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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
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RUSSIAN DEFENCE DELEGATION PAYS COURTESY CALL TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE ARMED FORCES

A four-man delegation from the Russian Army paid a courtesy call on the Chief of Defence Staff Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General John Edison Milton and the Honourable Deputy Minister of Defence, Captain Rtd Abdul Rahaman Kamara respectively, at the Ministry of Defence on Thursday 17th November 2016. The delegation was led by General Yury Perminov, Chief of the Department of Military Cooperation in Guinea. The purpose of their visit was to follow up on the MOU to be signed between the Russian Defence Federation Army and the MoD/RSLAF in Three key areas, namely, military technical cooperation, peacekeeping operations and specialized training.

The Chief of Defence Staff of Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces welcomed the delegation and informed them that he was delighted to receive members of a larger army ready to partner with us. He informed them that the MOU is being looked at and he was sure there would be no difficulty in approving the cooperation between the Armies.

The Hon Deputy Minister of Defence, Captain Rtd Abdul Rahaman Kamara, after given the political side, also complimented the visit by thanking the Russian Federation Army for their proposed assistance towards MoD/RSLAF in the areas of training, Peace Support Operation's equipment, Armament, Medical Services and other areas. He added that, in the past, Sierra Leone had enjoyed good cooperation with the former USSR and promised that the RSLAF would always be ready to maintain the ties between the two Armies.

The Head of delegation, General Yury Perminov, in his response at the Ministry of Defence, thanked the Chief of Defence staff and the Hon Deputy Minister of Defence on behalf of the delegation and the Russian Army for the opportunity given to them. He also acknowledged the active role played by Sierra Leone's Defence Attaché to the Republic of Guinea in ensuring that the collaboration between the two Armies was fruitful especially in the field of military technical cooperation. He further stressed that the signing of the MOU is key to triggering prompt assistance to the MoD/RSLAF.

In a bid to get first hand information and as requested by the Chief of Defence Staff, the delegation visited the Peace Mission Training Center at Hastings, Armed Forces Training Center Benguema Barracks and the 34 Military Hospital Wilberforce Barracks. The Head of Delegation and Team were warmly welcomed by the Commandants of the respective Units and the Administrative Officer of the 34 Military Hospital. They were given detailed briefs on very salient issues affecting their units.

THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF ATTENDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Chief of Defence Staff Lieutenant General John E Milton today Friday 18th November 2016 attended the graduating ceremony of 13 military officers of Senior Command and Staff Training (SCAST) at the Horton Academy, Leicester Square.

The training lasted for twelve weeks and was designed to develop the students' leadership qualities, equip them with knowledge and confidence to fill their appointment roles and also to upgrade their staffing skills. The military students were drawn from the ranks of Majors to Lieutenant Colonel.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General John E Milton who served as the Guest of Honor, congratulated the student officers for completing the course. He added that training was the bedrock of military professionalism and such training was designed to prepare officers for the unforeseen and will also enable them adapt to any environment they might find themselves. He congratulated the Horton Academy Staff for their relentless effort in making the course a success. Lieutenant General John E Milton further stated that it is a must for all Senior Officers to embrace training because it toughens them in their career.

The CDS affirmed that most Senior Officers that perform extremely well on overseas courses are those who emerge successful at the SCAST. He further stressed that no officer leaves for overseas courses without going through the SCAST.

USMAN TURAY

Brigadier General

Defence Spokesman, Public Relations and Information