GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

SIERRA LEONE CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE MCC SCORECARD

Sierra Leone continues to make progress on the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Scorecard recording its third consecutive pass after its first year of Compact development.

On this year's scorecard, Sierra Leone passes the natural resource protection indictor for the first time, placing it in the 58th percentile of lower income countries. This indicator assesses the level of protection of the major biomes in a specific territory and in 2021, Sierra Leone did its first comprehensive review of the database. This achievement is part of Government's effort to develop baseline data and set targets towards its commitment to tackle climate change and environmental degradation.

Sierra Leone also continues to make gains in the area of ruling justly moving from 81% to 83% in the fight against corruption. During the reporting period, Sierra Leone launched the accountability platform under the chairmanship of the Honorable Vice President that is tasked with coordinating measurable priority actions amongst stakeholders such as ACC, Audit Sierra Leone, Ministry of Finance, the Procurement Authority and Parliament to improve accountability within the broader framework of promoting good governance. Some areas of focus include the implementation of the audit recommendations.

In the area of investing in citizens, Sierra Leone passes 5 out of 6 indicators with significant increases in Government expenditures in both health and primary education 61% and 92% respectively. Further, at 88.1%, more girls than any other period are completing primary education, a key pillar within the Free Quality Education flagship program.



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

While Sierra Leone passes 13 out of 20 indicators, there are areas that require improvements including gender in the economy where there was slight dip in performance. However, Sierra Leone expects to make improvements on this indicator area on the upcoming scorecard given the imminent enactment of the gender empowerment bill.

It could be recalled that since Sierra Leone was selected in December 2020, the Compact Development team has completed the constraints analysis and identified power as the most binding constraint to growth. In that regard, a preliminary proposal on investment opportunities in the power sector has been submitted for MCC approval. Passing the scorecard means that Compact implementation can continue into 2022 during which feasibility studies and design work will be undertaken to firm up the interventions for the multi-hundred-million-dollar Compact agreement.

The Government of His Excellency, President Julius Maada Bio remains committed to improving performance on the scorecard within its broader aspirations to promote good governance and democracy, invest in human capital development and create an enabling investment climate. Against this backdrop, Government is working expeditiously to develop a sustainable Compact program to improve access to power for all Sierra Leoneans and contribute towards inclusive green growth.

-END-

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021

For further information please contact the Sierra Leone Compact Development Unit (SLCDU), Office of the Vice President at 23 Spur Road Freetown or call +23279523877.