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## Press Release

### **Farewell message to Late Rajavarothiyam Sampanthan MP**

Born: 05-02-1933  
Passed away: 30-06-2024

It is with heavy heart that the Tamil community along with TUNO learned the sad news of Mr Sampanthan passing away at a private hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the age of 91.

He was elected as a TULF (Tamil United Liberation Front) MP for Trincomalee in 1977. He held various positions within the party. He served his consistency since then and became the leader of Tamil National Alliance from 2001 until now. He was also the leader of opposition in the Sri Lanka Parliament from 2015 to 2018.

In his political career he steadfastly canvassed the governments to deliver a peaceful solution for the Tamils in Sri Lanka without success. A parliamentarian for nearly half a century, he relentlessly voiced in the parliament on behalf of marginalised Tamils of Sri Lanka since the end of the civil war in 2009. Further, he tirelessly demanded equal rights for Tamils within united, undivided and indivisible country in vain. He based his arguments for a political solution since Tamil is one of the official language in the country and the fact that Tamils are indigenous in nature in the North East Sri Lanka with their own kingdom for over 2000 years. He continued to argue for a federal solution which the Sinhalese establishment promised but failed to keep up or implement to safeguard Tamils from repeat of atrocities committed for over 50 years especially during the final stages of the war in 2009 until his death.

He was well respected by other party leaders and the World leaders. His political knowledge and experience were recognised by World politicians and others. His death will create a vacuum in Sri Lankan politics, especially in Tamil politics when the Tamil Question remains deliberately unaddressed by all stake holders. We, Tamils will miss his eloquent command of English, political knowledge and very balanced leadership whilst appreciating his many accomplishment during his life.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and friends of late Mr Sampanthan.

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