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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT CELEBRATES CLERK OF PARLIAMENT ON ACHIEVING A DOCTORATE DEGREE

Following his recent academic award of a Doctorate Degree in Public Administration and Management by Africa Graduate University, Honourable Members and Staff of Parliament have on Wednesday 17th February 2021 celebrated the Clerk of Parliament, Hon Dr. Paran Umar Tarawally for his latest academic achievement.

The ceremony was held at the Speaker's Board Room and attracted the Leadership and Staff of Parliament.

In his welcome address, the Deputy Chief Whip of Parliament, Hon. Alusine Kanneh said "the Hon. Clerk deserves the award of a higher degree" and spoke about his dedication and commitments to hard work. The Deputy Whip also informed that, "the Sierra Leone People's Party believes in academia"; hence the need for human capital development.

On her part, the President of the Parliamentary Female Caucus, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay congratulated the Clerk on his latest academic achievement; adding that "I believe in the leadership acumen of Hon. Paran who made it possible for me to act as Speaker of Parliament". She called on the audience to observe a minute of silent prayers for the loss of Clerk's mother several years ago; saying if she were alive, she would be happy to share this academic achievement with her son.

Congratulating, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo said on behalf of the APC that the Clerk is recognized for fair treatment and wished him well on his latest academic achievement.

Deputy Clerk II, Cyril F. King praised the Clerk for demonstrating academic brilliance and said "indeed Clerk had risen too early in life with such achievements".

The Director of Human Resource, Mr. Abubakarr Charm said he was proud of the Clerk of Parliament for attaining a Doctorate Degree.

Leader of C4C, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina expressed happiness and considered the award as an inspiration to many people. He recalled his primary school days with the celebrated Doctor at the UMC primary school in Kono District.

The Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Paran Umar Tarawally said the gathering was a big surprise to him and those who organised it have demonstrated love and care for him. He explained how he successfully navigated his academic ordeal. The Hon. Dr. said by His Grace, this year alone he had been awarded twice, as a Lieutenant in the Night of St. John and a PhD.

He used the occasion to encourage both MPs and Staff to emulate him; saying since he became Head of Administration, he had inspired many Staff who are on the verge of completing their post-graduate degrees; adding that the Center for Research and Parliamentary Studies is currently affiliating with universities aimed at providing academic and training services including the award of degrees.

The Master of Ceremonies, who doubles as Deputy Director of Public Relations, Sheku Lamin Turay observed that Hon. Dr. Paran Umar Tarawally is the first sitting Clerk of Parliament to earn a Doctorate Degree.

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