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## **NEW REGULATIONS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC EMERGENCY & EBOLA CONTROL**

21<sup>st</sup> August, 2014

Following the ratification of the presidential proclamation of a state of public emergency throughout Sierra Leone, Parliament has passed the Public Health Amendment Act (2014), to enhance the enforcement of new public health regulations.

These regulations constitute the Public Emergency Regulations, 2014, which were also laid on the Table of Parliament today, by the Attorney General & Minister of Justice, Frank Kargbo. They are intended to work in tandem with the Public Health Amendment Act, 2014, by which Parliament amended section two of the Public Health Ordinance of 1960, to include the incidence of the Ebola viral disease and any other communicable disease.

Asking Members to accede to the amendment, the Legislative Committee Chair, Hon. Ajibola Manly-Spaine said it was necessary to do so, while Deputy Minority Leader, Alhaji Ansumana Jaia Kai-Kai described the Bill as “a righteous one,” noting that in 1960 the parent Bill (Public Health Ordinance 1960) included diseases that are now curable. For Hon. Kposowa from Bo, the passage of the Public Health Amendment Act 2014 is a direct response to resistance in some parts of the country to the erection of emergency medical structures to combat Ebola. The Minority Leader also voiced her support for the amendment.

The Attorney-General & Minister of Justice, who piloted the Bill, thanked MPs for their speedy consideration and observed that the occurrence of Ebola presented an opportunity to revisit our public health laws. The Bill was read the third time and passed into law.