



Zuma in his own words

Khaya Koko

ON WOMEN:

These remarks seem to highlight the patriarchal views of President Jacob Zuma.

The People of the South interview reflects how Zuma felt that a woman's value is measured by marriage and how many children she bears – and nothing else.

The comments about Venda women were less about appreciating another African culture, but could be deemed a sign of how Msholozzi appreciated women who bow down to men.

"I wouldn't want to stay with daughters who are not married, because that in itself is a problem in society... (Children) are important to a woman because they actually give extra training to a woman to be a mother." (People of the South interview, 2012)

"A woman would clap her hands and even lie down to show respect. I was so impressed. If I was not already married to my wives, I would go to Venda to look for a woman." (Impendle, KwaZulu-Natal, 2013.)

ON CORRUPTION

A report in *City Press*, 2014, cited Zuma's leaked 2009 written submissions to the National Prosecuting Authority, where Msholozzi, through his lawyers, argued for graft-related charges against him to be dropped.

"Western paradigm brands this (corruption) criminal."

ON NKANDLA

Choking on his words and overcome with emotion, a visibly seething Zuma told the National Assembly and used these words to

repudiate assertions that taxpayers hadn't funded any upgrades to his family homestead – saying he was still paying off a bond.

Almost four years later, he paid R7.8 million into the fiscus after admitting in the Constitutional Court that the Secure in Comfort report – authored by former public protector Thuli Madonsela to probe irregularities in the Nkandla project – was right in saying he benefited from taxpayers for non-security upgrades to his home.

"I have been convicted, painted black, called a first-class corrupt man on facts that are not tested. I take exception." (Parliament, 2012).

ON THE ANC

Delivering a message laden with Biblical and divine references outside Nelson Mandela's home in Vilakazi Street, before the party's January 8 celebrations, Zuma reiterated his contention that the ANC would rule forever.

"No one can stop us (ANC) because we have God on our side – He's on our side. When the ANC was formed (in 1912) there were religious leaders who thanked the Lord for delivering to them the people's movement."

"The people have been liberated now – hence the ANC will rule until Jesus comes back to save us." (Soweto, 2017).

THE LIGHT STUFF

GRANTED, Msholozzi might have mispronounced the word "innuendos", but the above quote did elicit a lot of laughter.

"You come with meandos; I answer with meandos – easy!" (Parliament, 2017).

House of cards implodes

The post-Zuma season will be a bitter and cold winter. Perish the thought that he might see jail time – these matters will be in court for an excruciatingly long time, writes Imraan Buccus

IMAGINE if Jacob Zuma had offered to resign as president in December? He might not have received a ticker tape parade but he could have avoided the gory reality show of his last days in office. He's gone into many battles in a lifetime in politics. He's come out trumps in many of them, no doubt.

Yet, significantly, Zuma has also had to concede in a good many. "Pay back the money" was a defining moment.

The house of cards then came tumbling down. Far from a comfy retirement couch in Nkandla, he is more likely to be occupying a hard bench in court rooms in his remaining years. Those courtrooms must be a terrifying sight even for the most powerful.

Mike Mabuyakhulu has been feeling its bite, as has the seemingly untouchable Khomotso Pahlane. With the courts now firmly established as the proxy battleground, we will see many more headline-grabbing politicians and their acolytes rush after high-priced attorneys.

Protestations of innocence will be the norm, but there is a lot of baying for

blood. Files will tumble out of all kinds of hidden places. There will be civil servants and suppliers pulling out slips of paper and text messages they have filed as insurance policies.

There will be comrades reconstructing paper trails to protect themselves and to bring others down. The canary-like singing of the greasy arms deal fixer Ajay Sooklal before of People's Tribunal on Constitution Hill last week is a reliable foretaste of the tale-telling that's coming.

The post-Zuma season will be a bitter and cold winter. Perish the thought that he might see jail time. These matters will be in court for an excruciatingly long time. Rather cast one's eyes around him.

Edward Zumas's roasting in the Equality Court for his hate speech tirade might be the least of his courtroom blues. He will have a good

deal of explaining to do for the comforts he has become accustomed to. Edward does not have the savvy of younger brother Duduzane, who is likely to be cowering in his desert hangout in Dubai for a considerable time.

Stripped of the protection of his father and lathered with the slime of the Gupta brothers, he will have some serious questions to answer. He might not be all that lonely in the desert. Rumour is that just about every greasy politician, civil servant and businessman with ill-gotten gains has feathered a

nest somewhere in the Emirates.

As Slobodan Milosevic, Thaksin Shinawatra, Vijay Mallya and others have feared, the tentacles of the law can reach a long way even if it might be slow in worming its way. One can be holed up for just that long.

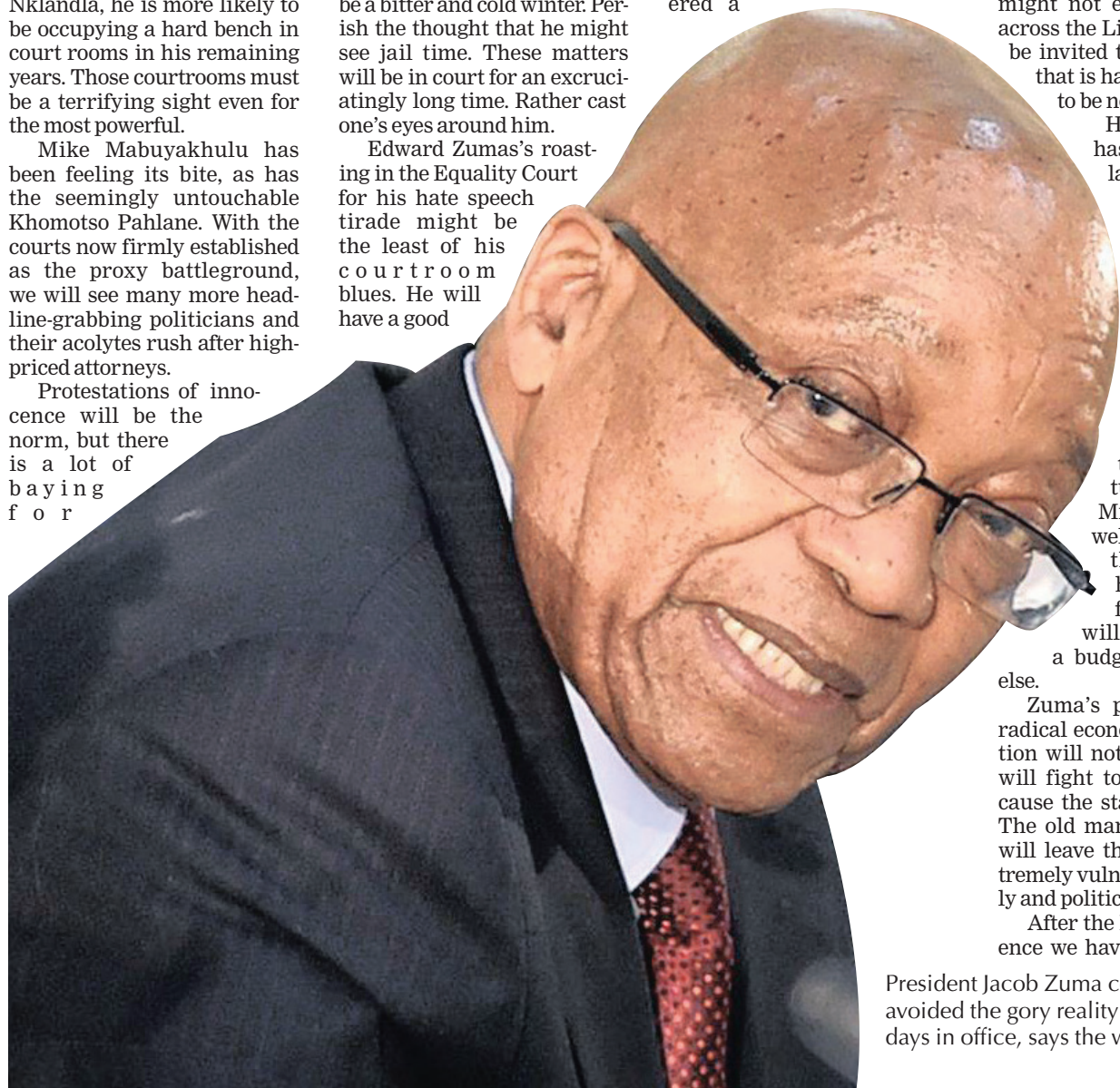
Unlike former presidents Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe, Zuma will not receive retirement invitations to trot the globe as an international statesman or revered elder. With the changed landscape in Zimbabwe, he might not even be welcome across the Limpopo. He might be invited to Khartoum, but that is hardly a metropolis to be noticed.

His being recalled has also caught first lady of four, Tobe-ka Madiba-Zuma, who entered the fray on social media with talons bared. Like Sooklal, who piped up expecting public sympathy but after cross-examination eventually had to turn tail and run, Mrs Zuma will be well advised to save the airtime on her smartphone for when she will have to live on a budget like everyone else.

Zuma's private circle of radical economic transformation will not go quietly. They will fight tooth and nail because the stakes are so high. The old man's exit, however, will leave the hangers-on extremely vulnerable – financially and politically.

After the December conference we have seen several of

President Jacob Zuma could have avoided the gory reality show of his last days in office, says the writer.



his loudhailers tone down or jump ship altogether. Others, like Sihle Zikalala, are smarting from the rash pre-conference criticism of Cyril Ramaphosa. No matter how senior one is in politics, there is room to grow. Bright sparks like Zikalala are uniquely placed

"Protestations of innocence will be the norm but there is a lot of baying for blood. Files will tumble out of hidden places"

to influence the transition. The drubbing that the KwaZulu-Natal contingent received at Nasrec could be remedied by Zikalala crafting a new narrative that latches on to the optimism of the Ramaphosa era and focuses on growing the economy. That will hold him in good stead as he battles it out in the upcoming provincial conference.

Hanging on to an uncritical Zuma loyalty for whatever reason will calcify the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal and render it ineffectual and marginalised on the national stage.

Holding fast to Zuma, as many in KwaZulu-Natal from branches to the youth league are prone to do, is career limiting and harmful to the country. The time to shift to a higher gear is now.

Zuma miscalculated. Like Madiba, he should have served one term and given way. In the choice between a legacy and the loot, there is enough evidence to show that Zuma made the wrong choice.

With any luck, the younger generation of leadership, especially in KwaZulu Natal, will think more carefully about the responsibilities they are entrusted with. It is not an altogether difficult choice.

The clock is ticking for the political heirs. The bells have tolled for Zuma.

● Buccus is senior research associate at ASRI and academic director of a university study abroad program on political transformation. Buccus promotes #Reading Revolution via Books@



Around 3am yesterday, ANC national executive committee members' motorcade exit the Saint George Hotel where they met to decide Zuma's future.

PICTURE: SIMPHIWE MBOKAZI/AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY/ANA

Laughing president: Zuma's unforgettable charm

Mpiletso Motumi

WHEN all is said and done, South Africa will never quite forget the charisma of Jacob Zuma.

That one personality trait is probably what won him the hearts of many citizens, young and old, twice over.

Any time he wasn't in a formal setting, his charming personality would shine through. Zuma is that guy that gets the party started.

Who can forget the Joburg CBD shutdown in 2009 when the ANC won the general elections?

The then Sauer Street was closed off in the green, yellow and black colours, a stage in the middle of the street right outside ANC headquarters, Luthuli House.

While Winnie Khumalo sang *Mina Ngohlala Ngini*, Zuma proved just how supple he was by getting down with the dancers on stage.

And the time when he was showing guests how it is done at his 75th birthday celebrations.

He even almost moonwalked one time. The 2016 January 8 moves showed that he was born to entertain.

What a sight to see. A smile from ear to ear.

How many presidents can sing the way Msholozzi can?

How many presidents can *lahl' Umlenze* at a moment's notice? Not very many.

And the few who can don't



Zuma days after his acquittal on a charge of rape in 2006.

PICTURE: TJ LEMON

have that Zuma touch or sultry voice.

Some of his highlights as president came from when he was at rallies for the ANC getting the crowds going.

If Zuma had gone to a model C school he would have been captain of the war-cry team.

Crowds would erupt as soon as Zuma got himself ready to break into dance.

Arms stretched out, hands closed in a fist he would sing out loud with a clear voice: "Wen'uyang'ibambezela..." to excited followers who would join him in song.

Avuleth' Umshini Wami,

for those who don't know, is a struggle song used by former members of Umkhonto we Sizwe during apartheid. Meaning Bring My Machine Gun, the song was a reference to the fight the military wing was ready for.

Often Zuma would shape his arms into a military gun when singing the song and shake his body.

For the funeral of Nelson Mandela in Qunu, Eastern Cape, Zuma led the song *Thina Sizwe* at the podium.

The song, meaning "We the nation", speaks about crying for the land that was taken.

The song had everyone in



President Jacob Zuma does a jig of his own as his new wife, Thobeka Madiba-Zuma, courts him with a dance at their wedding.

PICTURE: BONGIWE MCHUNU

attendance standing up and singing along with the president to celebrate the late icon.

Another firm favourite *Inde lendlela esiyihambayo* was a fitting song to sing when he officially opened the 54th ANC national elective conference for the last time as president of the party.

The song, which means there is still a long way to go on this journey, then goes: "Wash' uMandela kubalandeli bakhe wathi sodibana nge Freedom

Day", meaning Mandela told his followers that we would meet on the day of freedom.

When Zuma first won the presidency, it was his likeability that got ordinary citizens to vote for him. He has a friendly aura even with the bodyguards who constantly surround him.

Dubbed the "laughing president" during his parliamentary Q&A's, Zuma cheekily told members of parliament that his laugh was not in any way hurtful, but rather healthy.

"I don't know how to stop my laughter, is it hurting?" he asked members during a 2015 session.

"I will always laugh," he said as he continued his speech while giggling in between.

His jokes on the Nkandla report and the mocking of Mmusi Maimane's broken man speech showed how he had the ability to make light of situations, infuriating opposition leaders.

"That's part of the problem,



A gogo hugs Zuma at a Christmas party for the elderly held in Nkandla. PICTURE: MANDISA JIYANE/AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY/ANA

again it emphasises the poverty of politics in our opposition parties," he said.

Zuma has in the past spoken about how he did not want to become president.

In an interview he did with the national broadcaster, he said he would have rather become a teacher, a pastor or lawyer had the opportunity to continue his education been available.

Not one to shy away from his cultural beliefs and tradi-

tions, Zuma has the ability to go from suit and tie to his traditional Zulu attire and still command attention and adoration.

Zuma may have been a president full of controversy, but no one will ever forget his natural charm, the character trait that led to him becoming the people's president.

Where to now for the ever smiling, giggling president of South Africa?

Only time will tell *ngoba inde lendlela esiyihambayo*.