

Challenges facing South Africa's new president



ECONOMY

Africa's biggest economy is sinking into its first recession after 16 years of expansion.

Manufacturing output

fell 15 percent in February while inflation stood at 8.6 percent

Current account deficit reached 7.4% of gross domestic product last year



UNEMPLOYMENT

Official jobless rate stands at 21.9% – about 3.9 million – although experts believe real level is closer to 40%



CRIME Critics say ruling African National Congress has failed to fight crime

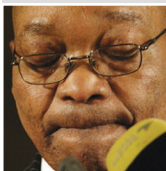
*Murders: **21,553**

Rapes: **36,190**

Carjackings: **4,201**



HIV/AIDS Some 5.7 million people, around 12% of population, have HIV. 1,000 people die every day from AIDS-related illnesses



CORRUPTION

On April 6, National Prosecution Authority dropped all charges of corruption, racketeering, tax-evasion, money-laundering and fraud against ANC leader **Jacob Zuma** on a technicality

National police chief **Jackie Selebi** faces trial for corruption and fraud



POVERTY

About a quarter of population of 48m lives in shacks. 1.34m households have no access to basic water services



ENERGY

State-owned utility **Eskom** forced to ration electricity to industry due to near-collapse of National Grid in January 2008



IMMIGRATION

3 million Zimbabweans have fled to South Africa in past decade, stoking tensions that led to xenophobic attacks last year