

Heritage

Monrovia, Liberia, Heritage, Wednesday, May 2, 2018

CEO Captan: MCC Compact Will Benefit All Vulnerable Groups



By Emmanuel Wee-dee-Conway

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA-L) says the implementation of the Millennium Challenge Compact (MCC) will benefit all vulnerable groups, including women and children.

The MCC is a US\$257 grant signed between the Governments of the United States of America (USA) and Liberia on October 2, 2015, and is aimed at encouraging economic growth and reduce poverty in Liberia by focusing on improving the inadequate road infrastructure and increasing access to reliable and affordable electricity in the country.

Among other things, the program empowers the poor and promotes shared American values through a focus on improving land rights and access, increasing girls' primary education enrollment and retention, and improving Liberia's trade policy and practices.

Speaking Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at the start of a three-day Social and Gender Integration Plan (SGIP) Training in Monrovia, Mr. Monie R. Captan, explained that the ongoing training is intended to promote investment to ensure economic growth, which could be measured in terms of increase in GDP and per Capita income including vulnerable groups. According to him, in order for an investment to impact all sectors of the population, there must be gender inclusiveness.

Captan, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, noted that planning for such integration is key to social and gender inclusion, which has an objective of MCC's poverty reduction strategy.

"Our programs, which are linked to the supply of electricity and transport, tend to improve productivity and alleviate poverty," said the MCAL CEO.

"We will undertake several programs under the SGIP. One of the interventions is to take customer service to the people. In doing so, we will take electricity to market places. We selected few market places to be electrified. Third is to provide productive use of electricity to a more sustainable activity. Lastly we are going to provide technical training to mainstream gender into the government's agenda," he, among

other things, added.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Resident Country Director of MCC, Madam Kateri Clement, said the investment in the energy sector of Liberia is geared towards promoting economic growth.

She stated that in order to be effective, such a huge investment needed to include: vulnerable groups irrespective of gender.

"The US Government wants to ensure that all vulnerable groups benefit from the compact. We will invest in a way that will impact lives," Madam Kateri indicated.

Professor Wilson Tarpeh, Minister of Commerce and Industry, praised the intervention, stating that it is cardinal for the forward march of development.

"This intervention is very significant for the forward march of our country. This is one of the key agenda items of this government's Pro-Poor Agenda," Minister Tarpeh bragged.

He then lauded the US Government for the continuing support to the growth and development of Liberia, stressing: "We are committed to working with you to ensuring that all works well."