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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT HONOURS DR ALBERT JOE DEMBY

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on Thursday 8th April 2021 opened and signed a Book of Condolence during the state funeral and official laying-out in State of the late former Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Hon. Dr. Albert Joe Demby.

The ceremony which took place at the parliamentary forecourt attracted several personalities including the President of Sierra Leone, Brigadier Retired Dr. Julius Maada Bio, Madam First Lady, Fatima Bio, the Leadership and Members of Parliament and host of state officials as well as family members and friends.

Officiating the event, the Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Paran Umar Tarawally made the declaration and purpose in honour of late Dr. Albert Joe Demby, which was immediately followed by prayers and blessing of the Book of Condolence; later signed by the President, Madam First Lady, former Vice President, Victor Bockarie Foh, former First Lady, Mrs. Sia Koroma, Her Worship the Mayor of Freetown, Madam Yvonne Aki Sawyer, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas, the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament, Hon. Mohamed Sidie Tunis, and Leaders of political parties in Parliament among others.

In his tribute, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament said it was a difficult moment for all including the state and went on to say the late statesman became Vice President at a very crucial time during the civil war. He also said the late former Vice President played his role well. He told the family members that they are mourning together and that they should take solace in the Lord.

On his part, the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament said in his tribute that he was saddened by the death of Dr. Demby. He told the mourners that he personally benefited from the late statesman adding that he was his secret advisor as Leader of Government Business in light of advancing and passing many legislations in Parliament when SLPP had a minority. He informed that, the departed was a patriotic Sierra Leonean who wanted goodness and peace for the country.

Giving tribute on behalf of C4C, Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina said the late man was a friend of the Kono People during the war and he also served the nation diligently. "We are paying tribute to a man who paid my fee", and went on to say that he was humble, passionate and diligent character.

Dr. Kandeh Yumkella while paying tribute to the late former Vice President said he had a contact with him through his father and was an architect of peace in Sierra Leone. He also recognized the former Vice President as a "very principled man".

On behalf of the Opposition, Hon. Ozan Thollie religiously and poetically delivered his tribute, adding that the late man delivered so well in politics and would leave a footprint on earth.

Delivering his tribute on behalf of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) in Parliament, Hon. Dickson Rogers said they are not mourning, but celebrating the life of the late former Vice President. He recalled how they interacted and the role he played for the restoration of democracy in Sierra Leone.

On her part, President of the Female Caucus in Parliament, Hon. Veronica Kadie Sesay while delivering her tribute with a religious Mende Christian song, she expressed deep sadness over the death of the late man and added that the nation will forever miss the deceased in light of his role in the body politics of the country.

Also, the Minister of Information and Communications, Hon. Mohamed Rahman Swaray in his tribute described the late man as a very thorough man and informed that it was time to celebrate the life of the deceased. He also recalled his diligent service to the nation and deep loyalty to his former Boss, the late

former President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and lined up series of quotations from Shakespeare regarding mankind and the reality of death.

Mayor of Freetown City Council, in her tribute said the late left huge impacts during his medical, political, agriculture and national duties. She said the life of the former Vice President was bright and they as a Council will continue to mourn with the family over this great and irreparable loss to family and country.

Speaking as a friend, Hon. Dr. Sama Banya said the late man followed successful medical practitioners who entered Sierra Leone politics including the late Sir Milton Margai and others including himself. According to him, he was modest and prayed for his Soul to Rest in Perfect Peace.

President of the Old Bo School Boys Association, Dr. K. O. Bah said the late former Vice President served as leader in every spheres including their school and said his attributes and character has manifested in the ways he had treated human beings. He recalled his humility and respect. He showed a perfect profile and wished him well in the world hereafter.

On behalf of the Demby Family, the Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby said they were devastated by his death. He thanked the President and Government for the support during this moment of grief regarding the late man.

Honesty, truthfulness and love for humanity were his attributes. "He was a loving and caring family man", he stated and went on to say the late man united and kept his family together. He used the opportunity to encourage the Demby Family to follow his footsteps by uniting the family.

President Bio, Madam Fatima Bio and other dignitaries laid wreaths in honour of the late former Vice President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Albert Joe Demby, whose casket was wrapped in green, white and blue, the national flag of Sierra Leone.

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