



# NSC SPECIAL

## EDITION



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INDEPENDENCE STADIUM, BAKAU



### MINISTER BADJIE OPENS HISTORIC FIRST NATIONAL ATHLETES' FORUM

The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January officially opened the First National Athletes' Forum at Paradise Suites Hotel, describing it as a landmark step towards athlete-centred sports governance in The Gambia.

Organised by the Athletes' Commission of the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC), the two-day forum brought together athlete representatives from all 29 National Sports Associations and Federations affiliated with the GNOC.

In his keynote address, the Minister praised the GNOC for convening the timely forum and stressed that athletes are key stakeholders, whose welfare, voices, and experiences must shape sports policy, planning, and governance. He highlighted the National Sports Policy as a guiding framework aimed at strengthening governance, improving infrastructure, promoting grassroots and school sports, supporting elite performance, and safeguarding athlete welfare.

Hon. Badjie reaffirmed the Government's commitment to sports development under the leadership of H.E. President Adama Barrow, while also acknowledging ongoing challenges such as athlete welfare, education, career transition, and life after competition.

He encouraged open and constructive dialogue during the forum, calling for unity, discipline, and integrity within sporting institutions to ensure sustainable progress.

The forum provides training, facilitate discussions on key athlete-related issues, promote networking and idea-sharing, and generate feedback to inform future policies and programmes of the GNOC, Government, and partners.





## ACTING NSC BOSS MAHMOUD L JAWLA CENTRAL TO LANDMARK NATIONAL ATHLETES' FORUM

The Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council (NSC), Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, on Wednesday 7th January stood tall at the heart of history as The Gambia successfully concluded its first-ever National Athletes' Forum, a landmark two-day engagement that ended today at the Paradise Suites Hotel.

Organised under the auspices of the Athletes' Commission of the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC), the forum brought together athlete representatives from all twenty-nine (29) National Sports Associations and Federations affiliated with the GNOC, marking a defining moment in the country's sports governance journey—one that firmly placed athletes at the centre of policy dialogue and decision-making.

From the opening day to the closing session, Mr. Jawla's participation was both central and strategic, reinforcing the Government's commitment, through the National Sports Council, to athlete welfare, clean sport, and strong institutional governance. His active engagement across multiple high-level plenary discussions positioned the NSC not merely as a regulator, but as a collaborative partner in shaping the future of Gambian sports.

The historic forum served as a platform for training, structured discussions, and the generation of critical feedback to inform future policies and programmes of the GNOC, Government, and key stakeholders.

At the centre of these deliberations was Mr. Jawla, who contributed meaningfully to plenary sessions on Ethics, Governance, and Mutual Responsibilities of Athletes, Government, and Sporting Institutions, Mental Health, Career Transition, and Life After Sports, Anti-Doping Presentation, Safeguarding Presentation, Sports Injuries, Prevention, and Athlete Health.

His presence across these sessions underscored the NSC's holistic approach to sports development—one that balances performance with athlete protection, integrity, and long-term well-being.

The forum concluded with a Special Plenary Session on Athlete Health, Anti-Doping, and Safeguarding, moderated by Mr. Yorro Njie, Secretary General of the GNOC. The distinguished panel featured Mr. Mahmoud L. Jawla, Olympian Adama Jammeh, Dr. Muhammed Lamin Touray, Secretary General of the GNOC Medical Commission, and Mr. Bubacarr Zaidi Jallow, Technical Assistant and Safeguarding Officer of the GNOC.

Panelists addressed critical issues surrounding athlete health, clean sport, safeguarding, and the promotion of integrity and values—areas that remain central to the NSC's reform agenda under Mr. Jawla's leadership.



## STADIUM RENOVATION ON TRACK – MINISTER BADJIE UPDATED THE MEDIA

On 13th January, the Ministry of Youth & Sports, led by Honourable Minister Bakary Y. Badjie, held a press conference to brief the media on the progress of the Independence Stadium renovation and to clarify audit concerns.

The Minister explained that although the project was launched in January 2023, actual works commenced in June 2023, making the effective work period about two and a half years and not five years, as widely claimed.

He also reminded the public that AFCON matches played in 2021 were conducted under temporary approval, before full redevelopment officially started.

On the pitch, Minister Badjie confirmed that the stadium would remain a hybrid pitch. Specialized equipment had been secured, and an international expert company, Gregori International, had been engaged to handle the technical pitch works, while supervision of the works remained under the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure (MOTWI).



## WHY A NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

**WHY A NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY?**

# WOMEN & GIRLS IN SPORTS

The policy promotes equal access, participation, and leadership for women and girls in sports. It also ensures dignity, safety, and safeguarding

**Equality strengthens sports**

The new national vision for sport



The Gambia National Sports Policy  
2024–2034

**WHY A NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY?**

# YOUTH AT THE CENTRE

Youth development is a priority of the policy. Through sports, young people gain skills, discipline, confidence, and employment opportunities

**Empowering youth through sports**

The new national vision for sport



The Gambia National Sports Policy  
2024–2034

Women and girls deserve equal opportunities to participate, lead, and thrive in sports.

The National Sports Policy 2024–2034 places gender equality, safety, dignity, and safeguarding at the heart of sports development in The Gambia.

Because when women and girls are empowered, sports grow stronger—and so does the nation.

#WomenInSports  
#GenderEquality  
#NationalSportsPolicy  
#SportsForDevelopment  
#SafeSport  
#EmpoweringWomen  
#TheGambia

WHY A NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY?

Because the future of our nation lies in its youth. Placing Youth at the Centre, the National Sports Policy prioritizes youth development by using sports as a powerful tool to build skills, discipline, confidence, and pathways to employment.

This is our commitment to empowering young people and shaping a stronger, healthier, and more productive Gambia.

#YouthAtTheCentre #NationalSportsPolicy  
#SportsForDevelopment #EmpoweringYouth  
#YouthDevelopment #TheGambia #MOYS  
#NSC #FutureThroughSports #InvestInYouth



## MOYS WELCOMES NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY

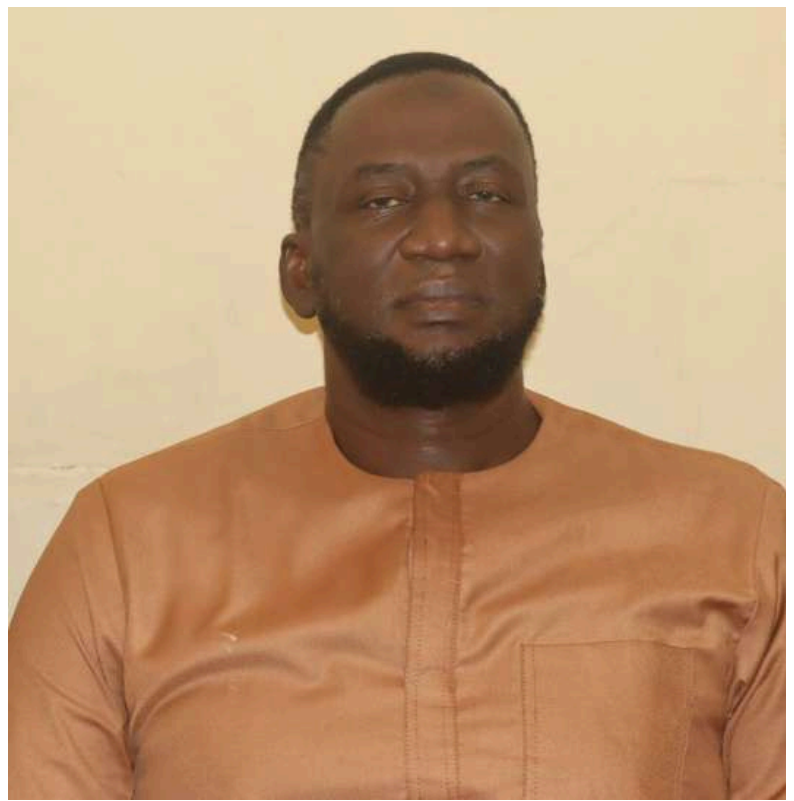
The Ministry of Youth and Sports is pleased to welcome Mr. Bulli Dibba as its new Permanent Secretary. A seasoned civil servant, Mr. Dibba brings decades of experience in public administration, having served in several senior leadership positions across government.

He has previously held key roles as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Interior, Lands, Ministry of Defence, Office of The President and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, where he played an instrumental role in policy coordination, administration, and national development initiatives. He served as Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Chancery of the Gambia High Commission in Sierra Leone from September 2020 to December 2025.

Mr. Dibba holds a bachelor's degree in finance (BS), a master's degree in business administration (MBA), a Masters degree in Public Administration Nonprofit (MPNA) and a master's degree in international development (MSc)

Known for his dedication to public service and strong leadership, Mr. Dibba's wealth of experience is expected to strengthen youth empowerment programs and advance the development of sports in The Gambia.

The Ministry congratulates Mr. Bulli Dibba on his redeployment and looks forward to his contribution to building a vibrant and impactful youth and sports sector.



## MOYS EMBARKS ON NATIONWIDE TOWN HALL MEETINGS TOUR TO DEEPEN YOUTH AND SPORTS POLICY REFORMS

The Ministry of Youth & Sports (MoYS) today begins a ten-day nationwide, policy-oriented town hall meetings tour, aimed at strengthening youth empowerment and sports development through inclusive, evidence-based dialogue.

The nationwide engagement is being led by the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Bakary Y. Badjie, with support from the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Bulli Dibba, alongside heads of satellite institutions and senior technical staff of the Ministry.

Covering all regions of the country, the tour adopts a participatory and whole-of-society approach, bringing together young people, sports stakeholders, civil society organisations, private sector actors, traditional leaders, and government representatives. The objective is to collectively shape practical, responsive, and locally grounded youth and sports policies.

**NATIONWIDE TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**  
*23rd January - 3rd February 2026*

“ Youth development cannot be decided from offices alone. This nationwide tour is our commitment to listen directly to young people and sports actors, and to ensure their voices shape policies that truly reflect their realities and aspirations. ”

Hon. Bakary Y. Badjie  
Minister of Youth and Sports



**NATIONWIDE TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**  
*23rd January - 3rd February 2026*

“ These town hall meetings mark a shift from policymaking in isolation to policymaking with the people. By listening, co-creating, and grounding decisions in evidence and lived experiences, we are building policies that communities can own and trust. ”

Mr. Bulli M. Dibba  
Permanent Secretary - MoYS



## GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL TRAINING CAMP LAUNCHED

On 3rd January, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through the National Sports Council, was represented by its Communication and Public Relations Manager, Sara Camara, on behalf of the Acting Executive Director, at the launch of a grassroots football training camp organised by Unique Heritage Talent Management Agency in partnership with Real Betis Balompié.

The initiative brought together over 100 children aged 6–16, reinforcing the importance of youth development and international collaboration in Gambian football.

**NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL  
THE GAMBIA**

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INDEPENDENCE STADIUM . BAKAU

