

CASE STUDY ON JACOM ZUMA RECENT ALLEGATIONS



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ABSTRACT

This paper provides an overview of the research conducted over Jacob Zuma, the former president of South Africa. It covers the allegations, charges, the ongoing political turmoil and the overall conditions created after Jacob Zuma's sentence.

The main aim of this case study is to present the overall details related to Jacob Zuma on who he really is, how he came to power and what he did during his presidential time and what has been happening now in South Africa.

DECLARATION

We hereby declare that the case study entitled “Jacob Zuma Recent Allegations” submitted to Virinchi College, is an original work done by us. This project work has not performed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma / associateship / fellowship and similar project of any.

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INTRODUCTION

Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma also known as Jacob Zuma was born on April 12 1942, in Nkandla South Africa. He did not receive any formal Schooling. He is a politician who served as president of South Africa from 2009 until he had to forcefully resign in 2018.

His career in politics began by joining ANC –African national congress in 1959. And joined its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (“Spear of the Nation”) in 1962. He was arrested in 1963 and sentenced to 10 years in prison on Robben Island for conspiring to overthrow South Africa’s apartheid government. . This government had separate development policy that governed relation between South Africa’s white minority and non-white majority.

After his release, he set up underground networks to recruit for Umkhonto we Sizwe. In 1975 Zuma fled the country to escape arrest. For more than a decade, he continued to work for the ANC while based in neighboring countries—first in Swaziland and then in Mozambique. He became a member of the ANC’s national executive committee in 1977.

He was forced to leave the latter country in 1987 by the government after which he went to headquarter of ANC IN Lusaka where he served as head of intelligence department.

When the South African government’s ban on the ANC was lifted in 1990, Zuma returned to the country and was elected chairperson of the southern Natal region. He became ANC deputy general secretary in 1991, and in 1994 he became a member of the executive committee for economic affairs and tourism in the newly created province of KwaZulu-Natal. In December 1997 he was elected deputy president of the ANC, and in June 1999 he was appointed deputy president of the country by Pres. Thabo Mbeki.

Zuma was widely expected to eventually succeed Mbeki as president of the ANC and as president of the country. In June 2005, Mbeki dismissed him after the fraud and corruption conviction of one of Zuma's close colleagues, businessman Schabir Shaik, who had been accused of soliciting bribes from a French arms company on Zuma's behalf. The judge in that case found that there was a generally corrupt relationship between Shaik and Zuma, who was subsequently charged with two counts of corruption. Zuma initially recused himself from all ANC activities, but the ANC national general council defied Mbeki by reinstating him as an active member and, eventually, as ANC deputy president. In March 2006, with the corruption charges still pending, Zuma faced trial on a rape charge, of which he was acquitted in May. In September a Durban court struck the corruption case from the roll, stating that the state's case was not adequate. Despite the repeated allegations of wrongdoing—which his many supporters claimed were politically motivated—Zuma remained a popular figure within the ANC. At the party's conference in December 2007, he was selected over Mbeki to be party president in what proved to be one of the most contentious leadership battles in the ANC's history. Later that month, Zuma was recharged with corruption and fraud, and additional charges of money laundering, racketeering, and tax evasion were brought against him. These charges were eventually dismissed on a legal technicality in September 2008; prosecutors from the National Prosecuting Agency (NPA) vowed to appeal the ruling, angering many in the ANC. In addition, the presiding judge said there was evidence of political interference by Mbeki or his supporters in Zuma's prosecution, which ignited even more controversy within the party. Although Mbeki vehemently denied the allegations, a week later the ANC asked him to resign as president of South Africa, which he agreed to do.

Although Zuma was widely expected to be chosen as the country's next president in the 2009 election, he was not eligible to serve as president, who under the terms of the constitution had to be a member of the National Assembly. Zuma ally Kgalema Motlanthe was the ANC's candidate for the position, and he was the overwhelming winner in a vote held by the National Assembly in late September 2008.

In the weeks leading up to the 2009 general election, the corruption charges against Zuma and the allegations of political interference were once again in the spotlight,

culminating with an announcement by the NPA on April 6, 2009, that the charges would be withdrawn.

Although prosecutors stated they felt the corruption charges had merit, they noted evidence of misconduct in the handling of Zuma's case and cited taped phone conversations that had recently come to light between the former head of the NPA and the former head of the Scorpions, an investigative unit that was attached to the NPA before being disbanded in 2009. The taped conversations included discussion of the timing of the reinstatement of charges against Zuma shortly after he was named president of the ANC in late 2007. Opposition parties decried the withdrawal of the charges, claiming that the NPA bowed to pressure from the ANC to drop the charges before the election and that the question of Zuma's innocence was still unresolved. Nevertheless, the ANC performed strongly in the general election held on April 22, 2009, finishing far ahead of the other parties, and Zuma was poised to become the country's next president. He was officially elected to the presidency in a National Assembly vote, held on May 6; he was inaugurated on May 9.

ZUMA AS PRESIDENT

Zuma adheres to many traditional Zulu customs, including polygamy. This has endeared him to some segments of the population but has also been a source of criticism from others. Other aspects of his personal life were also subject to criticism: in early February 2010 there were allegations that Zuma had fathered a child out of wedlock, something frowned upon in traditional Zulu culture; Zuma admitted that he had. As the controversy surrounding this incident continued to grow—critics claimed, among other things, that his behavior showed a blatant disregard for the country's HIV/AIDS policies—he apologized for the distress that his actions had brought to his family, the ANC, and the South African population. During his term as president, Zuma was involved in continental affairs, taking a role in mediation efforts to resolve crises in Africa on behalf of the Southern African Development Community or African Union, including those in Zimbabwe, Libya, and Côte d'Ivoire. At home, although there had been some progress made by the government's anti-poverty initiatives, he faced simmering discontent over the economic inequality still present in the country. He also continued to face allegations of corruption, which included the reemergence of older charges: in March 2012 the Supreme Court of Appeal ordered a review by the Pretoria High Court of the 2009 decision by state prosecutors to drop corruption charges against Zuma. In spite of those troubles, Zuma was overwhelmingly reelected as president of the ANC at the party's conference held in December 2012.

Zuma continued to be affected by allegations of corrupt or unethical behavior in the following years. One such example was the controversy generated by the misuse of government resources that occurred when the Guptas, a wealthy business family with whom he had very close ties, were allowed to land a private plane at a high-security government air base as they transported guests to a family wedding in 2013. Zuma denied having anything to do with that, and one government investigation cleared him of having been involved, but widespread criticism over the event remained. He also had to deal with allegations of impropriety regarding extensive state-funded upgrades—ostensibly for security reasons—to his private homestead at Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal.

After a series of tense meetings, on February 13, the ANC announced that it had recalled Zuma, and it expected a response from him—presumably that he would offer his resignation—within a day. Zuma's initial reaction indicated that he had no intention of resigning, as he claimed that he had done nothing wrong and he complained that the ANC was treating him unfairly. He did, however, offer his resignation on February 14, 2018. Ramaphosa was sworn in as president of South Africa the next day. Soon after stepping down, Zuma was confronted with more legal challenges.

ANALYSIS OF JACOB ZUMA CASE

Jacob Zuma, the former president of South Africa has always been surrounded by a lot of controversies during his regime and these web of scandals that ultimately cost him the presidency in early 2018.

Over the past 20 years, the politician, whose middle name is Gedleyihlekisa – which means ‘one who laughs while grinding his enemies’ in Zulu – has mastered the art of evading the hand of justice in South Africa. Zuma has adopted the ‘Stalingrad legal defence’ strategy which means ‘using whatever means possible to delay proceedings and wearing down the plaintiff by appealing every ruling that is unfavourable to the defendant’.

He most recently wielded this method in the arms deal corruption trial, the charges of which date back to 1999. In the case that has been marked by a seemingly endless series of twists and turns – from procedural errors to dropped charges and postponements – Zuma, not missing a beat, pleaded not guilty on 26 May 2021.

The judges of the Constitutional Court sentenced him to 15 months in prison for ignoring an order to appear before an official inquiry investigating the corruption allegations he faced during his nine-year presidency - especially his relationship with the notorious Gupta brothers who fled South Africa in 2018 as the legal noose closed in on them. He turned himself in and was jailed for the contempt of court on July 8th, 2021.

Though there are multiple allegations including more than 15 counts of racketeering, corruption, fraud, tax evasion and money laundering against him, he insists to be not guilty of any cases and insists that his political enemies are using the courts to target him.

ZONDO COMMISSION

Zuma's government set up the Zondo Commission in 2018 – officially known as the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture. Since then, the commission has investigated allegations of corruption against the former president and the Gupta family. The latter stands accused of infiltrating every level of government during Zuma's presidency from 2009 – 2018.

The Zondo commission reported that the cost of state level corruption during the regime of Zuma was more than 30 billion dollars and concluded that the corruption during that period was state backed and was rooted in every level of the government.

PROBLEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa, a majority black, multiracial country of nearly 60 million people, has the most diversified and industrialized economy in Africa, but has suffered years of low growth and is burdened by deeply embedded socioeconomic inequalities. The recent problems includes famine, extreme unemployment, economic inequality, the Legacy of apartheid and the growing rate of COVID cases.

- Legacy of Apartheid:

The legacy of apartheid is a legacy of economic, social and political inequality and especially the unequal evolution of South Africa's political culture. Apartheid was a system of institutionalised racial segregation that existed in South Africa and South West Africa from 1948 until the early 1990s. Apartheid was characterized by an authoritarian political culture based on baasskap (boss-hood or boss-ship), which ensured that South Africa was dominated politically, socially, and economically by the nation's minority white population. According to this system of social stratification, white citizens had the highest status, followed by Asians and Coloureds, then black Africans. The economic legacy and social effects of apartheid continue to the present day. During apartheid, Blacks lived in townships and shanty towns and were required to produce passes whenever they traveled out of their settlements. Black South Africans were subject to racial oppression and subjugation for many years. Blacks were also not allowed to mingle with whites. Most of their townships lacked basic services or had substandard service delivery. These sort of actions forced the black majority into poverty, illiteracy and were subjected to poor economic

conditions. And until the present time, the impact of apartheid has been a major problem in South Africa.

- Economic inequality and crushing unemployment

The unstable and corrupt government is unable to tackle the effects of apartheid and due to the huge amount of corruption, the country has actually been pushed into poverty, famine, economic inequality and unemployment. The government has not been able to provide the jobs as promised.

- COVID 19

South Africa has been going through a lot of violence and turmoil after the sentence of Jacob Zuma and since the COVID cases are the highest among the African countries, the situation is predicted to get even worse as the vaccinations have been stopped due to the violence all over the country.

THE ZUMA FACTOR

The arrest of former South African President Jacob Zuma this month has triggered looting and violence in the country's two most populous provinces amid a record wave of Covid-19 infections.

The arrest followed a week of tense brinkmanship in which the former president and his allies railed against the high court's decision, suggesting, without evidence, that he was the victim of a conspiracy.



Fig: Protesters after Jacob Zuma sent to jail

RECOMMENDATIONS

South Africa has been suffering from the worst condition in the last 72 years. The condition of many provinces has become the worst ever. More than 1700 people are arrested over the violence including aged people, women, children, and young people. The major problems are listed below;

- COVID pandemic
- Falling economic
- legacy of Apartheid
- Economic inequality
- Unemployment
- Covid-19 lock-down and restrictions
- Famine

These are the major problems which should be solved instantly. Before all the protest and violence in South Africa, the annual GDP(Gross Domestic Product) rate has been falling more down after 1946 AD. Due to Covid 19 lock-down and restrictions, a maximum number of business organizations are closed which causes South Africa's economy to struggle to recover all the annual GDP. The government of South Africa should try to solve the problems one by one. The problems and their recommendations are listed below:

- Legacy of Apartheid

It is a legacy of inequality, economic inequality, social inequality, and political inequality and especially the unequal evolution of South Africa's political culture. Apartheid has negatively affected the lives of all South African children but its effects have been particularly devastating for black children. The consequences of poverty,

racism and violence have resulted in psychological disorders, and a generation of maladjusted children may be the result.

To solve the problem, the government of South Africa can work on short term and long term plans. In the short term plan, the government should take steps to develop their people independently. Independently can be defined when people can complete the entire task without others' help or efforts. First, the government should provide equal distribution of quotas for the colored and under-privileged communities. Similarly, government should punish people who perform an act of apartheid which involves dominating the native-colored communities. There must be an understanding that all people are human, not just black and white people. They have to strictly implement rules and follow that each person should be treated equally and not to be discriminated against on the basis of gender, age, race and ethnicity. Similarly, government should raise awareness about the disadvantage of discrimination. Government should work with tactics in order to educate people regarding the disadvantages of discrimination.

- Economy inequality and unemployment

This problem can be considered as the major problem of the entire nation. According to the news and research, it's found that unemployment rose at a highest record i.e. 32.6% in the first three months of 2021. The government of South Africa should surpass all the goods and services production demand which helps to reduce the price and helps to improve the economy. Similarly, the corruption level seen in the government should be worked out and should be mitigated from the root level so that the government can take the country towards the path of development. The country's important decisions should not be triggered by any external factors. The recent violence and rallies in South Africa is due to the inability of the government to provide employment as promised. So, they should plan to provide employment in their own country. Similarly, they should reduce tax and should make policies suitable for the citizens to invest, cultivate and develop the various sectors.

- Covid-19 lock-down and restrictions

South Africa is on the brink of COVID 19 outburst as there is a huge number of Covid cases all over Africa and with the ongoing protests and violences, the cases are expected to grow exponentially. The vaccination centres are closed due to the ongoing violence and this can lead to the worst situation in the country. To tackle this situation, firstly the government should control the violence in the country and raise more awareness about the Covid-19 third wave. Then all the vaccination centers should be reopened and provide continuous vaccines and treatment. The Government should mobilize the army in such a way that violence and looting can be suppressed and the vaccinations can go at a smooth pace. The South African citizens are facing many problems due to Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions. The government should realize that lockdown and restrictions are temporary solutions and in the long run the government should allow all the businesses and organizations to run smoothly by following precautions and safety measures.

- Famine

According to the survey report of March and April 2021, taken in different provinces of South Africa, 10 million people, which is equal to 1/6 of the population of South Africa, had experienced hunger over the past seven days. This problem is considered as the most high alert than other problems. Government should plan for different tactics in order to feed their people. There are multiple INGOs working to eradicate famine and hunger in the developing and under-developed countries. South Africa can also take help from those organizations. Similarly, the government should encourage farmers to plant more crops, such as vegetables and paddy and should provide support and subsidies for the production of foods. Investing in smallholder farmers, regenerating soil, increasing climate resilience in agricultural systems, promoting and subsidizing more nutritious crops, and providing more financial support to those living in poverty is to be done by the country.

If the government applies all of the recommendations instantly, then they can tackle and solve the problems going on in South Africa one by one. The main root of all these problems can be tracked down to the poor and corrupt political and government system which has been feeding onto the South Africa's citizens for over

multiple decades. The country needs to go through a huge political and government reform in order to develop and tackle the ongoing problems. Then only the country can see the reforms and development.

FACTS AND MYTHS OF JACOB ZUMA

We have gathered interesting facts and myths about Jacob Zuma. Some of them are listed below:

Facts:

1. As the full name of Jacob Zuma is Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma. The name Gedleyihlekisa means the one who laughs while grinding his enemy.
2. He was plagued by corruption and rape allegations.
3. President. Jacob Zuma once faced rape charges in 2005 after a woman claimed that he raped her in his home. After pleading guilty, he stood trial.
4. He is married to four women and has an estimated number of 21 children. One of his wives committed suicide in 2000.
5. Zuma has had more than 750 corruption charges against him.
6. The destruction caused after the sentence of Jacob could decrease the country's economy by 3 percent.

Myths:

1. The ex-president is alleged to have held the country hostage with his supporters.
2. Claiming that "foreign intelligence agencies" may have interfered in his corruption prosecution.
3. There is a "third party" sympathetic to the former president at play.
4. President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the violence was pre-planned, but has not mentioned who he suspects was behind it.
5. Indians are targeted for violence due to the involvement of Gupta's family controversies.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS ON JACOB ZUMA CASE

There are a lot of controversies and various other findings in this case. We have various thoughts about the case. Being a critical thinker some of our thoughts are listed below:

1. Why did Jacob Zuma avoid trials for all these years?

Answer:

- He might be looking for some evidence on his behalf.
- He was in power at those times and might have been showing his power and neglecting the order of the court.

2. Why only at the last moment, did he surrender ?

Answer:

- He could not find any evidence on his behalf.
- He could not get support from any government or other bodies.
- He might have thought about his prestige so he surrendered rather than being arrested.

3. Why was there no protest when he was removed as president and there is a huge protest now?

Answer:

He was removed as president due to the multiple corruptions allegations on him and that was not actually proved at that time but at the present time he was sentenced to jail for contempt of court. The supporters couldn't have stood their beloved leader sent to jail and this dissatisfaction and blind trust to their leader led to the protests and violence.

4. Why is there so much hunger and starvation prevailing in the country and the government is not taking any steps?

Answer:

Since the whole system and government is corrupted, the leaders are concerned mostly about filling their own pockets only rather than focusing on the development of the country and eradicating the socio-economic problems.

The country had a bad leadership and this resulted in the prevailing starvation and famine in the country.

5. Was there no single proof related to all those hundreds of charges to detain him for all these years?

Answer:

As he was in the power, he could have easily manipulated the investigation, falsified the proofs and took control over the investigations to bring everything in his favour. Now that he is out of power and he doesn't have control anymore, the cases are opened again and investigations have started and this led to the ongoing allegations and charges in the recent months. He also mentioned that his opposition parties are trying to defame him and want to bring him down.

CONCLUSIONS

Jacob Zuma, who's been repeatedly implicated in aiding and abetting the plunder of state funds during the near decade he led South Africa, is sentenced to 15 months in jail for defying a court order to testify at a graft inquiry. The Constitutional Court can do nothing but conclude that Mr. Zuma is guilty of the crime of contempt of court. Protest had turned into looting which had been completely out of control. Business owners are counting costs after the mass looting and damage to property. Violence is being worst since that of apartheid in 1990s. More than 200 people lost their lives. People burned down factories, transport and supply systems were paralysed. It is that they break their own properties and steal people's jobs. They cost themselves with food and everythings essential to them. It will take them more than a month to rise again. The whole situation is an absolute urgency to resolve South Africa's economic and social contradictions.

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