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S.Africa to elect Zuma as president

CAPE TOWN • South Africa's parliament choose Jacob Zuma as state president yesterday after his ruling ANC's resounding election victory, capping a remarkable political comeback. After



an eight-year battle with corruption charges that threatened to ruin him, Zuma takes on an economy that may already be in its first recession in 17 years, and challenges such as widespread poverty, crime and AIDS. The new government is expected to leave conservative and fiscal policies in place in Africa's biggest economy to cushion the impact of the global credit crunch and reassure investors who fear Zuma may steer the economy to the left. The charismatic former freedom fighter, whose graft charges were dropped just before the April 22 poll, will be inaugurated Saturday and will name a cabinet Sunday at 1200 GMT. — *Reuters*