

Chavez Hails Zuma's Rise To Power

Written by Rudi Prinsloo
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Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez congratulated Jacob Zuma on becoming the new South African president Saturday, hailing him as the custodian of Nelson Mandela's legacy.

"The election and swearing in of Jacob Zuma fulfills the commitment to the South African people and the principles of Nelson Mandela," Chavez said in a statement.

"Venezuela and South Africa share the same dream of an equal world, under the principles of self-determination, multipolarity, the sovereign use of natural resources and the fight against poverty."

Zuma was sworn in as South Africa's third post-apartheid leader on Saturday, during which he vowed to defend democracy and reunite the country after years of divisive politics.

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