



PARLIAMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

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PRESS RELEASE



PARLIAMENT PAYS LAST RESPECT TO THE LATE HON. BENNEH BANGURA OF PORT LOKO DISTRICT

The Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone graced the Laying in State Ceremony in Parliament for the Late Hon. Benneh Bangura, formerly of constituency 055 in Port Loko District, on Friday, 30/08/2024.

The solemn Laying In State Ceremony attracted prominent state officials, including the Presidential Spokesman, the Resident Minister of the North-West Region, and representatives of the Vice President and Speaker of Parliament. The event was also graced by Leaders of both sides of Parliament, other Honourable Members, and family members, all of whom delivered mournful tributes.

Before the tributes, state officials and family members were invited to sign the book of condolence. The Resident Minister North-West signed on behalf of the Vice President, while Hon. Neneh Lebbie signed on behalf of the Speaker of Parliament. Other dignitaries followed suit, including the Presidential Spokesman, the Leader of the Opposition, the Acting Leader of Government Business, and the Clerk of Parliament.

Representing the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), Acting Leader of Government Business, Hon. Bashiru Silike, delivered a moving tribute, praising the late Hon. Benneh Bangura as a statesman and community development advocate. He fondly recalled the late Honourable's vibrant role and exemplary leadership in Parliament, where he was among the youngest members. Hon. Silike highlighted the deceased's compassion and straightforwardness, recalling their interactions during committee meetings. He expressed deep sympathy for the bereaved family and offered prayers for the deceased.

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Abdul Kargbo, equally delivered an emotional tribute on behalf of his party. He recounted the friendly rivalry he shared with the late Hon. Benneh during their political campaigns, noting how the late Honourable gracefully accepted his eventual victory and offered unwavering support. Hon. Kargbo emphasised the late Honourable's enduring legacy, including his educational contributions by paying fees for many university students. He expressed sadness at his passing and pride in his life.

In his tribute, the Resident Minister North-West, Amb. Bond Wurie acknowledged the sadness of the occasion but reminded attendees of the inevitability of death. He praised the deceased's kind nature and urged the family to remain united and accept their loss with faith.

Presidential Spokesman Alhaji Alpha Khan, who spoke as a family member and a friend, shared personal memories of the late Honourable, whom he affectionately called "Grandpa." He recounted their past political battles and celebrated the late Honourable's perseverance and dedication to serving his country. As a devout Muslim, he offered Quranic recitations, underscoring the inevitability of death and praying for the deceased's soul.

The late Honourable's son, representing the family, delivered a touching tribute, reflecting on his father's caring and supportive nature. He shared his father's aspirations for him to become a lawyer and promised to keep his memory alive, praying for Allah's forgiveness.

Finally, Alpha Dumbuya, a close friend and former Clerk of Parliament, shared a deeply emotional tribute, recalling their 27 years of friendship. He praised the late Honourable's friendly demeanour and offered prayers for his soul.

The ceremony climaxed with state officials and family members presenting flowers to the late Honourable, a final gesture of respect, love, and remembrance. The tributes delivered at the ceremony highlighted Hon. Benneh Bangura's legacy as a compassionate, committed, and honourable statesman, lasting impact on those who knew him.

The Late Honourable Benneh Bangura was born in Babara Village Lokomasama Chiefdom on August 14, 1952. Hon. Benneh Bangura attended the Elementary School of BDEC Primary School Mahera-Lungi, then the St. Edwards Secondary School Kingtom in Free-town. He worked as a storekeeper for the Ministry of Agriculture in the early 1970s. He then went to the United States of America through a scholarship visa, which allowed him to attend the University of Baltimore, where he studied Criminal Justice and earned his Bachelor's Degree of Science in Criminology. He then worked for CBs News before leaving to pursue his political dreams and becoming an APC Member of Parliament of Constituency 55 in the Port Loko District from 2007-2017. During his tenure in Parliament, he served on various committees, such as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communications 2007-2017, Committee Member of the Public Accounts Committee 2007-2017, Committee member of finance, and Ag. Regional chairman of the Northern Region of the APC party. The Late Hon. Benneh Bangura was happily married to his beautiful wife, Mrs. Sabiatu Bangura, for 27 years. He is survived by his four children living in the U.S.: Mohamed Bangura, Mrs.

Lulu Bangura-Kanu, Mohamed Chernor Bangura, and Mabinty Bangura. Hon. Benneh Bangura was an active community leader within the Lokomasama chiefdom, constituency 55 and Port Loko District.

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