

THE MOVE TO DEMOCRACY

“Our struggle has reached a decisive moment: We call on our people to seize this moment, so that the process toward democracy is rapid and uninterrupted.”

Extract from Nelson Mandela’s speech at the Grand Parade, Cape Town, 11 February 1990



Guy Stubbs, Africa Media Online

The past, the present and the future presidents of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, join hands in the celebration of the birth of a free and democratic nation at Mandela’s inauguration as president on 10 May 1994.



Aali Bradlow, Trace Images

Negotiations for a new South Africa began in 1991. CODESA, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, was the name given to the negotiation process.



Aali Bradlow, Trace Images

Negotiations took place against a backdrop of violence. There were violent clashes between the ANC and Inkatha supporters. These clashes were fuelled by the Third Force. In Bisho, 28 unarmed demonstrators were killed and 200 wounded by Ciskei security forces in 1992.



Denis Farrell, Trace Images

On 27 April 1994, the first democratic elections in South Africa took place. The ANC won a landslide victory, winning nearly 63% of the vote. A Government of National Unity was formed with Nelson Mandela as the first democratically elected president of South Africa.

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