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STATEMENT PRESENTED AT THE INAUGURAL DIALOGUE OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS DIALOGUE INITIATIVE (NFDI) ON 5 MAY 2017 IN BRAAMFONTEIN.

National Dialogue is a concept that provides all citizens of South Africa with an opportunity to hold conversations of purpose in earnest with each other, to find each other, and reason together for the sake of building a shared future for our children and for generations to come.

The Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Trust is a public trust that takes its cue from the contributions made by that noble son of the soil, Robert Sobukwe. He advised earlier on that we must demonstrate a consuming love for our people. The abiding love is an article of faith in practice for ordinary citizens to participate in the unending struggle of the African people to determine their destiny, to take responsibility for their future. Raising matters that concern us and talking to each other is an assured way to contribute to peace and to deepen democracy.

Let there be no holy cow. The country needs robust discussions aimed at finding common solutions and working at getting a better quality of life for all.

As Pan Africanists we envision, as an outcome of the National Dialogue, a united and peaceful nation. We realise that the basic freedoms guaranteed in the constitution of the country are meaningless without the active participation of citizens to pursue the true meaning of liberation.

We at RMS Trust stand for One Azania, One nation, One people.

Let us discuss Reparations. Let's revisit the National Question – and the right to access land. Let us uphold the rule of law. Let us encourage citizens to raise issues they are passionate about. It is the aspirations of the people of South Africa that we should be concerned with. Let us have a grassroots level of conversation with purpose – in the streets, among neighbours. All stimulated by the foundations initiative for a National Dialogue.

We are against no one – we are however working to give Africa a future. A unite Africa where the dignity of life, and life abundant is the main objective.

Thank you.

Issued on behalf of the RMS Trust by Jaki Seroke
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1 The National Foundations Dialogues Initiative (NFDI) is a programme of the following Foundations acting together: The Albert Luthuli Foundation, the Robert Sobukwe Trust, the Helen Suzman Foundation, the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, the FW de Klerk Foundation, the Thabo Mbeki Foundation, Umlambo Foundation, and the Jakes Gerwel Foundation.