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Majesties express sorrow

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Their Majesties the King and Queen have sent a message of condolence to the president of South Africa over the death of Nelson Mandela.

Their Majesties yesterday extended to President Jacob Zuma, members of Mandela's family and the people of South Africa their heartfelt sympathies and condolences for "the irreparable loss of an immense personality who will be remembered for his enduring contribution to peace in his beloved country and beyond".

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul also sent their condolences to the people of South Africa and Mandela's family yesterday. Ms Yingluck recalled the democracy icon's visits to Thailand in 1997 and 2004.

"His charisma, exceptional kindness and compassion left an indelible impression on all Thais," she said.

The premier also said Mandela's legacy is a reminder that democracy and democratic values can never be taken for granted.

"They must always be cherished, nurtured and defended," Ms Yingluck said.

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