



Group Discussions





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National Foundations Dialogue Initiative (NFDI) Inaugural National Dialogue Session 5 May 2017

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

GROUP NUMBER: 1

Chairman | Rapporteur:

Sandile Luthuli | Rafael Friedman

Values

Comments: What kind of value system should shape the NFDI?

The Constitution

Comments: Supremacy of our constitutional democracy.

The Economy

Comments: How to build a new economic compact.

State

Comments: Building a strong competent state.

Citizenry

Comments: Promoting an active and informed citizenry.

GROUP NUMBER: 2

Chairman | Rapporteur:

Gloria Serobe | Adande Ehua

Values

Comments: The dialogue should be underpinned by values set out in the Constitution. Values also talk to respect. Youth feel that respect is abused by older generation stifle debate.

Land

Comments: Resolved including expropriation without compensation. Gentrification of our inner cities at the expense of the poor.

Rural Tenure

Comments: Land tenure in rural areas must be resolved as this can unlock rural wealth.

Economic CODESA

Comments: There is a need to have an economic CODESA to ensure growth and transformation and address inequality.

Education

Comments: Addressing education can play a major role in breaking the poverty cycle and reducing inequality. Social Healing is also equally important, including counseling our traumatic past of Apartheid.

GROUP NUMBER: 3

Chairman | Rapporteur
Lucky Mathebula | Namhla Mangaliso

Governance

Comments: Public Participation Restoration, State Capture, Leadership Commitments, Constitution and corruption.

Economy

Comments: Transformation, Industrialisation, Job Creation, Privatisation/Agentisation and Land.

Poverty Eradication

Comments: Family based, Unemployment, Subtopic.

Legacy of Apartheid

Comments: Inequality, Racial Polarisation, Migrant labour system (transgenerational trauma and restorative justice).

Social Cohesion

Comments: Intellectuals, Agreement on indicators of progress, cultural freedom, equality and dignity, family, developing a national value system.

GROUP NUMBER: 4

Chairman | Rapporteur
Francis Antonie | Phephelaphi Dube

Democracy

Comments: How to create short, medium and long term solutions

- Ensuring government accountability
- Ensuring that NFDI infiltrates all of SA
- Cohesion and intercultural dialogue to be encouraged
- Need for grassroots level engagement
- Importance of dealing with past hurts and exclusion of certain groups eg KhoiSan
- Execution and implementation of NDP
- Need to be solution oriented
- Need to make the Constitution a live document

- Establishing a TRC to tackle corruption
- Pre-requisite criteria to ensure competent public leadership

Youth

Comments: Youth unemployment should be addressed, identity and representation, need for skills transfer and apprenticeships

- Need to incubate youth entrepreneurship
- Need for mentoring young people

Economy

Comments: How to combat corruption

- Ensuring economic growth to absorb graduates (also growing manufacturing industries)
- Moving to clean energy and finding innovative ways to engage with new economy
- Ensuring access to data to enable access to internet

Healthcare

Comments: Need to ensure equal access to adequate and quality healthcare across the nation.

Income inequality/labour

Comments: Need for consensus on living wage

- Job insecurity
- Economic CODESA

GROUP NUMBER: 5

Chairman | Rapporteur

Wendy Luhabe | Niren Tolsi

This Process?

Comment: How do we ensure this process is inclusive of the majority of South Africans so that they feed into this agenda formulation and can then be mobilised behind this agenda? How do we do this while enhancing participatory democracy? What platforms do we use to push the “national consensus” that will hopefully emerge from this process - do we need to form a UDF-type grassroots and community-based movements?

Broad Education

Comment: How do we entrench civic education, voter education Constitutional education, NDP education so that citizens are aware of their rights and current policies so as to use these to hold government accountable? Should we be advocating for new democratic models which will see politicians more accountable? How do we use education to reclaim valid ideas and impulses, like the need for “radical economic transformation” so as to alleviate poverty in SA?

Economic Growth through redistribution

Comment: Are these two ideas mutually exclusive and contradictory or can we use redistribution to effect economic growth? Can redistribution be used to diversify the economy? Will fast-tracking access to land (not just rural land) allow for the currently disadvantaged to demonstrate more economic agency and contribute to economic growth? Economic growth appears fundamental to finding solutions to our current political crisis - what is to be done (now)?

South Africa’s role on the continent and in the world?

Comment: Currently, the SA government appears to be concentrating more on Brics than on its relationships on the continent. There is a growing sense across the continent that South Africans cannot be trusted - whether in business, or the political arena. Another concern is the relationship between South Africans and Africans living in this country. Xenophobia/ Afrophobia needs to be addressed.

Corruption and State Capture

Comment: What is the crisis that we currently find ourselves in? We have to introspect and ask ourselves how we have arrived at the point that we have as a country - and whether we have to carry some responsibility for this? If we have failed democracy, what do we do as individuals and communities?

GROUP NUMBER: 6

Chairman | Rapporteur:
Anton Van Dalsen | Zohra Dawood

Re-Imagination Corruption

Comments: What Kind of SA do we want to live in? Corruption and lack of accountability.

Identity

Comments: Ownership of Identity as Africans. How best do we articulate and act on this with pride.

Woundedness

Comments: Acknowledging our collective woundedness and need for healing. How? Consensus that we should be looking towards each other, not away.

Constitutional Education

Comments: Make the Constitution a living document, starting with education at all levels, villages, institutions, etc. Communities lack access to knowledge/information which could empower them to become more active citizens. This goes beyond the constitution and entails a lack of awareness of citizenship rights in its broadest sense.

Electoral Reform

Comments: The imperative to address abuse of executive power and re-open discussion our electoral system (due to the lack of constituency-based system and no local accountability).

GROUP NUMBER: 7

Chairman | Rapporteur
Mbulelo Bikwane | Kimera Chetty

Nationalisation

Comments: Need for constructive conversation around viable policy compromise.

Constitution Comments:

- Electoral System
- Separation of Powers
- Power of Executive
- Capacity for living constitution to self-correct

Reparations and Restitution

Comments: Peace vs Justice - which to prioritise?

Inequality

Comments: Structural (economic) and racialised inequality. Structure of the economy - legacy of extractive system.

Corruption and Moral Degeneration

Comments: Question of leadership. Matters of faith.

GROUP NUMBER: 8

Chairman| Rapporteur:
Dave Steward | Dimpho Takane

Social Cohesion Comments:

- Social Compact
- Ubuntu
- Give those we talk about an opportunity to speak for themselves

Economy

Comments:

- Economic models
- Poverty
- Unemployment

Education

Comments: Establish an understanding of what social cohesion and compact entails.

Values

Comments: Faith based communities. Accountability.

Youth

Comments: Inclusion in addressing societal issues. Skills development.

GROUP NUMBER: 9

Chairman | Rapporteur:
Coetzee Bester | Pearl Maphumulo

Inclusive Economy Comments:

- Business Empowerment
- Industrialisation
- Poverty Alleviation
- Property Rights

Racial and Ethnicity Balance

Comments: Mindset [acceptance and respect]. Tribalism.

Climate Change

Comments: Water and Food Security. Promotion of indigenous foods.

Constitution and Election Model

Comments: Influence of voters to recalling leaders vs. political parties [revisit election model].

Education

Comments: Unemployed Graduates [Fundamental ills of education system]. Grooming/encouraging culture of literacy. Future of industries.

GROUP NUMBER: 10

Chairman | Rapporteur:
Charles Simkins | Tony Shabangu

Sustainability

Comments: Dialogue needs to be sustainable in itself. Also sustainability in development.

Accountability

Comments: Citizens need to police institutions and the people heading them. We need accountability at all levels.

Galvanise

Comments: We need to actively take the time to galvanise interest of the people and not simply react to situation but maintain unity.

Practicality/Value-based

Comments: We need values to guide us and also to learn from those who have been exemplary.

Security

Comments: Youth, food, education, hope and peace.