

## SIERRA LEONE BECOMES MCC COMPACT ELIGIBLE



Sierra Leone Passed 11 out of 20 indicators in the recently published Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) FY2020 Scorecard which the Government of the United States of America uses to assess the performance of countries across three broad categories including: ruling justly, investing in citizens and economic freedom. Since the introduction of the MCC Scorecard in 2014 the MCC has used it as a tool to determine countries that are eligible for US Government assistance programs. Having met the hard hurdle of control of corruption and passing over half of the scorecard (11), Sierra Leon is now eligible for MCC Compact consideration.

This year's scores illustrate a progressive trend in the fight against Corruption with an eight percent leap from 71 percent in FY 2019 to 79 percent in the recent scores for FY2020. There is a drastic improvement on the scores for Girl's Primary Completion Rate from 40% to 68%. Sierra Leone also passed the Primary Education Expenditure indicator moving from spending 0.95%

of GDP on primary education to over 1.8%, this is over a 100% transformation on this indicator. This success can be attributed to the Free Quality Education Program which is the flagship program of the New Direction Government of President Julius Maada Bio.

The United States Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Maria Brewer met with President Bio on Friday 1st November 2019 and congratulated the Government of Sierra Leone on passing the 2020 MCC Scorecard. She commended the Government for making significant progress on indicators like Girls Primary Education Completion Rates and Control of Corruption indicators. The MCC scorecard has demonstrated that since its assumption to power, the President Bio led Government has made enormous progress especially in the areas of good governance, transforming the economy and human capital development.

While Sierra Leone waits on the decision of the MCC Board later this year on whether we have done enough to secure a Compact, we will continue to implement the \$44.4 Million Threshold program to improve the financial viability of the electricity and water sectors. An award of a compact will have a transformational impact in Sierra Leone by unlocking private sector investment which will be the engine for sustained economic development for our country. The MCC grant funds within the framework of the National Medium-Term Development Plan can change the lives of Sierra Leoneans

The Government of Sierra Leone has expressed its fervent commit to the MCC process, not because of the promise of a reward but because of the tangible impact it has had in the way Government does business to ensure service delivery, effectiveness and inter-ministerial collaboration.