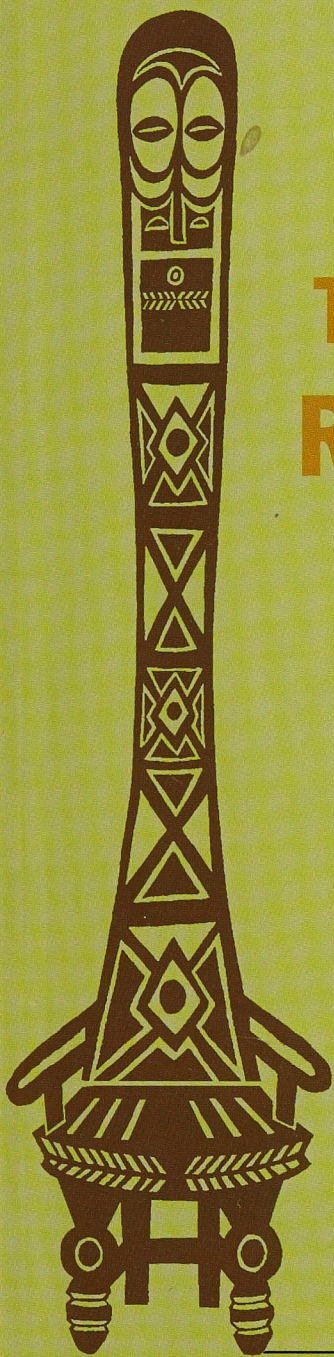


The Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation



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What is the Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation?

As part of building our new democracy, Parliament set up the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** in 1995 to reveal the truth about the political conflicts of the past. The Commission will last for a maximum of two years and is dealing with gross human rights violations that took place between **1 March 1960 and 5 December 1993**.

The **Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation** is part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With the other two committees (the **Committee on Amnesty** and the **Committee on Human Rights Violations**), the Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation is guided in its work by a desire to understand the effects of the events of the recent past. It is not seeking vengeance or retaliation, but is rather trying to bring about national unity and reconciliation.

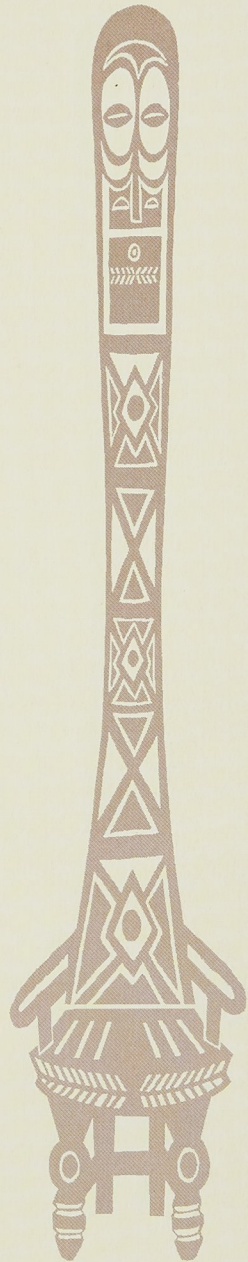
What are the aims of the Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation?

One of the aims and objectives of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is to give human and civil dignity back to victims by letting them tell their stories and recommending how they can be assisted. The Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation will help in this process by looking at the effects of the events of the recent past.

Tasks

The Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation will help the Commission to achieve its aims by:

- ❖ finding out what harm the victims of gross human rights abuses suffered and what the effects were on their families and dependants;
- ❖ providing emotional support services to victims and witnesses before, during and after hearings;
- ❖ consulting communities and individuals about the



impact of violations on their lives and possible ways of achieving reparation and rehabilitation;

- ❖ making recommendations to the President and Parliament for urgent assistance in cases where immediate relief is needed; and
- ❖ recommending to the President what type of reparation should be made and ways to prevent similar human rights violations in future.

What does “reparation and rehabilitation” mean?

“Reparation and rehabilitation” is a term for what can be done to assist victims to restore the damage that victims have suffered, to give them back their dignity and to make sure that these abuses do not happen again. Although this could include compensation, a financial payment is not the only form of reparation and rehabilitation that the Committee will recommend. The Committee will look at individuals, communities and the nation as a whole when making recommendations to achieve reparation and rehabilitation.

Who qualifies for reparation?

The Committee is focusing on people who were **victims of gross human rights abuses or crimes** which were committed within a political context between **1 March 1960 and 5 December 1993**.

Victims are:

- ❖ people who were killed, abducted, tortured or severely ill-treated; and
- ❖ family members or dependants of a person who was killed or who disappeared.

How will reparation be made?

The Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation will receive information about victims from the Committee on Human Rights Violations and the Committee on Amnesty. It will also look at the experiences of a wide range of organisations, including the United Nations and other



countries which have had similar commissions. The Committee will meet with members of local community based organisations, NGOs, religious organisations, academic institutions and victims.

All this information will help the Committee decide what recommendations to make to the President.

Please remember that this Committee's task is to **recommend** to the President ways of assisting victims. It is the President, and **not** this Committee, who will decide what to do and how to do it. These recommendations will be in the report which will be sent to the President after the Commission has completed its work. So it will take some time before reparation is made.

If someone has a very urgent need for assistance, this Committee can recommend that they are given interim relief, that is, assistance while the process is still running.

What is urgent interim reparation?

The Committee recognises that there are cases where gross violations directly caused a situation which cannot wait until the Commission has completed its work. To assist these people, this Committee can recommend that they are given some relief immediately.

Remember though that even if you qualify for immediate interim relief, there will be some delay before reparation is made.

An example of urgent interim reparation could be helping victims to get social assistance (like pensions or disability grants) if they qualify for this.

It is important to remember that:

- ❖ you **cannot** apply for assistance to this Committee directly. Instead, the Committee will find out who the victims are and what their needs are by receiving reports from the other two Committees; and
- ❖ not every victim is entitled to interim relief. The Committee will only recommend this relief where there is an **urgent** need which cannot wait until the Commission has completed its work, **and** where the situation is a **direct** result of the gross violation.



How to contact the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

You can visit, write, fax or phone the Commission at one of the offices nearest you. These are listed on the back page of this booklet. The Commission will arrange for a statement to be taken from you by one of their trained statement takers. This statement will be sent to the Committee on Human Rights Violations. If this Committee finds that you are a victim, it will include your case in the report it sends to the Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation.

Remember though that reparations will only be finalised after the Commission has completed its work and, even if you qualify for urgent interim reparation, there will be some delay before reparation is made.

You can also fill in your name, address and telephone number on the slip below, put a cross in one of the boxes, and send it to us.

To the TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

- I would like to make a statement
- I would like to apply for amnesty

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL NO.: _____

Members of the Committee on Reparation and Rehabilitation

Prof S'mangele Magwaza

Mr Tom Manthata

Prof Piet Meiring

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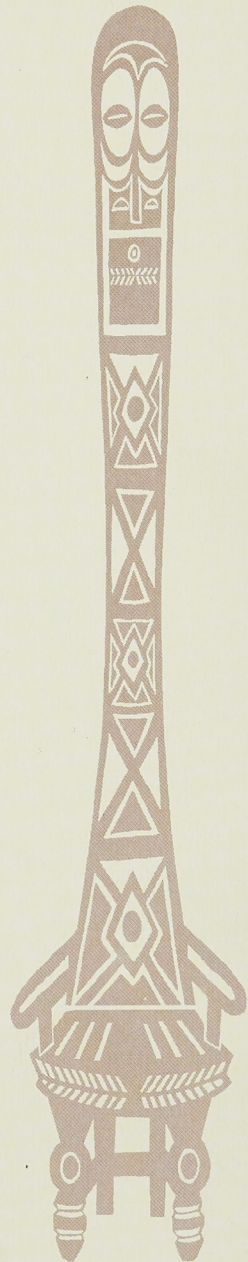
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