



SOUTH AFRICA: THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY

1. RESPONSIBILITY

- ✓ Various organizations claimed responsibility for getting rid of apartheid
- ✓ The NP believed apartheid was unworkable and decided to abandon the policy
- ✓ Internal resistance forced the government to make large concessions
- ✓ International pressure was isolating and strangling SA's economy

2. DE KLERK IN PARLIAMENT AND REACTION

- ✓ Pres De Klerk admitted the failure of Apartheid in parliament on 2 February 1990
- ✓ He unbanned the ANC, PAC and SA Communist Party
- ✓ He also announced the unconditional release Nelson Mandela
- ✓ Political prisoners were to be released and media restrictions lifted
- ✓ He thus promised a 'totally new and just dispensation and drastic changes
- ✓ Mostly positive reactions were received to his speech as the majority of South Africans were relieved that major issues would be addressed

3. RELEASE OF MANDELA AND CHALLENGES

- ✓ In February De Klerk and Mandela met to discuss his release
- ✓ Mandela released on 11 February
- ✓ His release was greeted with much optimism
- ✓ Real challenges however faced the major political parties in SA
- ✓ The NP had to restructure its ideology and the ANC had to develop a new organizational structure

4. CAPE TOWN – GROOTE SCHUUR MINUTE, FEB 1990

- ✓ Talks between the government and ANC opened in May 1990 at Groote Schuur (cape town)
- ✓ They discussed ways to remove obstacles in the way of negotiation and ending the violence in the country
- ✓ Each had to trust the goodwill of the other
- ✓ The two parties agreed to a joint working group to facilitate negotiations
- ✓ Political prisoners would be released and exiles allowed to return to SA
- ✓ The state of emergency would be lifted except in areas of Kwazulu and Natal
- ✓ The government agreed to scrap the Separate Amenities Act
- ✓ The ANC were not willing to abandon the armed struggle and suggest the dropping of overseas sanctions

5. PRETORIA MINUTE, AUG 1990

- ✓ At the second meeting in Pretoria in August 1990 the ANC agreed to suspend the armed struggle
- ✓ The government promised to abolish the remaining apartheid laws
- ✓ This led to a new spirit of optimism in the country

6. VIOLENCE

- ✓ The continued violence in the country however was having a detrimental effect on the negotiation process
- ✓ Various groups were blamed for the violence
- ✓ The Zulu organization Inkatha, under Buthelezi was blamed because many people believed their power base threatened following the unbanning of the ANC
- ✓ Certain ANC members were believed to carry out violent acts

- ✓ The NP government was accused of police bias in allowing certain attacks to take place against the ANC
- ✓ There were also reports of a 'Third Force' (a group connected to the police) that led attacks on the ANC
- ✓ The widespread violence threatened to hamper peace progress

7. CODESA 1 DEC 1991 AND THE DECLARATION OF INTENT

- ✓ different perspectives towards negotiations also made things difficult
- ✓ the ANC was in favour of a simple one man, one vote democratic system while the NP wanted some form of power sharing
- ✓ in December 1991 all interested parties formed the Convention for a Democratic South Africa or CODESA
- ✓ the aim was to bring about a new constitution
- ✓ extremist parties such as the PAC and Conservative Parties did not participate
- ✓ one major breakdown between De Klerk and Mandela occurred
- ✓ the talks however got going again after a Declaration of Intent was signed
- ✓ the parties agreed to commit themselves to an undivided South Africa free from apartheid or any other discrimination

8. REFERENDUM MARCH 1992

- ✓ in 1992 De Klerk decided to hold a referendum among white voters to secure approval for the continuation of talks
- ✓ nearly 69% of the voted in favour of continuing negotiations

9. CODESA 1 AND VIOLENCE (BB)

- ✓ CODESA 2 met shortly after the referendum but was marked by much disagreement
- ✓ Continuing violence made negotiations very difficult
- ✓ The ANC withdrew from negotiations and called for a campaign of rolling mass action
- ✓ In June 1992 a major incident took place in Boipatong township
- ✓ Here Zulu immigrant workers attacked an informal settlement and over forty people were killed
- ✓ There was also suspicion about government 'Third Force' involvement
- ✓ Unofficial talks were conducted between Roelf Meyer and Cyril Ramaphosa
- ✓ A major incident occurred in Bisho where police opened fire on ANC marches wounding 200

10. RECORD OF UNDERSTANDING SEPT 1992

- ✓ Things changed to the positive when De Klerk and Mandela met in September to sign a record of understanding
- ✓ This paved the way for the restarting of constitutional talks
- ✓ Buthelezi angered by this document withdrew from further negotiations

11. SUNSET CLAUSE OCT 1992

- ✓ At the end of October 1992 Jee Slovo, one of the ANC leaders, proposed a sunset clause
- ✓ This amongst other things provided for power sharing in the new government and amnesty for civil servants
- ✓ In December a new round of talks started between the ANC and the government

- ✓ They agreed to a five year Government of National Unity in which all parties that received over 5% of votes in the general election would be proportionally represented

12. VIOLENCE (HANI & TAMBO)

- ✓ Violence did not abate and in April 1993 a popular leader of the SACP, Chris Hani was assassinated by Januz Walusz, a Polish immigrant
- ✓ It did not succeed in derailing the negotiation process as Mandela appeared on TV to calm the nation
- ✓ The death of Oliver Tambo occurred two weeks later

13. NEGOTIATING COUNCIL APR 1993

- ✓ Negotiations continued from April in a group called the Negotiating Council
- ✓ The Council set the election date on 27 April 1994
- ✓ In July a draft constitution was drawn up
- ✓ Both the IFP and Conservative Party walked out of the talks
- ✓ A transitional executive council was also established to organize the election as well as the IEC

14. VIOLENCE (I & ANC) AND THE VRYHEIDFRONT & IFP

- ✓ In march 1994 a clash took place between the ANC and Inkatha around the ANC headquarters of Shell House leaving 63 people killed
- ✓ Shortly before the election both the Vryheidfront and IFP decided to contest the election

15. ELECTION 27 APR 1994

- ✓ The first democratic elections in SA were held on 27 April 1994
- ✓ Queues of people waited for hours to cast their votes
- ✓ The IEC declared the elections free and fair
- ✓ The ANC won 62,2% of the national vote and became the ruling party
- ✓ Thabo Mbeki of the ANC and De Klerk of the NP became the deputy presidents
- ✓ Nelson Mandela was sworn in as president and stressed the need for national reconciliation and nation- building
- ✓ The final constitution emerged in 1996.