

# **Plans for the BRICS South Africa Summit March 26-27, 2013**

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
G20	Group of 20 (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union)
IMF	International Monetary Fund

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## Preface

This report on “Plans for the 2013 BRICS Summit” draws from public sources to aid researchers and other stakeholders interested in the BRICS summit. It thus focuses on the political and diplomatic aspects of the BRICS as a plurilateral summit institution, and includes material on the physical summit, South Africa’s preparations and other BRICS-related meetings. It is updated periodically as information becomes available.

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## Introduction: Durban 2013 BRICS Summit

South Africa will host the fifth BRICS summit in Durban from March 26-27, 2013. The summit will cover issues, including trade, the global economy, agriculture, health and innovation, terrorism, climate change, food and energy security. Specifics and additional issue areas will be identified as South Africa develops the agenda. The summit will be held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre in Durban.<sup>1</sup> The official website is: <http://www.brics5.co.za/site/>

The first summit was held in 2009 in Russia, with the leaders from Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC). The same four leaders met for the second summit in Brazil in 2010. In 2011, with China as the host, South Africa attended for the first time. In 2012 India hosted the fourth summit with the leaders of all five BRICS countries.

As expressed by the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane on September 11, 2012, South Africa’s membership to BRICS is based on three pillars, namely: to advance South Africa’s national interests; to promote regional integration and related infrastructure programs and to partner with key players of the South on issues of global governance reforms.<sup>2</sup> (September 11, 2012, BRICS Information Centre)

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<sup>1</sup> High Commission of South Africa in India, (October 5, 2012), <http://southafricainindia.wordpress.com/2012/10/05/brics-summit-march-2013-durban-south-africa/>

<sup>2</sup> BRICS Information Centre, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa Speech presented at The New Age Business Briefing (September 11,

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## Agenda

### Priority Themes

The proposed theme of the fifth BRICS Summit is “BRICS and Africa – Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialisation,” to share the event with the African continent.<sup>3</sup> (November 20, 2012, official website)

Three priorities have been outlined as South Africa’s agenda for the BRICS forum. Firstly, BRICS members have a shared interest in the reform of multilateral institutions specifically the World Trade Organisation’s Doha Round. Secondly, to build intra-BRICS cooperation in trade and investment and finally South Africa prioritized BRICS cooperation to support Africa’s economic development agenda.<sup>4</sup> (October 18, 2012, official website)

BRICS leaders defined the BRICS forum as a platform for dialogue and cooperation to promote peace, security and development in a multipolar, interdependent and increasingly complex, globalising world. Further, BRICS countries are striving to enhance inclusive economic growth to lead to an increase in the creation of decent and sustainable jobs, and advance the fight against poverty.<sup>5</sup> (September 11, 2012, BRICS Information Centre)

BRICS Summits are convened to seek common ground on areas of importance for these major economies. It represents spheres of political and entrepreneurial coordination, in which member countries have identified several business opportunities, economic complementarities, and other areas of cooperation.<sup>6</sup> (October 5, 2012, High Commission of South Africa in India)

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2012), “South Africa’s Role in BRICS, and Its Benefits to Job Creation and the Infrastructure Drive in South Africa.” <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120911-nkoana-mashabane.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Presidential website (November 20, 2012), “Statement by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, on international developments, with specific focus on the Israel-Palestine conflict, Imbizo Media Centre, Parliament, Cape Town.” <http://www.brics5.co.za/site/statement-by-the-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-ms-maite-nkoana-mashabane-on-international-developments-with-specific-focus-on-the-israel-palestine-conflict-imbizo-media-centr/>

<sup>4</sup> Presidential Website (October 18, 2012), “BRICS should contribute to Africa’s and Emerging Economies and Developing Countries (EMDC) development.” <http://www.brics5.co.za/site/media-release-brics-should-contribute-to-africas-and-emerging-economies-and-developing-countries-emdc-development/>.

<sup>5</sup> BRICS Information Centre, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa Speech presented at The New Age Business Briefing (September 11, 2012), “South Africa’s Role in BRICS, and Its Benefits to Job Creation and the Infrastructure Drive in South Africa.” <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120911-nkoana-mashabane.html>.

<sup>6</sup> High Commission of South Africa in India (October 5, 2012), <http://southafricainindia.wordpress.com/2012/10/05/brics-summit-march-2013-durban-south-africa/>

## **Global Governance Reform**

On October 19, 2012, South African Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies reiterated that BRICS countries have a shared interest in pushing for the reform of the World Trade Organization's Doha Round to defend and champion a development outcome.<sup>7</sup> (October 19, 2012, All Africa)

BRICS leaders jointly pledged additional funding of US\$75 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for the firewall fund. China pledged US\$43 billion, Brazil, India and Russia US\$10 billion each and South Africa US\$2 billion. The pledges were contingent on the completion of the IMF quota review and aligned with the vision to transform institutions of global governance.<sup>8</sup> (September 11, 2012, BRICS Information Centre)

## **BRICS Development Bank**

BRICS member countries continue to show their support for the BRICS Development Bank, Chinese Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao reiterated that it is an important decision for the future of South-South cooperation, to help boost infrastructure construction in developing countries, and reform the world economic structure and governance mechanisms."<sup>9</sup> (November 6, 2012, Xinhua News Agency)

The BRICS Development Bank technical expert working group has held two meetings in August and October 2012. The technical working group will provide next report in the lead up for the summit in March.<sup>10</sup> (October 24, 2012, Official Website)

At the 2012 New Delhi Summit, the BRICS group agreed on strategy to potentially develop a BRICS development bank (a BRICS-led South-South development bank), funded and managed by the BRICS nations and other developing countries to facilitate long-term investment opportunities. On the sidelines of the 2012 G20 summit in Mexico, BRICS leaders discussed the possibility of setting up a currency swap arrangement and a foreign exchange reserve pool. The foreign exchange reserve pool would act as a financial safety net, to be used in case any member country was faced with sudden restriction of capital. South African Minister Rob Davies stated that the South African

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<sup>7</sup> All Africa (October 19, 2012), "A voice for emerging economies."

<sup>8</sup> BRICS Information Centre, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa Speech presented at The New Age Business Briefing (September 11, 2012), "South Africa's Role in BRICS, and Its Benefits to Job Creation and the Infrastructure Drive in South Africa." <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120911-nkoana-mashabane.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Liang Xizhi, Xinhua News Agency (November 6, 2012), Interview: G20 recognizes Europe's progress in resolving debt crisis: Chinese official

<sup>10</sup> BRICS Presidential website, Address by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim I Ebrahim (October 24, 2012), "Reflections on BRICS: Prospects for South Africa and Africa."

<http://www.brics5.co.za/site/address-by-the-deputy-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-ebrahim-i-ebrahim-on-the-occasion-of-a-public-lecture-titled-reflections-on-brics-prospects-for-south-africa/>

government is of the view that the BRICS led Development Bank should mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries.<sup>11</sup> (October 18, 2012, Official website)

South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane reiterated BRICS leader's consideration on the possibility of setting up a new development bank. The BRICS leaders directed their finance ministers to examine the feasibility and viability of the initiative, to set up a joint working group and report back at the next summit.<sup>12</sup> (September 11, 2012, BRICS Information Centre)

## **Africa**

On September 11, 2012, South African Minister Nkoana-Mashabane highlighted that at the 2011 BRICS Sanya Summit and the 2012 New Delhi Summit, BRICS leaders expressed support for infrastructure development in Africa and industrialisation within the framework of NEPAD as well as to economic growth that supports development and stability in Africa.<sup>13</sup> (September 11, 2012, Department of International Relations and Cooperation)

South African Minister Rob Davies expressed that South Africa has a direct interest in extending BRICS cooperation to support Africa's development agenda, particularly by "increasing financial aid to build infrastructure and industrial capacity, and increasing imports of value-added manufactured products from the continent."<sup>14</sup> (October 19, 2012, All Africa)

## **Food and Agriculture**

Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development of the BRIC countries met for the first time in Moscow on March 26, 2010 and reached consensus for agricultural cooperation. To implement the consensus the First Meeting of BRICS Agricultural Cooperation Working Group was held in Beijing, China in August 2011. The meeting unanimously agreed to formulate the Action Plan on Agricultural Cooperation of the BRICS countries for the period of 2012-2016, which was then approved at the Second

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<sup>11</sup> Presidential Website (October 18, 2012), "BRICS should contribute to Africa's and Emerging Economies and Developing Countries (EMDC) development."  
<http://www.brics5.co.za/site/media-release-brics-should-contribute-to-africas-and-emerging-economies-and-developing-countries-emdc-development/>

<sup>12</sup> BRICS Information Centre, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa Speech presented at The New Age Business Briefing (September 11, 2012), "South Africa's Role in BRICS, and Its Benefits to Job Creation and the Infrastructure Drive in South Africa." <http://www.brics.utoronto.ca/docs/120911-nkoana-mashabane.html>.

<sup>13</sup> BRICS Information Centre, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa Speech presented at The New Age Business Briefing (September 11, 2012), "South Africa's Role in BRICS, and Its Benefits to Job Creation and the Infrastructure Drive in South Africa." <http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/speeches/2012/mash0911a.html>

<sup>14</sup> All Africa (October 19, 2012), "A voice for emerging economies."

Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development. The countries will establish an annual calendar of activities which will take into consideration the principles adopted at the Action Plan.

The Action Plan commits BRICS members to; create a basic agricultural information exchange system of BRICS countries and will be coordinated by China. To development a general strategy for ensuring access to food for the most vulnerable population and will be coordinated by Brazil. To reduce the negative impact of climate change on food security and adaptation of agriculture to climate change and will be coordinated by South Africa. To enhance agricultural technology cooperation and innovation and will be coordinated by India. The promotion of trade and investment will be coordinated by Russia.<sup>15</sup> (Presidential website)

### **Process: The Physical Summit**

The conference venues, transport infrastructure and accommodation options in Durban have positioned the city as the ideal host for BRICS. All of the sessions will be held at the world-class Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC), centrally located close to Durban's beaches and hotels, and just a half-hour drive from King Shaka International Airport. The ICC has been named Africa's leading convention centre in the World Travel Awards nine times since 2001, and ranks among the World's top 10 convention centres. It has also won the award for the most Environmentally-Conscious Congress Centre by the European Inventive and Business Travel and Meetings Exhibition. The ICC, including the Durban Exhibition Centre (DEC), the Arena and the paved inter-leading concourse area, can accommodate more than 20,000 delegates. [www.icc.co.za](http://www.icc.co.za).<sup>16</sup> (Presidential website)

South African International Relations and Cooperation Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim announced that the BRICS Summit will be held in Durban, South Africa on March 26-27, 2013 and that preparations are underway.<sup>17</sup> (October 9, 2012, All Africa Global Media)

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## **BRICS Think Tank Forum**

Department of International Relations and Cooperation will be partnering with the Department of Higher Education and Training with Higher Education South Africa (HESA) to host the fifth BRICS Academic Forum, a few weeks prior to the summit.<sup>18</sup> (October 29, 2012, Presidential website)

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<sup>15</sup> Presidential website, "BRICS Agricultural Action."

<http://www.brics5.co.za/site/about-brics/sectorial-declaration/agriculture-ministers-meeting/brics-agricultural-action/>

<sup>16</sup> Presidential website, "BRICS at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC)."

<sup>17</sup> All Africa Global Media (October 9, 2012), "BRICS Summit Preparations Under way."

<sup>18</sup> Presidential website (October 29, 2012), "Media statement by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, on developments in the international relations field."

South African BRICS Sherpa, Ambassador Jerry Matjila also the Director General, Department of International Relations and Cooperation met with stakeholders to discuss how South Africa will create its own dedicated BRICS Think-Tank. Brazil, Russia, India and China already have dedicated BRICS Think-Tanks. The think tanks will provide “a general academic evaluation and future long-term strategy for BRICS.”<sup>19</sup> (October 24, 2012, Presidential website)

A BRICS Think Tank Forum was held in China on September 26, 2012. The theme was Adjustment, Innovation and Cooperation and included 40 experts from all BRICS countries. During the two day meeting, a consensus was reached to move forward and create a BRICS development bank to complement existing global financial institutions like World Bank and that the creation of a bank is necessary and practical. There was no official report released but the consensus reached will formulate the discussion for the next BRICS Think Tank Forum, to be held in South Africa before the 2013 BRICS Summit.<sup>20</sup> (October 2, 2012, Firstpost Economy)

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## Business

The fourth annual Africa and South East Asia (AfricSEA) Business Forum took place on November 1-2, 2012 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg. The forum has partnered with the BRICS 2013 team from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to place Africa as an investment destination and to explore how Africa interacts with the BRICS in the context of strengthening South-South cooperation.<sup>21</sup> (October 29, 2012, Presidential website)

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ebrahim Ebrahim announced that in the lead up to the fifth BRICS summit, various business meetings will take place to further some of the projects President Zuma proposed at the last New Delhi Summit, namely the project to develop a high-capacity marine cable system linking the BRICS countries.<sup>22</sup> (October 24, 2012, Presidential website)

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<http://www.brics5.co.za/site/media-statement-by-the-deputy-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-ebrahim-ebrahim-on-developments-in-the-international-relations-field-29-october-2012/>

<sup>19</sup> Presidential website, Address by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim I Ebrahim (October 24, 2012), “Reflections on BRICS : Prospects for South Africa and Africa.” <http://www.brics5.co.za/site/address-by-the-deputy-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-ebrahim-i-ebrahim-on-the-occasion-of-a-public-lecture-titled-reflections-on-brics-prospects-for-south-africa/>

<sup>20</sup> Firstpost Economy (October 2, 2012), “BRICS think tanks agree on setting up development bank.” <http://www.firstpost.com/economy/brics-think-tanks-agree-on-setting-up-development-bank-476634.html>

<sup>21</sup> Presidential website (October 29, 2012), “Media statement by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, on developments in the international relations field.” <http://www.brics5.co.za/site/media-statement-by-the-deputy-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-ebrahim-ebrahim-on-developments-in-the-international-relations-field-29-october-2012/>

<sup>22</sup> Presidential website, Address by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim I Ebrahim (October 24, 2012), “Reflections on BRICS : Prospects for South Africa and Africa.”

In June 2012, the CEO of Business Unity South Africa Nomaxabiso Majokweni told an African National Congress (ANC) business forum that an immediate benefit of a BRICS bank would be “a massive injection in our infrastructure development plan, which could help the government meet some of its very ambitious growth targets.”<sup>23</sup> (June 26, 2012, South Africa Info)

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## **BRICS Meetings**

March 26-27, 2012	BRICS Durban Summit
March 25, 2012	BRICS Trade Ministers meeting
March 25, 2012	BRICS Business Forum
March 25, 2012	BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism
September 26, 2012	BRICS foreign/international relations ministers
September 19, 2012	South African Cabinet meeting

## **BRICS Foreign/International Relations Ministers**

The South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane chaired the annual meeting of BRICS foreign/international relations ministers in New York on September 26, 2012, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Ministers discussed multiple issues and condemned the increasing human rights violations in Syria. They called for immediate cease fire and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder political reconciliation process with the support of the international community. They reiterated support to the work of Joint UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative, Lakhdar Brahimi, as well as to the Joint Communiqué of the Geneva Action Group.<sup>24</sup> (September 27, 2012, Presidential website)

## **South African Cabinet Meeting**

On September 19, 2012 the South African Cabinet meeting approved the BRICS Strategy for South Africa. It also activated the structures to oversee preparations for the fifth BRICS Summit. The main structures are the BRICS Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which held its first meeting on October 2, 2012 and is to provide policy guidance to the Cabinet on hosting the summit, the BRICS Inter-Departmental Technical Senior

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<http://www.brics5.co.za/site/address-by-the-deputy-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-ebrahim-i-brahim-on-the-occasion-of-a-public-lecture-titled-reflections-on-brics-prospects-for-south-africa/>

<sup>23</sup> South Africa Info (June 26, 2012), “BRICS bank to boost South Africa.”

<sup>24</sup> Presidential Website (September 27, 2012), “BRICS Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.”

<http://www.brics5.co.za/site/brics-meeting-of-ministers-of-foreign-affairs/>



Officials' Team (IDTSOT) and the BRICS Inter-Departmental Logistics Team, which has held weekly meetings since June 2012.<sup>25</sup> (October 9, 2012, Presidential website)

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## South Africa's Summit Team

- Jacob Zuma, President
- Ambassador Jerry Matjila, South African Sherpa
- Pravin Jamnadas Gordha, Minister of Finance
- Maite Emily Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation
- Tina Joemat-Peterson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Aaron Motsoaledi, Minister of Health
- Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry

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## Participating Leaders

**Brazil's Dilma Rousseff** was elected the 36th president of Brazil on October 31, 2010, and inaugurated on January 1, 2011. In 2002, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva appointed her minister of energy. In 2005 she became chief of staff and remained in office until March 31, 2010, until stepping down to run for president. She was born in Minas Gerais, Brazil, on December 14, 1947. Rousseff studied economics at the Minas Gerais Federal University School of Economics and did postgraduate studies in economics at the Campinas State University. She is divorced from Carlos Franklin Paixão de Araújo with whom she has one child.

**China's Xi Jinping** was elected president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on November 15, 2012, replacing Hu Jintao who had held the position since 2003. Xi was appointed vice-president in March 2008. He was appointed to the Standing Committee of the 17th Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Politburo in October 2007. In 1982, Xi began serving in numerous local party and provincial positions, first in Hebei, and then in Fujian, including serving as deputy provincial party secretary of Fujian from 1995 until 2002. From 1999 to 2002, Xi served first as acting and then governor of Fujian. In 2002, Xi served as acting governor and deputy provincial party secretary in Zhejiang. He became provincial party secretary in 2003, and then, as of 2007, held the position of Shanghai party secretary until he was appointed to the Politburo in October. Xi was born in Fuping, Shaanxi, in 1953, the son of People's Liberation Army veteran and reformist vice premier Xi Zhongxun. Xi earned a degree in chemical engineering and was later awarded doctorate in law from Tsinghua University in Beijing. Xi is married to opera singer Peng Liyuan and they have one daughter.

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<sup>25</sup> Presidential Website, Statement by the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, to the media briefing on the fifth Brazil, Russia, India, Russia, South Africa (BRICS) Summit and the donation to Palestine refugees (October 9, 2012), <http://www.brics5.co.za/site/statement-by-the-deputy-minister-of-international-relations-and-cooperation-mr-ebrahim-ebrahim-to-the-media-briefing-on-the-fifth-brics-summit-9-october-2012/>

**India's Manmohan Singh** was re-elected prime minister of India in May 2009. He was first elected in 2004 when he replaced Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Before entering into politics, Singh worked as an economist, including for the International Monetary Fund. He was governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1982 to 1985. Singh was first elected to the upper house of Indian parliament in 1995. He was re-elected in 2001 and 2007 and held cabinet positions including minister of finance and minister for external affairs. Singh also served as minister of finance from November 2008 to January 2009. He was born in Gah, Punjab (now known as Chakwal district, Pakistan), on September 26, 1932. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Punjab University in 1952 and 1954. He also received an additional undergraduate degree from Cambridge University in 1957 and a PhD from Oxford University in 1962. He and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, have three children.

**Russia's Vladimir Putin** assumed the position of president of the Russian Federation on 7 May 2012. He succeeds Dmitri Medvedev, who had been president since 2008. Putin served as prime minister under Medvedev, having earlier been elected president in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. A member of the United Russia party since its establishment in 2001, he led the party from 2008 until April 2012. From 1998 to 1999, he was director of the Federal Security Service, having worked for the KGB from 1975 to 1991. Putin was born on 7 October 1952 in Leningrad and graduated from Leningrad State University's law faculty. He and his wife, Ludmila, have two daughters.

**South Africa's Jacob Zuma** became president of South Africa on May 9, 2009, succeeding Petrus Kgalema Motlanthe, who had held the position since September 2008. Zuma joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1958 and started serving in its national executive committee in 1977. In 1994, Zuma was elected national chair of the ANC and chair of the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal. He was re-elected to the latter position in 1996 and selected as the deputy president of the ANC in December 1997. Zuma was appointed executive deputy president of South Africa in 1999. He held that position until 2005 and was elected ANC president at the end of 2007. He was born April 12, 1949, in Inkandla, KwaZulu-Natal Province. He has three wives and several children.