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For immediate release

### **The Breaking Down Borders Africa Youth Summit**

Johannesburg – The Leaders Who Dare To Dream Foundation in partnership with The Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) and Brand SA will launch The Breaking Down Borders Africa Youth Summit from the **15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Gauteng**. The Summit is a platform to commemorate Africa Month through engagements with established leaders, young African leaders and government under the theme ‘*Youth Collaboration – towards a shared prosperous Africa*’. The Summit is the brainchild of a collection of young people under the leadership of award winning philanthropist and world dance champion Paul Modjadji. A week long Summit will be a gathering for robust and thought provoking conversation and cultural engagement.

“The Gauteng Provincial Government has developed economic strategies and programmes that recognizes the importance of opening the global markets, especially, the African Borders for Trade purposes. We are excited to be partners of an event that aims to remove the mental borders that restrains our trade potential, and encourage our Young Leaders to interact with their counterparts from Africa in a dialogue on real issues affecting young dynamic youth across the continent. We want to ensure that youth from Africa can trade with other young people from Africa. Imagine how the future of Africa will be, if our youth uses this platform in such a way that makes the continent a strong economic power house. It can be done, and together, we will Break Down the Borders, and create access to Markets in Africa, for Africans”, said Acting CEO of GEP, Ms. Leah Manenzhe.

The Summit will host a contingent of 60 youth leaders, with half of them coming from various African countries such as Nigeria, Senegal, Kenya and Ghana. Closer to home, countries in the SADC region will also be represented with delegates from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Lesotho. In addition, 30 young leaders from around South Africa will take part in the Summit. The programme of the Summit includes talks by UNISA academic Dr Edith Phaswana whose area of interest is the Africanisation of the academy and award winning and Kenyan born and US based poet and writer Mwendu “Freequency” Katwiwa. Political voices in the form of Former President and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Premier David Makhura and MEC for Economic Development Lebogang Maile will also take part in the conference



programme. This will be closed by a session with local entrepreneurs discussing the role of youth in the African economy.

The Summit will also include a closed visit to the Union Buildings where the delegates will get to engage on the South African National Development Plan. The final activity of the core delegation will be a cultural exchange with local schools across the province. On the lighter side, the core delegation will be treated to a tour of Soweto and a dinner that includes a fashion show by a local fashion house Urban Zulu.

*“The core delegation of the Summit is made up of the crème de la crème of the continent. The list of delegates is made up of leaders from business, civic movements, the arts and politics. The delegates have also been picked from the Mandela Washington Fellowship which I was part of and local organisations. The space is meant to provide engagement and an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to create meaningful relationships with a hope to starting trading across our borders” – Paul Modjadji*

The Summit comes on the cusp of Modjadji’s tour of Africa where he spread the message of African collaboration through dance and arts entrepreneurship. The tour, of the same name, went to 10 African countries, which countries will be represented in the core delegation attending the Youth Summit.

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