

President Bio meets MCC's Head of Agency



On Wednesday 13th March 2019, His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio met Cythia Huger, Head of Agency and Vice President of the Department of Administration and Finance at the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and the government of Sierra Leone signed a Threshold Program Grant Agreement pursuant to which MCC agreed to provide a grant of up to US\$ 44,400,000 to the Government for a Sierra Leone Threshold Program to reduce poverty through economic growth in Sierra Leone.

During President Bio's recent visit to the United States of America, the MCC Vice President, Cynthia Huger made a courtesy call at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington DC on Monday 11th March 2019 where she expressed her satisfaction with President Bio's performance in office. She praised the President for implementing policies which are geared towards the fight against corruption.

In the 2019 MCC scorecard, Sierra Leone passed the “Control of Corruption” with an impressive score and Sierra Leone was commended by the MCC’s Head of Agency. She was happy about the improvement in Water and Electricity Supply and praised President Bio for the governance reforms undertaken by his government.

In his response, President Julius Maada Bio thanked the Head of Agency for her commendations and pledged government’s willingness to meet the eligibility criteria as set out by the Millennium Challenge Corporation. To show his government’s commitment, President Bio said he has assigned his Vice President Dr Juldeh Jalloh to be in charge of the MCCU program and at the Ministerial level, Deputy Ministers have been tasked with the responsibility of supervising the collection of data for the Millennium Challenge Corporation’s Scorecard. The President further highlighted that his current priorities are on human capital development, the fight against corruption and the protection of women and girls. He told the MCC Vice President that he wants to see the great gains made through fiscal discipline to trickle down so that the living conditions of the ordinary Sierra Leonean would improve. The President said that even if the incentives were not there, meeting the eligibility criteria set out by the Millennium Challenge Corporation is something every responsible government would want to do.

The United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone, H.E Maria E Brewer who was part of the delegation that met with President Bio, thanked the president for gains made by his government and expressed her appreciation for strides taken by the president to protect women and girls from rape and sexual violence. The Country Director for Millennium Challenge Corporation in Sierra Leone Matthew Langhenry was also part of the delegation that met with the President.