



# NSC SPECIAL

## EDITION



JUNE ISSUE 009

INDEPENDENCE STADIUM, BAKAU



### MOYS BOOSTS SPORTS WITH OVER D15 MILLION IN STRATEGIC SUPPORT

Demonstrating its continued commitment to national sports development, the Ministry of Youth & Sports (MoYS) recently disbursed over D15 million to key federations and athletes to support international preparations and competitions.

The Gambia Football Federation (GFF) received D10 million to cover expenses related to the Scorpions' training camp in Morocco.

In a similar effort, D1.8 million was allocated as direct financial assistance to The Gambia's top five Paris-based athletes, helping cover their training fees and upkeep as they gear up for upcoming global events.

The Gambia Volleyball Federation also received a boost, with D800,000 granted to facilitate the country's participation in the African Nations U21 Beach Volleyball Championship, also scheduled for Morocco.

Additionally, D500,000 (five hundred thousand dalasis only) was provided to the United Front in support of the sixth edition of the Banjul International Marathon. The Tijan Jaiteh Foundation was awarded D2.3 million to fund airfare for The Gambia's U-16 team participating in the prestigious Norway Cup.

This timely financial support underscores MoYS's unwavering dedication to nurturing Gambian talent and ensuring national teams and athletes remain competitive on both continental and global stages.





## **NISA BRIEFS SPORTS MINISTER ON AFRICGAMES PARTICIPATION, APPRECIATES MINISTRY'S FUNDING**

The National Inter-Departmental Sports Association (NISA) on Tuesday paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, at his office in Banjul.

During the visit, NISA presented a draft report on their participation in the L'OSTA AfricGames held in Dakar and Mbour, Senegal. The delegation, led by President Saikou Jarju, also updated the Minister on upcoming events, including the 2025 National Inter-departmental Sports Competition in The Gambia and another continental games to be held in Algeria.

Minister Badjie praised NISA for their efforts in promoting workplace sports and reaffirmed his Ministry's support. He also commended their recent performance in Senegal, where they won a silver medal. Mr. Jarju thanked the Minister for his continued backing and encouraged more engagement from the Ministry in future NISA activities.



## **GAMBIA TO HOST SAFRA 2025: UPPER RIVER REGION DELEGATION MEETS YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER**

As The Gambia prepares to host the 32nd edition of the Week of Friendship and Fraternity in West Africa—widely known as SAFRA, the SAFRA bureau delegation from the Upper River Region (URR) paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Bakary Y. Badjie, on Wednesday.

The delegation, led by URR Governor Samba S. Bah, met with the Minister to formally brief him and his team on the country's preparations to host the sub-regional event in 2025. SAFRA, a rotational convergence among six neighboring West African nations, promotes peace and integration through sports, cultural displays, trade exhibitions, and youth engagement programs.

In his welcoming remarks, Minister Badjie reaffirmed the government's commitment to advancing youth development, regional collaboration, and initiatives that foster peace and inclusion.





## **MINISTER BADJIE CHAMPIONS COLLABORATIVE REFORM AT FOOTBALL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM**

Kotu, The Gambia – In a strong reaffirmation of government support for the development of football, Honourable Bakary Y. Badjie, Minister of Youth and Sports, has emphasized the Gambia Government's strategic focus on professionalizing the national football ecosystem, describing it as a key national objective.

Delivering the keynote address at a high-level Stakeholder Dialogue on the Professionalisation of Football, held at a local hotel in Kotu on Thursday, June 12, Minister Badjie stated that transforming football into a sustainable, professional industry is integral to national development.

"Football is more than entertainment—it is a powerful engine for youth empowerment, social unity, economic opportunity, and national identity," Minister Badjie noted. "Our collective goal must be to elevate our domestic league to meet international standards, and that requires vision, coordination, and investment."

The forum, organized by the Gambia Football Federation (GFF), gathered club owners, coaches, sponsors, development experts, and institutional partners to chart a unified course for the professionalization of Gambian football.

Minister Badjie outlined how the recently launched National Sports Policy (2024–2034) complements this vision, with specific focus on improving governance, expanding infrastructure, supporting talent development, and fostering public-private collaboration. He also welcomed the GFF's forthcoming Business Plan as a vital step toward a structured, transparent, and market-oriented league.

"This plan will provide a credible framework to attract investors, build institutional capacity, and ensure long-term sustainability," he said, adding that a National Sports Development Fund—designed to support sporting growth across the country—is already embedded in the upcoming National Sports Bill set to be tabled before the National Assembly.

The forum was attended by senior government and sports officials, including Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council (NSC), and Sara Camara, Communications and Public Relations Manager of the NSC, both of whom lent institutional support and echoed the Ministry's commitment to strategic partnerships in sport development.





## GAMBIAN YOUTH SHINE AT 2025 AFRICELL U-13 LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Independence Stadium Tennis Courts in Bakau were a hub of energy and youthful passion as the 2025 Africell U-13 Lawn Tennis Open Championship wrapped up in grand style on Sunday, June 15th. The three-day event, held from 13th to 15th June, brought together talented young tennis players from across the country in a spirited competition aimed at nurturing grassroots talent.

Organized by former national tennis champion and IOC-approved coach Daniel Able-Thomas, under the banner of Visionary to Develop Gambian Tennis Stars and Professionals (VDGT.SP), the tournament was fully sponsored by Africell Gambia as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations.

Representing the Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, and deputizing on behalf of the Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council, Sara Camara, the Communication and PR Manager at NSC, delivered a rousing motivational speech during the closing ceremony.

“It is a great pleasure to join you at the conclusion of what has been an exciting and inspiring Africell U-13 Open Lawn Tennis Championship,” Mr. Camara said. “I stand here proudly on behalf of the Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council, representing the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, who sends his warmest regards and congratulations to all of you.”

He commended Africell and the organizing team for their vision in promoting youth sports, noting that the event symbolized more than just a tournament.

“This championship was not just about tennis—it was about opportunity, youth empowerment, and building a platform for the next generation of Gambian champions.”

To the young athletes who participated, Camara offered warm congratulations, encouraging them to stay focused and continue believing in themselves. “Whether you won a trophy today or not, you’ve all demonstrated exceptional courage, sportsmanship, and determination. Every serve, every point, every lesson—win or lose—is preparing you for bigger stages in life.”

He also took the moment to recognize the invaluable role of parents and coaches in shaping the children’s development. “Your love, your sacrifices, and your belief in these children are what make this possible. Please continue to support them—because you are not just shaping athletes, you are shaping future leaders.”

On behalf of the Ministry and the National Sports Council, Camara reaffirmed their ongoing commitment to support youth and sports development across The Gambia.

“We believe in the potential of Gambian children, and we will continue to work towards creating more opportunities like this across all regions and sporting disciplines.”

## PICTORIAL – FAREWELL TO 55 YOUTH FOR GLOBAL TRAINING







## STRENGTHENING TIES IN YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Bakary Y. Badjie, in June, welcomed Mr. Ahmed Belhadj, Chargé d'Affaires of the Moroccan Embassy in Banjul, to his office.

The purpose of the visit was to present a copy and follow up on a signed Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing cooperation in the area of sports signed between The Gambia and the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Head of the Embassy also presented a letter of invitation from the Minister of Youth of Morocco to his Gambian counterpart on the hosting of OIC Youth capital by the city of Marrakesh.





## SATELLITE INSTITUTIONS PRESENT QUARTERLY PROGRESS AT SMT MEETING

During the ongoing Senior Management Team (SMT) meeting of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, heads of satellite institutions delivered comprehensive updates on their quarterly activities, highlighting achievements, challenges, and the way forward.

Mr. Mahmoud Lamin Jawla, Acting Executive Director of The Gambia National Sports Council - NSC , was first to present. He emphasized the progress made in finalizing the institution's legal framework, which is expected to strengthen their mandate in sports governance and administration.

Mr. Alagie Jarju , Executive Director of the National Youth Council - The Gambia , gave updates on the ongoing Youth Congress and detailed the milestones reached, while also noting some of the constraints faced during the process.

Mr. Mustapha Badjie, Deputy Director of the NYSS - The Gambia , reported on the ongoing apprenticeship program, which currently hosts young participants from across the country at the NYSS training campus.

Madam Mam Lissa Camara, General Manager of the National Enterprise Development Initiative NEDI , spoke on the series of trainings being conducted in entrepreneurship and skills development. She also mentioned recent support packages received by beneficiaries, including access to loans, grants, and an international training trip to China facilitated by the Ministry.

Mr. Pa Malick Ceesay, Executive Director of the The President's International Award, the Gambia , gave insight into ongoing programmes at their skills centers in Bakau and Kerewan. He also updated the meeting on the current status of the conference center renovation project being supported by the Ministry.

Lastly, Mr. Mbye Saine, Project Coordinator of the The Gambia Songhai Initiative-GSI based in Chamen, North Bank Region, highlighted the strides made in their agro-processing activities and the overall impact of the project on youth empowerment in the region.

The SMT meeting is part of efforts to evaluate, coordinate, and strengthen institutional alignment with the Ministry's strategic goals.

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Email: [info@nsc.gm](mailto:info@nsc.gm)

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## MOYS BOSS BIDS FAREWELL TO 55 YOUTH FOR GLOBAL TRAINING!

Ministry of Youth & Sports today held a send-off ceremony for 55 young Gambians set to benefit from international training opportunities in China, Morocco, and Senegal—thanks to ongoing partnerships with the Chinese Embassy and other allies.

Hon. Minister Bakary Y. Badjie led the ceremony, applauding the diversity and determination of the group.

Who's going where? 44 heading to China for seminars in sports, culture, tourism, entrepreneurship, and leadership, 2 selected for the Islamic World Youth Conference in Morocco, 9 off to Dakar for the ECOWAS Regional Youth Conference

“This is more than travel—it’s about growth,” Minister Badjie said. “You carry the flag of The Gambia. Go and shine.”

The delegates include Government officials, Entrepreneurs , university students, youth leaders, persons with disabilities, and regional representatives—carefully chosen to reflect the country’s vibrant youth landscape.

Senior Planner Mamalang Ceesay shared inspiring stories from past trainees.

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