

## What People Said at MCC's "Vision for Africa" event to commemorate Africa Day 2009

The Millennium Challenge Corporation welcomed representatives of the diplomatic, U.S. Government, NGO, and business communities to its Washington, D.C. headquarters for a public event marking Africa Day to highlight important issues facing the continent.

*"...many countries of Africa have benefited from the MCA. I think that other countries will have money from the MCA, and I think it's a great, great way to bring the development aid to our countries."*

H.E. Aziz Mekouar  
Moroccan Ambassador to the United States

*"Let me say thank you, first of all, to MCC, its leadership, for the very important things that they do. The work is extraordinarily important."*

Ambassador Johnnie Carson  
Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

*"I also want to thank our friends at the MCC for doing what they do and doing it so well... because they care about Africa, care about development, and care about this institution. President Obama cares very, very much and he understands that right now you're facing a particular challenge in the wake of some significant progress, in terms of growth on the continent. You are feeling the pain, as we all are, but I think in particular ways, of the global financial crisis. And that's why one of the first things we did at the G-20 was to announce that we will double our assistance to agricultural development...I think that's a sign of how serious this president and this administration is."*

Gayle Smith  
Special Assistant to President Obama and Senior Director for Relief, Stabilization and Development  
National Security Council

*"...thank you very much, MCC...I believe agencies will follow your example, and this shows how committed you are for Africa, and really you are our partner, and we are ready to work with you."*

H.E. Amina S. Ali  
Permanent Representative of the African Union to the United States

*"...MCC, for me...is the culmination of kind of a dream. When we used to sit around as young people in West Africa, or East Africa where we served, and talk about what it should be like to provide foreign assistance and to engage with countries and people, the model that MCC has presented was really what most people were dreaming about -- engagement, country ownership, involvement of civil society. I serve as a board member -- one of four board members on the Millennium Challenge Corporation. And I think that's reflective of the engagement of civil society. And now we see in many of the African countries that have MCC compacts true -- not superficial engagement, but true engagement, where civil society has something to say and can contribute, and are invited to the table."*

Kenneth Hackett  
President, Catholic Relief Services

*"...the Millennium Challenge account has been part of Africa's success story over the last 10 or 15 years...we're really proud that we've been involved in advocating for the MCA since the idea was in embryo. Now we're working on our broad reform of foreign assistance. Partly we want to get our government to use the various instruments of development in a more coordinated way, and partly what we want to do is draw lessons from the MCA's experience that can be applied to U.S. foreign assistance more generally.*

*So for example, I think the MCA has shown us the effectiveness of being responsive to local people, local officials, open to public consultation. That works, to actually ask people what they want to do. And I think maybe most importantly, the MCA has shown the power: If you want development you have to have some money that is single-mindedly focused on development. So the countries that have money from the MCA don't have that money because they're strategically important to the United States; they have money from the MCA because they're doing things that are important to growth and poverty reduction in their countries."*

David Beckmann  
President, Bread for the World