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THE HERALD



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THEY CAME IN THEIR THOUSANDS

Our nation's spirit soars

RAIN did not stop South Africans from turning up in their thousands to see Jacob Zuma inaugurated as the new President of South Africa, and they erupted as he took the stage to be sworn in.

A multitude gathered on the lawns of the Union Buildings from the early hours of Saturday morning and the rain did not dampen the joyous mood.

Young and old danced and sang to the music of a number of bands for hours through a huge downpour, with the weather clearing only minutes before the official event began.

Entrepreneurs sold chips, sweets, cigarettes and ANC paraphernalia, while a Nando's stall gave away free meals, flags and sun shades.

On the lawns, a large delegation of bearded and black-suited elders from the Bantu Church of Christ gathered early in the morning ahead of the inauguration. They had come from the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

The elders, who have come to all of the post-1994 inaugurations, stood among the crowds while their leader, Bishop John Bolana, sat among the dignitaries above.

Thabo Kgasago, 36, a security guard and community worker, brandished a machine gun he had made from wood, which was plastered with Zuma stickers.

He also wore an Mqele — a crown representing the Ndebele royal family Makhosonke II, made from Springbok skin.

The highlight was the aerial display, with the crowd loudly cheering every helicopter and aircraft

He had come all the way from Mpumalanga to welcome Zuma. "We are from the same bloodline," he said.

The crowds showed their delight as the newly inaugurated President took to the podium to address them.

The atmosphere was marked with the blowing of vuvuzelas, ululations, loud singing and general cheering and clapping as the crowd welcomed their new President.

Winnie Dube, 50, came from Durban and said that while she had not attended previous inaugurations, she had specially come to this one and wore her traditional dress "for my Zulu boy".

Rafael Magwaza, a 59 year-old sculptor, said he lived in Eshowe next to Zuma.

"He is my neighbour. I visited him before he became president of the ANC," he said proudly.



FROM OUR BLUE HEAVENS: South African Airways aircraft pass over the Union Buildings after President Jacob Zuma's inauguration in Pretoria yesterday. Thousands flocked to attend the ceremony as Zuma became leader of Africa's economic powerhouse



RAINBOW NATION: Thousands of South Africans revelled in the sunshine after the rain to watch President Jacob Zuma's inauguration Picture: GCIS

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An excited Latifa Tybosch, 4, from Centurion, said she was very happy to be there. She said she was going to tell all her friends she had been to see President Zuma.

Students Raymond Mathebula and Gift Baloyi said they had come because they were hoping the new administration would give technology and financial help to engineering students.

After Zuma made his pledge, hundreds of vuvuzelas were blown on the lawns, while women ululated and danced and people waved flags and umbrellas.

The highlight was an aerial display, with the crowd cheering loudly for every helicopter and aircraft that flew past and for the 21-gun salute.

With each blast of salute echoing over the capital city, the crowds' elation grew and the grass, moist from the earlier rains, vibrated.

Mumsy Nhlapo smiled broadly as she held her hands up to sky, as if to touch one of the planes passing overhead.

When Zuma came down to the lawns after the ceremony, the noise was deafening.

He told the crowd that they had gone out, campaigned and voted in their numbers, thereby emphasising the need for South Africans to live by democratic rule. He told them all that he would visit them in their provinces.

On the streets, people danced and held up posters of their new President. Motorists hooted and there was a general feeling of celebration and national pride in the air.

When President Zuma came down to the lawns below, after the ceremony, the noise was deafening. He told the crowd that they went out, campaigned and voted in their numbers, thereby emphasising the need for South Africans to live by democratic rule.



MAN OF THE PEOPLE: Jacob Zuma addresses the crowd at the Union Buildings in Pretoria Picture: GCIS

We are here to celebrate

NOT discouraged by the dull, cloudy and chilly weather, thousands of people converged on Durban's City Hall to watch, via satellite on a big screen, their local hero, Jacob Zuma, being inaugurated.

Many wore the trademark yellow-and-black T-shirts bearing Mr Zuma's face.

Sihle Mthembu said that when he woke up on Saturday morning and felt the cold, he decided that he wouldn't let the weather prevent him from joining the crowds flocking to the City Hall.

"I could have stayed at home and

watched the inauguration on the television, but I wanted to join other people and celebrate," said Mthembu.

Another excited resident, Sindisiwe Zikode, added: "I would not miss the Msholozzi's inauguration for anything. I am here to see the local man being given the biggest position in the country.

"Now we as the people from the rural areas can be proud of ourselves.

"Most of all, we are pleased to see Zuma as the president of this country," she added.

Villagers glued to the screen

RESIDENTS of Miga village, near Mafikeng in North West, gathered at their community hall on Saturday to watch the live television broadcast of Jacob Zuma's inauguration.

Undeterred by the cold, young and old sang and danced to mark the occasion.

Lebogang Mothibi, 26, said he was excited and looking forward to the post-inauguration celebrations.

"I am here in this hall to watch the event as it happens at the Union Buildings," he added.

"This event will be very exciting

from beginning to end so I do not want to miss any of it."

Another resident, Pako Lekone, 33, arrived early to get a good seat. "I came here early and cancelled all my other appointments today. I wanted to make sure that I do not miss anything that happens at the Union Buildings."

Molebogeng Phiri, 38, who arrived with her family and friends at the community hall for the broadcast, said she was especially interested in seeing who Mr Zuma's guests were and what they would be wearing.

THE inauguration of President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma ushers in South Africa's fourth democratically elected government. It is poised to serve the nation by implementing a mandate won in an election that was strongly contested with strong participation across South African society.

President Zuma takes the helm of a country that faces significant challenges, but a country that can also take pride in what it has achieved since the attainment of democracy. When the Independent Electoral Commission confirmed the results of the election, Jacob Zuma, acknowledging the responsibilities placed on his shoulders as the leader of the ANC, called for a new resolve based on selflessness and commitment to accelerate transformation and improve the quality of life of all South Africans:

"We are very grateful and humbled by the decisive mandate we have received from millions of South Africans... They were attracted by our policies and the delivery of services in the past 15 years, as well as the track record of this movement in working to build a better South Africa since 1912. We do not take the mandate lightly. We know the responsibility that comes with it.

"The new President of the Republic will be a President for all, and he will work to unite the country around a programme of action that will see an improve-



A government for all South Africans United to improve our lives together

ment of the delivery of services. Working together we will make it a government for all South Africans" — April 25 2009.

In the past 15 years, much has been achieved to unite the nation, improve social and economic conditions, and enable South Africa

to play its part on the international stage as a country helping to represent the interests of the developing world, and as a cam-

paigner for a more equitable system of international governance.

Nevertheless there is more to be done. Our shared goals for development and equity will still take time to achieve in full. New challenges have arisen, not least from the world's economic crisis.

Against this backdrop, President Zuma will lead a dedicated team of government leaders mandated to work together with all sectors of society to implement programmes that prioritise economic growth and job creation; rural development; education; a better functioning health system; and to intensify the fight against poverty and crime.

This administration will ensure that South Africa continues to pursue an equitable system of international governance that favours regional and continental integration and development.

Collectively, members of the new government have spent most of their lives immersed first in the struggle for freedom, and then in the building of a free, non-racial and non-sexist democratic South Africa, guided by a Constitution that respects the human rights of all, building on the 15 years of a democratic government committed to creating a better life for all.

In the next five years, Mr Zuma will lead a team that combines experience with a new energy, in the context of a renewed mandate to continue uniting the nation and to transform the inequalities imbedded over many years of colonialism and apartheid.

Our democracy in action

FIFTEEN years into a maturing democracy, South Africa once again held free and fair elections, in which millions of South Africans cast their votes for a new government.

A total of 23 million people were registered on the voters' roll — the highest recorded number since the national common voters' roll was compiled for the elections in 1999. According to the Independent Electoral Commission, just over 77% of these voters cast their votes on April 22, of which nearly 2.5 million people between the ages of 18 and 30 registered to vote for the first time. More than 80 000 expatriates living abroad were also allowed to vote for the first time in 15 years.

When the counting of votes ended and the official results of the general election were made known, the process of forming a new parliament — comprising the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) — commenced.

The first meeting of the National Assembly on May 6, presided over by Chief Justice and head of the Constitutional Court Pius Langa, marked the swearing-in of the members and culminated in the elections of the President of the country and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

The National Assembly is made up of 400 members. The number of seats given to each party is determined by the number of votes the party received in the general elections.

South Africa's nine provinces also swore in their premiers on the same day.

On May 7, Chief Justice Langa presided over the swearing in of the 90 members of the NCOP. The NCOP represents the provinces to ensure that their interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government.

The NCOP elected its chairperson and deputy chairperson during its first session.

The inauguration of President Jacob Zuma marks the culmination of detailed and transparent democratic processes that have been put in place to ensure that integrity and fairness prevail and that the will of the people is given expression.

As part of these processes, President Zuma will announce his Cabinet today. From there on, the nation and the world await the first joint sitting of the National Assembly and NCOP on June 3, when President Zuma will deliver his first State of the Nation Address.

The traditional debate on his address will be held on June 4, and his reply to the debate will take place the following day.

National Assembly

President of South Africa
Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma
Speaker of Parliament **Max Vuyisile Sisulu**
Deputy Speaker **Nomaindia Mfeketo**

National Council of Provinces

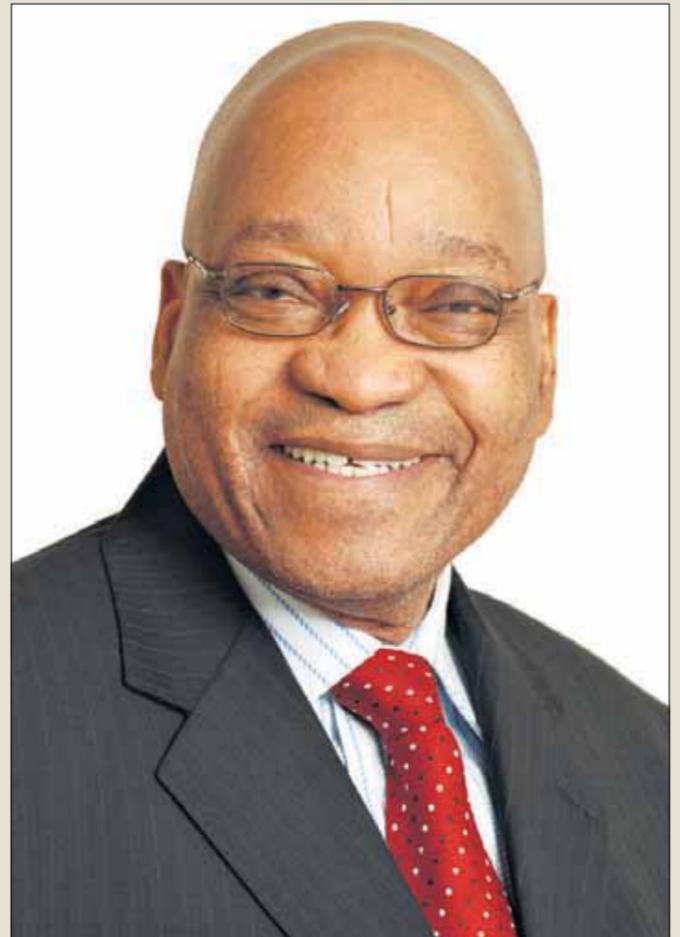
Chairperson **Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu**

Provincial Premiers

Eastern Cape **Noxolo Kiviet**
Free State **Ace Magashule**
Gauteng **Nomvula Mokonyane**
KwaZulu-Natal **Dr Zweli Mkhize**
Limpopo **Cassel Mathale**
Mpumalanga **David Mabuza**
North West **Maureen Modiselle**
Northern Cape **Hazel Jenkins**
Western Cape **Helen Zille**



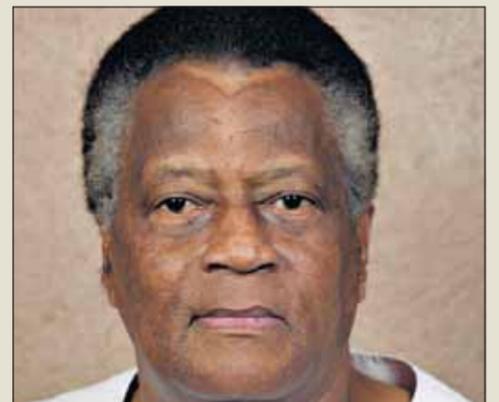
NOMAINDIA MFEKETO



President of South Africa JACOB GEDLEYIHLKISA ZUMA



MNINWA JOHANNES MAHLANGU



MAX VUYISILE SISULU



EXTRAORDINARY TEACHERS: President Zuma has learned from the country's greatest leaders, such as Nelson Mandela (top and bottom left) and Oliver Tambo (bottom right) PICTURE: PictureNet

Lessons of struggle sacrifice

IN HIS leadership, President Jacob Zuma reflects the resilience of his origins and his persistent successes against the odds.

Born in the impoverished rural hinterlands, with no formal education and raised by a single parent after the death of his father when he was just five years old, he grew up under the guardianship of his grandparents. Like his peers, he had to herd cattle and fight with sticks. His circumstances prevented him from attending school.

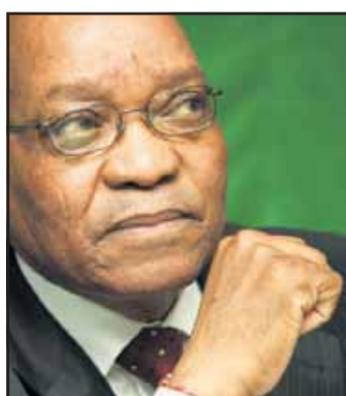
At the age of 17 he moved to Durban to take up employment. Given his experience of poverty and exposure to oppression, he identified the need to fight the oppressive system of apartheid and joined the ANC in 1959.

Three years after joining the

ANC he became an active member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing. He was among a group of 45 arrested en route to ANC camps in exile. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, where he spent time with Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki and Harry Gwala.

These extraordinary leaders made a great impression on him and, on his release, he became instrumental in establishing internal structures of the ANC in Natal between 1973 and 1975.

He left the country in 1975 and spent 12 years in exile. He operated at the reception points for young people going into exile in Swaziland and Mozambique after 1976. He was appointed to the National Executive Committee of the ANC in 1977, and he also served both as deputy Chief Representative and later



Chief Representative of the ANC in Mozambique.

In 1987 he moved to the ANC's Headquarters in Lusaka, where he became Head of Underground

Structures and later Chief of the Intelligence Department. He also served on the ANC's Political and Military Council in the mid-1980s.

After the unbanning of the liberation movements in 1990, Jacob Zuma was among the first ANC leaders to return to South Africa in preparation for the repatriation of exiled combatants. He was involved in the first formal interaction between the National Party government and the ANC, which led to the Grootu Schuur Minute in May 1990, marking the beginning of formal negotiations.

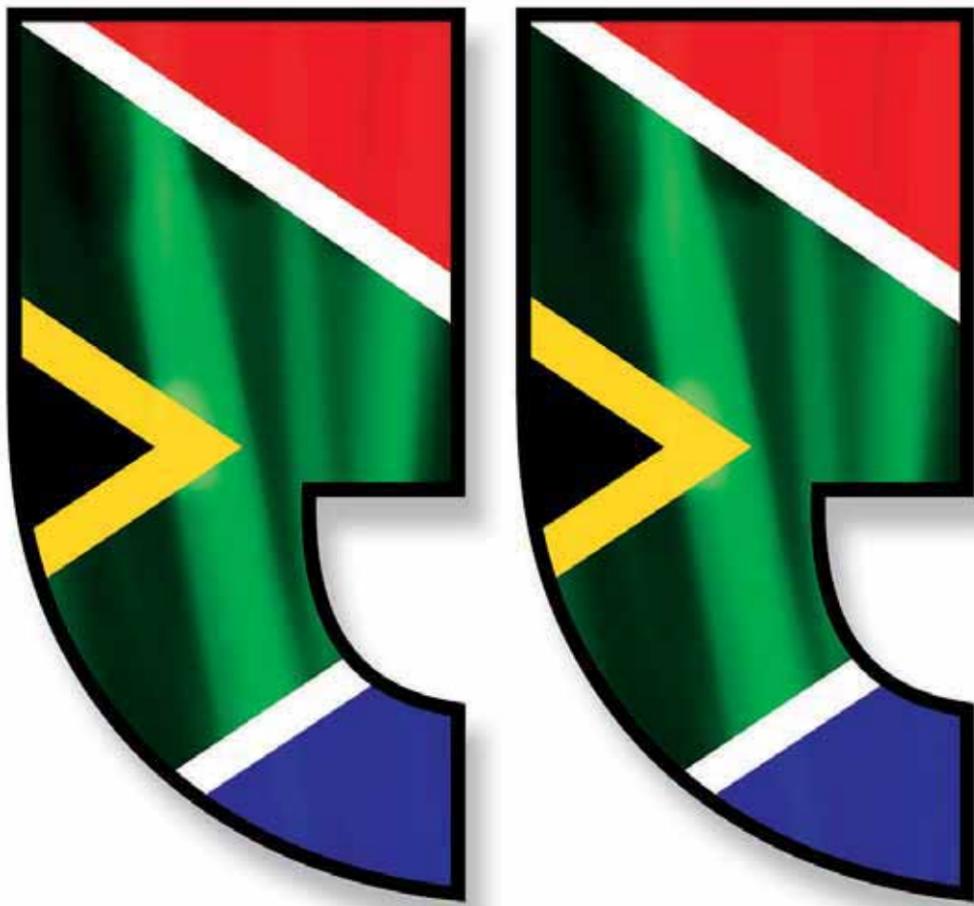
He was elected the Chairperson of the Southern Natal Region of the party and played a critical leadership role in resolving violence between ANC and IFP supporters in the province.

At the first internal conference of

the ANC, Mr Zuma was elected Deputy Secretary General. He served in the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government as MEC for Economic Affairs and Tourism. He was subsequently elected National Chairperson of the ANC and provincial Chairperson in KZN. In 1997 he was elected Deputy President of the ANC.

On June 18 1999, he was appointed Deputy President of South Africa.

On 18 December 2007 he was elected President of the ANC in the elective conference in Polokwane. It was in this capacity that he led the party's 2009 fourth democratic general elections campaign. Under his stewardship and leadership, the party won a decisive majority and retained its leadership in governing South Africa.



My promise to the nation

PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA'S INAUGURATION SPEECH

ON this day, a decade-and-a-half ago, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was formally elected as the first president of a democratic South Africa.

At that moment a new nation was born, a nation founded on the fundamental principles of human dignity and equal rights for all.

A nation founded on the promise that “never, never and never again” would this land experience the oppression of one by another.

Today, a decade-and-a-half later, we gather here to reaffirm the promise of that great day.

We gather here determined to renew that most solemn undertaking, to build a society in which all people are freed from the shackles of discrimination, exploitation, want and disease.

We gather here determined that the struggles and sacrifices of our people over many decades shall not be in vain.

Instead, they shall inspire us to complete the task for which so much blood was shed, and so much hardship endured.

This is a moment of renewal.

When Madiba took the oath of office on the 10th of May 1994, it was one of the greatest historic moments of our country, Africa and the African diaspora.

Madiba healed our wounds and established the rainbow nation very firmly.

He set us on the path of nation building and prosperity and made us a respected member of the world community of nations.

He taught us that all South Africans have equal claim to this country, and that there can be no lasting peace unless all of us, black and white, learned to live together in harmony and peace.

He made reconciliation the central theme of his term of office.

We will not deviate from that nation-building task. Thank you Madiba, for showing us the way.

I would also like to acknowledge the former second deputy president of the democratic republic, the honourable FW de Klerk, who worked with Madiba in the resolution of the apartheid conflict, and participated in shaping a new South Africa.

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in June 1999, former President Thabo Mbeki came to this very podium to take the oath of office, as the second president of



SWEARING IN: Jacob Zuma takes the oath of office as President of South Africa, watched by Chief Justice Pius Langa

the republic. He took the country forward as a true statesman.

He made a remarkable contribution towards strengthening our democracy, and laid a firm foundation for economic growth and development.

He made our country an integral part of the continent and worked tirelessly for an African rebirth. Through his leadership, South

Africa's stature grew on the continent and globally.

In his last address to the nation as head of state in September last year, he demonstrated his patriotism and put the interests of the country above his personal interests.

Thank you Zizi for demonstrating a character that the ANC had always embodied since 1912.

Your excellencies, ladies and gentleman, the nation is equally indebted to my friend, comrade and brother, President Kgalema Motlanthe.

He came into office during a period of great anxiety, and brought about calm, stability and certainty.

He has led us in a very capable manner and the transition has

become remarkably smooth and well managed.

On behalf of the nation, let me express our sincerest gratitude to President Motlanthe for patriotic service to the nation. Motlanthe! Bakone! Mmadiboka, seboka, dik-gomo lebatho!

Today, as I take this solemn oath of office as the fourth President of the Republic of South Africa, I do so

deeply conscious of the responsibilities that you, the people of our country, are entrusting in me.

I commit myself to the service of our nation with dedication, commitment, discipline, integrity, hard work and passion.

There is a lot to be done. More than 11.6 million South Africans voted for the ANC, based on the programme put before them.

We are now called upon to implement our manifesto. The dreams and hopes of all the people of our country must be fulfilled. There is no place for complacency, no place for cynicism, no place for excuses.

Everything we do must contribute in a direct and meaningful way to the improvement of the lives of our people.

Your majesties, your royal highnesses, your excellencies, we make a commitment here and now, before the eyes of the world, that:

- For as long as there are South Africans who die from preventable disease;
- For as long as there are workers who struggle to feed their families;
- For as long as there are communities without clean water, decent shelter or proper sanitation;
- For as long as there are rural dwellers unable to make a decent living from the land on which they live;
- For as long as there are women who are subjected to discrimination, exploitation or abuse;
- For as long as there are children who do not have the means nor the opportunity to receive a decent education;
- For as long as there are people who are unable to find work,

We shall not rest, and we dare not falter.

As we apply ourselves to these and other tasks, we must acknowledge that we find ourselves in difficult economic times. Jobs are being lost in every economy across the world. We will not be spared the negative impact, and are beginning to feel the pinch.

However, the foundations of our economy are strong and we will need to continue to build on them. This will require more hard work than ever before.

To achieve all our goals, we must hold ourselves to the highest standards of service, probity and integrity.

Together we must build a society that prizes excellence and rewards effort, which shuns laziness and incompetence.

We must build a society that draws on the capabilities, energy and promise of all its people.

Fellow South Africans, this is indeed a moment of renewal.

It is an opportunity to rediscover that which binds us together as a nation.

The unity of our nation should be a priority for all sectors of our society.

We are a people of vastly different experiences, of divergent interests, with widely different views.

Yet we share a common desire for a better life, and to live in peace and harmony.

We share a common conviction that never shall we return to a time of division and strife.

From this common purpose we must forge a partnership for reconstruction, development and progress.

In this partnership there is a place for all South Africans, black and white.

It is a partnership founded on principles of mutual respect and the unfettered expression of different views.

We do not seek conformity.

We seek a vibrant, dynamic partnership that is enriched by democratic debate that values diverse views and accommodates dissent.

Therefore, we need to make real the fundamental right of all South Africans to freely express themselves, to protest, to organise, and to practise their faith.

We must defend the freedom of the media, as we seek to promote within it a greater diversity of voices and perspectives.

We must deepen the practice of participatory democracy in all spheres of public life.

We must strengthen the democratic institutions of state, and continually enhance their capacity to serve the people.

We must safeguard the independence and integrity of those institutions tasked with the defence of democracy, and that must act as a check on the abuse of power.

Compatriots, today we enter a new era in the history of our nation, imbued with a resolve to do everything within our means to build a better life for all our people.

Today, we renew our struggle to forge a nation that is at peace with itself and the world.

As we rejoice in being surrounded by our friends from all over the world, we reiterate our gratitude for the sterling contribution of the international community to our struggle for freedom.

We single out the African continent, for refusing to rest until the southern tip of Africa was free.

We recommit ourselves to continue to be an active member of the international community.

We will continue to use multilateral and bilateral forums and relations to take forward the goals of eradicating global poverty, strengthening peace and security and to promote democracy.

We will promote international friendship and co-operation through, amongst others, the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

South Africa will deliver a world-class event that will forever change the perceptions of the international community, and also ensure a lasting legacy for the people of Africa.

Fellow South Africans, let us move forward decisively, together.

Let us build a nation that remains forever mindful of its history, of those who have sacrificed so much, and the many who put down their lives so we can be here today.

A nation filled with the laughter and joy of children.

A nation filled with a hope born of the knowledge that if we work together, we will achieve our dreams.

Your majesties, your royal highnesses, your excellencies, distinguished guests, thank you for gracing this occasion today.



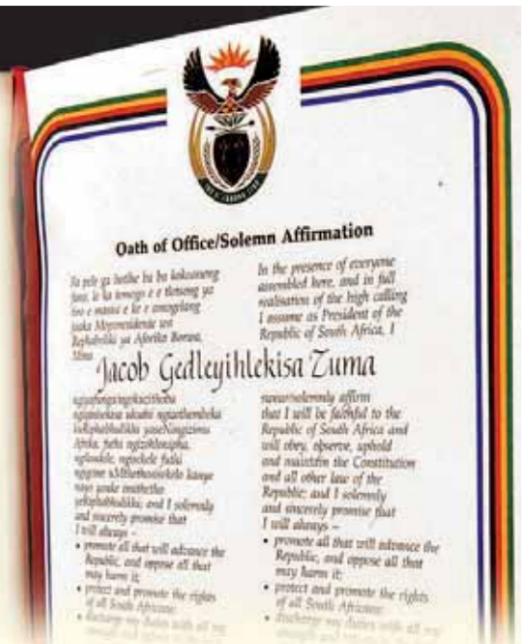
BOOK OF WORDS: The Bible on which South Africa's fourth democratic president took his oath

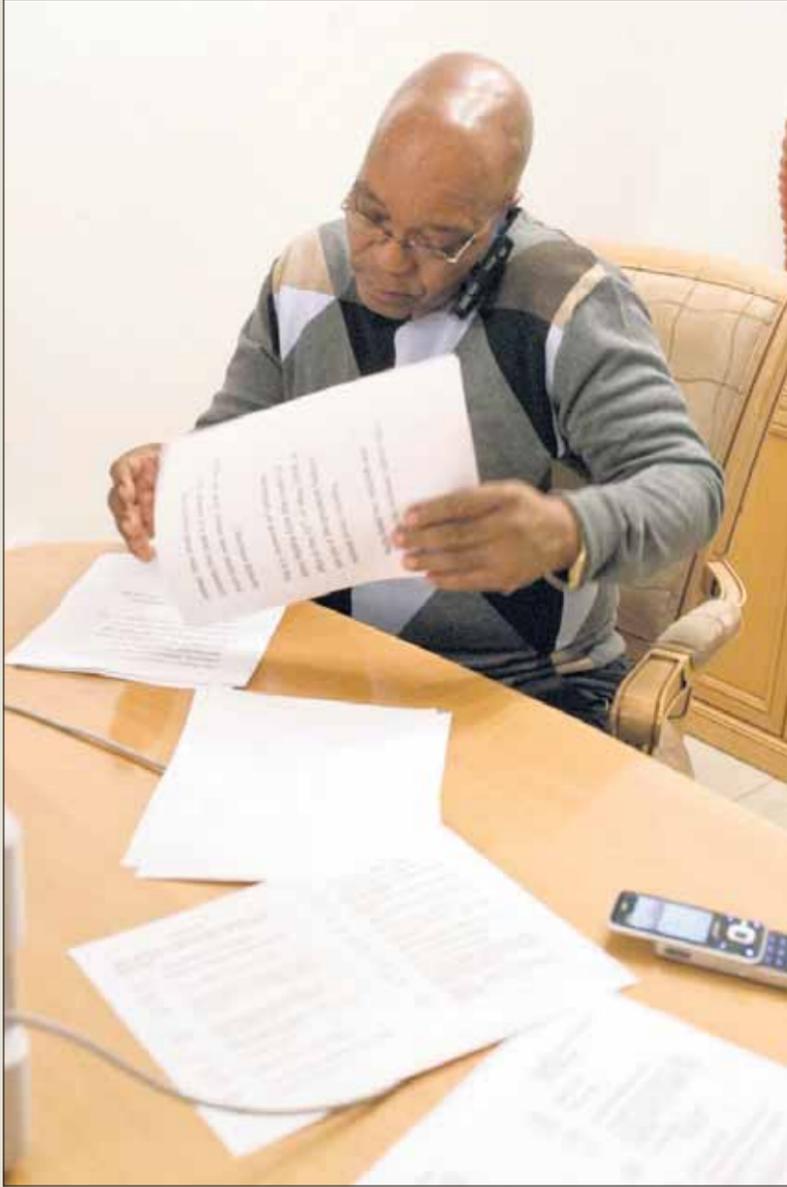
OATH OF OFFICE

In the presence of everyone assembled here, and in full realisation of the high calling I assume as President of the Republic of South Africa, I, JACOB GEDLEYIHLEKISA ZUMA

Swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the Constitution and all other laws of the Republic; and I solemnly and sincerely promise that I will always:

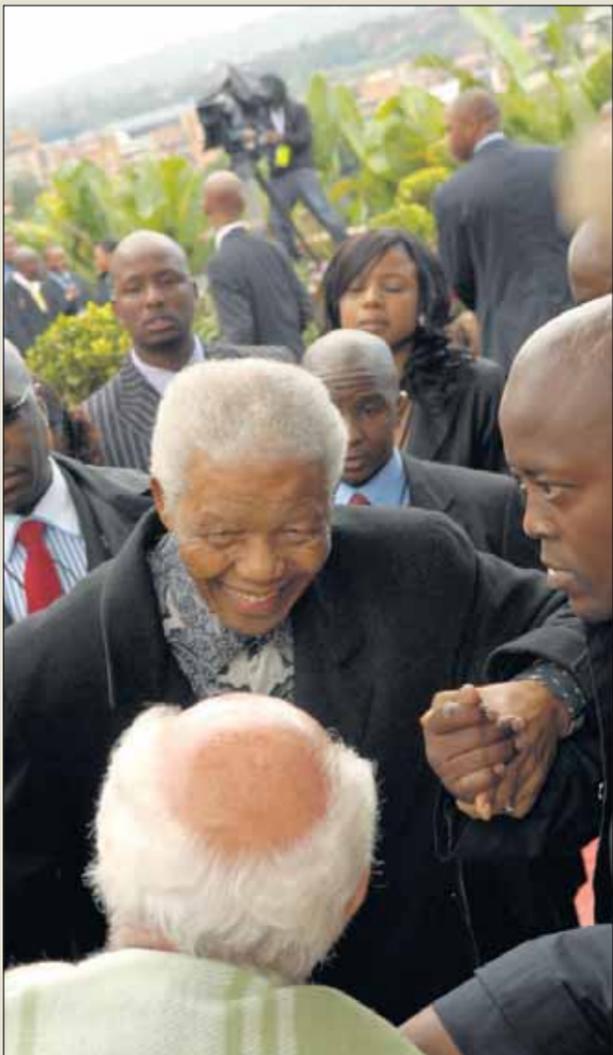
- Promote all that will advance the Republic, and oppose all that may harm it;
- Protect and promote the rights of all South Africans;
- Discharge my duties with all my strength and talents to the best of my knowledge and ability, and true to the dictates of my conscience;
- Do justice to all; and
- Devote myself to the wellbeing of the Republic and all of its people.





FINISHING TOUCHES: Jacob Zuma checks his speech (left) and puts on his jacket before leaving for his inauguration at the Union Buildings

Pictures: GCIS



FINAL STEP: Jacob Zuma arrives on the podium with his first wife, Zizakele 'MaKhumalo' Zuma

LIVING LEGACY: South Africa's first democratically elected president, Nelson Mandela (left)



CENTRE STAGE: Jacob Zuma and his wife Zizakele



I SEE YOU, BABA: Jacob Zuma greets former president Nelson Mandela



GOODBYE: Outgoing President Kgalema Motlanthe



ALL THE BEST: Former President Thabo Mbeki wishes Jacob Zuma well

Pictures: GCIS

Highest award for our new President

NATIONAL Orders are the highest awards that a country, through its President, bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals.

As part of Saturday's inauguration, outgoing President Kgalema Motlanthe presented President Jacob Zuma with the Order of Mapungubwe (Platinum). This order is awarded to South Africans for excellence and exceptional achievement.

By becoming the Grand Patron of the National Orders, President Zuma will present National Orders twice a year at prestigious ceremonies at the Union Buildings.

Other national orders of South Africa include:

- Order of the Baobab, which is awarded to South African citizens for distinguished service in the fields of business and the economy; science, medicine and technological innovation; and community service;

- Order of the Companions of OR Tambo, which is awarded to heads of state and other dignitaries for

promoting peace, co-operation and friendship towards South Africa;

- Order of Luthuli, which is awarded to South Africans who have made a meaningful contribution to the struggle for democracy, human rights, nation-building, justice and peace, and conflict resolution;

- Order of Ikhamanga, which is awarded to South African citizens who have excelled in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport; and

- Order of Mendi for Bravery, which is awarded to South African citizens who have performed extraordinary acts of bravery.

The Mapungubwe kingdom existed in the northern corner of our country a millennium ago. It boasted a sophisticated state system and developed agriculture.

It also developed a mining and metallurgy industry, and traded with countries as far afield as China. During its time, it represented excellence of human thought and ingenuity.



HIGHEST HONOUR: Outgoing president Kgalema Motlanthe bestows the Order of Mapungubwe (Platinum) on President Jacob Zuma
Pictures: GCIS



CELEBRATING THE NATION: VIP guests at the Union Buildings cheer as helicopters carry South African flags overhead

Pictures: GCIS



BECOMING PRESIDENT: Jacob Zuma takes the oath



SINGING HIS PRAISES: A praise singer honours the new president

ORDER OF THE DAY

- 6:00 onward Invited guests arrive at the Union Buildings
- 10:00 President-elect Jacob Zuma, leaves his home for the Union Buildings
- 9:30 to 11:00 Heads of state/ government, foreign delegations, President Kgalema Motlanthe and Zuma arrive at the Union Buildings
- 11:00 Inauguration ceremony commences
 - Prayers by religious leaders
 - President Motlanthe bestows the Order of Mapungubwe on Zuma
 - Swearing-in of Zuma
 - The Chief Justice administers the prescribed oath
 - Zuma reads the oath
 - Zuma confirms the oath by signing the ceremonial certificate
 - President Zuma acknowledges the national salute
 - President Zuma addresses the nation
 - Performance of a congratulatory item
- 13:00 President Zuma and his wife host a lunch in honour of heads of state/government
- 18:00 onward President Zuma, heads of state/government and other guests attend a cultural event at Montecasino



MEET AND GREET: Botswana's leader Ian Khama, left, greets Manto Tshabalala-Msimang



HONOURING THEIR PRESIDENT: Crowds of thousands converged in front of the Union Buildings to witness the inauguration of President Jacob Zuma



PURE JOY: A young South African shows his approval of President Jacob Zuma



RHYTHM NATION: Dancers celebrate the inauguration



RESPECT: Special guests from across the world watch the procedures at the Union Buildings



FINALLY: President Jacob Zuma waves to the crowd

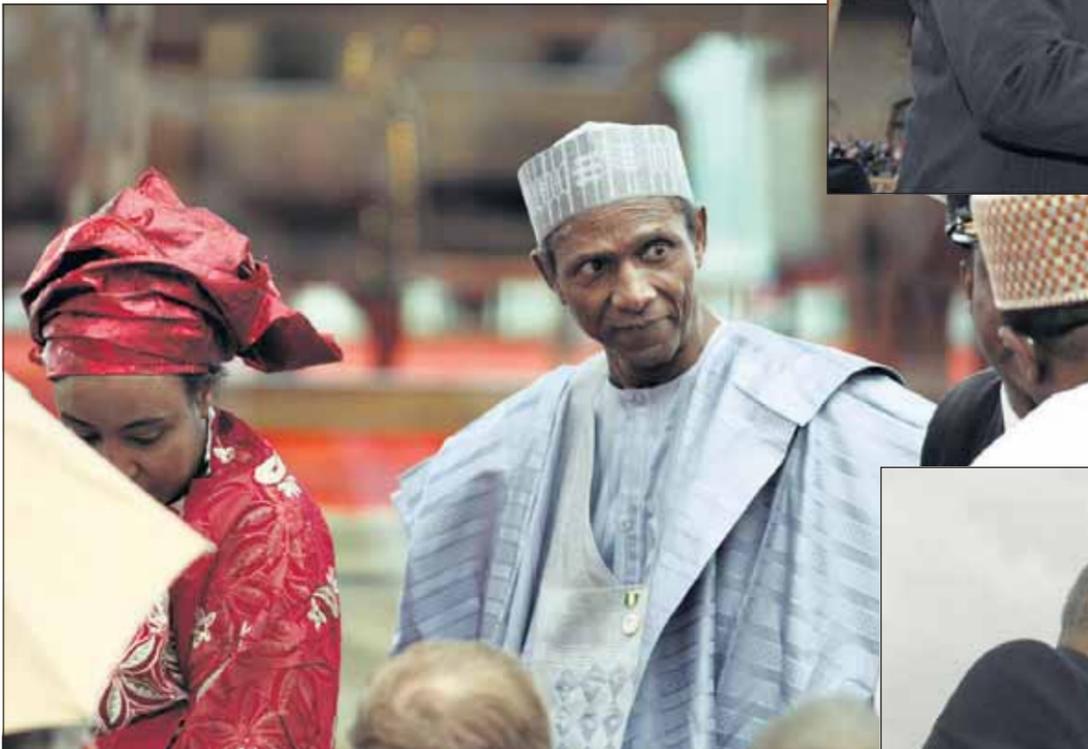


GATHERING OF THE GREAT: Rwandan President Paul Kagame, right, was among the 29 heads of state attending the inauguration
Pictures: GCIS

TRADITIONAL ATTIRE: Below, President Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of Nigeria, came to honour the president of Africa's other powerhouse at the glittering inauguration ceremony on Saturday

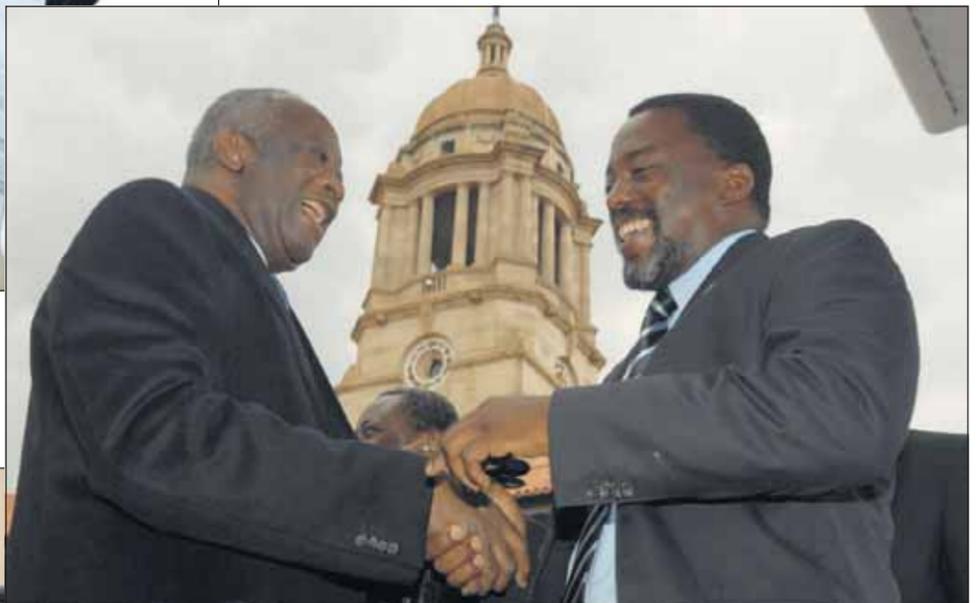


OLD FRIENDS: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe and his wife, Grace, renew their acquaintance with Swaziland's King Mswati III



THE SUITS AND THE UNIFORMS: Below, the leader of Libya who occupies the chair of the African Union, Muammar Gaddafi, right, greets Swazi King Mswati III

SHARING A LAUGH FOR OLD TIMES: Former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda and Democratic Republic of Congo leader Joseph Kabila



VIPs come out in force

DIGNITARIES from around the world came to the Union Buildings to celebrate President Jacob Zuma's inauguration.

The guests included Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza, President of Cape Verde Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, President of Nigeria Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong-nam arrived on Friday evening to witness the event.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said earlier this week that 29 heads of state were expected to join the 5 000 other invited guests at the Union Buildings amphitheatre.

Earlier on Friday, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Libyan leader and African Union chairperson Muammar Gaddafi and

King Mswati III of Swaziland as well as King Letsie III of Lesotho arrived through the state protocol lounge at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg.

The department also confirmed the arrival of Ethiopian President Girma Wolde-Giorgis, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Mozambican President Armando Guebuza, Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba as well as Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos.

Other special guests included Zambian President Rupiah Banda, President of Congo Brazzaville Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo, President of Tanzania Jakaya Kikwete, President of Equatorial Guinea Theodore Nguema and President of Seychelles James Michel.

India, the Dominican Republic, Liberia, Gabon, the Philippines and Sri Lanka also sent representatives.