

**STATEMENT BY FORMER PRESIDENT FW DE KLERK
ON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI**

I would like to express my condolences to the people of the Republic of China and to the family and friends of President Lee Teng-hui on the sad news of his passing yesterday.

President Lee was the standard-bearer of the process that led to the democratization of the Republic of China. He prepared the way that has made his country one of the freest and most democratic societies in the world.

I recall, with the greatest pleasure, my meeting with President Lee during my presidential visit to Taiwan in November 1991. He was also my host at a splendid lunch that the office of the Republic of China hosted for me following the inauguration of President Mandela in May 1994.

The Republic of China has lost one of its greatest sons and the world has lost a stalwart champion of liberty and democracy.

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