

ANC predicts big win in S. Africa election

by UPI

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- The ruling African National Congress predicted a crushing victory in the South African parliamentary elections Friday as vote-counting progressed.

Jacob Zuma, the presumed president-to-be, a flamboyant ethnic Zulu, told thousands of cheering supporters at a raucous rally in Johannesburg Thursday that the ANC could outstrip its goal of two-thirds control in parliament.

Results of the Wednesday vote in South Africa, where there are 23 million registered voters and all votes are counted by hand, are expected by Saturday. The president will be elected next month.

The ANC has dominated South African politics since its first democratic election in 1994. But the party has been dogged by allegations of corruption and failure to deliver services to the poor.

Zuma faced fraud and corruption charges until they were dropped two weeks before the elections because of alleged political interference.

Twenty-six parties ran in the election, which had a reported 5,000 domestic and international observers monitoring the vote.

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