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THE NFDI WELCOMES THE FORMAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE KGALEMA MOTLANTHE FOUNDATION

The National Foundations Dialogue Initiative (NFDI) welcomes the formal membership of the Motlanthe Foundation. The decision of the Motlanthe Foundation to formally endorse the NFDI serves to consolidate and give impetus to the initiative to provide the ordinary people of South Africa from all walks of life with a forum and a platform to engage with each other on the crisis facing our country.

Since the launch of the NFDI on the 5th of May 2017, the Motlanthe Foundation has only been involved in the initiative on an observer basis pending the finalisation of and compliance with its internal processes.

With this move the Motlanthe Foundation will henceforth be a fully-fledged member of the NFDI as the initiative continues to strive for both the creation and broadening of national, provincial and regional platforms for South Africans to dialogue with one another on the future of our nation.

The call for a national dialogue made by the National Foundations, namely the Inkosi Albert Luthuli, the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Trust, James Gerwel, Thabo Mbeki, F.W De Klerk, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, Umlambo and Helen Suzman Foundations is underpinned by the principles and values enshrined in our constitution.

It is important to reiterate this principled position by the Foundation in order to dispel any distortions and allegations of nefarious motives that are supposedly being driven by the Foundations through the call for a national dialogue involving all the people of South Africa.

The launch of the National Foundations Dialogue Initiative on the 5th May 2017 received the overwhelming and enthusiastic support of the participants representing a cross section of the various strata of the South African society.

The enthusiasm and the vibrancy of the occasion confirmed that the call for a national dialogue has been placed firmly on the agenda of the national discourse and that it resonates with the sentiments of those present and that it was long overdue.

At the launch of the National Foundations Dialogue Initiative the three former presidents namely Kgalema Motlanthe, F.W. de Klerk and Thabo Mbeki as well as Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka were united in the assertion that our country is faced with serious challenges that threaten the very survival of this young democracy. And yet according to Former President

Mbeki “the independent voice of millions of ordinary South Africans is excluded from the visible, audible and vigorous national discussion accessible to all...”

Former President Mbeki further made the assertion that “our country is immersed in a general and worsening crisis” and he urged the people to speak out freely in our Democratic and Constitutional space, without let or hindrance, to help determine their destiny!”

Former President Motlanthe for his part expressed the view that all the people of South Africa are equally concerned about the direction our country is heading and urged the people “to reclaim the future for which generations before us have dedicated their lives at a great cost to themselves.”

In defining the challenges facing our democracy former President Motlanthe denounced what he identified as the “absence of a national culture of critical consciousness represented by multiplicity of ideas, debates and a questioning attitude towards those elected to steer our nation.” To crown it all the South African democracy is confronted by a situation in which “the act of violating the constitution, the ultimate profanity against our very mode of existence is reduced to the banal.”

It is indeed an antithesis of democracy where those who are elected to serve the interests of the people arrogate to themselves an attitude of conceit as well as sophomoric and intellectually pretentious political behavior which puts them above the people and use the power that rightfully belongs to the people as if it was their own to amass and flaunt ill begotten wealth in the midst of abject poverty, destitution and privation.

For his part former President De Klerk made bold to say that “South Africa is in the grip of the most serious challenges that have confronted it since the establishment of our non-racial constitutional democracy 23 years ago... the future of all South Africans – and of all our children for decades to come - is being threatened by the current challenges.”

All the events since the launch of the National Foundations Dialogue Initiative have pointed to a deteriorating situation in the country and once again confirming the need for a National Dialogue by all South Africans irrespective of the color of their skin, social status and background. It is only when all South Africans express revulsion, disgust as well as an uncompromising stance against “the act of violating the constitution, the ultimate profanity against our very mode of existence” that South Africa will be pulled back from the brink of a bottomless abyss of constitutional decay.

History will not be kind to our generation for allowing our country to sink deeper and deeper into the morass of constitutional decay, kleptocracy and rampant corruption.

The NFDI calls on the people of South Africa to “speak out freely in our Democratic and Constitutional space, without let or hindrance, to help determine their destiny!”

Foundation Members:

Thabo Mbeki Foundation;

FW de Klerk Foundation;

Umlambo Foundation;

Luthuli Foundation;

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Trust;

The Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation;

The Jakes Gerwel Foundation; and
Helen Suzman Foundation

Directors: Mr FJG Antonie, Mr XM Boqwana, Ms NMJ Canca *Chairperson, Mr HJ Gerwel, Mr LG Hlophe, Mr JS Seroke, Ms Razaan Bailey, Dr Theunis Eloff

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