



Since he took over supervision of the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit (MCCU), The Honourable Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of MCCU Board, Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh has shown a strong commitment to ensuring that Sierra Leone improves on its performance on the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Scorecard and eventually qualify for the MCC Compact grant. This meeting dovetailed into the revamping of the Pay No Bribe Campaign initiative as an important factor in maintaining Sierra Leone's score on the Control of Corruption Indicator.

The latest strategy adopted by the Vice President is to give Deputy Ministers the onus of spearheading the timely submission of data generated by their ministries as required by third party assessing institutions on the scorecard indicators. This move is a show of strong political will to ensure effective and timely data gathering for the MCC Scorecard to improve Sierra Leone's performance.

Addressing the Deputy Ministers and representatives at a well-attended meeting that was chaired by the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office, Madam Frances Alghali, the Vice President disclosed that an implementation plan has been designed detailing how Deputy Ministers will work with focal persons responsible for data gathering in the MDAs. The Vice President explained that the new strategy will see Deputy Ministers performing the following functions:

1. Coordinating the activities of focal persons within MDAs on data gathering for MCC scorecard;
2. Developing plans to meet the strategic objectives for passing the scorecard; and
3. Improving MDA response rate to the Pay No Bribe complaints (Responses to complaints).

He further cautioned against complacency related to the Country's recent achievement on the corruption indicator, he said:

*"We need to deepen our efforts, maintain our performance on the control of corruption and focus on passing the other indicators."*

He urged stakeholders to roll up their sleeves and implement the action plans. He said that if this strategy is fully implemented, we have a greater chance of success.

Explaining how data is generated by the MCC for its scorecard, the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit, Ndeye Fatu Koroma said that the MCC uses third party assessing institutions as data sources for the scorecard and only uses data that is published and accessible to the public. She said MDAs are responsible for timely submission of data to the third party assessing institutions (e.g. UNESCO for Primary School Expenditure data) which is published and then used by the MCC.

The Commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission Francis Ben Kaifala said the Commission is redoubling its effort to make sure that leakages within the system are reduced so that the Government can save funds to embark on development programs. He said:

“Our destiny is in our hands. We can do something about it. Collaboration is key in the fight against corruption”.