Mandela Hospitalized for Fourth Day for Recurring Lung Infection 2013-06-11 06:07:35.92 GMT

By Robert Brand

June 11 (Bloomberg) -- Former South African President Nelson Mandela remains in a Pretoria hospital for treatment of a recurring lung infection after being admitted on June 8 for a fourth time since December.

"Nelson Mandela remains in hospital, and his condition is unchanged," the Presidency said in an e-mail yesterday. The statement was the first official comment on Mandela's health since June 8, when President Jacob Zuma's office said his condition was "serious but stable." Mac Maharaj, a spokesman for Zuma, didn't immediately answer calls seeking comment today. Mandela, 94, was treated in the hospital in April for pneumonia and had to have fluid drained from around his lungs. He also had gallstones removed this year. Mandela served for five years as South Africa's first black president after his African National Congress party won all-race elections that ended apartheid in 1994. He spent 27 years in prison, most of it on Robben Island off the coast of Cape Town, where he contracted tuberculosis. Also known by his clan name, Madiba. Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. "President Jacob Zuma reiterates his call for South Africa to pray for Madiba and the family during this time," the Presidency said yesterday.

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