

Jacob Zuma – veteran apartheid fighter

■ **Apr 12, 1942:**

Jacob Gedleyihlekisa

Zuma born in Inkandla, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province

■ **1950s:** Spends childhood moving between Zululand and Durban where his widowed mother works as a cleaner – does not receive any formal schooling

■ **1959:** Joins ***African National Congress***

■ **1960:** ANC banned

■ **1962:** Becomes active member of ANC's military wing, ***Umkhonto We Sizwe*** (*Spear of the nation*)

■ **1963:** Convicted of conspiring to overthrow apartheid government, Zuma is imprisoned for 10 years on notorious Robben Island with ***Nelson Mandela***. Learns to read and write

■ **1973-75:** Joins ANC underground resistance in KZN province

■ **1975:** Moves abroad. Rises through ANC ranks to executive committee



■ **1980s:** Serves on ANC's political and military council

■ **1990:** One of first leaders to return to South Africa after ANC ban is lifted. Takes part in negotiations with white minority government

■ **1991:** Elected ANC Deputy Secretary

■ **1994:** ANC wins first national democratic elections in South Africa

■ **1998:** Receives *Nelson Mandela Award for Outstanding Leadership*

■ **1999:** Appointed Deputy President of South Africa

■ **2005:** President ***Thabo Mbeki*** suspends Zuma from office over alleged corruption scandal – charge dismissed on procedural grounds

■ **2006:** Acquitted on rape charge

■ **Dec 2007:** Deeply split ANC set to back Zuma's presidential candidacy