

# JZ slams parties 'siding with DA'

## Decries their support for no confidence motion in him

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**P**RESIDENT Jacob Zuma responded to his critics by hitting out at opposition parties yesterday for abandoning their identities and voters when they sided with the DA to have him removed as president through a motion of no confidence.

This was the first time Zuma has addressed the motion of no confidence that opposition parties, led by the DA, raised last November.

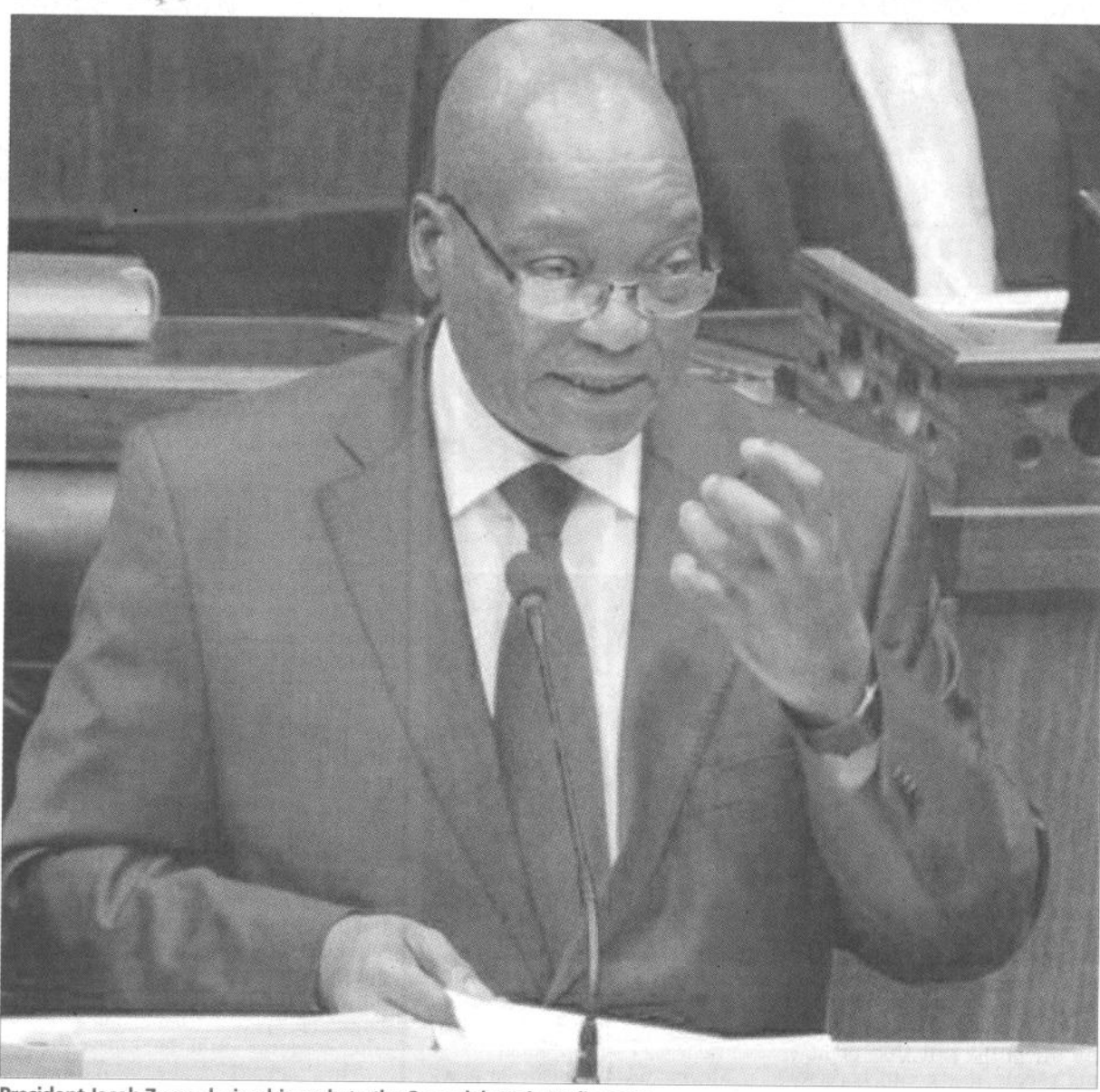
He was responding to issues raised by opposition parties during the two-day debate following his State of the Nation address last week.

Zuma called on parties to put the country first, saying in years to come, when another party was in charge, at least "South Africa will be a country for all of us".

"All will benefit, not on the basis of the ideology or belief we have. That's why at times I worry if the oppositional politics go beyond the level where you can say, much as this one is the opposition, he loves this country, or she loves this country," said Zuma.

He called on parties to be more constructive and patriotic and help the country to move forward.

The DA said this month it had "every intention" of re-tableting a motion of no confidence in Zuma as soon as the Constitutional Court had heard its application that followed the dismissal of its attempt to



President Jacob Zuma during his reply to the Sona debate in Parliament.

have the debate held late last year.

The matter is set for March 28. Turning his attention to IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who joined the DA in its motion, along with several other opposition parties, Zuma said it was important to address the matter after Buthelezi

had written him a letter.

"But of course in the process of (Buthelezi) raising the matter he felt it was necessary to raise the issue of a letter he wrote to me after joining the opposition for a no confidence debate. I have no difficulty if the opposition join hands," said Zuma.

He said parties contested elections and were voted for "on the basis of their programmes and what they will come in Parliament and fight for".

"Once they are in Parliament they abandon that, they campaign for other positions advanced by

other parties. We are politicians and this paints a particular picture of the political landscape in the Parliament of South Africa.

"Some identities are beginning to disappear of some parties," said Zuma.

He said people were free to choose partners "but it does also define that some people as parties have difficulties to have their distinct view about issues".

"They must hang on others and be very proud, 'we are together'. Fine, that's democracy. But the reality is that it's always good in democracy when there's a view you can identify with," said Zuma.

As expected, Zuma touched on the National Development Plan (NDP) after he was criticised for not giving it enough emphasis in his address last week.

"Every government department or entity will from this year have to factor in elements of the NDP into their plans," said Zuma.

He steered clear of the controversy around the R206 million security upgrades at his Nkandla home - an issue the opposition had seized on in the debate.

He said the economy was the government's biggest focal point, "especially during this time of the global economic recession and slow economic growth, as outlined in the State of the Nation address".

On the recent labour unrest on farms, Zuma said farmworkers said they needed an assurance from him that the government had a plan to deal with the backlash from farmers following the increase in the national minimum wage in the sector from R69 to R105 a day.

"In this regard, we will continue engagements with the farmers and farmworkers," said Zuma.

Zuma strongly condemned recent reports of rape, describing them as "shocking, barbaric and inhumane". He confirmed that the government would re-establish the sexual offences courts.