

**Argentine President Will Undergo Surgery For Thyroid Cancer**  
**Bernama**  
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BUENOS AIRES, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, who will temporarily hand over duties to her Vice President as she undergoes thyroid cancer surgery on Wednesday, reported China's Xinhua news agency.

The surgery is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. local time (1430 GMT) Wednesday at Austral University Hospital, 50 km northwest of Buenos Aires, said presidential spokesman Alfredo Scoccimarro.

She will hand over power to Vice President Amado Boudou until Jan 24, Scoccimarro said.

Supporters of Fernandez had already started camping out near the Austral University Hospital to show support for the country's first female head of state.

Fernandez is one of Latin American leaders suffering cancer.

Fernandez, 58, was sworn in for a second four-year term last month after she won re-election with more than 54 percent of the vote. She became Argentina's president in 2007. Her husband, Nestor Kirchner, was president from 2003-2007. He died in October 2010.

Other leaders such as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo and former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, also suffers from cancer.

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