

Report from Mandla Akhe Dube, visiting Southern Africa in December 2007

The ruling ANC is grappling with complex power dynamics and has selected Jacob Zuma as its next leader. The Zimbabwe community has to prepare for a policy shift and new relations in the Zuma era (should it come to materialise).

Very briefly:

1. The Mugabe regime has relaxed the draconian media laws to allow for foreign ownership and ease of opposition parties in calling for public meetings. It seems piecemeal but it is a start, I hope.
2. Mugabe's government has flatly refused to overhaul the constitution before the March 2008 poll.
3. A new currency was reportedly launched on December 19 and details are still scanty) Check on www.newzimbabwe.com or www.herald.co.zw
4. Mugabe has been endorsed as the Zanu PF candidate at the March 2008 poll and says the election will be held then 'come rain or thunder'.
5. The Diaspora vote is still contentious and hot an issue
6. Rains have given hope to the rural population but there is no seed to plant.
7. The opposition is still unclear and divided but are rumoured to be working on a united front against Mugabe. But time is running out.

Global Zimbabwe Forum Press Statement:

Congratulations to the ANC and Jacob Zuma!

19th December 2007

The Global Zimbabwe Forum would like to extend its message of congratulations to the African National Congress on the successful conduct of its new leadership elections.

The success of the ANC's internal democratic process should serve as a beacon of hope to the whole of Africa where ruling parties are well known for not promoting any form of open democratic expression within their rank and file.

We salute the ANC for setting such a high standard for the rest of the African continent.

We would also like to congratulate Comrade Jacob Zuma on his electoral success. We trust that he will be able to add more impetus to the on-going efforts by President Thabo Mbeki to help resolve the crisis in Zimbabwe.

We call for Zuma to be even more clear and unequivocal in his stance against any form of dictatorship and human rights abuse in Zimbabwe.

We also call upon the newly elected leadership of the ANC to revisit the plight of the millions of Zimbabweans that are currently living in South Africa. In particular we hope that the outstanding issue of the legal status of Zimbabweans will also be decisively resolved soon.

Issued at Johannesburg by

Mr. Daniel Molokele GFZ Co-ordinator Tel: +27 72 947 4815

Ms. Grace Kwinjeh GFZ Ghairperson Tel: + 27 79 434 4508

* The GFZ is a global network for all the Zimbabweans NGOs and CSOs that are based among the Zimbabwean Diaspora communities in the world.