

25 MARCH 2024
PE St GEORGE'S CLUB

Present:

- Trevor Jennings
- Braam Hanekom
- Johannes Mouton
- Sam Dandala
- Reuben Africa
- Brendan Ah Shene
- Ncedile Victor Befile
- Leanne Bennett
- Lionel Billings
- Dimpho Bulani
- Thandi Daule
- Sheré de Meuse
- Hannes de Waal
- Patrick Douglas-Henry
- Estelle Ellis
- Nomazizi Galela
- Johan Malherbe
- Neville Goldman
- Shaun Gouws
- Lance Grootboom
- Sue Hagemann
- Bukelwa Hans
- Brian Helsby
- Barbara-Mari Jacobs
- Andrew Michael Johnson
- Jonathan Joseph
- Yandisa Jubase
- A. Campher
- Lt Col Staqa
- S Fikile
- Thandile Gunguluza
- Joan Keëling
- Hennie le Roux
- William Leleli
- Mongezi Lugodlo
- Mpho Masera
- Nomakhaya Matutu
- Anga Mbeyiyia
- Sabelo Mbini
- Danie Mouton
- Nonkululeko Mica Mshweshwe
- Nqabisa Grissel Mtshake
- Gcinani Links
- Zikhona Luthando Nel
- Lucky Ngamlana
- Linda Ngqunge
- Lubabalo Njongwe
- Kaya Nkumbesi
- Lunga Oliphant
- Marius Olivier
- Lance Petersen
- Ed Richardson
- Graeme Sauls
- Jonas Schumacher
- Jeremy Sieberhagen
- Frankie Simpson
- Gcinani Links
- Khanya Vani
- Dirk van der Mescht
- Pierre van Wyk
- Glen Weiss
- Russell Viljoen
- Deon Pretorius
- MG van Rooyen

Context:

After one hundred dialogues, we came to the conclusion that **poverty and unemployment, crime and violence and concerns about our youth** remain amongst the top priorities that our communities see as necessary fields of intervention.

Latest reports on the upcoming **national dialogue** suggest that we also must ask the question about **what kind of country, city, and community we want to be**.

It was clear from the dialogue that we are still facing the following challenges:

- A lot of unresolved trauma.
- A lot of distrust.
- A lot of anxiety about the future.
- A lot of frustration with our local government.





During the break-away sessions we had separate groups discussing our youth, crime and violence, unemployment, and our local government.

But first we asked delegates why they were here?

- To help our community, specifically the youth.
- To be part of a positive and loving dialogue.
- To enhance capacity.
- Because I would love to see a city with hope; a city that children will come back to; a city with a future; a city to grow old in.
- Trust that mindsets will shift and that we collaborate in change.
- To rebuild the city and wider metro.

Broad Outcomes From The Conversation

- We need to change our **own mindset**. And especially how we think about money and materialism.
- We need to **keep local- and national governments accountable**, but we also need to acknowledge that a **transformation must take place in ourselves as individuals**.
- We need to **enhance and foster collaboration amongst the different stakeholders in the city**.
- For this we need, among other things, the **institutionalization of a dialogue process** which must led by a community forum (See "*The way forward*").



Answers to the question: What kind of city do we want to be?

- A city governed by us. Don't look for blame. Don't look to government to fix things. **Take ownership** for the city.
- A city where dignity and vibrance are returned. **Mayibuye – it must be returned: especially our humanity!**
- A city with **values**, e.g., humility, honesty, and respect.
- A city where all people have value.
- A city where **trust** prevails.
- A place where **safety issues and environmental issues** are tackled.
- Where there is **collaboration** between politicians, business, churches etc. We must stop talking and start acting.
- A city where people **have enough to eat**. Children are hungry.
- A city filled with **righteous anger** about everything that is wrong.
- **A clean city** – happy cities are clean cities.

Youth Breakaway Group



- Start with a diagnosis about youth are facing. What is the problem? **Family structures**; skills development; education; early childhood development; mental health issues as a byproduct of oppression and poverty; social divide between young and old.
- **Parenting** – “first 1000 days” program, where mothers are supported by business, churches ect.
- Although Agri – business create work, they also negatively impact the family structures by taking the men away from the family structures.

Facilitators remarks:

The support for parents (parent education) and the “first 1000 days” programs must be actively planned and promoted. NGO’s who operate in the field must be supported. The health department must be motivated to facilitate more trauma intervention programs

Crime and Safety Breakaway Group:

- We need a systemic intervention. Encourage the **communities to take responsibility for infrastructure, buildings, hospitals, schools etc.**
- Police must be better trained to do investigations and how to treat victims.
- Use **technology** better. Install cameras to monitor crime. SRA’s

Facilitators remarks:

To heal a crime and violence infected city will not happen overnight but research wolrd wide shows the following results:

- *Create a loving and caring home environment (family structures)*
- *Create a safe neighbourhood, block by block*
- *Motivate families to take a firm stand against gangsterism and crime*
- *Keep our youth constructively busy*
- *Get kids involved in community programs*
- *Civic education must become a priority*



Economic Development Breakaway Group:

- **Change the mindset, move away from a consumerist and materialist society.**
- Get people to rather **spend their money in the local economies.**
- 5 step plan:
 - Intentionality need to drive it.
 - Create a shared vision between different sectors.
 - Address policies.
 - Take back the power. Change the thinking.
 - Build trust.

Facilitators remarks:

To grow the economy and create jobs we need a combination of policies that encourage investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship, while also ensuring a skilled and adaptable workforce.

Local Government Breakaway Group:

- The will to fix the system from within is not there.
- Need more **multisector involvement**. Get more formalised and organised to address government.
- Educate citizens better to know their rights. Civic Education.
- Building capacity in civil society.

Facilitators remarks:

Non-functional local governments do not want to engage with civil society structures. BUT the steering committee must be persistent in their efforts to get an appointment with senior officials to address critical challenges. Remember that local governments also apply go-slow tactics. They will listen to you but then will do nothing. It is the constitutional right of civil society to keep local governments accountable. If we do not do it, it is not only the LG that is failing us, but it is us that are failing ourselves.



Recommendations:

- The steering committee must try and meet asap. Invite everyone to the first “steering committee”. Dr. Hanekom will also try and attend.
- The city must be rebuilt through family structures, the “ First 1000 days programs” and teenage pregnancies should be very high on our agenda. The fraternal (churches) must be asked to develop a strategy to restore family structures.
- The city must be returned : Mayibuye – block by Block – building by building, school by school, street by school. Communities must take the responsibility for this.
- The city must be cleaned!
- Security: Special Rating Areas must be expanded (camera’s etc.) - Business chamber
- Economy: Ask the business chamber to draft a document that will address critical policies that is harmful for economic growth. The steering committee must ensure that this document (advocacy) is escalated to all levels of government. Facilitate a workshop to define the things that inhibit economic growth and that this will stimulate economic growth.
- Ask for an urgent meeting with the metro. The steering committee must draft the agenda and go to the meeting with the mandate received from the dialogue on 25th of March.
- The steering committee must find a way to COMMUNICATE the findings of the dialogue to the broader community.

Closing remarks:

The dialogue underscored in a very eloquent way some of the major challenges facing the city, but also some of the possible solutions. Nothing will happen all by itself, and it was impossible to design a full strategy in the limited amount of time that we had. The group however chartered a course and direction for the immediate future.

In closing. We now need three things:

- A steering committee that will enhance collaboration amongst stakeholders and motivate sectors to contribute to the framework and vision we have identified
- Connecting with sectors and institutions that could assist in turning the broader vision into tangible results. Communication!
- Individuals, who are willing to bring their two fishes and five loaves of bread to the table

A possible vision after what we have heard.

- A clean and safe city,
- with an agile growing economy,
- that will create a hopeful future for our youth.

