

## QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hatè cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.  
*Dr. Martin Luther King*

# The NEWS

The Nation's NEWS Since 1989

Vol. 28 No. 230

WEDNESDAY

MAY 2, 2018 LD\$40.00

## 'MCC Is Vital To Gov't Growth'

Wilson Tarpeh Says



By A. Omaska Jallah

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (MOC), Wilson K. Tarpeh says the Millennium Challenge Compact (MCC) is vital to the growth of the Liberian government.

Minister Tarpeh said the intervention of MCC is significant to the administration of President George Weah.

According to the Commerce Minister, the base of the government is not those that are sitting in the offices but the ordinary

Liberians; "as such, the MCC will help improve the government's agenda in meaningfully impacting key sectors of the government and the ordinary Liberian citizens."

Prof. Tarpeh assured the Government of the United States of America of the Liberian government's commitment in the implementation of the MCC funds, adding that Liberia will give all support to make the work of the MCC come to fruition.

Minister Tarpeh made the comments

Tuesday at the start of a Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia social and gender integration training in Monrovia.

The MCC program will empower the poor and promote values through a focus on improving land rights and access, increasing girls education, primary education enrollment and retention and improve Liberia's trade policy and practices.

Speaking at the beginning of the four days training, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Millennium Challenge Account-Liberia (MCA), Monie R. Captan said the program is an investment that is geared towards economic growth.

According to him, the MCC

fund is linked to improving the electricity supply and other programs geared toward poverty reduction.

"The program will take electricity to market places to improve the productivity of marketers; it will also provide technical capacity to the government." Captan said.

The Millennium Challenge Compact, which came into force on January 20, 2016 between the United States government and the Liberian government provides a grant of up to \$256,726,000.00 to the Government of Liberia for roads and electricity projects which must be implemented prior to the Compact's expiration on January 19, 2021.

With three years remaining, approximately 52% of the grant has been disbursed, while 72% of the grant has been committed in contracts that have been signed.

The projects, substantially implemented under the compact so far include, the rehabilitation of the Mt. Coffee Hydro Power Plant (MCHPP); the construction of a transmission line from Mt. Coffee to the Paynesville substation; construction of small scale infrastructure for Mt. Coffee Project Affected Communities; management support to the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) through the procurement of management services contractor and contract monitoring consultant; the collection and analysis of road data to facilitate the preparation of a national road maintenance plan; and the training of road planners.

These projects have either been completed or are on schedule for completion in 2018.

For her part, the MCA-Liberia Resident Country Director, Kateri Clement lauded the Liberian government for the level of corporation in the implementation of the programs.