

**STATEMENT OF THE THABO MBEKI FOUNDATION ON UPCOMING NFDI
INAUGURAL DIALOGUE - 09 APRIL 2017.**

The National Foundation Dialogue Initiative (NFDI), an initiative of the Chief Albert Luthuli Foundation, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Foundation, Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, Thabo Mbeki Foundation, F W de Klerk Foundation, Umlambo Foundation, Helen Suzman Foundation and the Jakes Gerwel Foundation, will be convening the first of a series of dialogues across the country.

The inaugural dialogue, under the theme "*WHY DOES SOUTH AFRICA NEED A NATIONAL DIALOGUE? A CALL TO THE NATION!*" will be held at Wits University's Senate House on the **5th of May 2017**, at **10am**.

Former Presidents Thabo Mbeki, FW De Klerk, Kgalema Motlanthe, and Former Deputy-President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka will address this inaugural dialogue session.

These Foundations are deeply concerned about the state of our country and our young democracy; they are of the view that the challenges we are currently faced with need to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

From the onset of our constitutional dispensation South Africa has and continues to face enormous challenges which can only be resolved through our collective efforts. The challenges relate to issues of political governance and leadership, the state of our economy and its failure to respond to the urgent needs of the population, the moral decay in society, and most importantly social and national cohesion. These challenges have generated a national crisis which negatively affects our young democracy.

The Foundations have therefore come to the firm conclusion that it is both necessary and urgent that all South Africans engage one another in a national dialogue, to arrive at a renewed national consensus to address this national crisis.

In this regard, as the Thabo Mbeki Foundation (TMF), we would like to call upon all South Africans to participate in and rally behind this Initiative to find lasting solutions to the challenges facing our beloved country.

Members of the media are invited to cover the Inaugural Dialogue.

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