

The rise and fall of Zuma

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PATH TO POWER: Cyril Ramaphosa, Nelson Mandela and Jacob Zuma, representatives of the ANC attend a twoday Convention for a President Jacob Zuma, right, is congratulated on May 8, 2006 by his attorney Michael Hulley.

PJUREAP Then chief justice Pius Langa swears in Jacob Zuma as president at the Union Buildings on May 9, 2009. PICTURE AR CELEBRATION:

President Jacob Zuma dances with his new bride Thobeka Madiba at their wedding ceremony on January 4, 2010. PCURE AR FIRST LOVE. President

Jacob Zuma and first lady Sizakele KhumaloZuma arrive for the presidential inauguration on May 24, 2014. PICTURE GALLO INES DUDU DUBE While

Jacob Zuma would Wt up to be liked for is charm and smooth tongue, his first love, Sizakele Khumalo, can be given credit for sharpening his persistent spirit. He courted her for three years, sometimes sending his older brother Mike to beg and plead on his behalf back in the late 1950s when girls would give a young man a piece of beaded jewellery to confirm they were now his girlfriend. "If a man is in love with you, he must keep coming back. It doesn't matter how many times. Sometimes I would do something to upset him just to test his patience," Khumalo said. She finally said yes to him in 1960, but the teenage Zuma had already turned 17 and was officially a man who as per norm at the time, was required to get a job. He followed the throngs of rural men and moved to Durban to work at factories and in suburban gardens. He didn't know he had won the beautiful maiden over until the piece of jewellery was delivered to him from Nkandla to Durban by a family member. He was 18 and she was 19 but theirs was no fairy tale teenage love affair, there were no monsters or big bad wolves to tear the young lovers apart, just apartheid. In Durban Zuma had already joined the ANC, a move influenced by his older brother, a war veteran and trade unionist. After that followed his enrolment in political studies classes at Lakhani Centre in Durban, which was inspired by an interaction with ANC volunteers he met while visiting his domestic worker mother Gcinamazwi in Cato Manor. Gcinamazwi had been the second wife of Zuma's father Nobhekisisa, a policeman who died when Zuma was five. She had no involvement in politics, but not far from where she worked, her son was at the forefront of political rebellion in Mkhumbane. Zuma gives much credit to, among others, struggle icon and communist Harry Gwala, who he calls by his nickname, Shovane. "I met Shovane when I was very young in unions. We used to sit and discuss Marxism in Zulu because I had not been to school so I did not know English," he said last year when he officially unveiled

Gwala's statue in the midlands. In 1960, soon after he met Gwala, the ANC was banned, political activists were being arrested and the party's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe MK, was born. A year later Nelson Mandela was arrested. It was also the same year Zuma met with icon Moses Mabhida, who successfully recruited him to the South African Communist Party. Back in Nkandla, MaKhumalo waited for his return but the now 21 year old had other plans. In 1963, along with 45 other young activists including Andrew Mlangeni, he attempted to skip the country to Zambia for military training via the North West province but was caught by security police and arrested in Zeerust. For that crime he was sentenced to 10 years on Robben Island. The years on Robben Island were spent sharing a cell with Gwala. In a strange twist of fate, the apartheid government decided to pair him Gwala up with a cellmate regarded as too illiterate to absorb anything from Harry Gwala. That turned out to be a miscalculation of sorts as Harry decided to teach his cellmate how to read and write in English. In 1973 Zuma left Robben Island a wellinformed political activist. He did not waste time and was soon mobilising and establishing underground structures of the banned ANC in KwaZuluNatal. During that time, he went back to Nkandla and married MaKhumalo before he again teamed up with Gwala on yet another mission to sneak young activists out of the country for MK training. But Gwala was arrested and Zuma escaped to Swaziland. He would spend the next 12 years in exile mostly in Mozambique and Swaziland. In this period in exile, Zuma's rise in the ANC structures was felt. He was elected the official ANC deputy chief representative and later the chief rep resentative. It has been reported that during the buildup to the 1976 political turmoil, he secretly sneaked into South Africa to reconnect with operatives in Durban. After going back into exile, he became part of the ANC national executive committee in 1984, he was also part of the ANC 's military and political committees along with the intel ligence department at the ANC head office in Lusaka, Zambia. According to political archives stored on Overcoming Apartheid, Building Democracy, by the end of the 1980s, he was head of the ANC intelligence department. In 1987 Zuma and former president Thabo Mbeki formed part of the negotiation team that met with apartheid government representatives to discuss political freedom. In November 1990, Zuma was elected chairperson of the ANC's southern Natal region. In 1991, at the first ANC confer ence held in South Africa since 1959, he was elected deputy secretarygeneral, attended the Convention for a Democratic South Africa Codesa and served as an ANC representative in December 1991. In 1990 he was elected as the chairperson of the ANC's southern Natal region, then in 1991 he was elected deputy secretarygeneral of the party. In 1994 he was appointed MEC of economic affairs and tourism in KwaZuluNatal. At the second ANC elective conference since its unbanning, Zuma was elected deputy president of the ANC in Mafikeng in December

1997 and when Mandela officially stepped down and handed the reins to Mbeki, Zuma became the deputy president of the country. Automatically, he should have taken over after Mbeki but things fell apart in the first year of his second term. In 1999 South Africa entered into a multibillionrand arms purchase deal with various international weapons trading companies. A few years later then PAC MP Patricia de Lille made allegations that highranking politicians and their associates influenced the awarding of contracts to companies in exchange for kickbacks and Zuma's name came up. Zuma's close ally and financial adviser Schabir Shaik was prosecuted for corruption and during his conviction in 2005, the judge remarked that he had a corrupt relationship with Zuma. A few days later president Thabo Mbeki fired Zuma as his deputy, but a large number of ANC members criticised Mbeki and rallied around Zuma. While the cloud of more than 700 corruption charges and possible prosecution hung over his head, a rape case was opened against him by family friend and HIVAids activist Khwezi. Even then, most members of the ANC rallied behind him, holding night vigils outside the Johannesburg high court throughout his trial until he was acquitted in May 2006. By then the ANC had been torn in two, with some supporting Zuma and others on Mbeki's side. The cracks were clearer as the party headed to its 52nd national elective conference in Polokwane in 2007. At the conference he went head to head with Mbeki and Zuma won with 2329 votes against 1505. Zuma was officially ANC president and months later, in September 2008, the ANC resolved to recall Thabo Mbeki. Kgalema Motlanthe was appointed interim president while Zuma waited to be officially elected president. Two years into office, the arms deal scandal came back to haunt him when the Constitutional Court ordered that he appoint a commission of inquiry. Already a confirmed polygamist, it emerged that Zuma had fathered a child out of wedlock with the daughter of the head of South Africa's World Cup organising committee. He had to make a public apology. In 2012, in October, Zuma made his first cabinet reshuffle, replacing public works minister Gwen MahlanguNkabinde and cooperative governance minister Sicelo Shiceka. He also suspended police commissioner Bheki Cele who had been a close ally. In December 2012 at the ANC 's 53rd elective conference in Mangaung, Polokwane, his support had decreased. He was reelected as president of the ANC and in 2014 he began his second term but by then allegations that R203m of public funds had been spent to upgrade his private residence in Nkandla had surfaced. Zuma denied any knowledge of the processes. The matter was taken to the public protector to investigate and ultimately it was found that Zuma and his family had unduly benefited from the Nkandla security upgrade paid for by the state. To challenge the public protector's findings, the Special Investigations Unit and the Department of Public Works conducted their own investigations which exonerated Zuma. However, the ConCourt later ruled that Zuma should have acted on the public

protector's findings and ordered him to pay back more than R7m of the money used for Nkandla. After Nkandla came the state capture allegations and yet another investigation report by the public protector. The recommendations in the report were that Zuma should appoint a commission of inquiry but that the chief justice would appoint the judge to head it. Zuma's effort to challenge that recommendation in court failed, yet another court application lost. In December 2017, his place in the ANC top ranks officially ended when Cyril Ramaphosa was elected president of the party, beating Zuma's former wife Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma who had been a strong competitor. During the campaign for the ANC top position, it became obvious that there was no love lost between Zuma and Ramaphosa and, as expected, talks to recall him as president of the country started immediately after the election. Almost three months later Zuma is still president of the country, but he has been recalled by his own party. I met Shovane when I was very young in unions. We used to sit and discuss Marxism in Zulu because I had not been to school so I did not know English.

Dimensions:

p.4: Height: 531mm, Width: 332mm

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