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**PRESS RELEASE
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PARLIAMENT PASSES INTO LAW THE SIERRA LEONE PEACE KEEPING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY ACT 2017

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Tuesday 8th August 2017, debated and passed into law the Bill entitled “The Sierra Leone Peace Keeping and Law Enforcement Academy Act, 2017” with some amendments.

Presenting the Bill prior to ratification, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Rtd. Major Alfred Paolo Conteh, said that the bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Sierra Leone Peace Keeping and Law Enforcement Academy and other related matters. He highlighted the advantages the Academy will bring to the country when established .The Minister commended the President and what he called the good and effective Leadership of the Sierra Leone Police, for the positive initiative of establishing an academy for the force. He said that when the Academy is finally established, it will be more professional in handling difficult tasks within and outside the country.



Rtd. Major Paolo Conteh making his presentation to Parliament

The Minister informed Parliament that the doors of the Academy will be open not only to SLP personnel, but to police personnel in the sub-region. He further said that the academy has signed several MOUs with universities around the world to meet International best practice in policing.

MPs who spoke on the Bill, welcomed this initiative of government in re-structuring the Sierra Leone Police Force to meet international standards of policing. MPs commended the Leadership of the Force and urged them to do more, taking into consideration Sierra Leone's participation in International Peace Keeping Operations around the world.

The Acting Minority Leader Hon. Ansu Kai-Kai, welcomed the idea of the SLP Academy, and said the "transformation of the SLP has come a long way through the support of the Commonwealth in re-structuring it". He hoped that when the institution is established, it will achieve its intended purposes.

In rounding up, Majority Leader Hon. Leonard Fofanah, said the Police Academy will to come to light as "an educational institution with a different professionalism". He highlighted benefits the country will enjoy when it shall have reached its full potential.