000
Broadcast Income	60 915 177	64 948 917	64 888 360	67 096 376	65 736 319	64 664 401
Total	93 194 177	125 136 544	116 641 686	112 571 522	104 304 318	104 960 401

The Economic Development Fund (EDF) - A conditional grant, resulted in a minor increase in grant revenue during the 2025/26 financial year. The EDF programmes commenced in the 2022/23 financial year, and a cumulative amount of R38 645 889 in conditional grants has been recognised as revenue for the period from 2022/23 to 2025/26. The EDF project has been concluded.

Broadcast funders – ICASA license holders may elect to pay USAF levies either to ICASA or to the MDDA, with levies paid to the MDDA recognised as revenue. MultiChoice, which contributes approximately 80 percent of broadcast funding, has committed R45 million annually over the MTEF and historically contributed above this commitment. Broadcast contributions are projected to increase by 1 percent over the MTEF due to industry growth trends. MultiChoice's merger and change in financial year end means the

2026/27 contribution will cover only nine months, resulting in a significant 28 percent reduction in expected funds and a shortfall of R14 million compared to prior years' committed levels.

Grants' income – MDDA receives an unconditional grant allocation through Government Communications Information System (GCIS), the grant is used to fund operational expenditure. Government Grants will only increase by an average of 5 percent over the MTEF, the increase is below the inflation levels which warranted a reduction on expenditure.

Broadcast Partners

- Heart 104.9 FM
- Gagasi FM
- Radio Algoa
- E TV (Pty) Ltd
- Y FM Radio Station
- Cape Town Radio / Smile FM
- Hot/Classic FM
- East Coast Radio
- Capricorn FM
- Multichoice Africa (Pty)
- SABC
- Central Media Group (Pty) Ltd trading as OFM
- Radio Jacaranda
- Cape Talk
- KFM / Crescent Consortium
- 702 Primedia Broadcasting
- Highveld Stereo (Africa on Air) 947
- Vuma 103 FM PTY LTD
- Kaya FM (Pty) Ltd
- Rise FM

Foreign Grants

No foreign grants were received in the year under review.

Funding Cycles

The MDDA is funded by Government through the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), which reports to the Minister in the Presidency. The Agency is also funded by broadcast media companies as per funding agreements signed between the MDDA and these partners. The funding cycle from Government is in line with the Agency's financial year, which is April to March. However, the funding cycles for broadcast funds are November to November. Due to the different cycles of funding, the MDDA will always, at the financial year end, reflect funds from broadcast funders that still need to be approved.

Regulatory and Contractual Requirements**MDDA regulations state that:**

- At least 60 percent of grant funds should go to community media projects
- At least 25 percent to small commercial projects
- 5 percent to research projects



PART **G**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO PARLIAMENT ON MEDIA DEVELOPMENT DIVERSITY AGENCY

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Media Development Diversity Agency (the public entity) set out on pages 105 to 135, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, and the cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Media Development Diversity Agency as at 31 March 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (Standards of GRAP) as issued by the Accounting Standards Board of South Africa and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA).

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the public entity in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA code) as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matter

6. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Restatement of corresponding figures

7. As disclosed in note 28 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 31 March 2025 were restated as a result of an error in the financial statements of the entity at, and for the year ended, 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities of the accounting authority for the financial statements

8. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Standards of GRAP and the

requirements of the PFMA and for such internal control as the accounting authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

9. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting authority is responsible for assessing the public entity's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the public entity or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements

10. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
11. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report. This description, which is located at page 100 of the annexure to the auditor's report, forms part of my auditor's report.

Report on the annual performance report

12. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for the selected material performance indicators presented in the annual performance report. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.
13. I selected the following material performance indicators related to Programme 2: Grant and Seed Funding presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 31 March 2026. I selected those indicators that measure the public entity's performance on its primary mandated functions and that are of significant national, community or public interest.

- 2.1.1. Number of grant funding applications for community broadcast projects approved.
 - 2.1.2. Number of grant funding applications for small commercial print or digital media projects approved.
 - 2.1.3. Number of media projects provided with digital support.
 - 2.2.1. Number of annual evaluation reports generated.
 - 2.2.2. Number of monitoring reports generated on funded projects.
14. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected material performance indicators against the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice. When an annual performance report is prepared using these criteria, it provides useful and reliable information and insights to users on the public entity's planning and delivery on its mandate and objectives.
15. I performed procedures to test whether:
- the indicators used for planning and reporting on performance can be linked directly to the public entity's mandate and the achievement of its planned objectives
 - all the indicators relevant for measuring the public entity's performance against its primary mandated and prioritised functions and planned objectives are included
 - the indicators are well defined to ensure that they are easy to understand and can be applied consistently, as well as verifiable so that I can confirm the methods and processes to be used for measuring achievements
 - the targets can be linked directly to the achievement of the indicators and are specific, time bound and measurable to ensure that it is easy to understand what should be delivered and by when, the required level of performance as well as how performance will be evaluated
 - the indicators and targets reported on in the annual performance report are the same as those committed to in the approved initial or revised planning documents
 - the reported performance information is presented in the annual performance report in the prescribed manner.
 - there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and for the reasons provided for any overachievement of targets.
16. I performed the procedures to report material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
17. I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected indicators.

Other matter

18. I draw attention to the matter below.

Achievement of planned targets

19. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides explanations for over achievements.

Report of compliance with legislation

20. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The accounting authority is responsible for the public entity's compliance with legislation.
21. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the findings engagement methodology of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
22. Through an established AGSA process, I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the public entity, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.
23. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

Annual financial statements, performance report and annual reports

24. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not fully prepared in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework, as required by section 55(1)(a) of the PFMA. Material misstatements of payments in the cash flow statement, operational commitments and contingencies identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statement were corrected resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

Revenue management

25. Effective and appropriate steps were not taken to collect all revenue due, as required by section 51(1)(b)(i) of the PFMA.

Procurement and contract management

26. Some of the contracts were extended or modified without obtaining the mandated approval of a properly delegated official as required by section 56 of the PFMA.

Other information in the annual report

27. The accounting authority is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information referred to does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected material indicators in the scoped-in programme presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in this auditor's report.
28. My opinion on the financial statements and my reports on the audit of the annual performance report and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information included in the annual report and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion on it.

29. My responsibility is to read this other information and, in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected material indicators in the scoped-in programme presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
30. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

31. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.
32. The matter reported below is limited to the significant internal control deficiency that resulted in the material finding on compliance with legislation included in this report.
33. Management did not establish and maintain effective systems of internal control, including adequate review and monitoring controls, to ensure compliance with applicable legislation and regulatory requirements relating to the preparation of the annual financial statements, revenue management, and procurement and contract management.

Material irregularities

34. In accordance with the PAA and the Material Irregularity Regulations, I have a responsibility to report on the status of material irregularities as previously reported in the auditor's report.

Status of previously reported material irregularities

Failure to institute recovery processes against beneficiaries who misused grant funding

35. The public entity did not implement effective, efficient, and transparent systems of financial and risk management and internal control in line with section 51(1)(a) of the PFMA, as the public entity did not implement monitoring controls to ensure the efficient and effective usage of grant funding by beneficiaries in line with the requirements of the grant in aid agreement. Furthermore, the public entity did not invoke its right to recover disbursed funds from beneficiaries that did not utilise grant funding in line with the provisions of grant aid agreements and for which writebacks had been approved by the board. This indicates non-adherence to the requirements of paragraph 31.1 of the grant funding policy and paragraph 6.1.1 of the grant in aid agreements.

36. The accounting authority was notified of the material irregularity on 12 April 2024 and was invited to make a written submission on the actions taken and that will be taken to address the matter. The accounting authority responded on 13 May 2024 and submitted a close-out report on 17 July 2025. The following actions have been taken to resolve the material irregularity during the previous reporting period:

- For the beneficiaries who have been identified to have misused grant funding. The beneficiary's grant-in-aid agreements have been terminated.
- Letters of demand have been issued to the relevant beneficiaries who have been identified to have misused grant funding.
- The agency has initiated recovery processes for the potential misappropriated funds, monies from only one beneficiary has been recovery.
- For the remaining beneficiaries, there has been non-recovery of misappropriated funds due to the implications of the prescription act.
- Relevant training has been provided to beneficiaries and employees on financial management matters and compliance with grant-in-aid agreements.

37. The accounting authority had, in addition to the above actions, took the following additional steps to resolve the material irregularity during the reporting period:

- Strengthen controls and oversight mechanisms to prevent similar losses in the future and ensure compliance with the remedial actions in place to recover any misused or misappropriated funds.
- Strengthening oversight mechanisms such as issuance of non-compliance and breach notices.
- Enhancing compliance procedures.
- Providing additional training to beneficiaries on financial management and reporting requirements.

38. I notified the accounting authority on 6 March 2026 that appropriate actions are not being taken to address the material irregularity and that the matter will be escalated to the structures and persons in the AGSA delegated to make a decision in accordance with the PAA and the regulations on the course of action to take.

39. I notified the accounting authority on 28 May 2026 of the following recommendations, which should be implemented by 25 November 2026 with a progress report by 25 August 2026:

- Appropriate action should be taken to investigate the non-compliance with section 51(1)(a)(i) of the PFMA in order to determine the circumstances that led to the non-compliance for the purpose of taking appropriate corrective actions and to determine if any official should be held responsible.
- Reasonable steps should be taken to implement internal controls, to address the root causes identified during the investigation.
- Effective and appropriate disciplinary steps should be initiated without undue delay, against any official that the investigation found to be responsible, as required by section 51(1)(e) of the PFMA.

- All persons including juristic persons liable for the financial loss should be identified and appropriate action should continue to recover the financial loss suffered. The recovery process should not be unduly delayed.

40. I will follow-up on the implementation of recommendations at the stipulated due date.

Auditor General

Pretoria

Date: 31 July 2026



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

ANNEXURE TO THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

The annexure includes the following:

- The auditor-general's responsibility for the audit
- The selected legislative requirements for compliance testing

Auditor-general's responsibility for the audit

Professional judgement and professional scepticism

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected material performance indicators and on the public entity's compliance with selected requirements in key legislation.

Financial statements

In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor's report, I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the public entity's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made.

- conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the public entity to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a public entity to cease operating as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Communication with those charged with governance

I communicate with the accounting authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit. I also provide the accounting authority with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION – SELECTED LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations
Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999	Section 51(1)(b)(i); 51(1)(b)(ii); 51(1)(e)(iii); 53(4); 54(2)(c); 54(2)(d); 55(1)(a); 55(1)(b); 55(1)(c)(i); 56; 57(b); 66(3)(c); 66(5)
Treasury Regulations, 2005	Regulation 16A3.2; 16A3.2(a); 16A6.1; 16A6.2(a); 16A6.2(b); 16A6.3(a); 16A6.3(b); 16A6.3(c); 16A6.3(e); 16A6.4; 16A6.5; 16A6.6; 16A.7.1; 16A.7.3; 16A8.3; 16A8.4; 16A9.1(b)(ii); 16A 9.1(d); 16A9.1(e); 16A9.1(f); 16A9.2; 16A9.2(a)(ii); 30.1.1; 31.1.2(c); 30.1.3(a); 30.1.3(b); 30.1.3(d); 30.2.1; 31.2.1; 31.2.5; 31.2.7(a); 31.3.3; 32.1.1(a); 32.1.1(b); 32.1.1(c); 33.1.1; 33.1.3
Construction Industry Development Board Regulations, 2004	Regulation 17; 25(7A); 25(9)(a); 25(10)
National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 4A of 2016/17	Paragraph 6
National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 03 2021/22	Paragraph 4.1; 4.2(b); 4.3; 4.4(a); 4.17; 7.2; 7.6
National Treasury SCM Instruction No. 2 of 2021/22	Paragraph 3.2.1; 3.2.4; 3.2.4(a); 3.3.1
National Treasury Practice Note 5 of 2009/10	Paragraph 3.3
National Treasury Practice Note 7 of 2009/10	Paragraph 4.1.2
Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000	Section 1; 2(1)(a); 2(1)(b); 2.1(f)
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022	Regulation 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004	Section 34(1)

Media Development and Diversity Agency

(Registration number PE63)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

**General Information**

Country of incorporation and domicile	South Africa
Nature of business and principal activities	The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) is a statutory development agency for promoting and ensuring media development and diversity in South Africa, set up as a partnership between the South African Government and major print and broadcasting companies to assist in (amongst others) developing community and small commercial media in South Africa. It was established in 2003, in terms of the MDDA Act No. 14 of 2002 and started providing grant funding to projects on 29 January 2004.
Members	Prof. Hlengani Mathebula (Chairperson: Term ended 07 June 2026) Mr. Philly Moilwa (Chairperson: Term from 10 July 2026) Mr. Qondile Khedama Ms. Jayshree Pather Mr. Thembelani Mpakati Ms. Moipone Malefane Mr. Collin Mashile Appointed on 10 July 2026
Registered office	SABC Auckland Park Campus GSM Building 26 Canary Road Auckland Park 2006
Bankers	Absa Bank Limited South African Reserve Bank
Auditors	Auditor-General South Africa
Secretary	Menischia Du Plessis

Media Development and Diversity Agency

(Registration number PE63)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

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ABBREVIATIONS USED:

COID	Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
GRAP	Generally Recognised Accounting Practice
IAS	International Accounting Standards
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROVAL

The members are required by the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999), to maintain adequate accounting records and are responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is the responsibility of the members to ensure that the annual financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the entity as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended. The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements and were given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data.

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

The annual financial statements are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The members acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the entity and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the members to meet these responsibilities, the board of members sets standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or deficit in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the entity and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the entity's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the entity is on identifying, assessing,

managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the entity. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the entity endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The members are of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or deficit.

The members have reviewed the entity's cash flow forecast for the year to 31 March 2027 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, they are satisfied that the entity has or has access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The entity is wholly dependent on the allocation from the fiscus and broadcast funders for continued funding of operations. The annual financial statements are prepared on the basis that the entity is a going concern and that the entity has neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of the entity.

The annual financial statements set out on page 105-135, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the board of members on 31 July 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr. Philly Moliwa

Chairperson of the MDDA board (Term from 10 July 2026)

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2026

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2026	2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Receivables from exchange transactions	3	1 026 130	1 033 403
Cash and cash equivalents	4	86 819 844	81 103 276
		87 845 974	82 136 679
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	1 643 209	1 627 773
Total Assets		89 489 183	83 764 452
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Operating lease liability	6	331 867	149 691
Payables from exchange transactions	7	2 734 722	4 294 698
Payables from non-exchange transactions	8	9 958 483	-
Unspent conditional grants and receipts	9	5 802 470	8 707 541
Provisions	10	2 495 145	2 445 351
		21 322 687	15 597 281
Non-Current Liabilities			
Operating lease liability	6	213 018	544 885
Total Liabilities		21 535 705	16 142 166
Net Assets		67 953 478	67 622 286
Accumulated surplus		67 953 478	67 622 286
Total Net Assets		67 953 478	67 622 286

Statement of Financial Performance

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2026	2025
Revenue			
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Fees earned		632 240	413 696
Recoveries		508 625	405 347
EDF Income		265 697	513 098
Other income		19 699	133 216
Interest received	11	5 628 328	5 356 826
Total revenue from exchange transactions		7 054 589	6 822 183
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfer revenue			
Government grants & subsidies	12	44 476 855	43 911 364
Broadcast funders contribution	13	64 892 404	65 736 319
Recoveries		111 636	-
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		109 480 895	109 647 683
Total revenue		116 535 484	116 469 866
Expenditure			
Employee related costs	14	(40 867 255)	(38 683 805)
Depreciation and amortisation	15	(414 315)	(741 596)
Lease rentals on operating lease	16	(2 452 826)	(2 452 826)
Grant cost expenditure	17	(44 130 121)	(58 372 765)
Gain or loss on disposal of assets and liabilities	19	(4 673)	-
Administration expenses	18	(18 376 617)	(15 678 599)
Total expenditure		(106 245 807)	(115 929 591)
Surplus for the year		10 289 677	540 275

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Figures in Rand	Accumulated surplus	Total net assets
Balance at 01 April 2024	67 082 011	67 082 011
Changes in net assets		
Surplus for the year	540 275	540 275
Total changes	540 275	540 275
Balance at 01 April 2025	67 622 284	67 622 284
Changes in net assets		
Surrender of prior year surplus	(9 958 483)	(9 958 483)
Net income (losses) recognised directly in net assets	(9 958 483)	(9 958 483)
Surplus for the year	10 289 677	10 289 677
Total recognised income and expenses for the year	331 194	331 194
Total changes	331 194	331 194
Balance at 31 March 2026	67 953 478	67 953 478

Cash Flow Statement

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2026	2025
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Grants		40 296 000	38 568 000
Interest income		5 628 328	5 356 826
Broadcast funders contribution		64 865 888	65 736 319
Other income		2 904 992	1 529 872
		113 695 208	111 191 017
Payments			
Employee costs		(40 807 083)	(37 687 500)
Suppliers		(22 324 044)	(16 338 723)
Grant cost expenditure		(44 432 788)	(58 372 765)
		(107 563 915)	(112 398 988)
Net cash flows from operating activities	21	6 131 293	(1 207 971)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	5	(414 725)	(727 518)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	5	-	122 129
Net cash flows from investing activities		(414 725)	(605 389)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		5 716 568	(1 813 360)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		81 103 276	82 916 636
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	4	86 819 844	81 103 276

The accounting policies on pages 111 to 116 and the notes on pages 117 to 135 form an integral part of the annual financial statements.

Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts

Figures in Rand	Approved budget	Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual amounts on comparable basis	Difference between final budget and actual	Reference
Revenue						
Revenue from exchange transactions						
Fees earned	-	1 094 240	1 094 240	632 240	(462 000)	N1
Recoveries	-	-	-	508 625	508 625	-
EDF Income	-	-	-	265 697	265 697	N2
Other income	-	-	-	19 699	19 699	N3
Interest received	5 618 655	-	5 618 655	5 628 328	9 673	
Total revenue from exchange transactions	5 618 655	1 094 240	6 712 895	7 054 589	341 694	
Revenue from non-exchange transactions						
Transfer revenue						
Government grants & subsidies	40 884 800	4 184 105	45 068 905	44 476 855	(592 050)	N4
Broadcast funders contribution	64 664 401	-	64 664 401	64 892 404	228 003	-
Recoveries	-	146 459	146 459	111 636	(34 823)	N5
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions	105 549 201	4 330 564	109 879 765	109 480 895	(398 870)	
Total revenue	111 167 856	5 424 804	116 592 660	116 535 484	(57 176)	
Expenditure						
Employee related costs	(42 182 659)	1 827 237	(40 355 422)	(40 867 255)	(511 833)	N6
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	-	(414 315)	(414 315)	N7
Lease rentals on operating lease	(2 541 374)	-	(2 541 374)	(2 452 826)	88 548	N8
Grant cost expenditure	(52 818 781)	(21 698 939)	(74 517 720)	(44 130 121)	30 387 599	N9
Administration expenses	(13 625 042)	(3 655 541)	(17 280 583)	(18 376 617)	(1 096 034)	N10
Total expenditure	(111 167 856)	(23 527 243)	(134 695 099)	(106 241 134)	28 453 965	
Operating surplus	-	(18 102 439)	(18 102 439)	10 294 350	28 396 789	
Loss on disposal of assets and liabilities	-	-	-	(4 673)	(4 673)	
Actual Amount on Comparable - Basis as Presented in the Budget and Actual Comparative Statement	-	-	-	10 289 677	10 289 677	

N1. The negative variance is attributable to lower-than-anticipated fundraising income, as certain initiatives of the fundraising committee did not materialise during the current financial year

N2. The variance is due to the nature of the revenue, which is dependent on disbursements received from the EDF fund. Actual receipts differed from the amounts anticipated during the budgeting process.

N3. The positive variance is due to insurance proceeds received during the year. As these proceeds arise from unforeseen events, the related revenue could not reasonably be budgeted for.

N4. The variance is due to delays in the finalisation of EDF fund disbursements. Government grants and subsidies include the recognition of EDF income, and the timing of these disbursements differed from that anticipated in the approved budget.

N5. The variance is due to a higher number of recoveries being recognised during the year as a result of an increased incidence of beneficiary defaults. The extent of these defaults could not reasonably have been anticipated at the time the budget was prepared.

N6. The variance in employee-related costs is primarily attributable to employee expenditure that differed from the assumptions used during the budget preparation process.

This includes the appointment of interns during the financial year, the payment of acting allowances to employees appointed in acting capacities, and changes in the provision for performance bonuses based on the annual performance assessment outcomes. These factors resulted in actual employee-related costs differing from the final approved budget.

N7 The variance relates to depreciation, which is a non-cash accounting expense recognised to systematically allocate the cost of property, plant and equipment over their estimated useful lives. As depreciation does not result in an immediate cash outflow, it was not specifically budgeted for in the approved operating budget.

N8 The variance relates to the recognition of the lease smoothing adjustment in accordance with the applicable GRAP Standards. Lease smoothing is a non-cash accounting adjustment that recognises lease expenditure on a straight-line basis over the lease term, irrespective of the timing of the contractual lease payments.

N9 The positive variance is due to timing differences in the implementation of grants. Payments to beneficiaries are made as and when beneficiaries complete each phase in accordance with the grant-in-aid agreements.

N10 The variance in administration expenses is primarily attributable to higher-than-budgeted expenditure on operational support costs incurred during the financial year.

1. Significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these annual financial statements are set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), issued by the Accounting Standards Board in accordance with Section 91(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999).

These annual financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention as the basis of measurement, unless specified otherwise. They are presented in South African Rand.

These accounting policies are consistent with the previous period.

1.2 Presentation currency

These annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the entity.

1.3 Going concern assumption

These annual financial statements have been prepared based on the expectation that the entity will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next 12 months.

1.4 Materiality

Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The nature or size of the information item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.

Assessing whether an omission or misstatement could influence decisions of users, and so be material, requires consideration of the characteristics of those users. The Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements states that users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of government, its activities, accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence. Therefore, the assessment takes into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making and evaluating decisions.

The entity does not retrospectively adjust the accounting of past items (or group of items) that were previously assessed as immaterial, unless an error occurred.

1.5 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty

The MDDA makes estimates and assumptions that effect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the current and subsequent financial years. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstance. There does not appear to be a significant risk that these assumptions will cause significant adjustments to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within subsequent financial years.

Significant judgements include:

Impairment testing

The MDDA reviews and tests the carrying value of non-cash generating assets when events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If there are indications that impairment may have occurred, estimates are prepared of recoverable service amount of each group of assets

Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

The MDDA re-assesses the useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets on an annual basis. In reassessing the useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment management considers the condition and the use of the individual assets, to determine the remaining period over which the assets can and will be used.

Impairment – expected credit losses (ECL)

The measurement of expected credit losses requires management to exercise judgement regarding the probability of default, historical recovery rates, current conditions and forward-looking information. The allowance recognised reflects management's best estimate of expected losses at the reporting date.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are tangible non-current assets (including infrastructure assets) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one period.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when:

- it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity; and
- the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost.

Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is its fair value as at date of acquisition.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment is acquired in exchange for a non-monetary asset or monetary assets, or a combination of monetary and non-monetary assets, the asset acquired is initially measured at fair value (the cost). If the acquired item's fair value was not determinable, its deemed cost is the carrying amount of the asset(s) given up.

When significant components of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.

Costs include costs incurred initially to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment and costs incurred

subsequently to add to, replace part of, or service it. If a replacement cost is recognised in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment, the carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located is also included in the cost of property, plant and equipment, where the entity is obligated to incur such expenditure, and where the obligation arises as a result of acquiring the asset or using it for purposes other than the production of inventories.

Recognition of costs in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment ceases when the item is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line basis over their expected useful lives to their estimated residual value.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Furniture and fixtures	Straight-line	10 - 20 years
Office equipment	Straight-line	5 - 10 years
IT equipment	Straight-line	3 - 8 years
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	3 - 8 years

The depreciable amount of an asset is allocated on a systematic basis over its useful life.

Each part of an item of property, plant and equipment with a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the item is depreciated separately.

The depreciation method used reflects the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits or service potential are expected to be consumed by the entity. The depreciation method applied to an asset is reviewed at least at each reporting date and, if there has been a significant change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset, the method is changed to reflect the changed pattern. Such a change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that the entity expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the entity revises the expected useful life and/or residual value

accordingly. The change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in surplus or deficit unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

Items of property, plant and equipment are derecognised when the asset is disposed of or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of the asset.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised. The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the item.

The entity separately discloses expenditure to repair and maintain property, plant and equipment in the notes to the financial statements.

1.7 Payables from non-exchange transactions (surrender of surplus funds)

Amounts payable arising from non-exchange transactions represent obligations to surrender unspent funds to the relevant authority in terms of applicable legislation, agreements, or funding conditions.

A liability is recognised when there is a present obligation to transfer economic benefits and it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Payables are measured at the amount of funds required to be surrendered, which is generally the nominal value of the unspent or surplus funds.

The liability is derecognised when the funds are paid or otherwise settled in accordance with the relevant requirements.

1.8 Financial instruments - GRAP 104 (revised 2019) - Initial Recognition

Financial instruments are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value. Transaction costs are included in the initial carrying amount of financial instruments measured at amortised cost.

Classification

Financial instruments are classified as either financial assets or financial liabilities based on the substance of the contractual arrangement.

The entity classifies its financial instruments into the following categories:

Financial assets
Financial liabilities

Classification of Financial Assets

The entity classifies financial assets as subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Classification of Financial Liabilities

The entity classifies all financial liabilities as subsequently measured at amortised cost:

Derecognition

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when substantially all risks and rewards have been transferred.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation is discharged, cancelled, or expires.

1.9 Transition to Revised GRAP 104 Financial Instruments

The entity adopted the revised GRAP 104 in the current financial year in accordance with the transitional provisions of the standard. The revised standard introduced changes to the classification and impairment methodology of financial instruments, including the introduction of the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) model.

The standard was applied prospectively from the date of adoption. Comparative information was not restated.

Impact Assessment of Adoption

Management performed a detailed assessment of all financial instruments existing at the date of transition. These comprise:
Receivables from beneficiaries arising from legal recoveries
Cash and cash equivalents held with commercial banks
Trade and other payables

The assessment concluded that all financial assets and financial liabilities continue to meet the requirements for measurement at amortised cost under the revised standard. As a result, there was no change in the measurement basis of these instruments.

Expected Credit Loss (ECL) Assessment

In accordance with the revised GRAP 104, the entity applies the Expected Credit Loss model to receivables measured at amortised cost. Expected credit losses are recognised based on historical experience, current conditions and forward-looking information where applicable.

Impact on Opening Balances

The adoption of the revised GRAP 104 did not result in any adjustments to the opening balances of financial assets, financial liabilities, or accumulated surplus/deficit at the date of transition.

1.10 Leases

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

When a lease includes both land and buildings elements, the entity assesses the classification of each element separately.

Operating leases - lessee

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The difference between the amounts recognised as an expense and the contractual payments are recognised as an operating lease asset or liability.

1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents comprise bank balances, cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are available on demand.

1.12 Employee benefits

Employee benefits are all forms of consideration given by an entity in exchange for service rendered by employees or for the termination of employment.

A qualifying insurance policy is an insurance policy issued by an insurer that is not a related party (as defined in the Standard of GRAP on Related Party Disclosures) of the reporting entity, if the proceeds of the policy can be used only to pay or fund employee benefits under a defined benefit plan and are not available to the reporting entity's own creditors (even in liquidation) and cannot be paid to the reporting entity, unless either: the proceeds represent surplus assets that are not needed for the policy to meet all the related employee benefit obligations; or the proceeds are returned to the reporting entity to reimburse it for employee benefits already paid.

Termination benefits are employee benefits payable as a result of either: an entity's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date; or an employee's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits.

Other long-term employee benefits are employee benefits (other than post-employment benefits and termination benefits) that are not due to be settled within twelve months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service.

1.13 Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognised when:

- the entity has a present obligation as a result of a past event;
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount of a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

Where the effect of time value of money is material, the

amount of a provision is the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation.

The discount rate is a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. Provisions are reversed if it is no longer probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required, to settle the obligation.

Where discounting is used, the carrying amount of a provision increases in each period to reflect the passage of time. This increase is recognised as an interest expense.

A provision is used only for expenditures for which the provision was originally recognised.

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised. Contingencies are disclosed in note 31.

1.14 Commitments

Items are classified as commitments when an entity has committed itself to future transactions that will normally result in the outflow of cash.

Disclosures are required in respect of unrecognised contractual commitments.

Commitments for which disclosure is necessary to achieve a fair presentation should be disclosed in a note to the financial statements, if both the following criteria are met:

- Contracts should be non-cancellable or only cancellable at significant cost (for example, contracts for computer or building maintenance services); and
- Contracts should relate to something other than the routine, steady, state business of the entity – therefore salary commitments relating to employment contracts or social security benefit commitments are excluded.

GRAP 17 requires disclosure of Property, plant and equipment related commitments. MDDA discloses commitments in relation to the grant expenditure even though they do not meet GRAP 17 disclosure requirement. The disclosure is for the purposes of attaining fair presentation since grant expenditure is the most significant part of MDDA operations and the commitment disclosure will give more insight to the users of the financial statements.

1.15 Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period when those inflows result in an increase in net assets, other than increases relating to contributions from owners.

An exchange transaction is one in which the entity receives

assets or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of goods, services or use of assets) to the other party in exchange.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Measurement

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of trade discounts and volume rebates.

The amount of revenue arising on a transaction which is statutory (non-contractual) in nature is usually measured by reference to the relevant legislation, regulation or similar means. The fee structure, tariffs or calculation basis specified in legislation, regulation or similar means is used to determine the amount of revenue that should be recognised. This amount represents the fair value, on initial measurement, of the consideration received or receivable for revenue that arises from a statutory (non-contractual) arrangement (see the accounting policy on Statutory Receivables).

Rendering of services

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services can be estimated reliably, revenue associated with the transaction is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. The outcome of a transaction can be estimated reliably when all the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity;
- the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred for the transaction and the costs to complete the transaction can be measured reliably.

When the outcome of the transaction involving the rendering of services cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent of the expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Service revenue is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. Stage of completion is determined by services performed to date as a percentage of total services to be performed.

Interest

Revenue arising from the use by others of entity assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends or similar distributions is recognised when:

- It is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity, and
- The amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.

1.16 Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Revenue comprises gross inflows of economic benefits or service potential received and receivable by an entity,

Non-exchange transactions are transactions that are not exchange transactions. In a non-exchange transaction, an entity either receives value from another entity without directly giving approximately equal value in exchange, or gives value to another entity without directly receiving approximately equal value in exchange.

Restrictions on transferred assets are stipulations that limit or direct the purposes for which a transferred asset may be used, but do not specify that future economic benefits or service potential is required to be returned to the transferor if not deployed as specified.

Stipulations on transferred assets are terms in laws or regulation, or a binding arrangement, imposed upon the use of a transferred asset by entities external to the reporting entity.

Transfers are inflows of future economic benefits or service potential from non-exchange transactions, other than taxes.

Recognition

An inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset is recognised as revenue, except to the extent that a liability is also recognised in respect of the same inflow.

As the entity satisfies a present obligation recognised as a liability in respect of an inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset, it reduces the carrying amount of the liability recognised and recognises an amount of revenue equal to that reduction.

Measurement

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of trade discounts and volume rebates.

When, as a result of a non-exchange transaction, the entity recognises an asset, it also recognises revenue equivalent to the amount of the asset measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition, unless it is also required to recognise a liability. Where a liability is required to be recognised it will be measured as the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date, and the amount of the increase in net assets, if any, recognised as revenue. When a liability is subsequently reduced, because the taxable event occurs or a condition is satisfied, the amount of the reduction in the liability is recognised as revenue.

1.17 Grant cost expenditure

Grant cost expenditure relates to grants disbursed to grant beneficiaries. Expenditure is only recognised when the beneficiary has met all the contractual disbursement requirements.

The related cost of providing services recognised as revenue in the current period is included in cost of sales.

1.18 Unspent conditional grants

Identification

Unspent conditional grants represent funding received from government departments or other funding institutions that is subject to specified terms and conditions and has not yet been utilised or for which the related conditions have not been fulfilled at the reporting date.

Recognition

Conditional grant funding received is recognised as a liability to the extent that the related conditions or obligations have not been fulfilled at the reporting date. The liability is reduced and the corresponding revenue recognised as the entity fulfils the conditions of the funding agreement or incurs the qualifying expenditure for which the funding was provided.

1.19 Administration expenses

Administration expenses relate to all the expenditure incurred on a day to day running of the entity except:

- Employee cost
- Depreciation and impairment
- Grant cost expenditure.

1.20 Irregular expenditure

Irregular expenditure is expenditure that was incurred in contravention of relevant legislation, other than unauthorised expenditure, incurred in contravention of or that is not in accordance with a requirement of any applicable legislation including:

- (a) this Act; or
- (b) the State Tender Board Act, 1968 (Act No. 86 of 1968), or any regulations made in terms of that Act; or
- (c) any provincial legislation providing for procurement procedures in that provincial government.

1.21 Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Fruitless expenditure means expenditure which was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised.

1.22 Comparative figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

1.23 Related parties

A related party is a person or an entity with the ability to control or jointly control the other party, or exercise significant influence over the other party, or vice versa, or an entity that is subject to common control, or joint control.

Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

Related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between the reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity, but is not control over those policies.

Management are those persons responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, including those charged with the governance of the entity in accordance with legislation, in instances where they are required to perform such functions.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by that person in their dealings with the entity.

1.24 Events after reporting date

Events after reporting date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date).

The entity will adjust the amount recognised in the financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting date once the event occurred.

The entity will disclose the nature of the event and an estimate of its financial effect or a statement that such estimate cannot be made in respect of all material non-adjusting events, where non-disclosure could influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

1.25 Prior period errors and adjustments

Errors can arise in respect of the recognition, measurement, presentation or disclosure of elements of financial statements. Prior period errors are omissions from, and misstatements in, an entity's financial statements for one or more prior periods arising from failure to use/misuse of reliable information that:

- Was available when the financial statements for that period were issued
- Could have been reasonably expected to be taken into account in those financial statements.

A prior period error is corrected by retrospective restatement except to the extent that it is impracticable to determine either the period-specific effects or the cumulative effect of the error.

When it is impracticable to determine the period-specific effects of an error on comparative information for one or more prior periods presented, the entity restate the opening balances of assets, liabilities and net assets for the earliest period for which retrospective restatement is practicable (which may be the current period).

When it is impracticable to determine the cumulative effect, at the beginning of the current period, of an error on all prior periods, the entity restate the comparative information to correct the error prospectively from the earliest date practicable.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

2. New standards and interpretations

2.1 Standards and interpretations effective and adopted in the current year

In the current year, the entity has adopted the following standards and interpretations that are effective for the current financial year and that are relevant to its operations:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date: Years beginning on or after	Expected impact:
GRAP 104 - Financial Instruments (amended)	01 April 2025	Unlikely there will be a material impact
GRAP 1	01 April 2025	Unlikely there will be a material impact

2.2 Standards and interpretations issued, but not yet effective

The entity has not applied the following standards and interpretations, which have been published and are mandatory for the entity's accounting periods beginning on or after 01 April 2026 or later periods:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date: Years beginning on or after	Expected impact:
GRAP 1 (Revised)	01 April 2027	Unlikely there will be a material impact

3. Receivables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Receivables from exchange transactions		
Prepayments	774 573	586 515
Other receivables	251 557	446 888
Total Receivables from exchange transactions	1 026 130	1 033 403
Split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments		
Other non-financial instruments related	774 573	586 515
Carrying amount of non-financial instruments	774 573	586 515
Carrying amount of financial instruments	251 557	446 888
Total split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments	1 026 130	1 033 403

Credit quality of trade and other receivables

The entity assessed the credit quality of receivables from exchange transactions in accordance with the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) model prescribed by GRAP 104. The assessment considered the ageing of receivables, historical recovery experience, the legal status of recoveries, and other forward-looking information available at the reporting date.

Based on this assessment, an Expected Credit Loss allowance of R 49 135 was recognised, representing 50% of the applicable receivable balance from Ukudaleka and Derick Smith. The remaining balance is considered recoverable based on management's assessment of the underlying debtors and the legal enforceability of the claims.

Prepaid expenses relate to advance payments made to service providers for goods or services not yet received at the reporting date. As prepayments do not represent contractual rights to receive cash or another financial asset, they are not subject to the Expected Credit Loss requirements of GRAP 104.

4. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of:

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Bank balances	1 430 548	5 763 938
Short-term deposits	85 389 296	75 339 338
	86 819 844	81 103 276

Short-term deposits are the surplus funds deposited on the South African Reserve Bank Call Account. Funds are available for withdrawal immediately.

The 2025/26 cash and cash equivalents balance includes (R69 010 831) funds committed for the approved grant beneficiaries (2024/25: R56 324 205), refer to note No. 23 for commitment disclosure.

Split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments

Carrying amount of financial instruments	86 819 844	81 103 276
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5. Property, plant and equipment

	2026			2025		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Furniture and fixtures	1 256 449	(806 594)	449 855	1 256 449	(755 100)	501 349
Office equipment	65 682	(51 955)	13 727	65 682	(48 785)	16 897
IT equipment	3 052 475	(1 872 848)	1 179 627	2 642 301	(1 532 774)	1 109 527
Leasehold improvements	1 527 715	(1 527 715)	-	1 527 715	(1 527 715)	-
Total	5 902 321	(4 259 112)	1 643 209	5 492 147	(3 864 374)	1 627 773

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2026

	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fixtures	501 349	-	-	-	(51 494)	449 855
Office equipment	16 897	-	-	-	(3 170)	13 727
IT equipment	1 109 527	414 725	(4 673)	19 699	(359 651)	1 179 627
Total	1 627 773	414 725	(4 673)	19 699	(414 315)	1 643 209

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2025

	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Transfers	Depreciation	Total
Furniture and fixtures	566 113	-	-	-	(64 764)	501 349
Office equipment	20 067	-	-	-	(3 170)	16 897
IT equipment	951 307	727 518	(122 129)	-	(447 169)	1 109 527
Leasehold improvements	2	-	-	-	(2)	-
Studio Equipment	1 212 619	-	-	(986 128)	(226 491)	-
Total	2 750 108	727 518	(122 129)	(986 128)	(741 596)	1 627 773

Pledged as security

No assets are pledged as security.

6. Operating lease (liability)

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Non-current liabilities	213 018	544 885
Current liabilities	331 867	149 691
	544 885	694 576

7. Payables from exchange transactions

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Trade payables	1 525 528	3 037 518
Accrued leave pay	1 031 995	1 110 926
Other Accrued expenses	177 199	146 254
	2 734 722	4 294 698

Split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Other non-financial instruments related	1 031 995	1 257 180
Carrying amount of non-financial instruments	1 031 995	1 257 180
Carrying amount of financial instruments	1 702 727	3 037 518
Total split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments	2 734 722	4 294 698

8. Payables from non-exchange transactions

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Payable to National Revenue Fund – Prior year surplus	9 958 483	-

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments		
Payable to National Revenue Fund – Prior year surplus	9 958 483	-
Carrying amount of non-financial instruments	9 958 483	-
Total split between financial instruments and non-financial instruments	9 958 483	-

In terms of Section 53(3) of the Public Finance Management Act and Treasury Regulation 19.2.3, the entity was instructed by the National Treasury to surrender the prior year surplus to the National Revenue Fund.

The request to retain the surplus was not fully approved and the amount had not been transferred by year-end and is therefore recognised as a current payable.

The liability arose from a non-exchange transaction and is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid to the National Revenue Fund.

The funds remain unutilised at the reporting date and are held in a secure bank account.

9. Unspent conditional grants and receipts

Unspent conditional grants and receipts comprise of:

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Unspent conditional grants and receipts		
Department of Communication - Programme production	5 802 470	5 802 470
Competition Commission - Economic development fund	-	2 905 071
	5 802 470	8 707 541
Movement during the year		
Balance at the beginning of the year	8 707 541	13 508 394
Additions during the year	17 601	330 131
Disbursements to beneficiaries	(2 658 575)	(4 617 886)
Income recognition during the year	(264 097)	(513 098)
	5 802 470	8 707 541

Programme Production

Government Communications and Information System

The Agency entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Sentech and the Government Communications and Information System (GCIS) to use the unspent conditional grant balance of R5.802 million, originally received from the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies DCDT to implement programme activities that will fully absorb the outstanding funds.

Competition Commission

The Competition Commission fined different role players within the media industry for uncompetitive behaviour and requested MDDA to manage the Economic Development Fund and implement remedial projects on its behalf. Unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to government assistance that has been recognised. See note for reconciliation of grants from National/Provincial Government. These amounts are invested in a ring-fenced investment until utilised.

Nature of funding Arrangements

The entity acts as custodian of the funds until they are utilised in accordance with the terms of the funding agreement. No significant risks or rewards associated with the funds have been transferred to the entity, other than the responsibility to safeguard and administer the funds while they are held in secure bank accounts pending their utilisation.

Revenue relating to the funding is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance only to the extent that the entity has fulfilled the relevant conditions of the funding agreement. Any unspent amounts remain recognised as a liability at the reporting date until the outstanding conditions have been satisfied.

10. Provisions

Reconciliation of provisions - 2026

	Opening Balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Employee costs - provisions	2 445 351	2 495 145	(1 570 249)	(875 102)	2 495 145

Reconciliation of provisions - 2025

	Opening Balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Reversed during the year	Total
Employee cost provisions	2 110 460	2 445 351	(899 561)	(1 210 899)	2 445 351

The provisions relate to the provision for staff performance bonuses. Bonuses are provided based on the projected staff performance.

11. Interest Income

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Interest revenue		
Bank	5 628 328	5 356 826

12. Government grants & subsidies

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Operating grants		
GCIS	40 296 000	38 568 000
Competition Commission	2 656 975	4 617 886
MICT SETA	1 523 880	725 478
	44 476 855	43 911 364

13. Broadcast funders contributions

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Broadcaster contributions	64 892 404	65 736 319

14. Employee related costs

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Basic	33 605 895	30 299 001
Bonus	1 620 043	1 234 452
UIF	105 517	95 156
SDL	366 118	331 758
Leave pay provision charge	102 540	756 024
Cell phone allowance	688 000	647 000
Travel, motor car, accommodation, subsistence and other allowances	658 594	536 790
Acting allowances	100 205	1 530 699
Contributions to Provident fund	3 620 343	3 252 925
	40 867 255	38 683 805

15. Depreciation

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Property, plant and equipment	414 315	741 596

16. Lease rentals on operating lease

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Premises		
Contractual amounts	2 452 826	2 452 826

17. Grant cost expenditure

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Other subsidies		
Grant disbursement	27 762 692	45 868 003
Projects systems expenses	137 109	139 438
Training, workshop, and other administration costs	16 230 320	12 365 324
	44 130 121	58 372 765

Grant disbursements relate to the funds paid to beneficiaries.

Project systems expenses relate to the project management systems costs.

Workshop and travelling costs incurred by the projects managing, research and monitoring units are classified as workshop and travelling costs.

18. Administration expenses

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Advertising	65 097	97 520
Auditors remuneration	3 306 730	3 036 201
Bank charges	38 301	37 139
Computer expenses	615 164	839 936
Consulting and professional fees	3 497 394	2 373 913
Insurance	208 873	104 524
Licenses	1 481 376	1 081 257
Placement fees	267 913	363 183
Postage and courier	271 495	8 403
Printing and stationery	138 696	108 678
Repairs and maintenance	-	180 000
Staff welfare	75 774	53 133
Telecommunications costs	559 391	570 592
Training	1 362 327	456 747
Travel - local	1 663 294	1 127 584
Electricity	890 020	669 305
Storage	-	87 090
Board administration costs	306 304	598 666
Non-executive directors emoluments	621 924	1 003 623
Communications	504 398	427 878
Legal fees	1 257 445	1 211 646
Expected Credit Loss - Impairment of receivables	49 135	-
Loss on asset disposal	-	122 132
Legal Settlement	-	704 562
Other expenses	1 195 566	414 887
	18 376 617	15 678 599

19. Gain or loss on disposal of assets and liabilities

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Property, plant and equipment	(4 673)	-

20. Auditors' remuneration

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Fees	3 306 730	3 036 201

21. Cash used in operations

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Surplus	10 289 677	540 275
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	414 315	741 596
Gain on sale of assets and liabilities	4 673	-
Movements in operating lease assets and accruals	(149 691)	37 702
Movements in provisions	49 794	334 891
Changes in working capital:		
Receivables from exchange transactions	7 273	(556 856)
Other receivables from non-exchange transactions	-	42 280
Payables from exchange transactions	(1 559 976)	1 396 645
Unspent conditional grants and receipts	(2 924 772)	(3 744 504)
	6 131 293	(1 207 971)

22. Financial Instruments - Risk Management and Other Disclosures

Significance of financial instruments for financial position and financial performance

Statement of financial position

Categories of financial assets and financial liabilities

Carrying amounts of financial assets

Class of financial instrument 2026

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	At amortised cost	Total
Receivables from exchange transactions	3	251 557	251 557
Cash and cash equivalents	4	86 819 844	86 819 844
Total carrying amounts		87 071 401	87 071 401
Class of financial instrument 2025			
Receivables from exchange transactions	3	446 888	446 888
Cash and cash equivalents	4	81 103 276	81 103 276
Total carrying amounts		81 550 164	81 550 164
Carrying amounts of financial liabilities			
Class of financial instrument 2026			
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	7	1 702 727	1 702 727
Class of financial instrument 2025			
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	7	3 183 772	3 183 772
Credit risk exposure analysis			
Financial Assets			
Receivables from exchange transactions		251 557	446 888
Cash and cash equivalents		86 819 844	81 103 276
		87 071 401	81 550 164

The entity's maximum exposure to credit risk at reporting date is the carrying value of financial assets.

Receivables consist of legal recoveries from beneficiaries who have defaulted on their reporting requirements. Cash is held with reputable commercial banks.

Ageing of trade receivables (credit risk detail)		
120+	251 557	446 888

22. Financial Instruments - Risk Management and Other Disclosures (continued)

The majority of receivables relate to legal recoveries from beneficiaries and staff, although aged beyond 120 days, management continues legal recovery processes and therefore does not regard the balances as fully irrecoverable.

Historical loss experience, debtor profiles, and forward-looking information were assessed. Based on this assessment, an Expected Credit Loss allowance of **R49 135** was recognised, representing **50% of the applicable receivable balance from Ukudaleka and Derick Smith**. The remaining balance is considered recoverable based on management's assessment of the underlying debtors and the legal enforceability of the claims.

Liquidity Risk – Maturity Analysis

	Carrying amount	1-3 months	3-12 months	1-5 years	Total contractual cash flows
2026					
Trade and other payables	1 702 727	-	-	-	1 702 727
2025					
Trade and other payables	3 183 772	-	-	-	3 183 772

Trade and other payables are short-term in nature and are expected to be settled within 30 days of the reporting date.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market prices, such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, or other price risks.

The entity assessed its exposure to market risk and concluded that it is not exposed to significant interest rate risk, currency risk, or other price risks, as all financial instruments are short-term in nature and measured at amortised cost. Accordingly, no sensitivity analysis has been presented.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Credit risk concentration arises when a number of financial assets are owed by a limited number of counterparties or where counterparties operate in the same sector or geographic area, such that their ability to meet contractual obligations may be similarly affected by changes in economic or other conditions.

The entity's receivables arise from legal recoveries from various beneficiaries who have defaulted on their reporting obligations. These balances are not concentrated with a single counterparty or group of related counterparties.

Cash and cash equivalents are held with reputable commercial banks with high credit ratings.

Reconciliation of Expected Credit Loss

The entity applies the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) model to receivables from beneficiaries measured at amortised cost.

Management assessed the credit risk of receivables from beneficiaries.

	R
Opening balance	-
Expected credit loss recognised	49 135
Closing allowance	49 135

Expected Credit Loss (ECL) Methodology

Based on historical recovery rates, the legal status of individual debtors, specific debtor circumstances and forward-looking information, management assessed historical default experience, current debtor profiles, legal recoveries and forward-looking information. Based on this assessment an Expected Credit Loss allowance of R49 135 was recognised at year-end.

23. Commitments

Operational commitments

Already contracted for but not provided for

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
• Opening Balance	56 324 205	55 662 231
• Projects Approved	36 963 823	47 134 856
• Disbursement to projects	(22 647 114)	(41 250 117)
• Write-backs	-	(5 222 765)
• Closed	(1 630 083)	-
	69 010 831	56 324 205

Total capital commitments

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Total capital commitments		
Already contracted for but not provided for	69 010 831	56 324 205

The entity has entered into contracts to fund community radio, TV, print, digital projects, media and advertising bursaries commitments regarding the projects are shown above. All funding agreements are for periods up to 18 months for the projects and 36 months for media and advertising students' bursaries.

Comparative information has been restated to correct an error identified in the prior year's operational commitments disclosure. The opening commitment balance for the 2024/25 financial year was understated by R5 222 765 due to commitments that were omitted from the commitment register at the reporting date. The comparative opening balance has been adjusted from 50 439 466 to R55 662 231. The correction affects disclosure information only and has no impact on the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Changes in Net Assets or Cash Flow Statement.

Other operational commitments

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
- Open orders	77 625	2 370 167
- Long term contracts	413 879	3 131 842
	491 504	5 502 009

Operating leases - as lessee (expense)

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Minimum lease payments due		
- within one year	2 784 694	2 602 517
- in second to fifth year inclusive	1 439 431	4 224 124
	4 224 125	6 826 641

Office building

MDDA office space is leased from SABC. The lease agreement is for a period of 60 months. The lease has an annual escalation of 7%. There is no provision for contingent rental.

24. Related parties

Relationships

Key Management Personnel	Refer to members' report note 25
Controlling entity	The Presidency
Responsible Department	Government Communication and Information System

Related party balances

Amounts included in Trade receivable (Trade Payable) regarding related parties

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
GCIS- Conditional grants	(5 802 470)	(5 802 470)

Government Communication and Information System

The R 5 802 470 relates to a conditional grant received in relation to programme production.

The Agency entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Sentech an entity of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), which now oversees the MDDA. The agreement authorizes the use of the unspent conditional grant balance of R5.802 million to implement programme activities that will fully absorb the outstanding funds, thereby mitigating the risk of repayment or cancellation of the grant.

Related party transfer

Government Communication and Information System

MDDA has received grants to the value of R40 296 000 from GCIS in the 2025-26 financial year (2024/25 - R38 568 000)

25. Key Management Personnel

Executive Management

2026

	Basic salary	Other short-term employee benefits	Subsistence and travelling	Bonus	Total
Ms Shoeshoe Qhu: CEO	1 865 300	261 708	27 891	99 465	2 254 364
Ms Tintswalo Baadjie: CFO	1 670 698	345 421	5 380	94 230	2 115 729
Mr. Mzu Kashe: Executive Manager: Projects	1 887 501	263 356	20 690	-	2 171 547
	5 423 499	870 485	53 961	193 695	6 541 640

2025

	Basic salary	Other short-term employee benefits	Subsistence and travelling	Bonus	Total
Ms Shoeshoe Qhu: CEO	1 791 114	254 582	-	20 704	2 066 400
Ms Tintswalo Baadjie: CFO	1 602 968	336 148	-	3 519	1 942 635
Mr. Mzu Kashe: Executive Manager: Projects	1 811 058	256 988	-	38 885	2 106 931
Mr.Lethabo Dibetso: Acting Executive: Sector Development Planning, Research M&E until 30 November 2024	1 187 792	171 617	194 554	39 876	1 593 839
	6 392 932	1 019 335	194 554	102 984	7 709 805

Non-executive

2026

	Members' fees	Other benefits*	Total
Mr. Q Khedama	34 883	-	34 883
Mr. Philly Moilwa	18 902	-	18 902
Ms. Moipone Malefane	39 981	-	39 981
Ms. Natalie Skeepers	9 318	-	9 318
Ms. Carol Mohlala**	3 000	-	3 000
Mr. Thembelani Mpakati	146 505	-	146 505
Ms. Jayshree Pather	153 680	-	153 680
	406 269	-	406 269

2025

	Members' fees	Other benefits*	Total
Prof. Hlengani Mathebula (Chairperson: Term ended 07 June 2026)	109 344	-	109 344
Mr. Hoosain Karjieker	188 200	-	188 200
Ms. Nadia Bulbulia	85 658	-	85 658
Ms. Martina Della Togna	35 544	-	35 544
Ms. Carol Mohlala**	15 234	-	15 234
Mr. Thembelani Mpakati	169 522	-	169 522
Ms. Jayshree Pather	180 199	-	180 199
	783 701	-	783 701

*The Board adopted a resolution, at the request of the Chairperson, for him to forego the receipt of MDDA Board fees and allowances from 1 November 2024 until such time as the MDDA's performance has improved.

**The following individual served as MDDA board members but are not remunerated because they are Government representatives or work for other organs of state. They are however, entitled to reimbursement of their travel and data expenditure.

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

2026

	Emoluments	Other benefits*	Total
Prof. R Mahabeer	150 561	-	150 561
MS. M Phiri	53 094	-	53 094
Ms. N Phasha	12 000	-	12 000
	215 655	-	215 655

2025

	Emoluments	Other benefits*	Total
Prof. R Mahabeer	74 362	-	74 362
Ms. M Phiri	71 969	-	71 969
Ms. N Phasha	9 000	-	9 000
Ms. D Hlatshwayo	45 331	-	45 331
Mr. F Docrat	19 258	-	19 258
	219 920	-	219 920

* Other benefits comprise travel allowance and medical benefits.

** The members below were not remunerated for meeting attendance board fees because they work for other organs of state. However, members are entitled for reimbursement of their travel and data expenditure as disclosed.

26. Unauthorised, Irregular and Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure

Figures in Rand	2026	2025
Irregular expenditure confirmed during the current year - Current year transactions	6 541 412	3 063 799
Irregular expenditure confirmed during the current year - relating to prior financial years	2 537 195	-
Closing balance	9 078 607	3 063 799

***Refer to reconciling notes in the annual report**

Irregular expenditure

The non-compliance that resulted in the irregular expenditure originates from the 2023 financial year, when a five-year building lease contract was deemed irregular. The related expenditure is recognised annually as rental payments are made.

The second case concerns additional fees incurred during a conference without prior approval.

Third involves fees where members sought approval only after attending the conference.

The fourth case relates to legal services procured through another public entity's contract, which was extended beyond its approved contractual period.

The fifth case relates to a contract that was extended after the original contract had already expired.

The sixth case relates to expenditure arising from the employee related appointment which did not fully comply with the applicable legislative requirements. The Board has consulted its legal representatives to review the matter in respect of the appointment for compliance with the MDDA Act.

27. Change in estimate**Property, plant and equipment**

The useful lives of 13 items of computer equipment and 52 items of furniture and fittings were reassessed during the year. The assets will be used for a further 12 months after year end. The impact is;

After Adjustment	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Depreciation	Net Book Value
IT equipment	275 932	231 259	22 337	22 337
Furniture and fixtures	149 738	136 326	6 706	6 706
	425 670	367 585	29 043	29 043

Before adjustment	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	Depreciation	Net Book Value
IT equipment	275 932	231 259	44 674	-
Furniture and fixtures	149 738	136 326	86	13 327
	425 670	367 585	44 760	13 327

Effect in the statement of financial position	Before change	After change	Net impact
Property, plant and equipment	44 760	29 043	15 717
Effect in the statement of comprehensive income			
Depreciation expense	44 760	29 043	(15 717)

28. Prior period errors

During the 2025/26 financial year, The entity identified an error in the operational commitments disclosure reported in the prior year. The error arose as a result of certain legally enforceable project commitments being omitted from the commitment register used in the prior year.

As a result, the opening operational commitments balance for the 2024/25 financial year was understated by R5 222 765. The comparative operational commitments balance has therefore been restated from R50 439 466 to R55 662 231.

The correction relates solely to the disclosure of operational commitments and has no impact on the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Changes in Net Assets, Cash Flow Statement, recognised assets, liabilities, revenue, expenditure or accumulated surplus/(deficit).

The effect of the correction on the operational commitments disclosure is summarised below:

Description	Previously reported	Adjustment	Restated
Opening operational commitments balance (2024/25)	50 439 466	5 222 765	55 662 231

29. Going concern

We draw attention to the fact that at 31 March 2026, the entity had an accumulated surplus (deficit) of 67 953 478 and that the entity's total assets exceed its liabilities by 67 953 478.

The entity continues to receive the USAF levy from broadcasters in terms of the ECA. Although levy collections have declined due to reduced industry advertising revenue, management will continue monitoring the impact on future funding.

In line with the PFMA, unspent funds may be surrendered to the National Revenue Fund. Management has assessed the entity's funding and commitments and is satisfied that sufficient resources remain available to support operations.

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

30. Risk management

Liquidity risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and marketable securities, the availability of funding through an adequate amount of committed credit facilities and the ability to close out market positions. Due to the dynamic nature of the underlying businesses, entity treasury maintains flexibility in funding by maintaining availability under committed credit lines.

The entity's risk to liquidity is a result of the funds available to cover future commitments.

The entity manages liquidity risk through an ongoing review of future commitments and credit facilities. Cash flow forecasts are prepared. The table below analyses the entity's financial liabilities instruments which will be settled on a gross basis into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the statement of financial position to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying balances as the impact of discounting is not significant.

At 31 March 2026	Less than 1 year	Between 1 and 2 years	Between 2 and 5 years	Over 5 years
Payables from exchange transactions	1 525 528	-	-	-
Provisions	2 495 145	-	-	-
Deferred lease liability	544 885	-	-	-

31 March 2025	Less than 1 year	Between 1 and 2 years	Between 2 and 5 years	Over 5 years
Payables from exchange transactions	3 037 518	-	-	-
Provisions	2 445 351	-	-	-
Deferred lease liability	694 576	-	-	-

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will fail to meet its contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the entity. The entity's principal credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents and receivables from exchange transactions.

Cash and cash equivalents are held with reputable financial institutions with high credit ratings, thereby limiting the entity's exposure to credit risk

Receivables from exchange transactions consist primarily of legal recoveries from grant beneficiaries. Management assesses credit risk at each reporting date by considering the age of outstanding balances, historical recovery patterns, the legal status of recovery actions and other relevant forward-looking information. An Expected Credit Loss (ECL) allowance of R49 135 has been recognised in accordance with the requirements of GRAP 104.

The entity's maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is represented by the carrying amount of its financial assets. No collateral is held as security in respect of these receivables.

Financial instrument	2026	2025
Receivables Not impaired - Financial Instrument	251 557	446 888

The entity is exposed to credit risk arising from receivables. The maximum exposure equals the carrying amount disclosed above. No collateral is held.

Market risk

The entity has no exposure to foreign currency risk as all transactions are denominated in South African Rand.

Interest rate risk

The MDDA is exposed to interest rate risk through cash and cash equivalents held with financial institutions. Interest earned on these deposits is influenced by changes in prevailing market interest rates. However, as the Agency does not hold significant interest-bearing borrowings or other complex interest-bearing financial instruments, its exposure to interest rate risk is limited.

Cash flow interest rate risk

Financial instrument	Current interest rate	Due in less than a year	Due in one to two years	Due in two to three years	Due in three to four years	Due after five years
Cash in current banking institutions	6,75 %	86 819 844	-	-	-	-

31. Contingencies

Contingent assets

As at 31 March 2026, the entity has the following contingent assets, which have not been recognised in the statement of financial position in accordance with GRAP 19, as the outcome is uncertain and/or the obligation cannot be reliably measured.

2026	Amount (R)	Nature of Contingency	Likelihood
Claim Against a beneficiary	46 830	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	53 118	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	12 515	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	325 000	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	300 000	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	323 607	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	47 080	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	640 000	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	300 000	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	75 703	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	371 500	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	161 494	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	212 481	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	131 221	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	53 534	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	633 900	Alleged breach of contract	Possible

2025	Amount (R)	Nature of Contingency	Likelihood
Claim Against a beneficiary	53 534	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	633 900	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	319 284	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	25 428	Alleged breach of contract	Possible
Claim Against a beneficiary	521 120	Unauthorised sick leave	Possible

The contingent assets disclosed above have not been recognised in the financial statements as the inflow of economic benefits is not yet virtually certain. The MDDA will continue to monitor these matters and will recognise the related asset when it becomes virtually certain that the expected economic benefits will flow to the Agency, in accordance with GRAP 19.

Contingent liabilities

As at 31 March 2026, the entity has the following contingent liabilities, which have not been recognised in the statement of financial position in accordance with GRAP19, as the outcome is uncertain and/or the obligation cannot be reliably measured.

2026	Amount (R)	Nature of Contingency	Likelihood
A claim against the MDDA	158 860	Alleged unfair labour practice	Possible
A claim against the MDDA	10 060 000	Alleged defamatory case	Possible

2025	Amount (R)	Nature of Contingency	Likelihood
A claim against the MDDA Board	500 000	Alleged defamatory case	Possible

The contingent liabilities disclosed above are not recognised in the financial statements because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability. Management will continue to monitor these matters and recognise a provision when the recognition criteria in GRAP 19 are met.

Surrender of surpluses

In terms of section 53 (3) of the PFMA, public entities listed in Schedule 3A and 3C to the PFMA may not retain cash surpluses that were realised in the previous financial year without obtaining the prior written approval of National Treasury.

During September 2025, National Treasury Issued Instruction No. 3 of 2025/26 which gave more details to the surplus definition. According to this Instruction, the calculation of surplus funds should be in terms of Paragraph 3.1 of the National Treasury Instruction.

The MDDA assessed its cash position at year-end in accordance with the PFMA and National Treasury Instruction No. 3 of 2025/26. After taking into account cash and cash equivalents, current receivables, current liabilities, approved project commitments, and ring-fenced funds, it was concluded that no cash surplus existed at 31 March 2026. Accordingly, no surplus was declared to National Treasury.

32. Events after the reporting date

No other matters or circumstances arose after the end of the financial year and up to the date of the signing of these financial statements that will materially affect these financial statements.

33. Segment Reporting

GRAP 18 requires entities to provide information about the specific operational objectives and major activities of an entity as well as the resources devoted to and costs of these objectives and activities. A segment is an activity of an entity: that generates economic benefits or service potential (including economic benefits or service potential relating to transactions between activities of the same entity); whose results are regularly reviewed by management to make decisions about resources to be allocated to that activity and in assessing its performance; and for which separate financial information is available.

Management has considered the information which is reported internally and such information does not meet the criteria of segments. MDDA provides funding to beneficiaries for media development and that is the only segment of the entity.

Management has thus concluded that MDDA does not meet the requirements for segment reporting.

34. Authorisation of the Annual Financial Statements

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 were authorised for issue by the Accounting Authority on 31 July 2026. The Accounting Authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Annual Financial Statements in accordance with the applicable Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act.



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