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NFDI Chairperson's Report – May 5th, 2017 Dialogue

Background

In 2014, a number of Foundations linked to political stalwarts that were rooted in building the Constitutional Democracy that convents our Justice System today after a series of Consultative meetings to review and reflect on the 21 years of Democracy in South Africa and the 20th Anniversary of its Constitution came to the following decisions.

- The Foundations acknowledge that the Constitution is the foundational stone of South Africa's Democracy and are committed to promoting its values and purpose.
- The Foundations acknowledge the progress made since the advent of a Democratic South Africa in pursuit of the objectives stated in the Constitution especially with regard to political freedoms, the creation of institutions supporting democracy, and laying of the basis for open and accountable governance.
- The Foundations note the sense of despondency amongst South Africans, heightened levels of anger and frustration within certain sectors of the Society, the feeling of alienation amongst the Youth and Students, the growing re-racialisation of the South African Society compounded by a failing economy.
- The Foundations recognise the role played by Government and Civil Society in an effort to bring a better life for all. Further, the Foundations recognise the need for all Citizens to engage in a rational, purpose directed and non-judgmental dialogue to **re-imagine their country** and recapture the vision of **building a South Africa of their dreams**.
- The Foundations, therefore, agreed amongst themselves to commence with a process of National Dialogue, using their respective strengths and reach as a **safe platform** for all South African **to engage in a National Dialogue about the future of their Country**. The Foundations will therefore facilitate, coordinate, document and record such conversations throughout the Country.

Initiating Foundations

- Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation
- Steve Biko Foundation
- Ahmed Kathrada Foundation
- FW De Klerk Foundation
- Chief Albert Luthuli Foundation
- Nelson Mandela Foundation
- Umlambo Foundation
- Oliver & Adelaide Tambo Foundation
- Helen Suzman Foundation
- Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Trust
- Thabo Mbeki Foundation



Strategy

The Organising Foundations decided the Patrons of the Foundations representing the Former Presidents de Klerk, Mbeki and Motlanthe should convene its 1st Dialogue.



The Dialogue process must address difficult issues such as:

- Reconciling our National Identity; Strengthening our democratic system of government and all public representative to foster accountability of government representatives;
- Construct and sustain a neighbourhood of progressive relations with the members of the African Continent and the rest of the World; and
- Move beyond the design of a developmental economy and evolve to into implementing an economy that incorporates and services the majority of the countries citizens
- Create a humane society that facilities South Africa's transition into a caring, humane, racially and gender-neutral community.

The dialogue will be designed to simulate “individual” engagement on matters of importance to improve the lives of citizens.



Through the HI5 Words programme, the momentum of dialogue topics can continue to find life on a digital platform. It encourages through peer videos, the public expression of issues of individual importance thereby “activating” communication and interaction on matters of politics.

Outcome of 5 May 2017 Dialogue

On May 5th, 2017 the 1st NFDI Dialogue took place. 320 Delegates representing civic organisations, political parties, the private sector, community organisations, student formations, religious groups and other foundations attended. After insightful input from the three former Presidents on the state of our nationhood and the range of considerations offered within our Constitutional Democracy, the benefits of an informed engagement through Dialogue was tabled.



Delegates formed 10 working groups to identify the five big issues the dialogue process should address.

[DOWNLOAD THE RESULTS OF THEIR DISCUSSION HERE](#)

Some of these matters will be researched and analysed further for future dialogue discussion.

Upcoming Dialogue

Western Cape

Date: August 2017

Venue: TBC, Cape Town

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