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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **PARLIAMENT PASSES SIERRA LEONE WATER COMPANY ACT 2017 INTO LAW**

The Parliament of Sierra Leone on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 debated and finally passed into law the Bill entitled: “The Sierra Leone Water Company Act, 2017” with some amendments.

Presenting the Bill prior to ratification, the Minister of Water Resources, Momodu Maligie said among other things that the Act is seeking to provide for the continuation in existence of the Sierra Leone Water Company, with the aim of providing for a more efficient and effective management of community and rural water supply systems in specified areas. He furthered that the Act will also provide for the facilitation of water sanitation and delivery in Sierra Leone and other related matters.

The Act provides for the commercialization of water, such as the bulk supply of water and the provision of clean and sustainable water supply to rural communities at a reasonable cost. Some of the punishable offences under the Act are the misuse and wastage of water, the alteration of pipes or fittings, trespass on the catchment areas, and bathing or washing in and around the water works areas.

The proposed amendments presented by the House’s Legislative Committee were adopted including the involvement of SLRA in the exercise of the Company’s power to lay its mains.

MPs on both sides of the aisle acclaimed the Government of Sierra Leone for initiating and piloting such an Act bordering on the supply of clean water to the rural communities, describing it as “an indispensable commercial proposition”.