

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

THE TRUTH
HURTS
BUT SILENCE
KILLS

LET'S SPEAK OUT TO EACH OTHER,
BY TELLING THE TRUTH,
BY TELLING OUR STORIES OF THE PAST,
SO THAT WE CAN WALK THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION TOGETHER.

TRUTH. THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION.

Introduction

- ▣ 1994 Government of National Unity set up
- ▣ Urgent need to rebuild SA
- ▣ Must create new identity
- ▣ Nation building a high priority
- ▣ But...Cant move forward without dealing with past injustices.
- ▣ So then...
- ▣ How does one deal with the Past?
- ▣ Retribution eg. Nuremburg trials?
- ▣ Reconciliation???

Nuremburg option?

- ▣ 1946 – 1949 leading Nazis placed on trial
 - ▣ 20 Nazi leaders executed
 - ▣ Many others executed or jailed
 - ▣ Problems: Impossible to try all perpetrators
 - ▣ Trials long and expensive
 - ▣ Germans felt victimized
 - ▣ Cover ups, much unknown
 - ▣ Denials
 - ▣ Victors justice: Russia, Britain and USA all guilty of war crimes
- Therefore this option was not seen good for nation building

TRC formed

Need for reconciliation
vital for nation building
TRC formed headed by
Tutu and Boraine

Tasks: Investigate human
rights abuses (1960 – 94)

: Hear evidence

Aims: Bring healing

: Recommend reparations

: Grant amnesty if full
disclosure given.



Powers of TRC

TRC – not a court

- Could NOT convict

Could only:

Investigate

Produce a report

Advise govt.

Grant amnesty (7000 applied, 1150 granted amnesty)



Tutu and the TRC.flv

TORTURE



Hear testimony from all sides

Terreblanche



Hit squads

Eugene de Kok



Hear untold stories



Criticisms of TRC

ANC angered over criticism of their actions
as they felt their cause was just.



Many escaped, especially leaders
“Just obeying orders”



Defiant PW BOTHA



Not clear on events outside of SA



IFP ignored



Pain of forced removals not addressed



Success of the TRC

- Allowed closure for many
- Uncovered evidence of death squads
- Did show impartiality in exposing human rights abuses on all sides
- Encouraged more South Africans to talk
- Did lead to victims and perpetrators being reconciled

