**NATIONAL DIALOGUE PILOT PHASE PROPOSAL**

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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**.

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## 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.

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## 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**.

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### 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.

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**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.

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**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)** – ǂKhomani San realities and isolation.

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**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 / Caledonspoort** – Rural border livelihoods.

**Renewable Energy (Free State)**

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

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**KWAZULU-NATAL**

**eThekwini (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.

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**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 |

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| 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 | eThekwini (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 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |