

HON. SPEAKER's eulogy to His Excellency,

Late Vice President of the Republic

Badara Alieu Joof

Monday 23rd January, 2023

- The President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Adama Barrow;
- Aja Fatou Sonko, wife of the deceased;
- My Lord, the Chief Justice of The Gambia and Justices of the superior courts;
- Former Vice Presidents here present;
- Hon. Cabinet Ministers;
- Secretary General and Head of the Civil Service
- Hon. Members of the National Assembly
- Members of the Diplomatic and Counsellor Corps;
- Service Chiefs
- The Lord Mayor of Banjul
- The Lord Mayor of Kanifing
- Regional Governors
- Senior Government Officials;
- Venerable Religious leaders
- Former National Assembly Members here present;

- Friends, Relatives and Acquaintances of Badara Alieu Joof
- Distinguished invited Personalities;
- Fellow Gambians,

It is with sadness that I pay tribute to our Vice President, Badara Alieu Joof, a true gentleman, an exceptional leader, and our good friend.

On behalf of both sides of the National Assembly, I once more convey our deepest condolences to the Joof family and relatives over the tragic and untimely loss, and to the entire nation, which is still reeling from the shock of this demise.

Badara Alieu Joof was a schoolmate at Armitage High School, a college mate at Yundum Teacher's Training College during our formative years, brother, and friend. We continued to work together in our different capacities in the development of our country years after we left the college. His determined personality, dedication to duty and warmth continue to impress me.

Never bland or boring, Badara Alieu Joof was one of those public servants who proved that service to one's country is all about the people and wanted young people to be as passionate about it as he was all his life. He was forever optimistic.

Today, in this sacred Assembly – the Vice President now Lies-in-State being honoured as a man of deep civility, quiet thoughtfulness, and sound judgment. He has confidently lived the virtues of honesty, decency, humility, and steadfastness. His example of fairness and fair play, of dignity and grace, brought forth in us our better instincts.

Badara Alieu Joof was a true patriot who has dedicated his entire life to the moral development of the Gambia. A kind and humble personality, his influence and interaction transcend, ethnic, ideological and other sectarian boundaries as he has always sought to bring about harmony, understanding and deep sense of community among those he cross paths with.

He was forthright, robust, informed, and academically grounded. His contributions were underpinned by a unique urgency and always focused on the future as he always looked to what his generation would bequeath to their next generation. In expressing his views, he was unapologetically fearless, courageous, ready to take risks, revolutionary, and a visionary.

As we mourn his untimely death, we take solace in the purposeful and exemplary life that he led. We weep because we

love the kind person that he was, we weep for the people who love him and the country that he loved.

He was a Vice President that had enormous respect for the National Assembly, always in a hurry to respond to our call and under his leadership Cabinet Ministers were always present and punctual in their dealing with the National Assembly.

To his family I say we know that the passage of time never really heals the wounds that have been occasioned by such a tragic loss. We pray that Allah grant them the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

We must carry on with the work that he was involved in with all of us, because we must, because our people would want us to, and because the memory of his life will be the light to guide us as we go forward.

Adieu Badara Alieu Joof!

May your soul rest in eternal peace! Thank you.