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INDEPENDENCE STADIUM, BAKAU



AMBASSADOR'S BOOST: GAMBIA WRESTLING TEAM KICKED OFF ECOWAS TOURNAMENT IN ABUJA

Abuja, Nigeria – On the morning of March 6th, the opening ceremony of the highly anticipated ECOWAS Wrestling Tournament officially commenced, and the Gambian wrestling team received a significant morale boost from their Ambassador to Nigeria, Honourable Muhammed Papa Niie, and Counsellor Mustapha Sosseh. The Ambassador's early morning visit to the Gambian delegation at their hotel underscored the nation's unwavering support for its athletes.

Hon. Niie's presence was more than a courtesy call. He engaged with the wrestlers, offered words of encouragement, and expressed confidence in their abilities to represent The Gambia with pride and distinction. His visit reinforced the importance of the tournament and the national spirit backing the team.

Further demonstrating his commitment, Ambassador Niie accompanied the entire Gambian contingent to the stadium, ensuring they felt supported and ready for competition. This gesture made a powerful statement, highlighting the strong bond between the Gambian embassy and its sporting representatives.

The wrestlers, visibly energized by the Ambassador's support, focused on delivering their best performances. The team had undergone rigorous training in preparation for the tournament, and with the added motivation from the Ambassador's encouragement, they were poised to make a strong showing in Abuja.

As the tournament got underway on March 6th, all eyes were on the Gambian wrestlers, who carried the hopes and aspirations of their nation. The Ambassador's dedication provided a crucial boost, setting the stage for a potentially successful tournament for The Gambia.

**NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL
THE GAMBIA**

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INDEPENDENCE STADIUM - BAKAU





AFRICA CDC NATIONAL COORDINATOR MODOU NJIE HOSTED SPECIAL DINNER FOR GAMBIA WRESTLING TEAM IN ABUJA

Abuja, Nigeria – March 7, 2025 - In a powerful show of patriotism and support, Modou Njie, former Director of Health Promotion and Education in The Gambia and now the National Coordinator at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) for the West African region, hosted a special dinner on the night of March 7, 2025, for The Gambia's wrestling team in Abuja. The team was in Nigeria participating in the ECOWAS African Wrestling Tournament.

The event, held at Njie's residence in Abuja, was a moment of celebration, motivation, and camaraderie as the team continued their quest for regional glory. Also gracing the occasion was The Gambia's Councilor in Abuja, Mr. Sosseh, who joined in encouraging the athletes.

Njie, a highly respected public health expert and leader in Africa's disease prevention and control efforts, used the gathering to reaffirm his commitment to supporting Gambian athletes and promoting sports as a unifying force. Speaking to the team, he praised their dedication and resilience, highlighting the significance of their representation at the ECOWAS tournament.

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL

The National Sports Council (NSC) is deeply saddened by the passing of Molamin Sanyang, a dedicated sports journalist from Star FM/TV. His sudden departure is a great loss to the media fraternity and the entire sports community in The Gambia.

Molamin was a passionate journalist who played a vital role in promoting sports through his insightful reporting and unwavering commitment. His contributions to sports journalism were invaluable, and his presence will be dearly missed.

On behalf of the NSC, the Acting Executive Director, Mahmoud L Jawla extend heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues at Star FM/TV, Sports Journalist Association and the entire media and sports community. May Allah (SWT) forgive his shortcomings, grant him Jannatul Firdaus, and provide strength to his loved ones during this difficult time. Ameen.

National Sports Council
Banjul, The Gambia





GAMBIA FACES SETBACKS AT ECOWAS AFRICAN WRESTLING TOURNAMENT IN ABUJA

The Gambia's national wrestling team faced a tough outing at the ECOWAS African Wrestling Tournament held in Abuja, Nigeria, finishing fourth in the group stages and failing to advance beyond the first round in the individual categories.

The team's campaign was significantly hampered by the disqualification of two Gambian wrestlers during the weigh-in before the tournament commenced. This setback impacted the squad's overall performance, making it difficult for them to progress against strong opposition from across the region.

Despite their efforts, The Gambia struggled to gain momentum, crashing out early in the individual categories and missing out on a place in the tournament's latter stages.

The competition, which concluded on March 8, showcased intense rivalries among West African nations, with some of the continent's top wrestlers battling for supremacy.

MINISTER BAKARY Y. BADJIE OPENS SJAG CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, Saturday presided over the opening of a two-day capacity-building training on financial reporting and budget analysis for sports journalists from various Gambian media houses.

Organized by the Sports Journalists' Association of The Gambia (SJAG) and funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the training aims to equip journalists with the skills to efficiently review financial information and develop analytical stories that benefit stakeholders and the public.

In his opening remarks, Minister Badjie congratulated the newly elected SJAG executive for prioritizing the capacity building of its members. He encouraged journalists to go beyond reporting match results and delve into the financial aspects of sporting events with accuracy and fairness. He further urged them to use their platforms to advocate for increased public and private investment in the sports sector.





GAMBIA'S U17 TEAM RECEIVES OFFICIAL SEND-OFF TO AFCON

Minister of Youth and Sports, Honourable Bakary Y. Badjie, presented the national flag to The Gambia's U17 national team on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the National Technical Training Center (NTTC) in Old Yundum. This ceremony marked the team's official send-off to the African Cup of Nations in Morocco.

The event, attended by National Sports Council (NSC) Acting Executive Director, Mahmoud L. Jawla, Gambia Football Federation (GFF) President Lamin Kaba Bajo and other officials, saw Minister Badjie emphasize the team's national representation and the government's support for their World Cup qualification aspirations. He referenced Gambia's past U17 AFCON victories in 2005 and 2009, expressing hope for a third title.

GFF President Lamin Kaba Bajo acknowledged the government's support, while Acting Director of the National Sports Council, Mahmoud L. Jawla, and GFF First Vice President, Bakary Jammeh, offered congratulations and best wishes.

The two-time champions, The Gambia, departed for Morocco, returning to the U17 AFCON after over a decade. They were scheduled to begin their Group C campaign against Senegal in El Jadida on Monday, April 1, 2025.

NSC MOURNS THE PASSING OF LAMIN JARJU, CHAIRMAN OF FONI BINTANG KARANAI DISTRICT SPORTS COMMITTEE

The National Sports Council (NSC) on April 6th 2025, expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Lamin Jarjou, the people of Foni, and the entire Gambian sports fraternity following his passing two days ago.

Mr. Jarjou was the Chairman of the Foni Bintang Karanai District Sports Committee until his demise. He was also an active member of the Foni Agency for Rural Development (FARD), where he championed youth and sports development across communities in the Foni region.

Known for his unwavering commitment to grassroots sports, Mr. Jarjou played a key role in organizing local tournaments and promoting youth engagement through sport.

The National Sports Council joins his family, the Foni community, and all those who knew and worked with him in mourning his loss.



PICTORIAL - NSC TWO-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON PROJECT WRITING





6 April 2025

International Day of Sport For Development and Peace

THEME

“Leveling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion.”

NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL OF THE GAMBIA COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE 2025

On 6th April 2025, the National Sports Council (NSC) joins the global community in commemorating the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) under the theme: “Leveling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion.”

This year’s theme underscores the power of sport as a unifying force in our communities — one that promotes fairness, breaks down barriers, and creates opportunities for all, regardless of gender, ability, background, or status. At the heart of this celebration is the belief that sport can be a powerful tool for building inclusive societies, where everyone has an equal opportunity to participate, compete, and thrive.

In The Gambia, the NSC reaffirms its commitment to using sport as a catalyst for social change, peacebuilding, and national unity. Through strategic partnerships with sports associations, grassroots organizations, and development partners, the Council continues to drive initiatives that empower youth, promote gender equity, and integrate marginalized groups into the national sporting framework.

By investing in community sports infrastructure, supporting inclusive sporting events, and advocating for policies that ensure equal access to sport, the NSC is working to create a level playing field for all Gambians.

As we observe this significant day, the NSC encourages every Gambian to reflect on the role of sport in their communities and to harness its potential to build bridges, foster understanding, and contribute to a peaceful and inclusive society.

Together, let us celebrate sport not just as a game, but as a pathway to peace, equality, and development.



GFF MARKETING TEAM VISITED NSC TO PROMOTE NATIONAL TEAM JERSEYS

On April 7, 2025, the Marketing Team of the Gambia Football Federation (GFF), led by Bakary B. Baldeh, paid a courtesy visit to the Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council (NSC), Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, at his office located at the Independence Stadium in Bakau.

The purpose of the visit was to promote and market the official jerseys of The Gambia National Football Team.

During the meeting, Mr. Baldeh and his team showcased the different jersey designs to the NSC leadership, emphasizing their quality and encouraging greater support to raise awareness and boost sales among institutions and the general public. The initiative formed part of a broader effort to promote national identity and foster unity through football merchandise.

Mr. Jawla welcomed the team and commended the GFF for their continued efforts in elevating football marketing in the country. He assured them of the NSC's support in enhancing visibility for the jerseys, particularly as The Gambia continues to make strides in regional and international football arenas.

NSC CONCLUDES TWO-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON PROJECT WRITING

The National Sports Council (NSC) on Friday, 11 April 2025, successfully concluded a two-day capacity building training on project proposal writing for its staff and board members. Held at the President's International Awards (PIA) conference halls in Bakau, the training focused on equipping NSC managers and technical staff with essential skills in project design, budgeting, and proposal development.

The workshop was officially opened on Thursday by NSC Board Member Mr. Saikou Bojang, on behalf of the Board Chairman, Mr. Lamin Jawara, and led by Acting Executive Director Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, who emphasized the Council's commitment to strengthening internal capacity for effective service delivery.

Facilitated by Samba Keita from ChildFund, the training featured interactive sessions on writing fundable proposals, aligning project goals with national development priorities, and meeting donor expectations.

Participants expressed satisfaction with the quality of the training and pledged to apply the knowledge gained to improve the Council's project development efforts. Certificates were presented at the end of the program to all participants.





YOUNG GAMBIAN MMA FIGHTERS WIN GOLD IN DAKAR, HONORED BY NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL

Two rising stars of Gambian Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), Basiru Sallah (10) and Abdou Nyang (12), were officially recognized by the National Sports Council (NSC) on Monday, 6th January 2025, following their triumphant return from Dakar, Senegal, where they each clinched gold medals in an international competition.

The young champions were part of a delegation led by Master Modou Jagne, President and Head Coach of the Gambian MMA team. The delegation presented the medals to NSC officials during a special visit, introduced by Mr. Ebou Secka, Program Manager at the NSC.

Addressing the gathering, Master Jagne praised the determination, discipline, and talent of the young athletes. He emphasized that despite limited resources and financial challenges, he believed in their potential and made the bold decision to take them to Dakar for the competition.

“These kids are young, but their talent spans across all martial arts categories,” Master Jagne said. “They are the future of Gambian MMA.”

In addition to Basiru and Abdou, the team also featured Alpha Foday Bah and Muhammed Ndong Boy Serene, both 13 years old, who also represented The Gambia with pride. Master Jagne expressed heartfelt appreciation to the NSC for facilitating the necessary clearances that enabled the team’s participation in the competition.

Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, Acting Executive Director of the NSC, congratulated the team for their remarkable achievement, commending Master Jagne’s commitment to nurturing young talent under challenging circumstances.

“This success reflects the dedication of Master Jagne and these promising young athletes,” said Mr. Jawla. “Early development in sports lays a strong foundation for future excellence. While support may not always be consistent, we recognize the significance of this achievement and will engage the Ministry of Youth and Sports to explore further ways of supporting them.”

He encouraged the young athletes to remain focused and assured them that their achievements would be communicated to the Ministry.

This milestone not only brings pride to The Gambia but also underscores the growing potential of MMA in the country. It is a compelling reminder of the impact of grassroots sports development in shaping the next generation of champions.





GAMBIA HOSTS SUB-REGIONAL MIXED MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Gambia recently hosted a sub-regional mixed martial arts (MMA) championship at Africell-KM Park in Bakau, organized by the Gambia Martial Arts Association. The competition featured participants from The Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea, attracting passionate martial artists and enthusiasts from across the region.



The open championship, which replaced the association's usual national MMA tournament, saw The Gambia dominate the medal tally. Represented by four martial arts clubs, Gambian fighters claimed six gold medals, three silver, and two bronze. Senegal followed with four gold medals, while Guinea secured one. Notably, The Gambia's under-15 team delivered an impressive performance, clinching eight gold medals.

One of the event's highlights was the crowning of Ebrima Jallow, popularly known as "Guigy," as the champion of the Gambia MMA Fight Night in the 89kg category. Jallow, who trains at Master Moo's Club, defeated two Senegalese opponents to secure the title.



Speaking after the event, Modou Jang, alias Master Moo and President of the Gambia Martial Arts Association, emphasized that the open championship aimed to empower and promote martial arts in the country. He praised the performance of visiting athletes and expressed gratitude for their participation.

However, Master Moo also voiced concerns over the challenges the association faces, particularly the lack of financial support. "Martial arts is a sport like any other, and we deserve support," he said, calling on both the government and private sector to invest in the discipline as a way of empowering youth and promoting employment.

Senegalese coach Sayerr Nyang described the event as significant for regional collaboration. "The Gambia and Senegal are one people. Our participation is not just about winning but reinforcing our partnership with the Gambia Martial Arts Association," he stated.



DARSILAMI NAWEETAAN KNOCKOUT FINAL: D ROAD CLINCH VICTORY IN DRAMATIC FINISH

The final of the Darsilami Sports Committee's Naweetaan Knockout Tournament took place on Sunday April 20th, 2025 in Darsilami, West Coast Region, bringing an exciting close to a competition held in loving memory of the late Musa "Mois" Jatta and Joseph "Dodou" Demba.

The much-anticipated final saw D Road edge past Port More with a narrow 1-0 victory. After a goalless first half, the winning goal came just six minutes before the end of regular time, sealing the win for D Road and sparking celebrations among their fans.

The occasion was graced by the presence of the Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council, Mr. Mahmoud Lamin Jawla, who deputized for the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Bakary Y. Badjie. His attendance highlighted the Ministry's continued support for grassroots sports development across the country.

The Naweetaan tournament has once again proven to be a powerful tool for community engagement and youth empowerment through sport.

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