



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Frank Dialogue to Advance the Future of B-BBEE in the Oceans Economy

Leadership Magazine Editor, Prof JJ Tabane, will on Saturday, 28 February 2026, host a Frank Dialogue on the future of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE), with a specific focus on the Oceans Economy, at Coastlands Umhlanga Hotel & Convention Centre. The all-day dialogue will bring together leaders from business, government, civil society and development finance institutions to debate current developments shaping the empowerment landscape and table practical recommendations for the future of economic transformation.

“We are convening this dialogue at a critical moment for the empowerment agenda. The oceans economy presents both a strategic growth opportunity and a test of whether transformation can meaningfully reshape ownership, industrial participation and enterprise development in high value sectors,” said Prof JJ Tabane.

The dialogue will include an engagement with Deputy President Hon. Paul Mashatile and followed by keynote addresses to be delivered by:

**Hon. Parks Tau** – Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition

**Dr Nthabiseng Moleko** – Chairperson of the National Empowerment Fund

**Ms Palesa Phili** - CEO of Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The discussions will be shaped by robust, solution-oriented panel discussions featuring a diverse group of leaders from government, business and civil society. The panellists bring experience in transformation, economic policy, enterprise development and the oceans economy, with a proven track record of driving meaningful change within their respective sectors. Their collective insights will enrich the dialogue, challenge conventional thinking, and help chart practical pathways to advance inclusive growth, accelerate B-BBEE implementation, and unlock opportunities within South Africa’s oceans economy.

Discussions will interrogate the relevance of the DA Bill in relation to B-BBEE, debates on quality equipment and localisation, recent rail transformation announcements, the imminent release of the B-BBEE Advisory Council report, forthcoming BMF research, recent transformation fund developments, and the latest B-BBEE transaction in the maritime sector.

***The dialogue is set to run from 09h30 – 16h30 and will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, group deliberations and opportunities for public engagement. The event will be televised, and a limited number of seats are available to members of the public who are required to RSVP in advance. All legacy foundations and stakeholders in transformation have been invited. People from all walks of life are welcome, including those who may disagree with the B-BBEE policy.***

**Event details:**

**Date: 28 February 2026**

**Venue: Coastlands Umhlanga Hotel & Convention Centre, KwaZulu-Natal**

**Time: 09h30 – 16h30**

For media inquiries, please contact:

Busi Radebe – 081 782 2037 /

[busir@frankdialogue.com](mailto:busir@frankdialogue.com)

To attend, RSVP to:

Olona Majikijela – 082 954 3148 /

[olonam@frankdialogue.com](mailto:olonam@frankdialogue.com)

Issued by Frank Dialogue Holdings

Date: 20 February 2026