



## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RT. HON. DR. JACOB L'OKORI OULANYAH, THE SPEAKER OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

### **Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022, we received the sad news of the death of our dear Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Jacob L'Okori Oulanyah, who passed on in Seattle, in the United States of America, where he had travelled for specialised treatment.

### **Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to our departed Speaker. The Rt. Hon. Dr. Jacob Oulanyah was a gallant son of Uganda and we shall remember him for his distinguished service that he rendered to the institution of Parliament and to the country.

I thank H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his unwavering support and efforts to save the life of the late Jacob Oulanyah. I would also like to thank His Excellency the President for enabling Government to

accord him a State Funeral, that is deserving of a man of the caliber of the Rt. Hon. Dr. Jacob Oulanyah.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah was born in Gulu District (now Gulu City) on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1965 to Nathan Okori and Karen Atwon.

He studied at St. Joseph's College Layibi, Dr. Milton Obote College Boroboro, and Kololo Secondary School for his O'Level and A'Level education, respectively.

In 1988, he joined Makerere University and graduated in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts. The same year, he rejoined Makerere University, graduating in 1995 with a Bachelor of Laws. While pursuing his Law course, he served as Speaker of the Makerere University Students' Guild.

In 1996, the Rt. Hon. Oulanyah attended the Law Development Centre (LDC) and obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice. He then joined the Centre as a lecturer, and it was during this time that he began private law practice at Oulanyah, Onoria & Company Advocates.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

In 2001, Oulanyah was voted to the Seventh Parliament as Member of Parliament for Omoro County. He chaired the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, handling the challenging process of political transition and constitutional review. He steered the

committee to process two constitutional amendment Bills and nine others Bills to implement the provision of the amended Constitution.

In 2006, Oulanyah quit the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) and joined the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party. He continued to actively engage himself in legislative activities within the region, and trained numerous legislators in Kenya, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), South Sudan and Sudan on parliamentary practice and procedure. He also drafted several Rules of Procedure for other parliaments in the region.

The Rt. Hon. Dr Oulanyah was also instrumental in the restoration of peace in South Sudan. He drafted the Juba Peace Talks Agreement and was also an advisor to the Government of South Sudan, alongside other high level persons including Dr Riek Machar, who was the chief mediator in the Juba peace talks, and President Joachim Chissano, the UN Special Envoy to the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas.

In March 2011, Jacob Oulanyah was elected Member of Parliament for Omoro County on the NRM ticket and in May 2011, he was elected Deputy Speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

In 2016, the Rt. Hon. Dr Oulanyah was re-elected as Omoro County Member of Parliament and Deputy Speaker of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the Rt. Hon. Dr Oulanyah was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by Zoe Life Theological College in the United States in honour of his distinguished services and faith.

On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the Rt. Hon. Dr Oulanyah was re-elected Omoro County MP and on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, he was voted Speaker of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Jacob Oulanyah was a key figure in the northern region, offering political leadership and monitoring to the Post-conflict and recovery process of Northern Uganda. With his influence, he mobilised support for the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party in Northern Uganda, which saw the party win overwhelmingly in the region, after three decades.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah was passionate about propelling his community from subsistence survival to the money economy. To this effect, he had initiated several projects for the people of Omoro, one of which was the 'Dano Pa Dano' Foundation with a revolving fund of close to Shs3 billion, which provided start-up capital to natives for various microbusinesses. Indeed, when at his election as MP in 2021, his focus was on improving education standards, healthcare, boosting agriculture and achieving socio-economic transformation for his people in Omoro.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

Oulanyah was a father and mentor to many. At the time of his death, he was sponsoring over 200 students at Primary, Secondary and University level, respectively. He went beyond supporting them financially but took keen interest in ensuring that they grow to be successful and responsible citizens. It is this group of young people that he had in mind when he said he was careful how he handled public matters because he didn't want to set a bad example. He wanted to be a man worth emulating.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The late Oulanyah was also instrumental in the ongoing construction of the cancer institute in Omoro District. I would like urge the Ministry of Health to ensure the completion of the said cancer institute, in honour and memory of Jacob Oulanyah.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Oulanyah was not only passionate about politics but committed his life to serving God and humanity. He was a Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Kampala Central. He made donations to all major rotary activities in Uganda and contributed generously to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International to support humanitarian service.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

We wish to extend our sincere sympathies and condolences to H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda, the bereaved family, relatives, friends, honourable Members of Parliament, the people of Acholi Sub-region, and all Ugandans.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Her Excellency Maj (Rtd) Jessica Alupo R.E (MP)  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**