



NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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The Impact of Ministry Support on Sports Development in The Gambia

AG.ED - MAHMOUD L. JAWLA

The role of sports in a nation's development cannot be understated. It unites people, fosters healthy lifestyles, and nurtures talent. In The Gambia, our athletic community is filled with potential and has steadily gained traction, gaining the attention and support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which has continuously invested in sports associations across the nation. This support has not only strengthened these associations but has also propelled our athletes to new heights of excellence, both locally and on international stages.

Historically, limited resources have hindered the growth of sports in The Gambia, restricting opportunities for athletes to develop and compete at higher levels. Recognizing this gap, the Ministry of Youth and Sports stepped in with targeted funding and resources aimed at revamping our sports infrastructure, enhancing training facilities, and enabling participation in regional and international competitions. This intervention has been transformative, breathing life into our associations and energizing our athletes to achieve beyond what many once thought possible.

For example, the Ministry's recent sponsorship of the Gambia Basketball Association's participation in the 2024 Amilcar Cabral U21 Tournament showcased the impact of these investments. The Gambia U21 Basketball Team, invigorated by the support, clinched victory in Guinea Bissau, defeating regional giants and proudly representing our nation. Such achievements are only possible when athletes are backed by strong associations with access to necessary resources and a clear pathway to competitive arenas. Foday Gorgi Sowe, our star player and MVP, exemplifies how well-placed support can turn potential into victory.

The Ministry's support has helped associations organize leagues, training programs, and community outreach efforts, all of which are crucial to nurturing talent at the grassroots level. This model creates a robust talent pipeline, ensuring that young athletes across the country have opportunities to grow and excel.

This triumph serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when a nation invests in its youth and provides them with the tools to succeed. The Gambia is poised to build on this success, and the future of our basketball is brighter than ever. Let this victory inspire us all to continue fostering excellence in our sports and reaffirm our commitment to nurturing the next generation of champions.

As we move forward, the National Sports Council will continue working closely with the Ministry to amplify these successes. We are committed to refining this approach, ensuring that our associations and athletes receive unwavering support to compete at the highest levels. Together, we are on a path to excellence, building a sports culture that inspires, empowers, and unites our nation.

Our athletes have proven that with the right support, they can compete on the global stage. The Ministry of Youth and Sports' dedication to our sports community has laid the groundwork for a bright future, and it is an honor to witness this journey of growth and achievement.

Mahmoud L Jawla



The Gambia Scrabble Federation Extends Gratitude to Government for Support in Kigali Championship Success

The Gambia Scrabble Federation (GSF) has expressed its profound gratitude to the Gambian Government for its crucial support in enabling Team Gambia's participation in the recently concluded African Scrabble Championship (ASC) in Kigali, Rwanda. This support, facilitated by the National Sports Council (NSC) under the Ministry of Youth and Sports, led by the dynamic Hon. Minister Bakary Badjie, has been pivotal in showcasing The Gambia's potential on the international stage. Thanks to a substantial contribution of one million dalasis from the Ministry of Youth & Sports, The Gambia's participation underscores the ministry's commitment to fostering excellence and international representation in diverse sports arenas.

Reflecting on the team's journey, GSF Scribe Ousman Conteh emphasized the importance of the government's backing, stating, "We will continue to use the mind game to project The Gambia in a positive light on and off the board." The federation believes this support was instrumental in the team's successful participation and remarkable improvement since the previous ASC held in 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia. The ten-member team, led by GSF President Njie Ebou, finished in 5th place in the team event, competing among 92 participants from 11 countries. In the individual category, five Gambian players ranked in the top 50, with Maju Bah (27th), Omar Jah (31st), Salifu Jabang (37th), Richard Sock (44th), and Njie Ebou (46th) delivering standout performances.

This financial backing represents a significant shift, particularly as previous constraints prevented Team Gambia from attending the World Championship in Las Vegas and limited their presence at the last West African Scrabble Championship in Lagos. This year, however, with the government's help, Team Gambia proudly made it to Kigali, marking a new era for the country's scrabble aspirations.

Looking ahead, GSF is gearing up for the 2025 MGI World Championship and the World English Scrabble Players Association Championship (WESPAC) in Accra, Ghana. Preparations are set to begin in mid-November with the Mid-Month Tournament at the New Scrabble Center in Brusubi, featuring 20 rounds of competition, including 16 Swiss and 4 King of the Hill pairings.

Conteh extended special thanks to Mahmoud Lamin Jawla, the Acting Executive Director of the NSC, for his steadfast support and encouragement throughout the team's preparation for the ASC. As Gambia Scrabble moves forward, the team remains dedicated to promoting the nation on the global stage, bolstered by the unwavering support of the NSC and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Gambia Cricket Team Fails to Qualify for Next Stage in ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifiers

The Gambia's journey in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifier Group B ended in disappointment as the team closed out the tournament without a win, finishing last in the group. Despite substantial support from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which provided D750,000.00 to back the team's preparations and participation, the Gambian side was outperformed across all five matches, ultimately failing to qualify for the next stage.

Group B Table Summary

In a dominating performance, Zimbabwe emerged undefeated, winning all five of its matches and securing 10 points with an impressive Net Run Rate (NRR) of 8.893, making them the undisputed leader of the group. Kenya followed in second place with 8 points and an NRR of 3.108, while Mozambique and Rwanda, with 6 and 4 points respectively, showed competitive performances. Seychelles managed to secure one win, ending with 2 points, while Gambia finished bottom with 0 points and the lowest NRR in the group at -7.219.

Gambia's Performance Analysis

Gambia struggled to keep up with its competitors, ending with a disheartening record:

- Matches Played: 5
- Wins: 0
- Losses: 5
- Points: 0
- Net Run Rate (NRR): -7.219

The team's NRR reflected significant deficits in each game, highlighting Gambia's difficulties with both bat and ball. They scored a total of 242 runs over 60 overs, averaging just 48.4 runs per match, while conceding a hefty 662 runs in just 58.5 overs, suggesting a lack of consistency and control in both batting and bowling departments.



Mustapha Touray Shines at FIBA Africa Regional Youth Camp in Cameroon

Mustapha Touray, one of Gambia's rising basketball talents, has returned from Douala, Cameroon, after completing an impressive four-day stint at the FIBA Africa Regional Youth Camp. The young player stood out as one of the top performers, representing the nation with pride in a camp that brought together athletes from 24 African countries.

Touray was selected as part of the All-Star team and recognized as one of the top five players at the camp, which featured teams from Bamenda and Kibiri. Speaking to the Gambia Basketball Association's media officer, he expressed his excitement and pride in the opportunity.

"I'm so proud to represent The Gambia at the FIBA regional youth camp and to be part of the All-Star team and one of the five best players in the region," Touray said.

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NSC's Chairman Hon. Lamin S. Jawara Graced Super Cup Final Named in His Honor

The Hon. Lamin S. Jawara Super Cup Final 2024 took place on Saturday, October 19th, at the Kerewan Mini-Stadium, marking a historic moment for the football-loving community of Lower Badibou. Suwareh Kunda FC emerged victorious in the thrilling contest, securing a 1-0 win over Saaba FC. They proudly took home a giant trophy and a cash prize of D5,000. Saaba FC, the valiant runners-up, were awarded D3,000, while the organizing committee received D5,000 and two FIFA match balls as logistical support.

At the heart of this landmark event was Hon. Lamin S. Jawara, Chairman of the National Sports Council and the event's sponsor. His unwavering dedication to grassroots sports development played a pivotal role in bringing this Super Cup Final to Lower Badibou for the first time, underscoring the district's rising prominence in Gambian football. Hon. Jawara's commitment to empowering local communities through sports was visible throughout the event, reinforcing his vision for a thriving sports culture across The Gambia.

The match kicked off at 4:30 PM and drew an enthusiastic crowd, with fans and community members from across Lower Badibou gathering to support their teams. Under the leadership of Ebrima Singhateh, the sports committee worked tirelessly to make this event a success, elevating Lower Badibou's profile as a promising venue for future competitions.

This unforgettable day in Kerewan not only celebrated local football talent but also demonstrated Hon. Jawara's enduring impact on grassroots sports and his vision for youth empowerment through athletics.



Jahara Koita Secures Move to Police Volleyball Club in Rwanda

Jahara Koita, Gambia's outstanding outside hitter, has officially secured a move to Police Volleyball Club in Rwanda. The transfer marks another major milestone in the career of the Gambian star, who continues to make waves in international volleyball.

Koita has previously featured in some of the toughest volleyball leagues across Africa, including Algeria and Senegal, where his remarkable talent earned him a reputation as a fierce competitor.

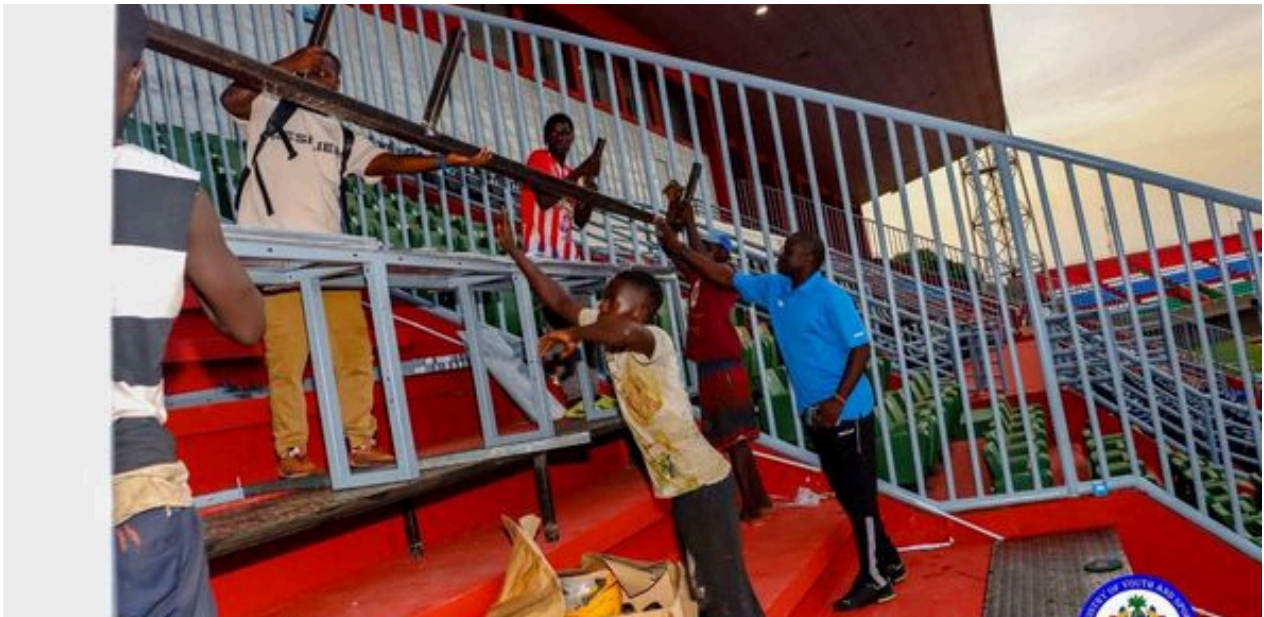
This move to Rwanda's Police Volleyball Club opens an exciting new chapter for Koita, who is expected to strengthen the team with his experience and powerful plays.



Fatou Ceesay Signs One-Year Deal with KEPLER Volleyball Club in Rwanda

The Gambia's rising indoor volleyball star, Fatou Ceesay, has taken a major step in her professional career by signing a one-year contract with KEPLER Volleyball Club, a premier volleyball team based in Kigali, Rwanda. The deal marks a significant milestone in Ceesay's journey as she transitions to international competition.

Fatou, known for her exceptional skills and dynamic play on the court, has made a name for herself in Gambian volleyball circles, and this move to KEPLER VC will provide her with an opportunity to showcase her talent on a larger stage. Her signing not only elevates her career but also serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes back home.



Minister Bakary Y. Badjie Intensified Supervision of Independence Stadium Renovation

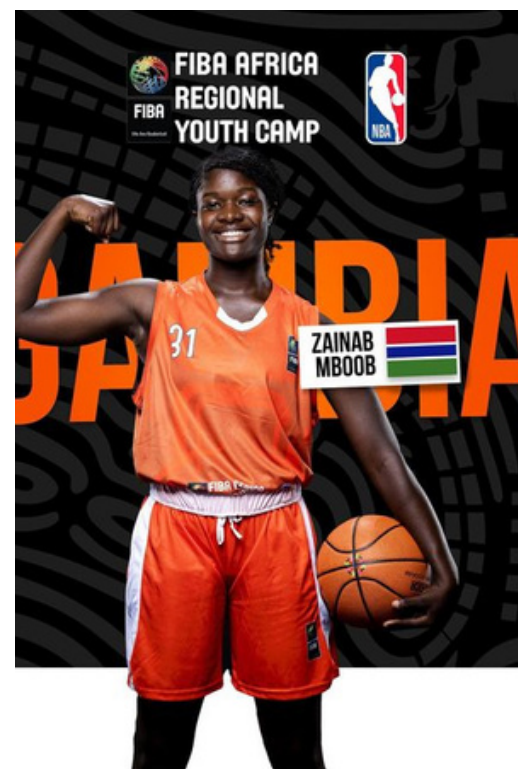
The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Bakary Y. Badjie, visited the Independence Stadium on Monday, October 14th, and Tuesday, October 15th, to inspect the final stages of the remodelling efforts aimed at meeting international standards. The visit which went through the day-to-night fall focused on overseeing the installation of key equipment, including field markings, the medical area, and the media tribune, among other essential upgrades.

The minister's commitment to ensuring the timely completion of the project has been evident, as he has personally supervised the progress these days, staying at the stadium late into the night. His hands-on approach underscores his dedication to seeing the work finalized swiftly, with the government fully funding the renovation through the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Zainab Mboob Returns from FIBA Africa Youth Camp, Prepares Gambian Team for U16 3x3 Tournament in Dakar

Zainab Mboob has returned from the FIBA Africa Regional Youth Camp held in Ivory Coast, where she represented The Gambia with pride. Fresh from her experience at the elite camp, Zainab has jumped straight into action, training her teammates for the upcoming U16 3x3 basketball tournament set to take place in Dakar, Senegal.

Her dedication to developing her team and sharing the skills she gained at the camp highlights her commitment to Gambian basketball and her passion for elevating the game among her peers.



Mansa Kunda Ministerial Townhall in Pictures





NSC Chairman Lamin S. Jawara Earns MSc in Public Administration

The Chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC), Lamin S. Jawara, has achieved a significant academic milestone, having successfully defended his Master's thesis and earned a Master of Science (MSc) in Public Administration. His graduation took place yesterday, marking the culmination of his hard work and dedication to his studies.

Lamin S. Jawara's accomplishment further strengthens his capacity to lead in the public sector as well as sports arena, as he continues to serve as a key figure within The Gambia's sports community.

His achievement is a source of pride for the National Sports Council and serves as an inspiration to others in the sector who aspire to further their education. Congratulations to Chairman Jawara on this outstanding academic success!



GNOC Announces Date for 2024 Annual General Meeting and Elective General Assembly

The Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) has officially announced that its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Elective General Assembly will be held on Saturday, 23rd November 2024, starting at 11:00 a.m. The AGM, which serves as a critical event for the country's sports administration, will include the election of key members to the GNOC executive.

The GNOC remains committed to ensuring that the assembly is conducted smoothly and inclusively, as it plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of Gambian sports.



Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, Successfully Participates in Mansa Kunda Ministerial Townhall

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, successfully participated in the Mansa Kunda Ministerial Townhall at the OIC Conference Room on Friday 11th October, addressing various issues related to youth development, sports, and governance. The event brought together stakeholders from government, youth organizations, sports associations, and community leaders to engage in a dialogue focused on the ministry's achievements, challenges, and future plans.

In his opening remarks, Minister Badjie highlighted the significant progress made under his leadership, including infrastructural development, funding for sports initiatives, and youth empowerment programs. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the government and civil society in order to maintain the momentum of these efforts.

Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback, with discussions covering topics such as the renovation of the Independence Stadium, support for grassroots sports development, and employment opportunities for youth. Minister Badjie reassured the audience of the government's commitment to addressing the concerns raised and finding sustainable solutions to the challenges faced by the youth and sports sectors.

The townhall event concluded with a pledge from Minister Badjie to continue prioritizing youth development and sports as pillars for national growth, while calling on all stakeholders to work together towards achieving the country's goals.

The Mansa Kunda Ministerial Townhall is part of a broader government initiative to foster transparency and accountability by directly engaging with citizens and providing updates on key projects and policies.



British High Commissioner Honours Olympians and Celebrates Achievements in Sport

In an event graced by notable dignitaries and sports enthusiasts, the British High Commissioner to The Gambia, H.E. Harriet King, and her spouse, William King, hosted a reception celebrating Gambian Olympians and the contribution of government to sports development. Held on Wednesday, 9th October, at the High Commissioner's residence in Cape Point, the occasion highlighted the achievements of Gambian athletes who have proudly represented the nation on the global stage.

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, in delivering his remarks, expressed deep appreciation for the athletes' dedication and accomplishments. He acknowledged that even prior to the Olympic Games, Gambian athletes made significant strides in regional competitions, pointing out Gina Bass's outstanding performances at the African Games held in Ghana this year, where she secured victories in both the 100m and 200m, qualifying for the Olympics and subsequently becoming the fastest woman in the African continent.

Hon. Badjie noted the challenges faced by other athletes in sports like swimming, taekwondo, and judo, but underscored the collective pride that the country feels for all its sports representatives. "As a nation and as a government, we recognize the immense contributions of these great ambassadors. They have brought attention to The Gambia on the international stage, something not all of us could achieve, which is why we value and celebrate them," he stated.

The Minister further expressed gratitude to the British High Commissioner for organizing the thank-you reception, recognizing the effort to celebrate The Gambia's achievements in sports. He emphasized the government's commitment to fostering greater collaboration in sports, not only with international Organizations but also with foreign offices such as the British High Commission.

A notable mention in his speech was the appreciation of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior, as many athletes in The Gambia come from these ministries. Hon. Badjie highlighted the vital role that the security sector plays in promoting sports across the country, stating, "We are grateful for everything the security sector does in advancing sports, and that is why we invited these ministries to join us today."

The event underscored the importance of sports in fostering bilateral relationship, unity and national pride and opened the door for more collaborative efforts to further elevate Gambia's presence in the global sporting arena..





Introducing Mr. Mahmoud Lamin Jawla, NSC Acting Executive Director

Introducing Mr. Mahmoud Lamin Jawla, the Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council (NSC) of The Gambia. With a strong vision for the future of sports in the country, Mr. Jawla has played a pivotal role in strengthening collaboration between the NSC and various national sports associations and federations. His leadership is characterized by a deep commitment to advancing grassroots sports, nurturing youth talent, and promoting the development of diverse sports disciplines.

Under Mr. Jawla's tenure, significant strides have been made towards ensuring effective governance in sports administration. His efforts are focused on creating a structured framework that positions The Gambia for growth in its sporting achievements. Through his initiatives, he aims to empower athletes, enhance training facilities, and foster a culture of excellence in sports, ultimately contributing to the nation's success on both local and international stages. Mr. Jawla's dedication and strategic approach are instrumental in shaping a brighter future for Gambian sports.

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