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PRESS RELEASE PARLIAMENT HONOURS HON. CHIEF CECIL JOHN HANSON

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 10/3/2022 conducted the official laying-out ceremony by signing the book of condolence and paid glowing tributes to late Hon. Chief Cecil J. Hanson at State Hall of Parliament, in Freetown.

The Ceremony of the deceased attracted the Acting President of Sierra Leone and Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu, the entire Leadership and Administration of Parliament, present and former Members of Parliament, Judges, Ministers of Government, family members, and other distinguished mourners.

According to the Master of Ceremonies, Sheku Lamin Turay, who doubles as Director of Parliamentary and Public Relations Department, the deceased was a teacher, development specialist, politician, businessman, teacher, sportsman, former Mayor of Bo City, and Member of Parliament. The Master of Ceremonies also told distinguished mourners that the deceased represented Bo Central One in the Second Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone under the banner of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP).

In his tribute, the Leader of Government Business, Hon. Mathew Sahr Nyuma said they were paying their last respect to the deceased. He described the deceased as a philanthropist, grassroots follower, and a vibrant politician. "We have lost a great statesman" and went on to say the SLPP has lost a prominent politician. According to him, the deceased worked for humanity and inspired many generations.

Acting Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Ibrahim Ben Kargbo told mourners in his tribute that he knew the deceased many years ago through the Speaker of Parliament during their school days. "He was a man of society" he stated and went on to say he served society very well. He remembered several good things about the deceased and thanked every mourner on behalf of the Opposition All People's Congress (APC).

The Leader of C4C in Parliament, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina described the deceased as a distinguished Sierra Leonean and a great in-law and teacher to the Kono people. He recalled several good things about the deceased including his mayoral activities, teaching services, and

businesses. He closed his tribute with Biblical quotations and prayers, and advised the family members to take courage.

Delivering his tribute on behalf of family members and close friends, Hon. Justice John Kamanda recalled a love story of the deceased several years ago in Koidu City between the Late Cecil and Bintu, and referred to them as Romeo and Juliet. He went on to say, he was a mediator and close friend to the love that ended up in a union blessed with many children. "Goodbye my dear friend and brother and rest in perpetual peace", he concluded.

His son, Eddie Hindolo Hanson said in his tribute that his father was not only a father to them but to many others. He maintained that he was grateful for having a loving and caring father as well as a man of the people. "Your legacies would live on", and thanked all for mourning with them.

Hon. Dominic Vandi, a former Member of Parliament recalled that he knew the deceased in 2002 when he came to Parliament. He informed that he was very close to the deceased for many years, and recalled some political jokes and fond memories both in and out of Parliament.

Thomas Daddy Brima, President of SLAFA acknowledged the immense contributions made by the deceased towards the development of football and youth activities in the country. "He is part of the success stories of football", he said. He concluded his tribute by giving a football and a jersey to the family.

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