

INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat

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0 1 7 5

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Onderwerp
nr.
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Knipfel
nr.
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Afrikaner business takes a lead

This newspaper has in the past urged the Afrikaner not to disengage from the process of shaping the new South Africa. We have advised Afrikaans-speakers to look beyond recent and ongoing efforts to reduce their influence and that of their language, and to remain part of the debate about what and how to build once the rubble of apartheid is cleared.

It is inarguable that they have a significant contribution to make to the future of this country. The Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut's submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is a case in point. It is a remarkable document, with Afrikaner businessmen and women candidly admitting they did a lot wrong in the years of apartheid, and apologising for this.

"Nobody is left cold by our past," it said. "South Africans have to come to grips with that past if we are to have a future." So the AHI took the lead among Afrikaner organisations and leaders, expressing regret for its mistakes. We trust other groups will study the dignified manner in which the AHI is trying to deal with the past, and will follow suit.

Advancing the process of reconciliation even further, the AHI proposed the use of the R9-billion political risk fund, SA Special Risks Association (Sasria), to fund reparation if the TRC decides on this course. After more than 20 months of agony and breast-beating, this is one of the most positive and practical suggestions to emerge at the TRC.

The importance of the AHI's input cannot be underestimated. It addressed both truth and reconciliation. Next up are the West and South Cape Ned Geref Church synods which have bravely decided to make submissions to the TRC. May they be as frank and unambiguous as the AHI in how they provided a biblical underpinning and God's blessing for apartheid.

TREFWOORDE

1. Redaksioneel
2. AHI
3. getuënis
4. Kommissie in
5. Waarheid
fonte
6. Uelvolhige
Oentwikkeling
7. waarskelle
8. SASRIA
9. Skadevergoeding
10. slagoffers