



SIERRA LEONE FLIES HIGH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Sierra Leone's stellar pass on the Control of Corruption (COC) indicator on the MCC FY 2019 Scorecard is its strongest ever recorded in the MCC country assessment which commenced in 2004. For the first time, Sierra Leone is among the top 30% of performers in the lower income category. In last year's scorecard, Sierra Leone failed the Control of Corruption indicator by 0.01 points. This resulted in Sierra Leone not passing the overall scorecard even though it passed 10 (ten) of the (20) twenty indicators including the democratic rights indicators.

Despite the setback in the previous year on the control of corruption indicator, a robust strategy to combat corruption was hatched in the redoubling of efforts to:

1. implement the Pay No Bribe Campaign;
2. increase recovery of stolen state funds;
3. increase number of prosecutions; and

4. improve collaboration with other state apparatuses, the Media and Civil Society in the fight.

Further, there is renewed commitment in the fight against corruption under the New Direction of His Excellency, the President, and Retired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. His Government has aggressively sought to improve accountability and transparency as part of its transformation agenda, and all these results are reflected in this year's historic pass on the COC indicator.

Review of Performance on the FY 2019 Scorecard

Sierra Leone marginally misses a full pass on this year's scorecard, as it meets only two out of the three scorecard criteria: passing the hard hurdle of COC and the democratic rights indicators. Sierra Leone passes 9 (nine) out of the 20 (twenty) indicators. Specifically, Sierra Leone fails the inflation rate indicator as inflation rose to 18.2%; above the maximum score of 15%. In the case of the immunization rate indicator, which was passed last year (median: 83%; SL: 83.5%), there has been an increase in the immunization rate to 85%, however, the median score increased to 85.3% which places Sierra Leone's rate negligibly below the median score.

Optimism for Compact Eligibility under the New Direction

The outstanding success on the COC indicator makes Sierra Leone well positioned to meet the requirements to secure a compact within the next year. The priorities of the New Direction including the already launched Free Quality Education for Pre Primary, Primary and Secondary School should improve performance on indicators like primary school education expenditure and girl's primary school completion rate. Moreover, this Government's commitment to fiscal discipline and reducing Government wastage will be key to improving scorecard performance in the economic freedom category of indicators.

Under the leadership of the Office of the Vice President, there is a strategy to work with relevant MDAs to roll out an action plan to pass “critical” indicators. Under the supervision of the Deputy Ministers, this process will:

1. improve the collection and storage of data; and
2. ensure the timely submission of data to third party assessing institutions for the scorecard and other international benchmarks,

Giving his reaction on the performance of Sierra Leone on the MCC FY2019 Scorecard; the Vice President Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh who is also Chairman of the MCCU Board said:

“Passing the Control of Corruption Indicator is a manifestation of our strong commitment as a Government to fight corruption and with the strategies that we have put in place, we are confident that Sierra Leone will perform better in the next Scorecard assessment.”

The United States of America Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Maria Brewer applauded Government’s efforts and said:

“Many congratulations to the Government of Sierra Leone on its continued commitment to meeting the governance goals as reflected in the 2019 MCC Scorecard. I would like to particularly recognize the significant increase in the very important Control of Corruption indicator. We remain encouraged by the progress in this area, and look forward to continued progress across the full range of indicators, particularly in economic freedom, education, and health care. We are committed to the implementation of the current US\$44 million Threshold Program, and pledge to work closely and cooperatively with the Government of Sierra Leone towards success.”