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PRESS RELEASE

**PROPOSED NEW STANDING ORDERS FOR PARLIAMENT AGREED UPON BY
PARLIAMENTARY PARTY LEADERS**

The leaders of the political caucuses in the Sierra Leone Parliament has today Saturday 18/03/2023 reached agreement on updated rules of procedures for The Parliament.

The DAI Global Austria, a technical assistance implementer for the EU Governance Programme facilitated the final review and decision by the leaders at the Galliness Paradise in Bo City.

This paves the way for the Standing Orders Committee consideration of new rules of procedures and then Parliament's enactment of same into law.

The new Standing Orders will enhance efficiency and help steady the work of Parliament. The new SO will consolidate parliamentary democracy of Sierra Leone through greater consultation, consensus and decision-making by Parliament. The leaders aspire to enhance both technical & administrative support for committees through the SO to strengthen legislative and oversight functions of Parliament. The document acknowledges the need to deploy technology in the operations of Parliament through the e-Parliament initiative.

In his declaration of purpose, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Segepoh Solomon Thomas said that the Standing Orders is a fundamental tool in the life of every Parliament that guides and provides decorum in Parliament. Speaking on the need for the review to be

done in line with our democratic maturity, he said the review was a necessity since it was last done in 2006, dating 17 years ago. He said due to emerging developments, only few provisions in the current Standing Orders are in want of a review as most of the provisions are currently in synched with provisions of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Welcoming the leaders of political parties the Clerk of Parliament, Hon. Paran Umar Tarawally traced the history to the commencement of the review process, acknowledging the need for lessons learned by Parliament since 2006 when the current Standing Orders was adopted. He thanked the European Union and the UNDP who have encouraged and supported the review process since 2021. He also spoke on several meetings by all the political leaders in parliament in Freetown and Makeni, making possible for this final product which the Standing Orders Committee which is Chaired by the Speaker, will now consider and then Parliament's approval for it to bequeathed to the next Parliament.

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