

NRF-SASTA and MDDA affirm their commitment to science journalism development in the community media in South Africa



***Image:** MoA signed by NRF-SASTA Managing Director, Dr Mamoetsi Mosia and MDDA acting CEO, Ms Nomkhosi Peter.*

NRF-SASTA signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) on 23 October 2023, which follows the culmination of their initial agreement which started in 2015. The renewal of the MoA is testament to the success of this partnership, which has leveraged the collective strength of the two partners in implementing their respective mandates.

The MoA was signed by Dr Mamoetsi Mosia, Managing Director of NRF-SASTA and the Acting CEO of MDDA, Ms Nomkhosi Peter.

This partnership is making a meaningful contribution to empowering community media journalists with new skills such as science journalism and data journalism. These skills are critical for both the realization of the aims of the national science engagement strategy in South Africa, and to ensure the realization of the NRF Vision of “Research for better society”.

This collaboration highlights the importance of ensuring that scientific information and conversations are easily accessible to society. Community media play a vital role in disseminating information in indigenous languages in South Africa in a manner that is interesting and engaging to their community.

“We strongly believe that this collaboration with MDDA is going to enable us to develop more science journalists and to grow the journalistic skills in the country through our Science Journalism Community Service Project. We are really excited to be part of this ground breaking opportunity that is in line with our vision to communicate the value and impact of science and technology in a dynamic knowledge economy,” said Dr Mamoeletsi Mosia, Managing Director of NRF-SAASTA.

“We are really excited to be here today and to have concluded this MoA with NRF-SAASTA in line with our mandate of diversification of the South African media landscape, not only in terms of ownership and control but in terms of content. The partnership with NRF-SAASTA provides us with a unique opportunity of making information related to science and technology accessible to communities, particularly historically disadvantaged communities. We hope that with this partnership we will be able to promote awareness around science careers, matters of science in relation to health, agriculture and variety of other issues that are of interest to the communities that we serve. We are grateful for the opportunity and we hope that through this partnership the MDDA and NRF-SAASTA will continue to leverage off their collective strengths in ensuring that information is provided to our communities and promotes our efforts based on our individual mandates,” added Ms Nomkhosi Peter, Acting CEO of MDDA.

For more information about the Science and Technology Youth Journalism Programme click [HERE](#)