



GORDON INSTITUTE
OF BUSINESS SCIENCE

University of Pretoria

THOUGHT LEADERS DIALOGUE

- Informing and Engaging the South African Citizen -

The Way Forward



5th – 7th March 2009
Mount Grace Country House and Spa
Magaliesberg

Background

Thought Leaders from various sectors were invited by the Gordon Institute of Business Science to a 3-day Dialogue Circle from 5-7 March 2009. The individuals were selected because of their considerable influence on the views and mindsets of South Africa's leaders and the broader public.

South Africa is entering a dynamic and critical time. As a nation we are faced with a host of challenges that need to be tackled with a sense of urgency. In interpreting the events around us, each of us has a piece of the puzzle but not the whole. The stakes are high, the dialogue is fragmented and the risk is that we miss significant elements of our socio-economic and political context and we pass these judgments into the public realm.

The process over the 3-days allowed for reflection, small group discussion and creative conversation. Participants shared key experience and drew on the experience of others to co-create clearer pictures of what to expect going forward.

We thank Investec and Telkom for their generosity in supporting this event.

The purpose of this document is to present the ideas and initiatives that are being taken forward. It should be read in conjunction with the Thought Leaders Dialogue – Meeting Report which captures the learning and issues raised.

We apologise for any inaccuracies in the document but our view was that it was preferable to send out a document as soon as possible to support the initiative of participants, even if it was a little unpolished. Please come back to us if there is anything you would like to include that is not present.

We have not summarised or drawn general conclusions as we did not feel this appropriate for a Dialogue such as this. We rather present any information in as direct format as possible. The summary is written in the present tense reflecting the notes taken as it happened.

We thank you for participating and look forward to working together over the years ahead as we help our country navigate the complex times we are in.



Ideas and initiatives

On the third day of the meeting, several people voiced the need for action and raise the question “what next?” Participants are invited to host a conversation on an idea / initiative they would like to explore and that they have energy, passion and capacity for. A lot of conversation themes are put forward. While some generate a lot of interest, others feel that their topics could be discussed outside of the workshop.

Ideas / Initiatives Raised in Plenary

Topic	Host
Young professionals summit	Achumile Majija
Interactive public debate	Tawana Kupe
Legacy 2010	Roelf Meyer
Entrepreneurship: Spit and polish events	Allon Raiz
Engaging with China and India	Reuel Khoza
Engaging Magaliesberg leaders in civic awareness and responsibility	Jody Kollapen
Initiative that has a national impact to increase youth employment reaching out to millions	Miriam Altman
Create a 1 – 2 day summit for the newly elected members of parliament	Raenette Taljaard
Partners to establish libraries in rural school to promote the culture of reading	?
Foster partnerships between university and media to (1) foster and broaden public intellectuals and (2) focus on exceptional achievers to recognise excellence and innovation	Ishmael Mkhabela
Open history initiative	Molefi Ndlovu
Journalism as a lifestyle	Anton Harber

Topics not discussed

Find champions in universities to get involved and assist in maintenance programmes	Teunes Eloff
Exploring ways of transforming procurement policies to engage the recipients	Janet Love
Human rights and foreign policy	Nicole Fritz
Mentorship programme	Mark Gevisser

Our apologies for any missing ideas or initiatives. Please feel free to contact us to correct going forward.

Flipchart Feedback from Groups

Young Professionals Summit

Who: Achumile Majija, Lebo Mashile, Dirk Visser and Siki Mgabadeli

Focus: Leadership, entrepreneurship and workplace dynamics

Target: Public and private sector / young professionals

Purpose:

- Engaging young professionals on socio-economic and political matters
- Designing the leadership plan for the country
- Encourage public participation
- Expose unemployed graduates to the workplace

Next Steps:

- Finalize proposal
- Engage stakeholders
- Identify and attract participants

Interactive Public Debate

What:

- Deepening the debate through public interactive debates in partnership with a diversity of media platforms
- Debates should be empowering and participatory
- Broadening participation in public debate

Who: Tawana / Wits and partners will coordinate and facilitate

Next Steps:

- Rethinking and reconceptualising economic reporting and news to make them understandable and empowering
- Providing a service to help people contribute articles to the media
- Ensuring that topics for debates are broad and panellists are both knowledgeable and broad

Legacy 2010

Who: John Perlman; Pie-Pacifique Kabalira-Uwase; Molefi Ndlovu; Roelf Meyer; Anne Githuku-Shongwe; Stephanus De Toit ; Roger Dickinson; Miriam Altman

What:

- Engagement with LoC
- Embrace an African World Cup
- Positive youth engagement

Next Steps:

- Meet the LoC
- Create email network

Entrepreneurship Spit and Polish Events

Who: Allon Raiz; Tseliso Thipanyane

What: A series of events inviting aspiring entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas in front of an audience and judging panel who openly pull their idea apart. Contestants are then sent away to rework their ideas armed with input from the judges. They then get an opportunity to re-pitch (Pygmalion effect)

Ideas:

- Prizes on the day and overall
- Use radio as it has broad reach
- Rural inclusion
- Use GIBS large lecture halls as venue
- To be televised
- Multiple event in different cities / towns

Next Steps

- Product design, Engage stakeholders – Media, Sponsors, Judges, Do pilot at GIBS

China / India: New development models for Africa and South Africa

Who: Nick Binedell; Yvonne Muthien; Raenette Taljaard; Devan Pillay; Neva Makgetla; Scholastica Kimaryo, Martyn Davies.

Action Steps:

- “Spontaneous cluster”
- Comp youth models / address stat laws
- Comp social security models
- IBSA included
- Impact of crisis – feed into Parliament
- Look to domestic / regional demand / solutions
- Internal driven growth (China) – better understanding requirement (Export driven, not credible growth model)
- Making basic services more accessible
- External engagement strategies needed for South Africa
- State / business dynamic (Examples from India / China / Brazil) – IDC
- New drivers of youth
- GIBS: Managing the crisis – PS + business + players

“Demystifying” global economic crisis

- Communicate more
- Eco / fin reporting / understanding
- “Solution” to be informed
-

Models / Way forward: Read on India / China – job creation outcome

Focus on:

- Role of the State – empowering / repressive
- True existing initiatives – hard to get new initiatives to work
- 50 regions / areas of scale in Africa needed

Civic Awareness and Responsibility

1. Visit Magaliesberg linking with the list of guests and others including local reps and facilitating an engagement
2. Commencing community based thought leaders processes
3. Networking around ongoing information and training opportunities for civil society leaders: life skills, media, community safety, legal rights and relevant laws. “Popular Education Network”
4. Kickstart Library Programme at Magalies school (Link to writers training project)
5. Action plans to be drafted and circulated regarding Magalies visit – librarian rollout and community based thought leaders
6. Creation of an electronic / email network of those in the group

Participant Contact List

First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Tel	e-mail
Miriam	Altman	Centre for Poverty, Employment & Growth CPEG	012 302 2740	maltman@hsrc.ac.za
Nick	Binedell	GIBS	011 771 4118	binedelln@gibs.co.za
Anthony	Butler	UCT	021 650 4748	anthony.butler@uct.ac.za
Martyn	Davies	Frontier Advisory	011 728 6339	mdavies@frontier-advisory.com
Stephanus	du Toit	Institute for Justice & Reconciliation	021 763 7121	fanie@ijr.org.za
Theuns	Eloff	North West University	018 299 4901	theuns.elloff@nwu.ac.za
Nicole	Fritz	Southern Africa Litigation Centre	011 403 3414	nicolef@salc.org.za
Mark	Gevisser	Independent	011 726 8666	admin@tracegroup.org.za
Anne	Githuku-Shongwe	Afroes Consulting & Transformational Multi-Media	012 347 1986	anne.shongwe@gmail.com
Warren	Goldstein	Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa	011 640 9669	office@chiefrabbi.co.za
Paul	Graham	Idasa	012 392 0500	pgraham@idasa.org.za
Anton	Harber	Wits University	083 303 9497	anton@harber.co.za
Dirk	Hermann	Solidarity	012 644 4309	dirk@solidariteit.co.za
Barbara	Holtmann	CSIR	012 841 2685	bholtmann@csir.co.za
Pie-Pacifique	Kabalira-Uwase	ABSA	011 350 4348	Pacifique.Uwase@absa.co.za
Reuel	Khoza	AKA Capital	011 706 2992	rjk@akacapital.co.za
Scholastica	Kimaryo	Private Consultant	072 212 9572	scholastica.kimaryo@gmail.com
Jody	Kollapen	South African Human Rights Commission	011 484 8300	jkollapen@sahrc.org.za
Tawana	Kupe	Wits	011 717 4012	Tawana.Kupe@wits.ac.za
Janet	Love	Legal Resource Centre	011 836 9831	janetl@lrc.org.za
Achumile	Majija	Sanlam Investment Management	021-950 2030	AchumileM@sim.sanlam.com
Neva	Makgetla	DBSA	012 300 5200	Neva.makgetla@gmail.com
Jimmy	Manyi	Black Management Forum	011 840 4100	jimmy.manyi@tigerbrands.com
Gill	Marcus	ABSA	011 350 3532	gill.marcus@absa.co.za
Chris	Maroleng	eTV News Channel	011 759 6429	chris.maroleng@etv.co.za
Prince	Mashele	Institute for Security Studies	012 346 9500	pmashele@issafrica.org

Participant Contact List

First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Tel	e-mail
Lebo	Mashile	Poet	084 460 5997	matipap@gmail.com
Aubrey	Matshiqi	Centre for Policy Studies	011 442 2666	aubrey@cps.org.za
Roelf	Meyer	Fever Tree Consulting	011 384 7800	roelf.meyer@fevertreeconsulting.com
Siki	Mgabadelo	Independent Producer	011 285 6191	siki@urbanbrew.co.za
Ishmael	Mkhabela	Interfaith community Development Association	011 339 3474	imkhabela@gmail.com
Caesar	Molebatsi	CKLM Consultancy	011 836 8911	Caesar@empowa.com
Lumkile	Mondi	IDC	011 269 3682	lumkilem@idc.co.za
Sipho	Mseleku	Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce & Industry	011 783 5481	sipho@ascci.org.za
Yvonne	Muthien	Dinokeng	011 469 5254	orchid1@telkomsa.net
Molefi	Ndlovu	Center for Civil Society	031 260 1506	molefindlovu@yahoo.com
John	Perlman	The Dreamfields Project	011 833 1050	johnperlman@dreamfieldsproject.org
Devan	Pillay	Sociology Dept, Wits University	011 717 4425	devan.pillay@wits.ac.za
Allon	Raiz	Raizcorp	011 566 2000	allon@raizcorp.co.za
Sipho	Seepe	SAIRR	011 492 0600	Sipho_Seepe@yahoo.com
Bheki	Sibiya	Brait SA	011 507 1570	bsibiya@brait.com
Mark	Swilling	Stellenbosch University & Sustainability Institute	021 881 3196	swilling@sun.ac.za
Raenette	Taljaard	Helen Suzman Foundation	011 646 0150	Raenette@hsf.org.za
Desiree	Terblanche	Zululand Fever	035 901 9400	zulueditor@feveronline.co.za
Tseliso	Thipanyane	SAHRC	011 484 8300	tthipanyane@sahrc.org.za
Dirk	Visser	Brightest Young Minds	021 469 4749	dirk@bym.co.za
Stuart	Wilson	Centre for Applied Legal Studies	011 717 8600	stuart.wilson@wits.ac.za

First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Tel	e-mail
Grant	Ashfield	Leadership Works	082 894 4288	grant@leadershipworks.co.za
Phyllis	Byers-Ameguide	Gordon Institute of Business Science	084 446 1196	ameguidep@gibs.co.za
Roger	Dickinson	Reos Consulting	083 415 0353	aysan@safrika.com
Colleen	Magner	Reos Consulting	082 337 7829	magner@reospartners.com
Anthony	Prangle	Gordon Institute of Business Science	083 746 8270	prangleya@gibs.co.za
Terrence	Taylor	Gordon Institute of Business Science	082 562 2887	taylorl@gibs.co.za

Concluding Remarks

We look forward to feedback and to hearing updates on these and other critical issues that are taken forward over the months and years ahead. If there are any connections that were made that and ideas seeded did not emerge on the final morning please keep us in the loop. And contact us if there is anything that you believe we can support you with.

Your experience, insight and contribution are deeply appreciated.

Kind regards,

The GIBS Thought Leaders Team