

Jacob Zuma

ANC leader poised to become South Africa's fourth post-apartheid president

■ **Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma.** Born April 12, 1942, Inkandla, KwaZulu-Natal province

■ **Early years:** Childhood spent moving between Zululand and Durban where his widowed mother works as a cleaner. Young Zuma does not receive any formal schooling

■ **Political awakening:** Zuma joins **African National Congress** at age of 17, becoming active in military wing, **Umkhonto We Sizwe** (*Spear of the Nation*) in 1962. Joins **South African Communist Party** in 1963 – the same year he is convicted of conspiring to overthrow apartheid government. He is imprisoned for 10 years on Robben Island alongside **Nelson Mandela**

■ **Soviet connection:** In 1974 Zuma receives military training in Soviet Union before joining the ANC's feared **Imbokodo** (*the Grindstone*) as Head of Intelligence

■ **Allegations and charges:** After an eight-year legal battle, 16 counts of corruption, bribery, money laundering and racketeering are dropped earlier this month. In 2006 he is acquitted on a rape charge

■ **Family:** Zuma, who is said to have 18 children, is a self-proclaimed polygamist, having had as many as four wives at one time. He currently has two: **Sizakele Khumalo**, whom he met in 1959, and **Nompumelelo Ntuli Zuma**, whom he married last year

