

NATIONAL DIALOGUE PILOT PHASE PROPOSAL

Community-Based Dialogues Across South Africa (±200 Dialogues)

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document sets out a proposal for the **National Dialogue Pilot Phase**, covering approximately **200 community-based dialogues** across **all district municipalities and metropolitan municipalities** in South Africa.

The pilot phase is intended to ensure that the National Dialogue is grounded in lived experience, particularly in communities facing sustained social, economic, environmental, and institutional stress. The proposal deliberately prioritises **communities under pressure**, rather than adopting a purely geographic or representative approach.

2. APPROACH AND RATIONALE

The pilot phase is guided by a simple premise: **if the National Dialogue is to be credible, it must take place where life is hardest, services are weakest, and voices are least heard.**

Accordingly, site selection has been shaped by the following considerations:

- Persistent poverty and unemployment;
- Gender-based violence and community safety;
- Environmental harm linked to mining, power generation, and industry;
- Climate-related shocks such as flooding, drought, and heat stress;
- Border pressures, migration, and informal economies;
- Informal settlements and areas with limited infrastructure;
- Rural isolation and declining local economies.

The pilot phase is also designed to test **practical delivery conditions** — including travel, venues, facilitation, translation, safety, and connectivity — particularly in rural and under-resourced settings.

3. SCOPE OF THE PILOT PHASE

- **All 44 district municipalities** are included, with a minimum of **two dialogue sites per district.**

- **All 8 metropolitan municipalities** are included, with multiple dialogues reflecting population density and complexity.
- Additional sites are included in areas of acute distress or strategic importance.

This approach results in an overall pilot scope of approximately **200 dialogue sites nationwide**.

4. PRIORITY COMMUNITY CONTEXTS

The pilot phase deliberately focuses on the following community contexts:

- Deep rural communities with limited state presence;
- Informal settlements within metropolitan and secondary cities;
- Mining-affected and power-generation host communities;
- Coastal communities impacted by illegal fishing and resource conflict;
- Border towns experiencing high levels of cross-border movement;
- Communities facing persistent gender-based violence;
- Areas affected by alcohol and substance abuse;
- Communities navigating energy transition pressures, including renewables.

These contexts cut across provinces and municipal boundaries and are reflected throughout the site selection.

5. DETAILED DIALOGUE SITE SELECTION: WHERE WE ARE GOING AND WHY

This section sets out, in detail, the **specific towns, communities, and informal settlements** where pilot dialogues will take place, together with the **reasoning for their inclusion**. This level of detail is intentional. The National Dialogue Pilot Phase is not only about geographic coverage, but about **entering spaces of pressure, harm, exclusion, and transition**, and understanding how national challenges are experienced locally.

The sites below reflect a balance of **urban, peri-urban, rural, border, informal settlement, mining, industrial, coastal, and energy-transition contexts**.

WESTERN CAPE

City of Cape Town (Metro)

- **Khayelitsha** – Large informal settlement; high levels of unemployment, gender-based violence, and strained policing relationships.
- **Manenberg / Mitchells Plain** – Gang violence, organised crime, youth vulnerability.
- **Dunoon (Milnerton)** – Informal settlement shaped by migration and service delivery stress.

West Coast District

- **Saldanha / Vredenburg** – Illegal fishing, organised crime networks, coastal livelihoods under pressure.
- **Lamberts Bay / Clanwilliam** – Rural alcohol abuse, agricultural precarity.

Cape Winelands District

- **Worcester** – Alcohol abuse, farmworker vulnerability, gender-based violence.
- **Mbekweni (Paarl)** – Peri-urban inequality adjacent to wealth; housing and youth unemployment.

Garden Route District

- **George** – Rapid urbanisation, housing stress, labour migration.
- **Knysna** – Climate-related flooding and disaster recovery challenges.

Overberg District

- **Zwelihle (Hermanus)** – Coastal inequality, informal housing, GBV.
- **Bredasdorp / Struisbaai** – Rural safety, fishing livelihoods.

Central Karoo District

- **Beaufort West** – Deep rural poverty, drought, access challenges.
- **Laingsburg** – Flood risk and climate resilience.

EASTERN CAPE

Buffalo City (Metro)

- **Duncan Village (informal areas)** – Flooding, service delivery failures, GBV.
- **Mdantsane** – Youth unemployment and crime.

Nelson Mandela Bay (Metro)

- **Motherwell (informal settlements)** – Urban poverty, housing insecurity.
- **KwaZakhele / New Brighton** – Crime and economic exclusion.

OR Tambo District

- **Mthatha** – Urban GBV, youth unemployment, weak service delivery.
- **Lusikisiki** – Severe sexual violence, rural isolation, justice access failures.

Alfred Nzo District

- **Mount Frere** – Rural GBV, infrastructure constraints.
- **Matatiele** – Climate stress and cross-border livelihoods.

Chris Hani District

- **Komani (Queenstown)** – Alcohol abuse, peri-urban stress.
- **Engcobo** – Rural safety and poverty.

Joe Gqabi District

- **Aliwal North** – Border-town pressures, declining local economy.
- **Sterkspruit** – Lesotho border dynamics.

Amathole District

- **Butterworth** – Peri-urban unemployment.
- **Alice / Fort Beaufort** – Rural services and youth migration.

Sarah Baartman District

- **Kirkwood** – Farm safety and agricultural labour.
- **Humansdorp** – Peri-urban growth and coastal pressures.

Renewable Energy (Eastern Cape)

- **Cookhouse / Bedford** – Wind energy development; land use and community benefit.
- **Jeffreys Bay / Kouga** – Renewable energy and local economic inclusion.

NORTHERN CAPE

Frances Baard District

- **Galeshewe (Kimberley)** – Urban poverty and GBV.
- **Barkly West** – Rural safety and economic decline.

Pixley ka Seme District

- **Orania** – Social cohesion, race, constitutional questions.

- **De Aar** – Alcohol abuse, transport-town stress.

John Taolo Gaetsewe District

- **Kathu** – Mining impacts and labour migration.
- **Kuruman** – Resource extraction and service strain.

Namakwa District

- **Springbok** – Mining decline and water scarcity.
- **Port Nolloth** – Illegal fishing and coastal survival economies.

ZF Mgcawu District

- **Upington** – Border corridor, migration, heat stress.

Khoi-San / San Communities

- **Platfontein (near Kimberley)** – !Xun and Khwe San community; land, identity, and services.
- **Askham / Twee Rivieren (Kalahari)** – †Khomani San realities and isolation.

FREE STATE

Mangaung (Metro)

- **Botshabelo** – Youth unemployment and poverty.
- **Heidedal** – Urban marginalisation.

Lejweleputswa District

- **Welkom** – Mining decline and unemployment.
- **Virginia** – Peri-urban stress.

Thabo Mofutsanyana District

- **Phuthaditjhaba** – Rural poverty and GBV.
- **Bethlehem** – Migration and service strain.

Xhariep District

- **Smithfield** – Rural safety and isolation.
- **Zastron** – Declining rural economy.

Lesotho Border (Free State)

- **Ficksburg / Maputsoe** – Porous border economy.

- **Ladybrand / Maseru Bridge** – High-volume cross-border movement.
- **Fouriesburg / Caledonspoor** – Rural border livelihoods.

Renewable Energy (Free State)

- **Excelsior / Setsoto** – Wind and solar projects; land use and benefit sharing.
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KWAZULU-NATAL

eThekweni (Metro)

- **Kennedy Road / Clare Estate** – Informal settlement struggles.
- **Umlazi** – Youth unemployment and violence.

King Cetshwayo District

- **Richards Bay** – Coal terminal, industrial pollution, child respiratory illness.
- **Empangeni** – Peri-urban exposure to emissions.

uThukela District

- **Ladysmith** – Flood damage and recovery.
- **Estcourt** – Migration and service pressure.

uMgungundlovu District

- **Pietermaritzburg** – Urban-edge GBV.
- **Mpophomeni** – Youth violence.

uMkhanyakude District

- **Manguzi / KwaNgwanase** – Mozambique border livelihoods.
- **Kosi Bay** – Remote access and infrastructure constraints.

Lesotho Border (KZN)

- **Underberg / Sani Pass** – Hard-to-reach terrain and logistics testing.
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GAUTENG

City of Johannesburg (Metro)

- **Alexandra** – Density, migration, policing trust.
- **Diepsloot** – Informality and youth exclusion.
- **Zandspruit** – Inequality and land tenure.

City of Tshwane (Metro)

- **Hammanskraal** – Service delivery failures.
- **Mamelodi** – Youth unemployment.

Ekurhuleni (Metro)

- **Tembisa** – Migration and housing stress.
 - **Vosloorus** – Crime and poverty.
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MPUMALANGA

Nkangala District (Coal Belt)

- **Emalahleni (Witbank)** – Severe air pollution and respiratory illness.
- **Middelburg** – Coal mining and community health impacts.
- **Ogies / Phola** – Mining-linked informality.

Gert Sibande District

- **Secunda** – Petrochemical and coal emissions.
- **Hendrina / Pullenshope** – Power stations and health decline.

Ehlanzeni District

- **Mbombela** – Border economy.
- **Bushbuckridge** – Rural poverty and GBV.

Mozambique Border (Mpumalanga)

- **Komatipoort / Lebombo** – Major cross-border movement.
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LIMPOPO

Vhembe District

- **Musina** – Border pressure and migration.
- **Thohoyandou** – Youth unemployment.

Sekhukhune District

- **Burgersfort** – Mining impacts.
- **Jane Furse** – Rural services.

Waterberg District

- **Lephalale / Marapong** – Medupi Power Station; pollution and water stress.

Capricorn District

- **Seshego / Mankweng** – Peri-urban stress.

Mopani District

- **Giyani** – Rural poverty.
 - **Tzaneen / Gravelotte** – Mining and agriculture tension.
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NORTH WEST

Bojanala Platinum District

- **Rustenburg** – Mining labour settlements.
- **Brits** – Peri-urban expansion.

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District

- **Klerksdorp** – Mining belt decline.

Ngaka Modiri Molema District

- **Mahikeng** – Border economy.
- **Ramatlabama** – Botswana border movement.

Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District

- **Vryburg** – Farm safety.
 - **Taung** – Rural poverty.
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6. EXPECTED VALUE OF THE PILOT PHASE

The pilot phase will:

- Surface issues that are often absent from national policy discussions;
 - Test dialogue methods in difficult and under-resourced environments;
 - Build trust by engaging communities directly, rather than through intermediaries;
 - Generate grounded inputs to inform the next phase of the National Dialogue.
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7. CONCLUSION

This proposal reflects a deliberate effort to ensure that the National Dialogue begins from the realities of people’s lives. By covering every district and every metro, and by prioritising communities under sustained strain, the pilot phase lays a credible foundation for a national process that is inclusive, grounded, and responsive.

ANNEXURE A: NATIONAL COVERAGE COMPLIANCE TABLE

Purpose of this Annexure: To confirm that all district and metropolitan municipalities are included in the National Dialogue Pilot Phase.

Province	District / Metro	Included in Pilot	Notes
Western Cape	City of Cape Town (Metro)	Yes	Informal settlements and gang-affected areas
Western Cape	West Coast	Yes	Coastal livelihoods and rural towns
Western Cape	Cape Winelands	Yes	Rural towns and peri-urban settlements
Western Cape	Overberg	Yes	Coastal and agricultural communities
Western Cape	Garden Route	Yes	Climate-affected towns
Western Cape	Central Karoo	Yes	Deep rural access
Eastern Cape	Buffalo City (Metro)	Yes	Informal settlements
Eastern Cape	Nelson Mandela Bay (Metro)	Yes	Urban poverty and crime
Eastern Cape	OR Tambo	Yes	Rural GBV hotspots
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	Yes	Rural border communities
Eastern Cape	Chris Hani	Yes	Small towns and villages
Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi	Yes	Border and farming towns
Eastern Cape	Amathole	Yes	Rural and peri-urban
Eastern Cape	Sarah Baartman	Yes	Farming and coastal towns

Northern Cape	Frances Baard	Yes	Urban and rural
Northern Cape	Pixley ka Seme	Yes	Small towns and Orania
Northern Cape	John Taolo Gaetsewe	Yes	Mining-affected towns
Northern Cape	Namakwa	Yes	Coastal and mining towns
Northern Cape	ZF Mgcawu	Yes	Border corridor
Free State	Mangaung (Metro)	Yes	Urban townships
Free State	Fezile Dabi	Yes	Small towns
Free State	Lejweleputswa	Yes	Mining decline towns
Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana	Yes	Lesotho border
Free State	Xhariep	Yes	Rural farming towns
KwaZulu-Natal	eThekweni (Metro)	Yes	Informal settlements
KwaZulu-Natal	Amajuba	Yes	Small towns
KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala	Yes	Rural communities
KwaZulu-Natal	iLembe	Yes	Coastal and rural
KwaZulu-Natal	King Cetshwayo	Yes	Industrial pollution
KwaZulu-Natal	Ugu	Yes	Coastal towns
KwaZulu-Natal	uMgungundlovu	Yes	Peri-urban and rural
KwaZulu-Natal	uMkhanyakude	Yes	Border communities

KwaZulu-Natal	uMzinyathi	Yes	Rural towns
KwaZulu-Natal	uThukela	Yes	Flood-affected areas
KwaZulu-Natal	Zululand	Yes	Deep rural
Gauteng	City of Johannesburg (Metro)	Yes	Informal settlements
Gauteng	City of Tshwane (Metro)	Yes	Townships and peri-urban
Gauteng	Ekurhuleni (Metro)	Yes	Informal settlements
Mpumalanga	Nkangala	Yes	Coal belt
Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande	Yes	Industrial towns
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	Yes	Border and rural
Limpopo	Capricorn	Yes	Peri-urban
Limpopo	Mopani	Yes	Rural towns
Limpopo	Sekhukhune	Yes	Mining-affected
Limpopo	Vhembe	Yes	Border towns
Limpopo	Waterberg	Yes	Power generation
North West	Bojanala Platinum	Yes	Mining belt
North West	Dr Kenneth Kaunda	Yes	Secondary cities
North West	Ngaka Modiri Molema	Yes	Border towns
North West	Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	Yes	Rural farming towns
