



National Assembly of Belize

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PRESS RELEASE

Special Joint Parliamentary Service in honour of Honourable Michael Espot, Member for Toledo East

30th April, 2024 - A Special Joint Parliamentary Service was held in the Chamber of the National Assembly in the City of Belmopan. The Service was held in honour of Honourable Michael Espot, Member for Toledo East, who passed away on Monday, 22nd April 2024. Honourable Michael Espot was first elected in 1989 to the House of Representatives and was in his sixth parliamentary term with his last election in November 2020.

Members of Parliament from both the House of Representatives and the Senate attended the service along with family, public officers, former members of parliament, CEOs of the ministries of government, friends, and colleagues to pay their respects to one of Belize's senior parliamentarians. The urn of Honourable Michael Espot was officially escorted by units of the Belize Defence Force to lie in state in the Chambers of the National Assembly for the service.

Prayers and blessings were delivered by Father Mateo Salam from Our Lady of Guadalupe, Co-Cathedral in the City of Belmopan.

Prime Minister Honourable John Briceño shared his reflections on the service of the Honourable Michael Espot and the Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Moses Barrow, delivered remarks on behalf of the Opposition.

The Joint Parliamentary Service closed with Speaker Valerie Woods delivering her observations in tribute to the parliamentarian on his decades-long career as a member of the House of Representatives in service to his country, constituency, and community. Speaker Woods expressed condolences to the family on behalf of the National Assembly of Belize and the staff of parliament.

Following the service, the urn continued to lie in state for members of the public to pay their respects in the afternoon, and the official book of condolences was made available for members of parliament, guests, and members of the public to record their messages to the family.

The official funeral service for Honourable Michael Espot will be held in Punta Gorda, Toledo on Saturday, 11th May 2024.

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