

## South Africa Economy May Shed More Jobs, Zuma Says (Update1)

By Nasreen Seria

Dec. 3 (Bloomberg) -- South Africa's economy may shed more jobs even after the country emerged from its first [recession](#) in 17 years in the third quarter, President [Jacob Zuma](#) said.

"Although the economy is beginning to grow again, the crisis is still with us, especially for the poor and working poor," Zuma told reporters in Pretoria today after meeting with the government-appointed economic crisis task team.

Africa's biggest economy grew an annualized 0.9 percent in the third quarter, while job losses amounted to 484,000 in the same period, pushing the [unemployment rate](#) to 24.5 percent. The government said today it's on line to meet a target to create 500,000 jobs, mainly temporary ones, by year end through its public works program.

"We may still lose more jobs before we turn the corner on job creation," Zuma said. "Nearly a million people have been cut loose by the crisis, and many of them have families that depend on them."

The government's new 2.4 billion rand (\$329 million) training program, which gives companies a subsidy to train low-income workers who may lose their jobs, helped to save 4,482 jobs between March and September, Zuma said. Funds allocated by the Industrial Development Corp., the state-owned lender, to distressed companies helped to save another 7,700 jobs, he added.

The IDC has set aside 6 billion rand over the next two years to help companies offset the impact of the global recession. The lender is currently considering 33 loan applications, with a total value of 2.1 billion rand.

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