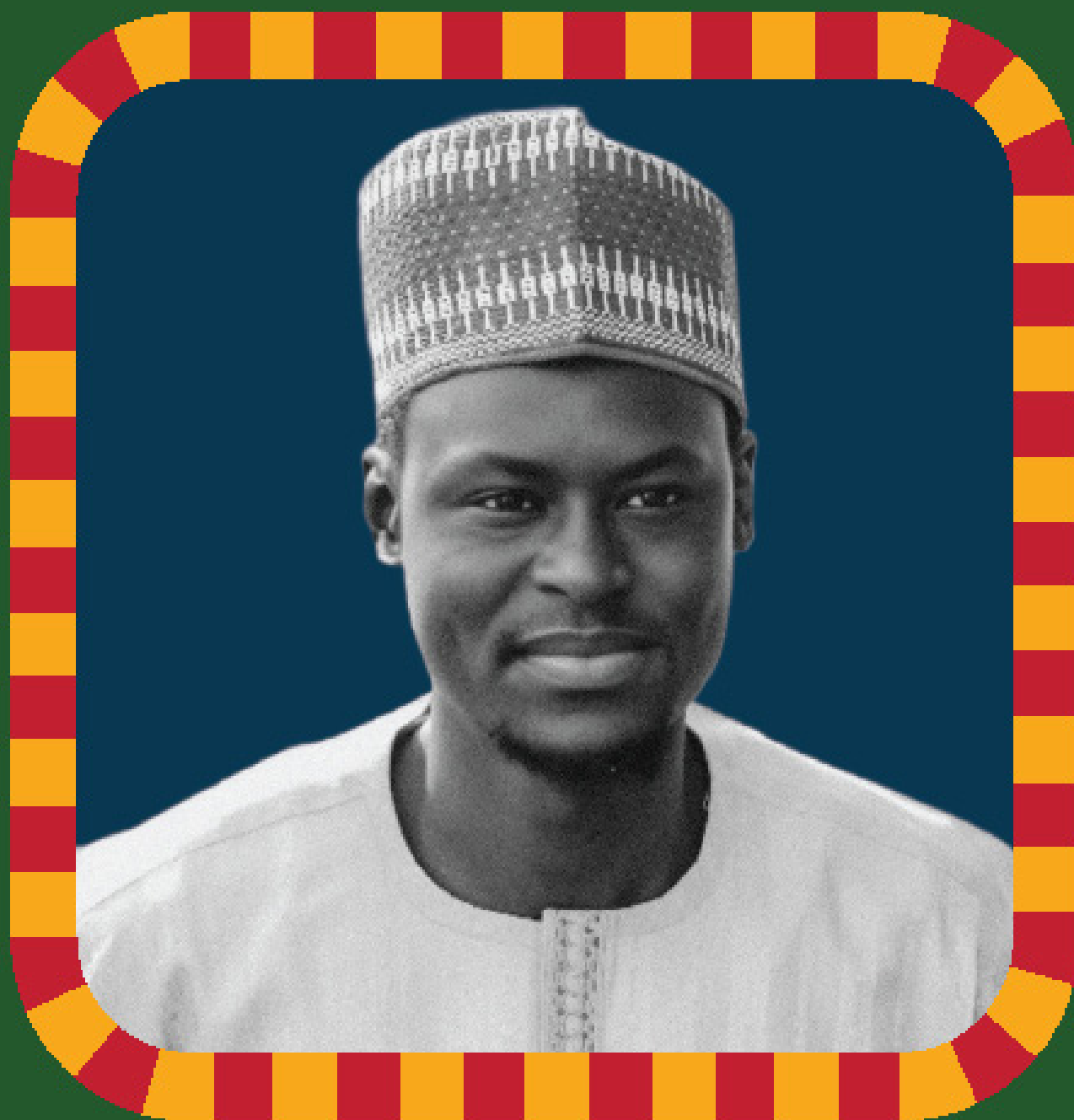


ISSUE 1

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HON. ABDOULIE NJAI PRESENTS  
BANJUL CENTRAL NEWSLETTER



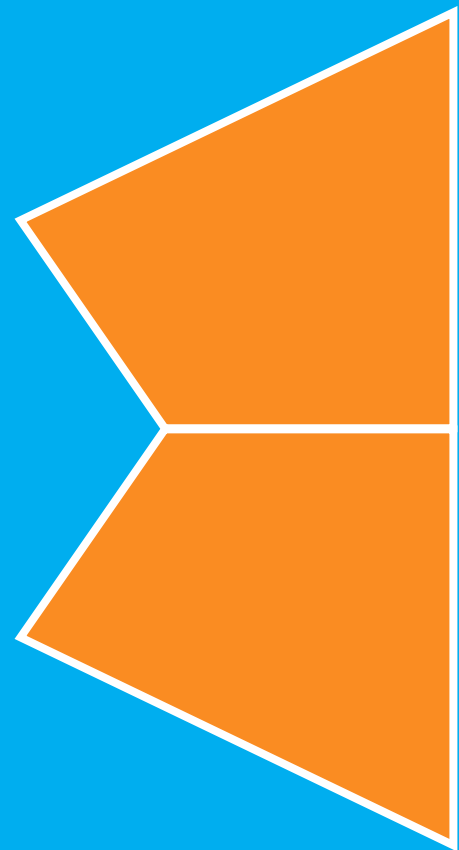
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BANJUL CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY  
CHAIRPERSON, WEST AFRICA YOUNG PARLIMENTARIANS NETWORK (WAYPA)

“CHI LUMANEH”

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# Hon. Abdoulie Njai's Legislative Newsletter

## – Volume 1

### *Serving Without Fear, Favor, or Ill Will*

When I took my oath as a National Assembly Member, I vowed to serve our people without fear, favor, affection, or ill will. Today, I stand by that commitment.

I have applauded government efforts when they serve the public interest and opposed actions when duty demands it always guided by the needs of the Gambian people.

This maiden newsletter serves a pre promise to keep you informed about our progressive legislative endeavors and to pave the way for a political mindset that values ideas, innovation, service, real results and tangible outcomes.

As well regional and global representation successes that augments Gambia's sacred name at the highest levels.

Every decision I make is guided by civic responsibility and a commitment to the Gambian people. I stand not to seek validation but for a politics that is transparent, accountable, and relentlessly program-focused and raising the bar. And that is the true essence of public service.

Hon. Abdoulie Njai  
National Assembly Member, The Gambia

# WHY THIS NEWSLETTER?

## PROGRAM BASED REPRESENTATION

The Banjul Central Newsletter remains a key pillar of our four-point agenda. It is a platform through which I provide clear updates on my work, legislative activities, upcoming events, and opportunities for residents to help shape the policies that affect our daily lives not through empty promises, but through visible results and evidence. It is also a space where I share my views on national and local issues of importance.

As your Member of Parliament, my duty goes far beyond voting on bills or simply representing constituency concerns. Our responsibility at the National Assembly is broader and more serious. It includes contributing to debates, proposing legislation, scrutinizing government actions through committees, engaging ministers, and presenting amendments that strengthen laws or challenge measures that do not serve the national interest. Every decision must be guided by the national interest while keeping Banjul Central firmly represented.

In this edition, I would like to highlight some of the key issues currently affecting Banjul Central and The Gambia as a whole.

### **Affordable Housing and Accessibility**

The rising cost of rent remains one of the most pressing concerns for residents of Banjul City. Many families are being forced to relocate due to unaffordable housing costs. I have consistently raised this matter and recently facilitated a community consultation to hear directly from residents and stakeholders. Working with colleagues in the National Assembly, we successfully passed the Rent Amendment Act, 2024, which seeks to improve rent payment arrangements for both landlords and tenants once approved. I also engaged the Minister of Justice, who confirmed that a comprehensive Rent Bill is currently being developed to address the wider housing crisis facing our people.

### **Combating Drugs and Crime**

Drug abuse and crime continue to threaten communities in Banjul and across the country. I have repeatedly raised these concerns in Parliament and pushed for practical responses that deal with root causes, not just symptoms. This includes

stronger rehabilitation systems, improved mental health services, youth opportunity programs, and firm action against traffickers and criminal networks. I am also working with the Africa Drug-Free Foundation on programs that help those battling addiction return to productive and dignified lives.

### **Healthcare Access and Reform**

Access to affordable healthcare is a basic right, yet many citizens still struggle to afford essential treatment. My office has actively advocated for reforms that expand healthcare access for all, regardless of income. This includes better management of public health funds, free health screening initiatives, stronger preventive healthcare, and meaningful reforms in private healthcare systems. I have also emphasized the urgent need for greater investment in mental health services and drug rehabilitation, sectors neglected for far too long.

### **Environmental Protection and Land Use**

The destruction of wetlands and mangrove forests remains a serious concern for our community. These ecosystems are vital for flood control, biodiversity, and the long-term future of our city. In Parliament, I have repeatedly called for stronger protection against illegal construction and pollution. The recent announcement by the Minister of Environment to halt construction in the Tanbi Wetland area is an important step forward. Much work remains, but it proves that determined advocacy can produce results.

These are only a few among many broader communal and national issues receiving attention through our ongoing work. I invite every reader to review this newsletter objectively and assess the progress with fairness and honesty. Your feedback will be vital to our working process, as meaningful representation must remain connected to the voices of the people. Pending initiatives, as well as other achievements and developments, will be highlighted in our final edition.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and engagement.

*Sincerely,*  
**HONOURABLE ABDOULIE NJAI**  
*Member of Parliament for Banjul Central*

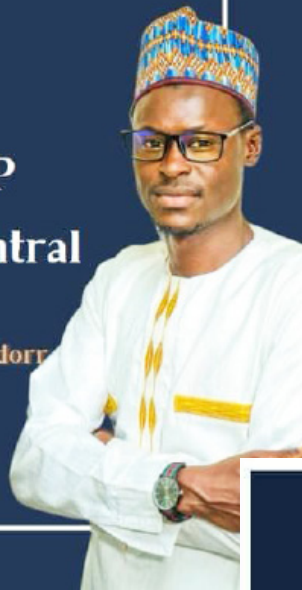
# FOUR POINT AGENDA

## 4-Point Agenda

Abdoulie Njai

For MP  
Banjul Central

#TeamAndandorr



01

### BETTER REPRESENTATION

I will represent the interest of the constituency for the common good by addressing concerns and needs through policy making processes. I will ensure equal involvement of every group by reinforcing continued collaboration and creating opportunities for their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to grow. As well be the embodiment of a strong voice for the youth on a national level.

Making, authorising and repealing laws that best suits the majority of people is important in parliament. I will consult and engage the constituency through multiple modes of communication to ensure that their opinions are well represented.

02

### LEGISLATION

Parliamentary scrutiny acts as a key inspection system of the government. I will hold the government accountable for their decisions, actions and spending to make sure they are justified and fit for purpose. This will improve public services, government policies and general public engagement for national development.

03

### SCRUTINISATION

I aim to strengthen the relationship between the three wards in Banjul Central while bridging the gap between the people and the leadership. This will guarantee that the community as a whole will be the drivers of change. I will make sure that women, youth, children, and differently abled persons especially, are catalysts of our common development and are involved in decision making processes.

04

### INCLUSION



## Hon Njai Expresses Gratitude to Electorates



In his heartfelt messages of appreciation, Hon. Njai emphasized that genuine gratitude goes beyond words it is reflected in actions and a continued commitment to serving the community. This ongoing interaction ensures that Hon. Njai stays attuned to the concerns and needs of his constituents, allowing him to effectively represent their interests in Parliament.

Promoting a culture of gratitude in public service is a core value of Team Andandorr. In April 2022, shortly after his success in the parliamentary elections, Hon. Abdoulie Njai launched a community outreach initiative to thank the people of Banjul Central.



However, with confidence bestowed on him and acceptance of him as their new Parliamentarian, the youths and residents of Banjul Central constituency organized a self-funded caravan on behalf of Hon Abdoulie Njai to celebrate his victory and welcome him to office.



# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Hon Njai Joins Unity Foundation For Iftar Distribution



These charitable efforts were conducted under the Unity Foundation for Islamic and Humanitarian Purposes, an organization founded by Hon. Njai in 2013.

The Unity Foundation for Islamic and Humanitarian Purposes has long been a pillar of support in The Gambia, providing vital community services and humanitarian aid. Hon. Njai's leadership, having served as the former president and now as a board member, highlights his deep-rooted commitment to uplifting those in need.

In addition to organizing iftar distributions, Hon. Njai and his team have played an essential role in providing medical aid and supporting various community initiatives aimed at addressing social challenges and helping marginalized populations.

While political achievements are often the focus of leadership, Hon. Abdoulie Njai's dedication to humanitarian work stands as a true example of selfless leadership. His tireless efforts to serve others and improve his community continue to inspire, proving that leadership is defined not just by political milestones, but by making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

**H**onorable Abdoulie Njai's inspiring commitment to serving his community remains steadfast, even after his victory in the parliamentary election on April 9th, 2022. Despite his political success, Hon. Njai has continued to focus on making a positive impact on the lives of those around him. Alongside his dedicated colleagues, he took part in distributing iftar meals at key locations across The Gambia, including the Banjul Terminal, Westfield, Banjul Ferry Terminal, Serrekunda, and Brikama.

**H**on Njai continues commemorating the 11th Annual Outdoor Iftar Initiative with UNITY FOUNDATION For Islamic & Humanitarian Purposes - UFIHP and Humanity Youth Foundation as we take honor in spreading

Ramadan's blessings in Tippa Garage a testament to Allah's grace and your unwavering solidarity.

A profound Jazakumullah Khairan to Modou Lamin Biram Bah MP for Banjul North, for gracing our efforts with his presence and

unwavering support amplifying your compassion and service to humanity.

It was equally inspiring to see co founder and CEO Touch & Heal Therapy Mr Issa Ibn Abass Ndoeye join us in spreading Allah's directed generosity.

## Hon Abdoulie Joins Hon ML Bah To Distribute Food And Cash Disbursement To Underprivileged families In Banjul

*MERCY RELIEF FOUNDATION UK*



*More Iftar Pack Distribution Highlight pictures on Page 33*

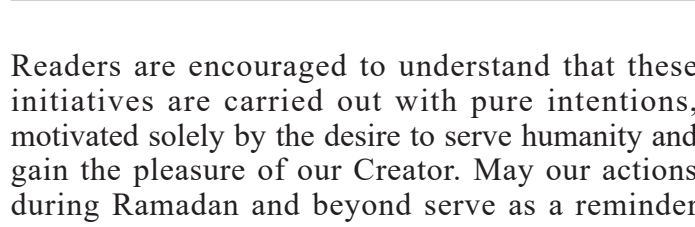
## Ramadan Package: Donation of Ramadan Essentials to Masjids, Social Groups, and Community Elders

In April 11, 2023, during the Holy Month of Ramadan, Honourable Abdoulie Njai and his team extended a heartfelt gesture of support by donating bags of sugar to mosques, social groups (Vous), and respected community elders throughout Banjul Central.

Month of Ramadan, a time of deep spiritual reflection, emphasizes empathy, generosity, and self-discipline for people, especially Muslims, strive to grow closer to their Creator.

The outpouring of gratitude and prayers from the recipients of these donations has been a powerful source of inspiration, reaffirming the Honourable and his team shared commitment to serving others and seeking divine blessings. Hon. Njai and his team pray that Allah SWT accepts their humble contributions and grants acceptance to all prayers offered during this sacred month.

These charitable efforts embody the core values that Hon. Njai upholds genuine kindness, selflessness, and a sincere desire to earn the blessings of Ramadan. It is important to emphasize that these acts of charity are driven by a deep commitment to service, without any political agendas or inducements.



Readers are encouraged to understand that these initiatives are carried out with pure intentions, motivated solely by the desire to serve humanity and gain the pleasure of our Creator. May our actions during Ramadan and beyond serve as a reminder of our shared responsibility to show compassion, generosity, and righteousness, making a lasting, positive impact in the lives of others while honoring the true spirit of this sacred month.

## Ramadan Rahma Tree Challenge



Hon. Abdoulie Njai, a staunch advocate for environmental sustainability and a current member of the Global Parliamentarians on Climate Change, during the Holy Month

of Ramadan participated in the "Rahma Ramadan Challenge" by planting a tree.

Highlighting the significance of environmental stewardship, he reflected on the words of

the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him), who said, "There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sow seeds, and then a bird, or a person, or an animal eats from it, but it is regarded as a charitable gift for Him" (Bukhari).

Hon. Njai expressed his gratitude to Future Proof Banjul for facilitating the planting initiative and offered heartfelt appreciation to Ousainu Gambia and his team for their inspiring leadership in organizing the challenge. He prayed for Allah SWT to accept all efforts in nurturing and preserving the environment for the benefit of all.

## Hon Abdoulie Njai's foresight on ghost workers

Last year December 2024, Hon. Abdoulie Njai stood in Parliament and delivered a pointed oral question to the Minister of Public Service on the alarming issue of “ghost workers” who have been draining The Gambia’s payroll integrity .

His intervention anticipated the Ministry’s own 16 April 2025 press release, which revealed that Phase One of the 2024 staff audit had halted salaries for 1,424 absentee workers across key ministries pending verification . That same release confirmed that the December 2024 second phase of the audit flagged an additional 679 public servants who could not be physically identified,



leading to the suspension of their salaries from April 2025 until they provide credible clarification.

Financial institutions were promptly instructed to recover wrongful payments, while the Public Service Commission received lists of unaccounted-

for staff with recommendations for summary dismissal under Regulation 57, underscoring the government’s commitment to reclaiming misdirected funds.

This Parliamentary question built on Njai’s earlier advocacy in October 2024, when the Personnel Management Office detected over 2,142 ghost workers during preliminary audits discovery he championed for thorough parliamentary debate. His consistent follow-up in committee hearings and plenary sessions has raised eyebrows across the public service establishment, driving momentum for broader administrative reforms.

## More summary Parliamentary Interventions, Oversight Work, and Institutional Reform Efforts

Throughout his tenure in the National Assembly, Hon. Abdoulie Njai has consistently engaged a wide spectrum of national issues through parliamentary questions, committee oversight, and policy advocacy. His interventions have addressed governance, public finance, infrastructure, health, housing, land administration, education, and essential service delivery.

Key parliamentary engagements have included transparency in government borrowing and external financing arrangements, NAWEC service delivery challenges such as water supply, pressure and quality concerns, and electricity metering issues, as well as land and housing pressures including real estate fraud, rental market challenges, and access to secure housing. He has also raised concerns regarding major infrastructure projects such as the Lancaster Place water tank and the Banjul Port concession arrangements.

In the social sectors, he has consistently addressed emergency healthcare response systems, maternal health and mortality concerns, medicine availability in public health facilities, and systemic challenges affecting EFSTH and other national health institutions. His advocacy also extended to youth employment, education disruptions, scholarship delays, and the welfare of Gambian students abroad.

A significant dimension of his parliamentary work has also been within the Public Enterprises Committee (PEC), where he and his colleagues undertook oversight responsibilities over State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). The Committee faced substantial backlogs of audit reports and institutional performance reviews requiring urgent attention to strengthen accountability and financial discipline across public entities.

Through sustained oversight, PEC contributed to the ongoing reform trajectory within SOEs, focusing on improved governance, operational efficiency, and financial recovery. In recent reporting cycles, several SOEs have shown notable improvements in financial performance and operational stability, with a number moving from deficit positions toward recovery and profitability. This reflects a broader reform effort aimed at restoring public confidence, improving management systems, and strengthening fiscal sustainability within state institutions. Continued progress is expected as reforms deepen and implementation structures are further consolidated.

Across all these areas, Hon. Njai’s interventions have also covered public finance management, audit implementation (including COVID-19 expenditure reviews), debt sustainability, environmental protection, land governance

reform, decentralization, and national development planning.

While acknowledging that government has made important progress across several sectors, he has consistently maintained that significant implementation gaps remain. His contributions have therefore focused on strengthening institutional effectiveness, improving accountability mechanisms, and ensuring that policy commitments are translated into measurable outcomes for citizens.

These matters, among many others, have been raised in the spirit of constructive oversight grounded in research, evidence, and institutional responsibility. His approach within both plenary and committee work has been to strengthen not weaken public institutions, ensuring they function more efficiently and deliver better outcomes.

Hon. Njai has further emphasized that parliamentary engagement must remain constructive and solution-oriented. He has consistently stated that he will never oppose initiatives that serve the public good for the sake of opposition, as such an approach would be irrational and contrary to the principles of public service. His commitment remains focused on constructive critique, institutional strengthening, and collaborative governance in the national interest of The Gambia.

# Consultation on the Draft Constitution



**H**on. Abdoulie Njai member of parliament for Banjul Central constituency together with fellow members of Banjul south Hon. Fatoumatta Njai and Banjul north Modou Lamin Biram Bah kick started engagements with constituents on discussions around the 2024 draft

constitution. There is urgent need for a new, progressive constitution that reflects our nation's evolving identity.

This marked the first phase of a series of community engagements we'll spearhead at constituency level. We're committed to bridging the gap between citizens

**Consultation on the Draft Constitution 2024 by Banjul MPs**



**Hon. Abdoulie Njai**  
Member of Parliament for Banjul Central

**“**  
A constitution is not merely a legal document, it is the soul of our nation, the blueprint of our shared aspiration and the foundation upon which The Gambia rests. To draft a pivotal text without the voice of the masses is like building a house on shifting sand  
**”**

February 18, 2025 →



and the laws that shape their lives. There is high importance of inclusive consultations to ensure the document truly embodies the hopes and aspirations of all Gambians.



# Gambia Earns Key Committee Seats Through Strategic Diplomacy in Jakarta

Hon. Njai actively participated in negotiations aimed at securing regional representation within PUIC Standing Committees.

At the core of the conference was the Consultation Meeting of the African Group, where Hon. Njai served as The Gambia's chief negotiator, engaging with counterparts from across the continent to build consensus around regional representation within PUIC organs. Amid rigorous dialogue and strategic diplomacy, The Gambia secured places on the Committee on Political Affairs and the Committee on Women and Gender a significant advancement that places our nation at the center of decision-making on critical issues of governance, equity, and development. This Positions The Gambia as a credible and committed partner in global dialogue.

Fellow delegates from the Gambia also took part in various Standing Specialized Committee meetings, including observing the Economic Affairs and Environment Committee, where member states shared insights on strategies for sustainable development and economic cooperation. It is worth noting that The Gambia previously held a seat on the Economic Affairs Committee.

Beyond institutional matters, delegation also participated in a bilateral meeting with representatives of the Palestinian Parliament, reinforcing The Gambia's principled stance on justice, peace, and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

As part of the Standing Specialized Committee (SSC) meetings, The Gambia observed proceedings of the Economic Affairs and Environment Committee, where member states exchanged ideas on promoting sustainable development and economic cooperation across OIC countries.

Hon. K k Barrow head of delegation participated in the 53rd Meeting of the PUIC Executive Committee, where members adopted the



agenda, reviewed the Secretary General's report, and updated the draft agendas of key PUIC organs, including the Standing Committees on Political Affairs, Economic Affairs, Human Rights and Family, and the Committees on Palestine and Muslim Minorities.

The delegation then held a bilateral meeting with representatives of the Palestinian Parliament. The Gambian side expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine and reiterated the National Assembly's support for lasting peace and justice in the region. Hon. Njai later joined the rest of the delegation for the final sessions of the

19th PUIC Conference on Thursday, 15 May. Key activities included the adoption of resolutions during the Work Session and contributions to the Closing Session, where member states formalized outcomes on political, economic, and human rights priorities.

Moving forward, we will do our best to position the gambia into the executive Committee. Through diplomacy grounded in values and vision, We will rewrite the story of youth in leadership placing The Gambia at the heart of international policy discourse.

# An Unforgettable Flood In Banjul



**B**etween July 30th and 31st, 2022, heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding across The Gambia, affecting places like Banjul City, Kanifing Municipality, the West Coast, and the North Bank Regions. The torrential downpour led to severe damage, forcing many residents to seek shelter in public buildings, such as mosques and schools, to stay safe.

Tragically, on July 30th, five children lost their lives in the North Bank Region due to the accompanying thunderstorms, while one child in the West Coast Region also perished. By July 31st, 2022, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) reported that nearly 1,961 households had been impacted by the floods. However, a subsequent assessment by the Gambian Red Cross Society (GRCS) on August 2nd, 2022, confirmed that 606 households, or approximately 7,021 individuals, had suffered severe damage, losing homes, food supplies, and latrines.

The situation worsened on July 31st when the second wave of flooding hit Banjul, adding to the accumulated water and

resulting in the contamination of water supplies due to sewage disposal. The crisis underscored the urgent need for coordinated efforts between the government and relevant agencies to prevent further devastation.

In response, Honorable Abdoulie Njai, alongside the Banjul Red Cross Branch and Banjul North Member of Parliament, Hon. Modou Lamin B. Bah, Banjul Youth Committee and other volunteers committee, quickly assessed the situation and developed an emergency response plan. Their primary goal was to provide shelter for affected residents who could no longer stay in their homes. Through community surveys and

outreach efforts, they identified the most vulnerable households and set up an emergency response hotline to address housing needs. Their on-the-ground evaluations revealed widespread damage in Banjul, with many families losing their possessions. In a show of solidarity, Honorable Njai and his team provided support to those most in need, offering reassurance during these trying times.

On August 6th, Honorable Njai met with partners from the HMD Charity Foundation to discuss post-flood relief efforts. After assessing the worst-hit areas, the foundation supported 100 families in Banjul by providing essential supplies and financial aid. Additionally, on August 10th, a charitable group donated D25,000 to Honorable Njai's office, which, along with his own financial contribution, allowed for the distribution of aid to 25 families through the United Zone Fulbeh's humanitarian projects.

The Banjul Central office expressed deep gratitude for the swift and invaluable support from humanitarian organizations, highlighting their commitment to helping the community recover from the devastating floods.



*More Unforgettable Flood Highlight pictures on Page 32*

## OP-ED on Middle East Condemning the Assault on Gaza

**A**s a Member of Parliament and a servant of conscience, I stand today with a heart heavy with grief and outrage at the relentless bombardment of Gaza. The images of lifeless children pulled from rubble, the wails of mothers clutching fragments of their shattered homes, and the suffocating despair of a people under siege demand not just our tears, but our collective voice and action. This is not a conflict it is a humanitarian catastrophe, a grotesque violation of international law, and a moral failure of the highest order.

The recent escalation has claimed hundreds of lives, including scores of innocent civilians, with infrastructure reduced to dust and hospitals overwhelmed beyond capacity. The world cannot turn away from Gaza's

document and resist this brutality. Ya Allah, bring an end to this tyranny.

May the oppressors be cursed in their injustice, and may the scales of justice tip swiftly toward the people of Palestine. As a Muslim, I am bound by the teachings of the Quran to "stand firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even if it be against yourselves" (Surah An-Nisa 4:135). Silence in the face of oppression is complicity.

We must name this injustice: the indiscriminate killing of civilians, the blockade suffocating millions, and the systemic erasure of Palestinian dignity are crimes against humanity. In this dark hour, I call upon my fellow Muslims and all people of conscience to turn to prayer as an act of resistance. Let us

bow our heads in salah and raise our hands in dua, seeking the Almighty's mercy for the victims and strength for the oppressed. May He grant patience to the bereaved, healing to the wounded, and courage to those who pray without action is incomplete. The Quran reminds us, "God does not change the condition of a people until they change what is on themselves" (Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:11).

We must channel our anguish into advocacy:

To the people of Gaza: Your resilience is a beacon to the world. We see you. We hear you. And we will not rest until justice prevails. But justice cannot wait for politics. It begins with us in our prayers, our protests, and our unwavering refusal to normalize oppression

## Concerns over Government's unsubstantiated takeover of McCarthy Square

**H**on. Abdoulie Njai in his recent adjournment debate reiterated his critique of the government's abrupt seizure of McCarthy Square park, stressing that his objection lies not in the principle of state stewardship but in the execution of unilateral government control. Hon. Abdoulie Njai further argued that while the local council has long neglected its duty to revitalize the area, the administration's heavy-handed intervention bypassed essential dialogue with stakeholders. He emphasized that neither inaction nor unilateral action serves the public interest, urging collaborative solutions to address the square's challenges.



OFFICE OF NAM, BANJUL CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY  
NO. 9 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE ROAD, BANJUL  
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

17th March 2025

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Concerns over Government's unsubstantiated takeover of McCarthy Square

##### Banjul, The Gambia

Office of NAM Banjul Central constituency under the leadership of Hon. Abdoulie Njai hereby expresses concern over the Government of The Gambia's decision to seize control of McCarthy Square, a historic public space at the heart of Banjul (Banjul central). The square has for generations been a cornerstone of civic life but in recent years bureaucratic barriers from government have kept us from exploring its full potential. The Local Government Act clearly outlines the authority of local councils to manage municipal properties and public assets.

This unilateral takeover seeks to erase our ownership entirely further alienating Banjulians from a cherished communal asset that rightfully belongs to them.

If negotiations prove futile, we welcome the Council's decision to pursue legal action against the move, as it is a critical defence of our local autonomy. I urge every citizen to join us in peaceful resistance, to reject this decision, and to reclaim McCarthy Square through unity, advocacy, and unwavering resolve. Together, we will ensure this symbol of our shared identity remains in the hands of the people.

End

Email: [Banjulcentralnam@gmail.com](mailto:Banjulcentralnam@gmail.com) | Contact: 3919266 / 7010332 | Website: [www.honabdoulienjai.com](http://www.honabdoulienjai.com)

# Banjul Central Parliamentarian Engages Constituents in 2023 Budget Dialogue



**H**onorable Abdoulie Njai took part in a meaningful budget dialogue organized in partnership Gambia Participates, aimed at empowering his constituents. The event was designed to improve citizens' understanding of the national budget and enable them to make informed suggestions on priority areas for allocation. Central to this initiative was the 'citizen's budget,' which encourages public participation and accountability, ensuring that lawmakers can better address community needs and aspirations.

Despite the challenges posed by the rainy season, the event went ahead

as planned, with ward councilors, community elders, youth groups, marginalized groups, and concerned citizens in attendance. This dialogue highlighted Honorable Njai's commitment to collaborating with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

to inform his constituents about the national budget and emphasize the importance of community input in budget scrutiny.

The program underscored the critical role of public involvement in ensuring that the national budget reflects the true needs of the people it serves. Honorable Njai expressed gratitude to the dedicated team at Gambia Participates and Mr. Marr Nyang for their efforts in making the event a success, reiterating the importance of working together to make the budget more inclusive and responsive to the people's priorities.



## Parliamentarian Clarifies Misinformation Regarding National Assembly Vehicle Allocation

**O**n July 5, 2023, amidst public controversy surrounding the vehicle allocation for National Assembly members, Hon. A. Njai addressed the misinformation, providing clarity on the matter.

The vehicle scheme, introduced by the Fifth Legislative Assembly, was designed to prevent undue influence from external parties and ensure transparency. Each of the 58 National Assembly members is required to contribute 50% of the vehicle's cost, which is D2.5 million per vehicle, and is responsible for maintenance, insurance, and fuel.

The government ensures that the vehicles meet high standards through a regulated procurement



process. The vehicles are part of a long-term strategy to establish a revolving fund for future legislatures. Hon. Njai emphasized that the scheme fosters financial

responsibility and ensures that parliamentarians can efficiently carry out their duties across the country while maintaining the integrity of the National Assembly.

# The Strength in Unity: Engaging Councilors on Collective Development Roadmap



September 24, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai convened a collaborative meeting with the three councilors representing within the Banjul Central Constituency: Councilor Tunko Jammeh of Soldier Town, Councilor Mahmoud Ceesay of New Town West, and Councilor Ebou Sarr of New Town East.

The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas and strategies to enhance collective efforts in serving the

constituency effectively, while fostering a strong relationship with grassroots stakeholders. This gathering emphasized the importance of consultative collaboration in governance.

The meeting provided a platform for the councilors to share insights, offer feedback on potential working models, and identify emerging needs and priorities within their respective wards.

The councilors expressed appreciation for the engagement, describing it as a first-of-its-kind initiative. They reiterated their

commitment to collectively addressing ward-specific issues and concerns.

This initiative aligns with Hon. Njai's 4-Point agenda of "inclusivity," underscoring the importance of collective action and collaboration to deliver quality service to constituents. By working together, the councilors and Hon. Njai aim to tackle community challenges and fulfill their obligations to the people they serve.

## Community Engagement: Policy Dialogue and Legislative Status Briefing

On October 23, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai engaged in an essential community policy dialogue aimed at updating his constituents on his legislative and advocacy work. The event also provided a platform for responding to questions from community members, underscoring the importance of transparency and open communication in governance.



This interaction fostered a deeper understanding between the representative and the community, ensuring that the concerns and aspirations of the people he serves are heard and addressed.

Organized by Activista in collaboration with Freedom House, the dialogue allowed Hon. Njai to engage directly with attendees and

encouraged feedback, showcasing his commitment to accountability and responsiveness. By actively listening to constituents, he aimed to gain insights into their perspectives, which will inform his legislative agenda.

The session not only served as a chance for Hon. Njai to provide updates on ongoing initiatives but

also allowed the community to voice their concerns on various issues affecting their lives. This exchange helped build trust and understanding between the representative and the people.

Hon. Njai reaffirmed his commitment to continuous dialogue with the community, pledging to work tirelessly to address their needs. He emphasized his dedication to being an accessible and responsive representative and to advocating for positive change and progress in Banjul Central.

Special recognition was given to event facilitators, including Activista The Gambia, Freedom House, and The Gambia National Youth Parliament, whose support was vital in organizing the dialogue. Their collaboration exemplifies the importance of collective efforts in fostering civic engagement and participatory governance.

# Periodic Constituency Engagement

As a dedicated public servant, Hon. Abdoulie Njai prioritizes structured, regular engagement with various segments of his constituency. Through quarterly initiatives, Hon. Njai employs tailored approaches to ensure effective communication and representation. Interactions with children and teenagers focus on their school activities and routine visits, while youth engagements take place at popular local spots like the "Vous," promoting informal dialogue. For older generations, including community, religious, and traditional leaders, Hon. Njai visits their homes to share updates on parliamentary work and gather insights.



These quarterly engagements serve as proactive measures to foster inclusivity, gather diverse perspectives, and ensure that all community voices are represented in decision-making

processes. This ongoing communication helps uphold the principles of democratic governance and strengthens public service in the constituency.

## Dialogue On Rent Amendment Bill With Banjulians

Over the issue of rent, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, in February 2024 hosted a community dialogue on the proposed Rent Amendment Bill, providing Banjul residents with an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the current state of rental housing in the city.



During the discussion, residents expressed dissatisfaction with the frequent rent increases, which they argued placed undue financial strain on tenants. Many shared personal experiences of facing sudden and significant rent hikes, making housing increasingly unaffordable.

with landlords who neglect their responsibilities to ensure safe and habitable living conditions.

for legislation to cap these deposits to ensure greater affordability for tenants. Additionally, Hon. Njai supported the reinstatement of local rental tribunals, which would provide a forum for resolving disputes between tenants and landlords in a fair and transparent manner.

In addition to the rent hikes, residents also highlighted issues related to the substandard conditions of rental properties, including inadequate amenities and poor maintenance. Many tenants expressed frustration

In response, Hon. Njai pledged to advocate for provisions in the Rent Amendment Bill that would establish minimum housing standards and hold landlords accountable.

As the discussion concluded, residents expressed appreciation for Hon. Njai's advocacy and his commitment to ensuring their concerns are addressed in the legislative process.

Another key issue raised was the high cost of rental deposits, with some landlords demanding deposits equivalent to several months' rent. Residents called

## Pushing for Solutions on Water Pressure, Quality, and Service Delivery

Access to clean, reliable water remains one of the most essential public services and one of the most frequently raised concerns by residents of Banjul and communities across The Gambia. Hon. Njai has remained relentless in pushing for answers and practical solutions regarding persistent challenges of low water pressure, inconsistent supply, and concerns over water quality.



For many households and businesses, low water voltage has meant disrupted daily life, difficulty storing water, added costs, and avoidable hardship. In some areas, concerns over water quality have also underscored the need for stronger infrastructure, maintenance, and oversight. Recognizing the seriousness of these issues, Hon. Njai consistently raised the matter through parliamentary channels and direct engagement with relevant authorities.

a social audit initiative in Banjul (ref. page 24) in 2023, designed to gather firsthand public feedback, identify service delivery gaps, and ensure citizen concerns regarding water and utilities were formally documented and elevated. This process helped bring measurable attention to long-standing frustrations experienced by residents and reinforced the need for responsive governance.

Lancaster Place, a strategic facility long viewed as important to improving water distribution capacity in Banjul. Hon. Njai consistently questioned delays surrounding its completion and activation, while calling for swift government intervention to bring the facility into operation.

Alhamdulillah, we are pleased to announce that following a recent oral parliamentary question raised by Hon. Njai on this matter, the Minister of Energy, Hon. Nani Juwara, confirmed that the issue was being remedied and that the Lancaster Place water tank would soon be launched and made operational under the WASSIP Project.

This update represents an encouraging step toward improving water access and pressure in Banjul. Once activated, the facility is expected to strengthen storage and distribution capacity, helping to ease long-standing supply challenges affecting residents and businesses.

As part of his practical constituency approach, Hon. Njai previously supported and advanced

Among the key matters repeatedly pursued was the status of the water tank at

## National Assembly Committee Recommendation From 2022-2025 based on recent reporting and official actions:

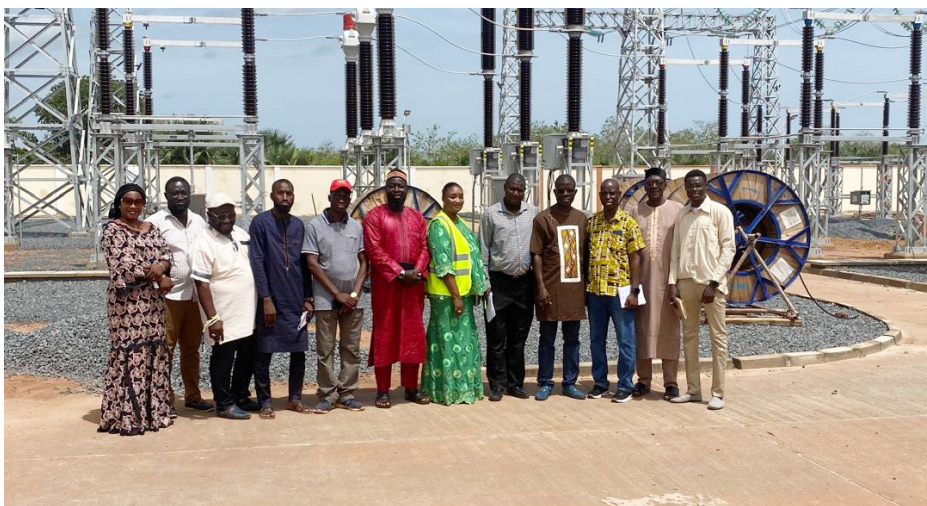
The National Assembly's committees have been active in oversight and policy direction across multiple sectors. In 2025 the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) successfully moved recommendations to curb unauthorized virements, tighten budget discipline, and require audited financial reconciliations and improved personnel records, with deadlines and potential sanctions attached. Committees also urged more stringent adherence to procurement and payroll rules and timely statutory remittances.

Select committees have exposed systemic governance issues, most notably in the land administration sector, where the Committee on Regional Government and Lands found outdated laws and manual processes undermining land registration and recommended a comprehensive national land policy, law reform, digital systems, staffing improvements, and logistics support with a 90-day action timeline for the responsible ministry.

Parliamentarians have also acted on accountability recommendations: a joint committee report on petroleum sector irregularities called for the censure of two ministers for alleged misconduct and urged independent review panels and policy reviews to enhance institutional integrity.

In education, the Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT urged government to implement recommendations from its visits, including reviewing school fee policies and strengthening core curriculum requirements like history, agriculture, and social studies.

Across these actions, committees have consistently combined findings from audits, field visits, and oversight hearings with clear remedial recommendations, often with timelines for reporting back on compliance to the Assembly.



## Hon. Abdoulie Njai's Parliamentary, Regional, and International Portfolios Parliamentary Committee Assignments

**H**on. Abdoulie Njai sits on multiple parliamentary committees, which bring together Members of Parliament to focus on specific areas of legislation, oversight, and government accountability.

He is a Member of the Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands, Ombudsman and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). In this role, he contributes to the review of local government administration, land governance, the work of the Ombudsman in addressing complaints against public institutions, and oversight of the IEC. His participation supports the scrutiny of laws and policies affecting these critical governance sectors.

He also serves as a Member of the Standing Committee on Public Enterprises, which examines the management and performance of state-owned enterprises and public agencies, including utilities, telecommunications, transport, and postal services. Through this committee, he helps hold public enterprises accountable for service delivery and the use of public funds.

In addition, Hon. Njai is a Member of the Select Committee on Monitoring the Implementation of Government Projects. The committee tracks the execution of government-funded projects to ensure efficiency, transparency, and value for money. As a member, he reviews project progress and contributes to reports presented to Parliament.

Committee work remains central to parliamentary effectiveness, and his membership reflects sustained involvement in detailed legislative review and oversight.

### Regional Leadership Roles



At the regional level, Hon. Njai serves as Chairperson of the West Africa Young Parliamentarians Network, a newly launched body bringing together young legislators from across the sub-region. In this capacity, he leads efforts to strengthen cooperation among young lawmakers, advance youth inclusion in policymaking, and build institutional capacity across West Africa. His role extends beyond The Gambia, contributing to policy dialogue and collaboration with peers in Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and other countries.

### International Engagements

Internationally, Hon. Njai serves as Deputy Speaker of the International Youth Parliament, a global platform that convenes young representatives from multiple countries. Through this role, he engages with youth leaders worldwide on issues including governance, education, and inclusive public policy.

He also serves as Country Representative to the International Society of

City and Urban Regional Planners (ISOCARP), where he represents Gambian interests in international discussions on urban development, sustainable cities, and regional planning.

In addition, Hon. Njai engages through the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC), participating in parliamentary diplomacy and supporting cooperation on peacebuilding, development, and youth inclusion across the Islamic world.

### What These Roles Mean in Practice

Through parliamentary committee service, Hon. Njai plays a direct role in legislative review, budget scrutiny, and oversight of government actions. His regional leadership focuses on alliance-building and advancing shared youth priorities across West Africa, while his international engagements project Gambian perspectives globally and facilitate the exchange of ideas that inform national policy.

# State of the Nation Address 2022

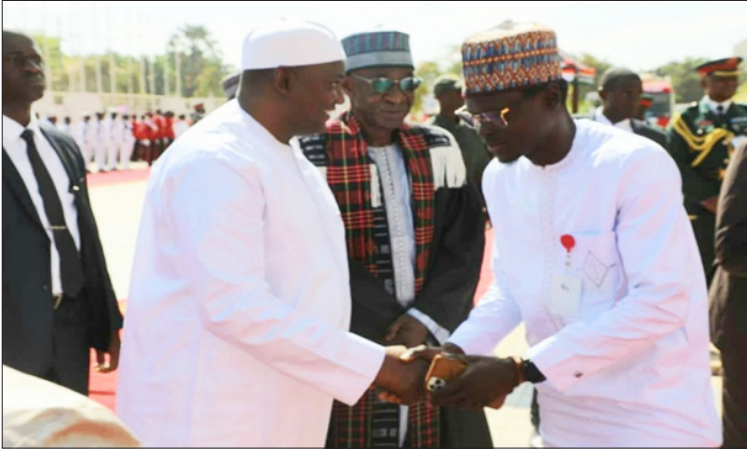


**O**n September 16th, 2022, in accordance with section 77(1) of the 1997 Constitution, President Adama Barrow delivered the State of the Nation Address (SONA), marking a key moment in the sixth legislature. The address provided an overview of The Gambia's condition, outlined the Government's policies, and presented its agenda for the upcoming year.

During his address, President Barrow highlighted

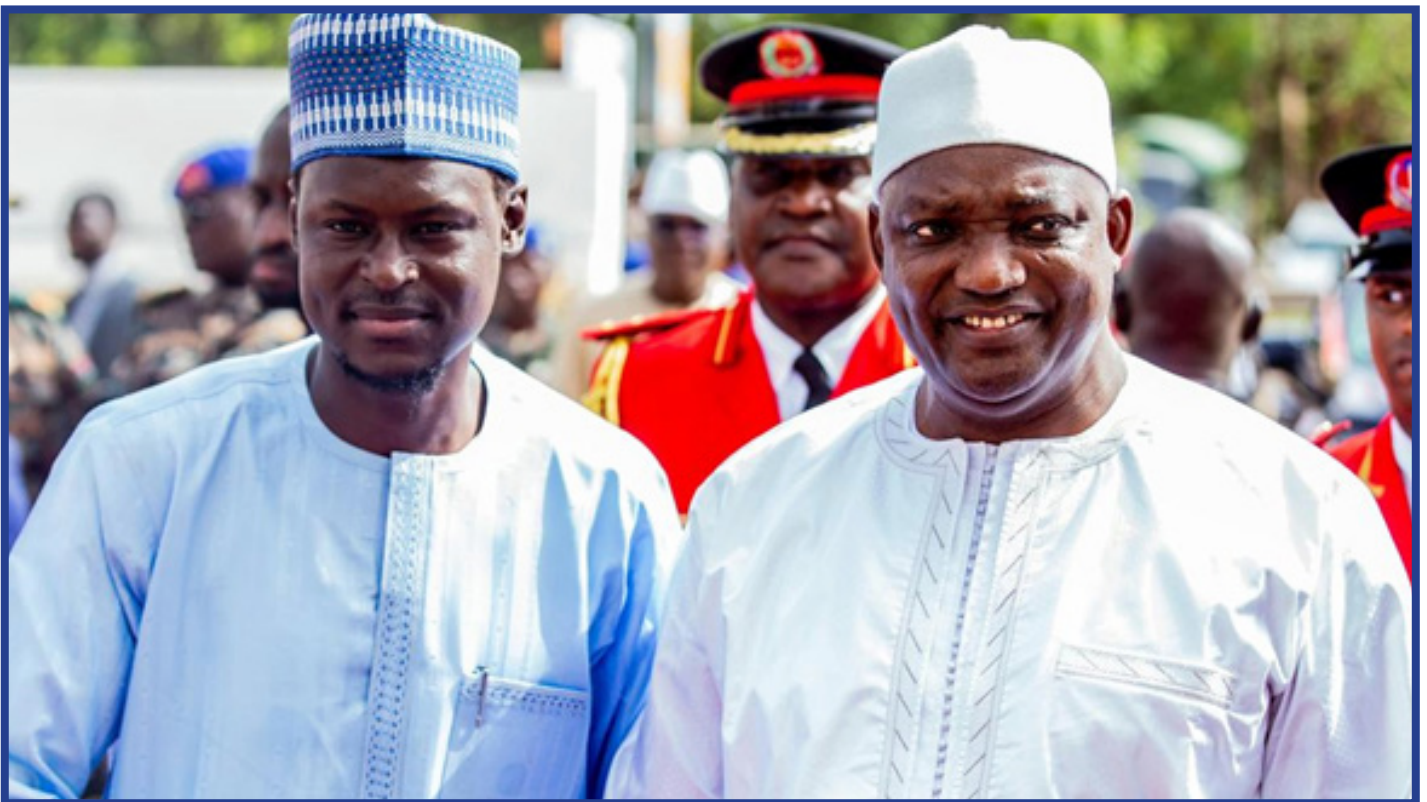
the administration's achievements, particularly in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, and discussed progress made under the 33 Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, which focuses on job creation and economic revitalization. He used the occasion to reaffirm the Government's commitment to transparency, accountability, and addressing socio-economic challenges, with a focus on promoting inclusive growth and national development.

# State of the Nation Address 2023



On June 8, 2023, Hon. A. Njai attended the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) delivered by His Excellency President Adama Barrow. This constitutional event, held annually, provides the President with the opportunity to report on the country's progress and outline the government's agenda. As per the 1997 Constitution, section 77(1), and the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, this address sets the legislative agenda and outlines key initiatives for the year. Hon. Njai and his colleagues remain committed to fulfilling their legislative duties with transparency, ensuring accountability and progress for the Gambian people.

# State of the Nation Address 2024



# State of the Nation Address 2025



# Capacity Building Training For NAMs



**O**n June 24, 2022, the National Youth Council of The Gambia, with support from the UNDP's Peace Building Fund, conducted a comprehensive three-day capacity-building training session for young parliamentarians. The program aimed to strengthen the role of young Members of the National Assembly (NAMs) in advancing national development by equipping them with essential skills in governance, resource mobilization, political debate, and peacebuilding. The training underscored the importance of social

accountability, community-driven initiatives, and fostering dialogue within communities. The National Youth Council recognized the critical role of young parliamentarians in societal transformation and emphasized the need for continued exposure and opportunities to empower them as catalysts for positive change. The initiative was executed in collaboration with the Centre for Political Debates (CPD), reaffirming a collective commitment to empowering the next generation of Gambian leaders.

## An Excerpt: Voters Sensitized Ahead of Local Government Elections 2023

**I**n his effort to promote peace and responsible citizenships, during the 2023 Local Government Elections, the visionary Banjul Central Parliamentarian sensitized residents of the community ahead of the elections. The following is an excerpt from the speech delivered by Honourable Abdoulie Njai on 15th April 2023:

*“As a community, Banjul exemplifies unity and coexistence, a spirit we must uphold as we approach the local elections for councilors and mayor. Elections are an integral part of our democracy, offering a platform for political expression and progress. However, they also carry the potential for division if not approached with care and respect. I urge everyone in our community to*



*participate with wisdom, knowing that the decisions we make today will shape our collective future for the next five years and beyond. This responsibility should not be taken lightly.*

*Although I am currently in the People's Republic of China on official duty, I stand in solidarity with you all in spirit. Through parliamentary friendship programs, we are committed to strengthening*

*diplomatic ties and ensuring a peaceful, prosperous future for all. I encourage each of you to exercise your civic duty thoughtfully and peacefully. Let us make choices that reflect our values and aspirations for a better future. To the candidates running for office, I wish you success, and to the electorate, I urge calmness and respect throughout the process. Together, we can chart a course for a brighter tomorrow.*

*May the Almighty grant us the strength and wisdom to fulfill our responsibilities with integrity. Let us move forward with hope and determination, knowing that together we can overcome any challenge ahead."*

**Hon Abdoulie Njai,  
MP Banjul Central**

# Social Audit and Public Hearing on Water Issues

*Bringing Institutions Closer to the People*



On November 1, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai took proactive steps to address water issues in the greater Banjul area, where communities continue to face water shortages, low water pressure, and concerns about water quality. As part of a comprehensive social audit on water, conducted in collaboration with the International Republican Institute (IRI), Hon. Njai worked with members of the Public Enterprise Committee (PEC) to engage various stakeholders, including households, the Banjul City Council (BCC), and the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), to understand the root causes of these issues.

Following the findings of the audit, a public hearing was held at McCarthy Square, where NAWEC's Water Department officials interacted directly with residents. This transparent forum allowed stakeholders to voice concerns about the water shortage and quality, fostering accountability. Hon. Njai also visited households in Banjul to gather firsthand feedback, demonstrating his hands-on approach to understanding constituent concerns.

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which calls for clean water and sanitation for all, Hon. Njai remains

committed to ensuring Banjul does not lack access to clean water. He is determined to collaborate with stakeholders and advocate for solutions to address the erratic water supply in the region. Hon. Njai also expressed gratitude to PEC, IRI, and NAWEC for their support in driving this initiative forward. Through collective efforts, there is a strong commitment to ensuring reliable and clean water for all in Banjul.



# Hon. Abdoulie Njai recently delivered a Lecture | Organized by World Beyond War The Gambia Chapter Theme: “Policy and Governance – Engaging Decision-Makers in the Efforts to Stop Killer Robots”



Speaking to a gathering of university students, fellow policymakers, academics, CSO representatives, and youth leaders on one of the most urgent global threats of our time . “autonomous weapon system” more commonly referred to as “KillerRobots”

He drew upon the profound ethical restraint of Imam Ali (RA), who once withheld his sword during battle when his enemy spat in his face fearing he might strike out of personal anger rather than justice. This timeless moment reminds us why human morality must never be outsourced to algorithms. The devastating consequences of removing human conscience from the

chain of command in warfare, Gaza and similar conflict zones show the real-time impact of surveillance drones and AI-powered targeting systems where precision often becomes permission for destruction.

The environmental and climate impacts of war-tech production rare earth mining, carbon-heavy logistics, and toxic residue disproportionately affect vulnerable regions like Africa. Africa's severe vulnerability due to lack of AI military capability, while ironically, we remain the source of critical raw materials used in tech warfare.

Hon. Njai further lectured on: The growing global push for a binding international treaty to ban lethal

autonomous weapons. The G8 bloc's resistance, their strategic vetoes at the UN Security Council, and reluctance to level the playing field.

I also highlighted the role of African charters, including the Kampala Convention, the AU Convention on Cybersecurity, and the Common African Position on UN reforms; emphasized



legislative responsibilities of national parliaments, especially in drafting laws that align ethics, accountability, and technological sovereignty.

As Africa stands at the intersection of global technological ambition and domestic vulnerability, shaping these norms require collective efforts from a regional perspective.

## National Youth Leadership Forum

On April 27, 2022, the National Youth Leadership Forum took place at Nana Conference Hall, organized by Peace Hub-The Gambia. The event aimed to promote responsible and transparent youth leadership while enhancing political participation. With 150 attendees, including women, youth, veteran politicians, newly elected National Assembly members, and Persons with Disabilities, the forum was supported by UNFPA and the National Youth Council of The Gambia under the Peace Building Fund. The theme, "Youth Leadership is Progressive for Development," highlighted panel discussions on peacebuilding, inclusive youth political participation, and experience sharing.

Honorable Abdoulie Njai, a young parliamentarian, shared his journey from charity work to advocacy and politics. He emphasized the importance of community engagement and having a clear vision, reflecting on the challenges he faced in connecting with undecided voters and maintaining ethical standards during his campaigns.



## COP 27 Climate Summit



Honorable Abdoulie Njai participated in the COP 27 climate summit held on November 6, 2023 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, where 198 countries gathered under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The summit focused on five key issues: nature conservation, food

security, water resources, industrial de-carbonization, and climate adaptation.

As the national focal point for Parliamentarians Call for Fossil-Free Fuel, Honorable Njai played an active role in discussions, advocating for stronger

international cooperation to tackle climate change. He emphasized the need for transformational policies to achieve 100% renewable energy globally, especially in Africa, and called for the diversification of economies to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. He also stressed the importance of climate finance, urging wealthy nations to deliver timely and adequate support for climate actions, highlighting the severe impact of climate change on vulnerable countries like The Gambia.


Honorable Njai highlighted the risks posed by rising sea levels to agriculture and infrastructure in Banjul, underscoring the need for robust mitigation efforts. He called for international collaboration to support projects like the Ostend Banjul City Link Greening Project and stressed the urgency of climate justice to protect communities affected by climate change. The summit facilitated continued bilateral discussions aimed at addressing these pressing global challenges.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Africa Union Student Platform THE AFRICA WE WANT

## LAUNCH

Theme: "Empowering Africa's Future: Igniting Vision, Inspiring Leadership."

MEET OUR SPEAKERS ON 22ND



Hon. Abdoulie Njai

Member of National Assembly of the Gambia




Mary Izobo

Human Rights Lawyer and Governance Expert



Dimakatso Malwela

President of WOVSA and SADC WIT Chairperson



Euclid K. Mtonga

Finance Officer at SADC SECRETARIAT

**H**onorable Abdoulie Njai is invited by the African Union Students Platform to serve as the keynote speaker at the launch of the Young Leaders Parliament. This prestigious initiative gathers emerging youth leaders from over 35 African nations, united in the vision to empower our future

through dialogue, leadership, and transformative policy aligned with Agenda 2063 and complementary initiatives under Agenda 2064. The Parliament is established under the esteemed framework of the African Union, reinforcing our commitment to transnational cooperation, innovation, and sustainable

development across the continent.

Hon njai will share insights and collaborate on building a brighter, unified future for Africa.

**Theme: "Empowering Africa's Future: Igniting Vision, Inspiring Leadership"**

**A**bdoulie Njai will be speaking at the international panel who rules? Confronting Gerontocracies in Parliaments Worldwide. This virtual session, hosted in partnership with top Indian universities by center for youth

YIF x MU Online Lecture Series 2025

### CONFRONTING GERONTOCRACIES IN PARLIAMENT



HON. MARCELA NISTOR

MP, Moldova (2014-2021), P&S Culture & Education Advocate



HON. ABDOULIE NJAI

MP, The Gambia (2014-2021) Advocate for Anti-corruption, Youth & Women's Empowerment, Transparency & Accountability Champion



JONATHAN LANG

Project Officer, State-Parliamentary Action (SPA) Former IPJ Human Rights Programme & Canadian MP Assistant



SUDHANSHU KAUSHIK

Moderator Founder - Young India Foundation Indian American Youth Rights Advocate, and Writer.

19 FEB. 2025 | 01:00 PM ONWARDS

policy CYP) and Young India Foundation (YIF), is expected to reach 2000-2500 viewers, live-streamed directly into classrooms across India. Join us for an insightful discussion on how traditional political structures influence youth engagement and shape the future of democracy.

# Hon. Njai Participates as Panelist at 3rd Interfaith Workshop

On January 11, 2023, Honorable Abdoulie Njai was a guest panelist at the third edition of the Interfaith Workshop organized by Faith for Our Planet, held at Coco Ocean Hotel.

The workshop focused on climate change and environmental sustainability, where Hon. Njai highlighted humanity's divine responsibility to care for the Earth. He emphasized that it is not in line with faith to damage what God has created, urging responsible action for the preservation of nature.

The event gathered 30 Gambian faith leaders for a one-day training program designed to explore the relationship between faith and environmental advocacy. The workshop aimed to empower these leaders to become climate action advocates within their communities. The panel of speakers, including experts like Reverend Agostao Zita from the Christian Council of Mozambique and Sheikh El\_Sunais from Nigeria, discussed the spiritual importance of environmental



preservation and how faith-based values can support global climate action.

The workshop included training on systems thinking and strategies for addressing region-specific climate issues. It also encouraged collaboration between faith-based organizations, government bodies, and civil society to enhance the effectiveness of climate initiatives.

## Doha Forum - March 2023

March 7, 2023, Honorable Abdoulie Njai participated in the Doha Forum as a key representative of young voices in the ongoing climate crisis. Serving as a member of the Parliamentarians on Fossil Fuel Mitigation Network, he joined renowned climate activists, including Lidy Nacpil, to deliver a powerful message on the urgency of addressing global warming.

In his presentation, Hon. Njai stressed the need for immediate action to limit global warming to 1.5°C, a target set by the Paris Agreement. He criticized high-emitting, developed countries—particularly those in the Global North—for failing to meet their commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He also highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on least developed countries (LDCs), which contribute the least to global emissions but are most vulnerable to climate-related disasters.



Hon. Njai called for debt cancellation for LDCs in relation to climate issues and pushed for stronger follow-up on climate finance pledges made at the Copenhagen Summit. He also emphasized the importance of increasing private sector contributions to climate finance and supporting LDCs in their transition to renewable energy sources. His participation underscored the crucial

role of civil society in advocating for climate action and the need for continued global support to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Through his statements, Hon. Njai reinforced his commitment to climate justice, urging the international community to take meaningful action to combat climate change and support those most affected by it.

# World Youth Day – We Celebrate Youth Resilience

Today, as we gather under the banner of World Youth Day, celebrating the vibrancy and promise of young people across the globe, our hearts are heavy with the awareness that for countless youth, the very essence of youthfulness remains a distant dream. While

many of us cherish memories of carefree days, education, and aspirations, young souls in Gaza, Palestine, and impoverished corners of Africa are robbed of these fundamental joys. Their reality is defined not by dreams, but by survival; not by play, but by pain.

## In Gaza

In Gaza, a generation endures unimaginable suffering. Over 12,000 children under five battle acute malnutrition, with 35 precious lives lost to starvation since July alone. Parents face agonizing choices: starve in crumbling shelters or risk death seeking scraps of aid. With 70% of homes, schools, and hospitals reduced to rubble, children scavenge for food in debris. Displacement camps, crammed with 90% of Gaza's population, offer no sanctuary only the relentless echo of bombs and grief. For these youth, "growing up" means burying siblings, not attending school dances; their greatest advocacy is the desperate hope for their next meal.

Meanwhile, across Africa, hunger tightens its grip on 307 million souls 20% of the continent's people. In nations like Sudan and Somalia, conflict and climate collapse have pushed malnutrition rates higher than pre-pandemic levels. Nearly a quarter of African children under five

suffer stunted growth from chronic hunger, while girls face anemia rates nearing 31%, stealing their strength and futures. These young hearts bear burdens no child should carry: walking miles for water instead of attending school, laboring in fields instead of chasing dreams.

Yet amidst this darkness, their resilience shines like defiant stars. In Gaza's ruins, teenagers organize secret classrooms, determined to learn amid Israel's blockade. Across Africa, youth innovate against despair. Somali girls engineer water-harvesting systems, Kenyan teens deploy apps to alert communities of aid. Even oceans away, young activists like Cornell's Sriram Parasurama risk expulsion to protest weapons funding Gaza's war, their voices rising for justice despite threats and suspensions. Their courage is a sacred fire that refuses to be extinguished.



We demand immediate aid flooding Gaza to end famine, and a lasting ceasefire to stop the bombs killing children alongside hope. We call for investment in Africa's social protection and climate-resilient farming, where 545 million now cannot afford healthy diets la crisis deepening by the day. And we must shield truth-tellers like Momodou Taal, facing deportation for protesting genocide, for academic freedom must defend the brave.

## World Youth Forum - Russia

The program convened state managers, public servants, and policy innovators from across the world to engage in high-level discourse, immersive training, and collaborative innovation on the future of public service.

Hon. Njai actively contributed to a series of team-based projects and dialogues, including the design and presentation of a group proposal centered on environmental sustainability and biodiversity preservation, with a special lens on urban ecological resilience drawing

inspiration from Banjul's own Tanbi wetlands. Other team-led presentations included models for scalable youth incubator systems, smart citizen engagement platforms, and cross-border public administration solutions tailored for emerging economies.

The African delegation made remarkable contributions to the program, positioning the continent as a key player in shaping adaptive and visionary public service frameworks. Hon. Njai's participation not only reflected his own leadership acumen but also reaffirmed his continued role as a Pan-African voice for inclusive, youth-driven development and green public policy.

As he departs Russia, Hon. Njai sets his sights on Harare, Zimbabwe, where he has been invited as a



featured guest for an important panel discussion. There, he will present on Banjul's urban biodiversity framework, with a focus on preserving the Tanbi wetlands, while advocating for stronger environmental governance and sustainable city strategies.

This leg of his mission builds upon a growing legacy of transformative leadership rooted in action, innovation, and a steadfast dedication to Africa's shared prosperity. His trajectory from Banjul to the global stage is a testament to what ethical leadership, youthful energy, and visionary thinking can achieve.

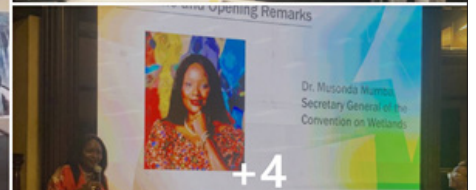


# RAMSAR COP15 15th Convention on Wetlands

Hon. Njai wraps up his trips by representing The Gambia as a featured speaker on the high-level panel “Enhancing Wetland Governance Through Parliamentary Leadership” at the Ramsar COP15 Convention. Convened under the G20 Global Land Initiative (GLI) and jointly hosted by the (GCAP) and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), this timely side event focused on translating multilateral commitments into national action through legislation, community engagement and cross-sector collaboration.

He shared the platform with two distinguished fellow GCAP parliamentarians: renowned for championing constitutional environmental reforms and community-led land governance; and whose work emphasizes integrating wetlands into freshwater policy and climate resilience planning. The session was expertly moderated by Apoorva Bose a leading UNSSC climate policy specialist instrumental in shaping GCAP’s global capacity-building programs for legislators.

From The Gambia’s perspective, blending his legislative role and civil society leadership experiences, he advocated for the establishment legal safeguards for ecological buffer zones, prohibit illegal encroachment, and



create a national wetland restoration fund leveraging eco-tourism and climate finance. Such measures are vital to protect Gambian wetlands particularly stressed mangrove ecosystems and urban wetlands in Banjul from unregulated development and climate impacts.

Underscoring parliament’s unique role as a bridge between global treaties and local realities, GCAP empowers

legislators to effectively integrate frameworks like Ramsar and UNCCD into national debates and budgetary decisions.

This panel reinforced that effective wetland stewardship demands proactive parliamentary leadership, grounded in inclusive lawmaking and strategic alliances to turn global pledges into local protection.

## “Constituency Assemblies: Connecting Parliamentarians with Youth” project

The engagement provided a valuable platform for direct and constructive dialogue with the vibrant and passionate youth of Banjul Central and beyond. Discussions focused on key national issues relating to democratic governance and institutional reforms, underscoring the importance of inclusive participation in shaping the future of The Gambia. The session also highlighted Hon. Njai’s continual engagement with key stakeholders within communities and his commitment to inclusive representation.

Hon. Abdoulie Njai, in collaboration with his colleague, Hon. Modou Lamin B. Bah, Member for Banjul North Constituency, facilitated the dialogue and contributed meaningfully to an open, engaging, and productive exchange of ideas.

The session marked a fitting conclusion to a project that strengthened engagement between parliamentarians and young people, reaffirming the central role of youth voices in democratic development.



# Keynote Speaker on Migration, Drugs and Crime



Madam Fatou Geo Barry. Hon. Njai shared valuable insights on the negative consequences of drug consumption and emphasized the need for more recreational facilities and social amenities. He called for prisons to focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment to address these challenges.

In a separate panel discussion moderated by Mr. Muhammed Kanyi, Hon. Njai elaborated on available opportunities for young people and stressed the importance of community involvement in combating drug consumption. He advocated for harsher punishments for drug dealers and provided guidance to youth on how to overcome their challenges, emphasizing leadership, exploration in various fields, and ethical conduct.

**O**n December 26, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai played a crucial role as both keynote speaker and panelist in a dialogue focused on migration, trafficking in persons, and the impact of drugs and crime on youth. Organized by The Gambia Cyber Security Alliance in partnership with the UNODC and PROMIS, the event included distinguished speakers such as UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Desta Alamerew Tiruneh, Mr. Muhammed Ngallan, and

Hon. Njai reiterated his commitment to advocating for youth issues both within The Gambia and across the African continent, commending the organizers for their dedication to addressing these critical issues and reaffirming his support for the youth.



Community Outreach on Trafficking in Persons & Smuggling of Migrants

## Inaugurations

# Banjul Central Office Inaugurated

## *Fulfillment Of A Key Campaign Promise*



**H**onorable Abdoulie Njai officially launched the Banjul Central Constituency Office on No. 9 Independence Drive Road, fulfilling one of his key campaign promises. The inauguration event held on 26th March, 2023 saw residents, colleagues, family members, and friends. The ceremony began with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a media briefing. Hon. Njai initiated the office project Shortly after his election, from the(CDF) along with his personal contribution. This helps prevent the risk of high costs for office rental space and affects working stability.

In his address, Hon. Njai emphasized that the office will serve as a platform for community engagement, where residents can voice their concerns and work together to find solutions.

He reaffirmed his commitment to transparency and collaboration with local government representatives.



He also praised the young individuals who contributed to building the office, highlighting their dedication

and talent. Hon. Njai stressed the importance of youth empowerment and job creation in the community. The office includes key facilities such as a reception area, an office room, toilet facilities, a store, and tap outlets. A tap has been designated for public use to help address water access challenges faced by some members of the community.

Hon. Njai reaffirmed his open-door policy, welcoming collaboration from all stakeholders, regardless of political affiliation. He thanked everyone who attended and reiterated the importance of working together for the benefit of the community. The inauguration of the Banjul Central Constituency Office is a testament to Hon.

Njai's commitment to serving his constituents and fulfilling his campaign promises.



# Women Microfinance Initiative Launched and Expanded



On February 3, 2023, Hon. Abdou Njai launched the Women

Microfinance Initiative, a practical and transformative project aimed at empowering women engaged in petty trading within Banjul Central. Aligned with his four-point agenda, the initiative was created to strengthen the socio-economic standing of women through a carefully structured financial support program.



The first beneficiaries were 30 widows, who received funds to purchase goods and expand their small businesses, thereby improving household income and economic independence. Funded through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the initiative was designed as a revolving fund model to ensure sustainability and continued support for future beneficiaries.

Following its early success, plans remain in motion to expand the initiative to reach more women, market vendors, and vulnerable groups across the constituency. Future phases will continue to prioritize enterprise growth, financial inclusion, and long-term community resilience.

## Banjul Central Office Placement Program

In an ongoing effort to address unemployment and create opportunities for local residents, the Banjul Central Office Placement Program was established to connect constituents with meaningful employment. Through the program, the office began collecting data on young people with formal qualifications as well as those with



valuable informal skills. This process helped match job seekers with opportunities suited to their abilities and interests.

Since its inception, the initiative has resulted in more than 75 young people being placed in jobs across both formal and informal sectors. Several young adults have already secured stable and productive employment through this intervention.

As the program continues to grow, additional placements are expected, new partnerships will be developed, and broader access to employment opportunities will be created. The program will also continue providing career guidance, mentorship, and support to help participants build long-term success. Hon. Njai remains committed to tackling unemployment through practical and sustained action.



## Solar Lumina Project Completed and Ongoing Expansion

The Solar Lumina Project was successfully completed across key parts of Banjul Central, including Albert Market, the cemetery area, and other strategic locations. The project delivered solar-powered street lighting to improve night-time visibility, enhance public safety, and promote energy efficiency.



The initiative addressed long-standing lighting challenges, reduced reliance on conventional power sources, and began delivering immediate benefits to residents, commuters, and local businesses. It marked an important step toward safer streets and more sustainable public infrastructure.

part of our practical, community-centered approach to strengthening security, promoting safety, and improving everyday life for residents of Banjul Central.

Building on this success, further phases of the project are expected to extend lighting coverage to additional communities and public spaces. These efforts remain



# Courtesy Visit

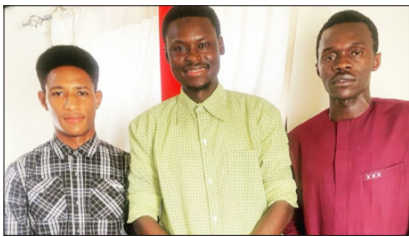
## Courtesy Visit To Minister of Youth and Sports

On June 13, 2022, Hon. Njai visited the Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Bakary Badjie, as part of a familiarization tour with youth organizations in Banjul. The discussion centered on youth involvement in national development and how effective policies can enhance practical outcomes.

Minister Badjie expressed his support for the initiative and committed to working together on areas of mutual interest to further empower youth in The Gambia.



## Unification For Development And Drug Prevention



Mbenga, Executive Director of the Africa Drug Free Foundation (ADF), to discuss a partnership focused on addressing drug-related issues and supporting youth development.

The two leaders explored various ways to collaborate, aiming to reduce drug use and its impact on communities. Mr. Mbenga, also the Brand Ambassador

for the Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DLEAG), emphasized the importance of working together with stakeholders to prevent drug abuse and foster community safety. Both leaders agreed to formalize their partnership and design programs aimed at tackling drug-related challenges while promoting positive development among youth.

On July 26, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai met with Mr. Mamour M.

## Courtesy Visit to GOVI

On August 19th, 2022, Honorable Abdoulie Njai visited The Gambia Organization of the Visually Impaired (GOVI) in Kanifing, accompanied by Mikailu Ngum Chief Adviser to Hon Njai. The visit aimed to understand the organization's needs and challenges while exploring ways to offer support.

During the visit, Honorable Aji Yam Secka, Chairperson of GOVI, and former member of parliament expressed her joy at hosting a Member of Parliament for the first time and urged Honorable Njai to advocate for the visually impaired community, given the absence of a dedicated representative. GOVI's director, Mr. Camara, shared the organization's services, which include academic education, ICT training, skill development, and psychosocial support for the visually impaired. GOVI also assists with admissions and helps new members adjust to their visual



impairment.

Honorable Njai reiterated his commitment to supporting people with disabilities, as promised in his four-point campaign agenda. He emphasized the need for collaboration among lawmakers to address the challenges faced by the community.

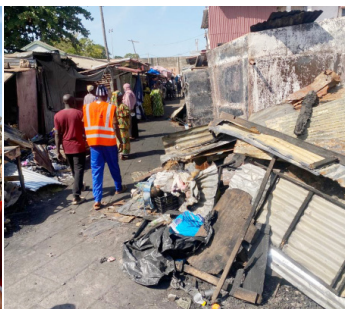
During the visit, it was revealed that GOVI members face several difficulties, including a shortage of Braille machines, insufficient white canes, and a lack of social welfare subsidies.

The team toured GOVI's facilities, including the IT section, the main hall (under construction), and the handicraft

lab. It was clear that despite GOVI's efforts, The Gambia faces ongoing challenges in providing essential resources for people with disabilities. Public buildings and transportation systems lack the necessary infrastructure, such as ramps and accessible restrooms, to support individuals with physical disabilities.

Despite these obstacles, the visiting team praised GOVI's dedication and called on those with resources to assist. They stressed the need for collective action to improve the lives of people with disabilities in The Gambia and encouraged public awareness of the community's needs.

## Hon. Abdoulie Njai's visit Banjul sandika after the fire incident





**LEAD AFRICA** **Y** **YOUTHELECT**

# YOUTH IN PARLIAMENT

VIRTUAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

**WITH:**  
**HON. ABDOULIE NJAI**  
YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIAN,  
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA  
AFRICAN ICON AWARDEE  
GLOBAL PEACE AMBASSADOR

**MENTOR**

**WITH:**  
**HON. ABDOULIE NJAI**  
YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIAN,  
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA  
AFRICAN ICON AWARDEE  
GLOBAL PEACE AMBASSADOR

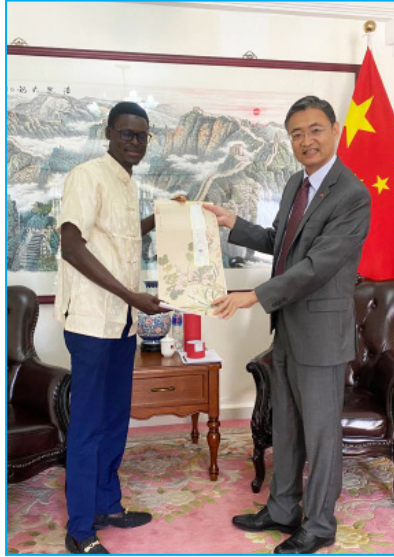
**SATURDAY 18TH MAY, 2024**  
**10:00AM (NIGERIA TIME)**

SUPPORTED BY: **LEAP** **NIGERIA YOUTH FORUMS**

**GOOGLE MEET**

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**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY; CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



# Preserving the Culture of Interfaith Unity: Hon. Njai Visits Christian Communities

**B**anjul is widely known for its strong commitment to inter-religious harmony and cultural diversity, where both Christians and Muslims coexist peacefully, emphasizing unity over differences. In this spirit, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, alongside his team and staff from the Banjul Central Office, visited local Christian communities as they concluded their fasting period. The visit was made in support of their preparations for the upcoming Easter celebrations, with stops at Bethel Church and Cathedral Church.

Inclusivity is a core principle of Hon. Njai's 4-Point Agenda, and he recognizes the important role that Christians play in the Banjul Central Constituency. Their contributions to the community and the nation at large are invaluable. The mutual respect and collaboration between Christians and Muslims in



community initiatives highlight the unity that defines Banjul.

This year (2024) holds special significance, as both religious groups observed their fasting periods simultaneously, further strengthening their bond. Hon. Njai, who serves as a representative in the National Assembly, remains deeply committed to listening to the concerns, needs, and aspirations of all his constituents. Promoting religious cohesion and fostering unity will always remain a

top priority for him.

As a member of the Select Committee on Lands and Religious Affairs, Hon. Njai's dedication to interfaith dialogue is reflected in his work within the legislative process. Future editions of this newsletter will provide more insights into the legislative initiatives he has championed, demonstrating his practical approach to representation and his ongoing efforts to strengthen interfaith relations.

## Andandorr Movement Welcomes International Partners

**O**n November 29, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, Member of Parliament for Banjul Central, welcomed a distinguished delegation from Liberia. Led by Youth Network for Positive Change Executive Director, Ambassador Leo E. Tiah, and Project Programs Manager, William Kei, the delegation's five-day working visit was focused on preparing for the 7th Annual Youth Education and Leadership Conference (AYEAL), set to take place in Banjul in July 2024.

A welcome dinner hosted by Team Andandorr provided an opportunity to reflect on the



collaboration between Andandorr and YOUNETPO as they prepare for the conference, which addressed crucial issues related to youth, including peace-building, education, health, governance, migration, and human rights.

conference was meant to provide opportunities for networking, skill acquisition, exchange programs, and professional development. In addition to conference preparations, the delegates explored Banjul's cultural landmarks and visited the Future Proof Project, gaining insight into successful greening initiatives that YOUNETPO aims to replicate.

The visit also included discussions about the launch of the Young Parliamentary Network of Africa during the AYEAL conference, further advancing youth empowerment and leadership across the continent.



Discussions during the visit were held with various local partners, including the Banjul Youth Committee, The Gambia Cyber Security Alliance, and others, aimed to strengthen partnerships and success of conference. The



## Activities/Celebrations

# Community Cleaning Exercise for World Environment Day



initiative emphasized the urgent need for environmental responsibility and practical local action.

Hon. Njai encouraged residents to adopt better environmental practices, highlighting the dangers posed by plastic waste, indiscriminate dumping, and

exercise focused on clearing gutters, removing debris, and helping prevent flooding during the rainy season. Guided by the global theme, “Only One Earth,” the

construction debris blocking waterways. He stressed that maintaining a clean and sustainable environment is a shared responsibility requiring collective effort. He also pledged continued collaboration with local leaders and community groups to deepen environmental awareness and regular clean-up efforts. Special appreciation was extended to Mamour Touray, former Councillor of New Town East Ward, for his support and commitment to community development.

Looking ahead, similar exercises and broader environmental initiatives will continue to be promoted across Banjul Central as part of efforts to improve sanitation, public health, and climate resilience.

## Hon. Abdoulie Njai Commemorates World Earth Day with Gambian Youths at Banjul Beach

On 18th April 2022, Hon. Abdoulie Njai joined hundreds of Gambian youths to commemorate World Earth Day at Banjul Beach. The event, organized by Clean Earth The Gambia in collaboration with partner environmental organizations, focused on raising awareness of the environmental challenges facing the planet.

Participants engaged in a one-hour beach clean-up before Hon. Njai was invited to close the commemoration. In his remarks, he encouraged volunteers to remain dedicated to community service and to treat every day as Earth Day through consistent environmental stewardship.

He noted that the world is facing an ecological emergency driven by biodiversity loss and climate instability,



and called for urgent, practical solutions to secure a healthier future for both people and planet.

This engagement reflected his continued support for youth-led environmental action, with future collaborations

expected to strengthen climate awareness, volunteerism, and coastal protection initiatives.

Reflections from Bangkok Climate Week 2025

## Reflections from Bangkok Climate Week 2025

It has been an enlightening experience participating in the Bangkok Climate Week 2025, where parliamentarians from Asia and Africa gathered to deliberate on “Energy Systems and Technologies for the Future.”

Our sessions focused on accelerating the renewable energy transition, strengthening smart grid systems, and promoting community-led microgrid initiatives essential pathways for achieving a fossil-free and climate-resilient future.

From the African perspective, while the pace of progress remains uneven, the continent is steadily advancing through mini-grids, rural electrification projects, and innovative policy reforms. I had the honor of sharing The Gambia’s perspective, highlighting national solar initiatives and the untapped potential of riverine hydro as viable solutions for inclusive energy access.

However, looking forward, the lessons learnt in Bangkok reaffirmed the importance of community-based

renewable initiatives that empower citizens, enhance local ownership, and foster sustainable livelihoods. Across Africa and in The Gambia ideas and frameworks inspired by these discussions are already being developed to strengthen local energy resilience and equity.

The future of energy must be just, inclusive, and collaborative driven by shared knowledge between the Global South and reinforced by effective legislative action.



## Routine Monitoring of Greening Projects *Future Proof*

On October 19, 2023, Honorable Abdoulie Njai participated in a routine monitoring session of greening projects along Banjul’s coastal areas, focusing particularly on the success of coconut palm plantations. These trees, known for their resilience, have thrived despite environmental challenges like rising sea levels, which pose a significant threat to Banjul. Initiatives such as the Future Proof Team’s efforts in monitoring the coconut trees on the beach are vital to the city’s sustainability.

Honorable Njai, who previously chaired the Development Oriented Citizens (DOC) in Banjul, played a crucial role in the partnership between Banjul City Council and DOC, following the signing of a historic M.O.U. His leadership in the Banjul Greening Pilot Project in 2017 laid the groundwork for these efforts, bringing together key stakeholders like the mayor and the first lady to boost greening initiatives in the city.

Taking pride in this history, Honorable Njai continues to visit the beach and other greening sites, joining the team in their ongoing efforts. He commended the dedication of volunteers and the exemplary leadership of Mr. Mbogouma Ismaela Jeng, the founder of DOC and current field coordinator, as well as coconut and garden specialist Momodou Kalleh. Special recognition was also given to Mr. Peter Vanslambrouck and Mr. Jonas Banjul for their commitment to the revival process, alongside the gardeners, security personnel, and other supporters.

The coconut trees not only beautify the beach but also help mitigate coastal erosion and adapt to rising sea levels. Honorable Njai stressed the importance of collective efforts in protecting these greening projects across Banjul, from the beach to the inner-city areas and mangroves. Reflecting on his past involvement, he expressed fulfillment in seeing the project’s progress and emphasized the need for stronger climate and environmental legislation to support these initiatives.



# A Joint Cleaning Exercise at the Banjul Beach

Honorable Abdoulie Njai, on March 5, 2023, took part in a joint beach cleaning exercise at Banjul Beach, organized by the Development Oriented Citizens of Banjul (D.O.C) in collaboration with the International Open University (IOU).

This initiative was part of IOU's compulsory community service requirement for graduation and was designed to address the growing environmental concerns along the coast. Hon. Njai's participation was a testament to his ongoing commitment to environmental conservation and his proactive stance on critical ecological issues.

During the event, Hon. Njai expressed his deep concern about the increasing prevalence of plastic waste and its detrimental impact on marine life and coastal ecosystems. He highlighted the urgent need for action to protect these vital resources. His involvement in the cleaning activity demonstrated the values of environmental stewardship, responsibility, and the importance of taking collective action to preserve the environment for future generations.



# St. Augustine's Upper Basic School Artistic Forum



Hon. Abdoulie Njai joined St. Augustine's Upper Basic School for a vibrant artistic forum celebrating the rich cultural heritage and creative talents of young people. A committed advocate for Pan-African education and the promotion of African values, Hon.

Njai presented gifts to participants in recognition of their artistic excellence and enthusiasm.

Though abroad on official duties at the time, Hon. Njai ensured his support and presence were represented through Mr. Ousman

Njie, his Deputy Spokesperson and Special Adviser. The forum provided students with a platform to showcase their skills in poetry, drama, spelling, quiz competitions, and miming.

Hon. Njai also donated literature books authored by two talented young Gambians, Ismaila Izzy Touray and Muhammed Laity Badjan, underscoring the importance of nurturing local writers and intellectual talent. The event reflected the immense potential of Gambian youth, which, when properly guided and supported, can contribute greatly to national development.

Future engagements with schools and youth platforms will continue to encourage creativity, cultural pride, and educational excellence.

# Commonwealth Day Celebration

Hon. Abdoulie Njai visited St. Joseph's Basic Cycle School and Bethel Nursery School to join their Commonwealth Day celebrations. He used the occasion to encourage students to embrace their African identity, roots, and cultural values, which were proudly reflected in their traditional attire.

The younger pupils especially impressed attendees through their portrayal of African kings and queens, carrying themselves with pride, elegance, and confidence. Students also performed drama presentations that showcased remarkable talent and creativity.



Addressing the young learners, Hon. Njai emphasized the enduring values of discipline, commitment, punctuality, focus, and respect for parents and teachers as foundations for success in life and education. He also extended financial support to assist the school's management and administrative work, reaffirming his dedication to supporting educational institutions and motivating the next generation.

Such engagements will continue as part of efforts to strengthen moral values, learning environments, and youth empowerment across the constituency.

## Feed the Kids Initiative



Hon. Abdoulie Njai celebrated Eid in Banjul by joining children and families at the Arch during the Feed the Kids Initiative, a long-standing community tradition organized by The Revelation Group. For many years, the event has created a joyful and secure environment where children can celebrate the festive season together.

During the occasion, Hon. Njai spent time with the children, shared in their excitement, and distributed sweets in keeping with tradition. He acknowledged

the challenges many parents face in ensuring the safety of children during large celebrations and commended the organizers for their continued commitment to creating a safe and memorable experience.

Events such as these strengthen community bonds, preserve cherished traditions, and create lasting memories for families. Continued support for child-centered and family-oriented initiatives will remain an important part of building a united and caring society.

# Feed The Kids 2025



*When we invest in our children's safety, we invest in our future*

Hon. Abdoulie Njai on Eid ul Fitr joined the incredible Feed The Kids a brilliant blend of fun, talent, and protection for banjulian children during festivities.

At the iconic arch, kids showcased their skills in friendly competitions, while volunteers and

organizers worked tirelessly to ensure their safety. This initiative isn't just about entertainment; it's a lifeline to prevent children from getting lost, harmed, or trafficked in crowded spaces.

Special recognition to Revelation Group for their unwavering commitment, and to all who contributed time, resources, or prayers.



## Joining Unity Foundation's 11th Annual Charity Drive and Outdoor Iftar Distribution

Hon. Abdoulie Njai joined renowned charity organization UNITY FOUNDATION For Islamic & Humanitarian Purposes - UFIHP celebrating 11 years of Unity foundation's outdoor Iftarr distribution.

Week one saw us at Banjul (Brikama Garage) with comrades Humanity youth foundation



# BJ Academy Graduation Ceremony



**O**n September 7, 2023, Honorable Abdoulie Njai joined fellow mentors and mentees at the BJ Leadership Academy to celebrate the graduation of the first and second cohorts. As a dedicated mentor, Hon. Njai has



had a profound influence on the lives of the children and young leaders within these cohorts. His involvement, both before and after his election as a member of parliament, has left an indelible mark on the young individuals he has mentored.

Over the course of two and a half years, Hon. Njai actively

participated in guiding the mentees through various mentorship programs, offering career guidance, counseling, and training in areas such as public speaking, leadership, networking, digital literacy, and moral values. The BJ Academy network ensured that its mentees were well-prepared to face future challenges with confidence and determination.

The impact of Hon. Njai's mentorship is evident in the inspiring videos created by the BJ Academy, which raise awareness on important national and international issues. These creative endeavors highlight the mentees' leadership potential and their commitment to effecting positive change in the world.

‘As we celebrate the achievements of BJ Academy and its exceptional young leaders, we must also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of other mentors, including Amadou Wurry Jallow, Alimatou S. Bajinka, Njongi Tunkara, Abdou Karim

Badjie, Fatoumatta A. Jallow, Fatima Betts, Ousainu Colley, Issa Ndoeye, Abdoulie Gaye,



Lamin Shots, and Sulayman Njie, among others. These mentors have dedicated their time and expertise to nurturing the talents of the mentees, inspiring them to strive for excellence and make a positive impact on society.

BJ Leadership Academy will continue to empower young leaders to become agents of change and ambassadors of hope. Under the visionary leadership of Mr. Basiru Jaye, the academy will remain a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

# Advance Child-centered Climate Policy: Reflections from the Banjul Consultation



**H**on. Abdoulie Njai had the privilege of contributing to the Banjul Consultation as part of The Gambia's Climate Landscape Analysis for Children a pivotal step toward aligning national climate action with the needs of our youngest citizens.

As an MP and sustainable development advocate, he highlighted three key areas during my expert input:

**Policy Integration:** Children's unique vulnerabilities and voices

must be embedded in Climate, Energy, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED) frameworks.

**Innovative Solutions:** Investing in youth-driven initiatives, like clean energy access, can transform communities while safeguarding children's futures.

**Equity in Action:** Ensuring disability-inclusive and gender-responsive strategies to build truly resilient societies.

The consultation's diverse

participants policymakers, grassroots leaders, and children themselves reinforced the power of collaborative governance. Special thanks to Clean Earth Gambia under distinguished leadership of Fatou Jeng . Thanks Sol Slim Njie for the facilitation.

As we move forward, Hon. Njai remain committed to championing policies that place Gambian children at the heart of climate resilience. The time to act is NOW.



# Grow A Tree For Every Child



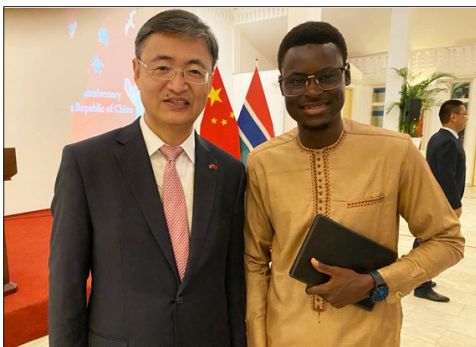
To address these challenges, Child-Care and Green Up Gambia have expanded their conservation efforts to involve younger generations. The "Grow a Tree for Every Child" initiative is part of the Go-Green Project, which works with schools to educate students about environmental conservation while helping them plant trees on school grounds. By integrating environmental education into school curricula and empowering students to take action, the initiative aims to build resilience against environmental degradation and foster a culture of sustainability.

Hon. Abdoulie Njai's participation in this event highlights his commitment to environmental stewardship and youth empowerment. By supporting projects like the Go-Green initiative, he is leading the way in advocating for sustainable practices and protecting the future well-being of the planet. Together, we can work toward a greener, healthier future for The Gambia and beyond.

**H**on. Abdoulie Njai, On September 17, 2023, took part in an important environmental initiative led by Child-Care in collaboration with Green Up Gambia. The event, themed "Grow a Tree for Every Child," aimed to raise awareness about climate change and the vital role of tree planting in mitigating its effects. Recognizing that climate change affects all sectors of society, including children, the initiative sought to engage young people in environmental conservation efforts and educate them about their responsibility to protect the planet.



## 74th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China



**O**n September 27, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai joined the world in commemorating the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese Embassy in The Gambia. China remains a critical ally to The Gambia, offering steadfast support to the government's national development agenda. The strong ties between the two countries facilitate global cooperation, and their partnership continues to strengthen over the years.

## Community Service: Independence Day Sanitation Exercise

3rd February, 2023

**T**he Banjul Central lawmaker, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, alongside volunteers, participated in a community-wide sanitation initiative. An exercise meant to clean the community ahead of the Independence Day celebration and it aimed at enhancing the aesthetics of Independence Drive Road in Banjul.

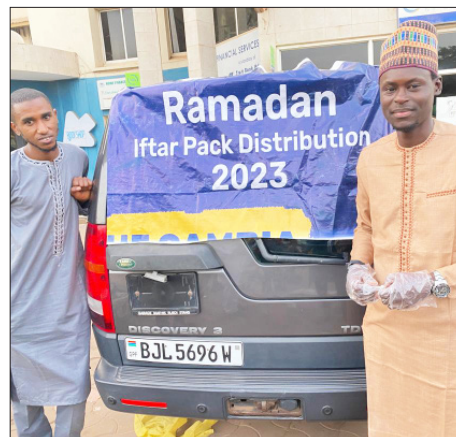


city. By actively engaging in this effort, Hon. Njai demonstrated his commitment to the well-being of the community and environmental stewardship.

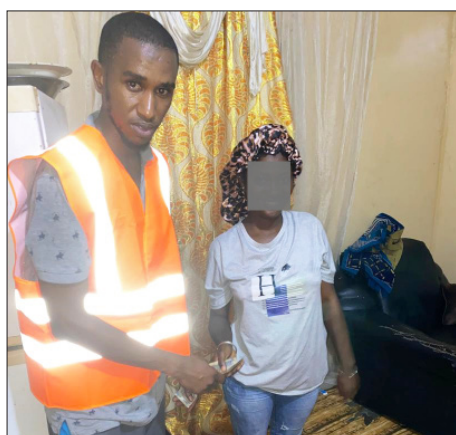
This initiative, organized in collaboration with Change Makers, underscores the importance of collective action in maintaining a clean and beautiful

Special thanks go to Change Makers for their dedication to this cause, as well as to the Banjul City Council for swiftly providing the necessary materials to ensure the success of the cleanup. Together, these efforts contribute to a more hygienic and pleasant environment for all residents.

# Iftar Pack Distribution Highlight pictures



# Unforgettable Flood Highlight pictures



## Events

# Team Andandorr Celebrates African Liberation Day

On May 25, 2023, Hon. Njai, alongside the Andandorr Movement, hosted the inaugural celebration of African Liberation Day at Crab Island Hall. The event gathered a diverse crowd, including students, children, National Assembly members, and individuals from various backgrounds. African Liberation Day, observed on May 25th, marks the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which aimed to foster solidarity among African nations. The event served as a reflection on Africa's post-colonial journey, celebrating progress and addressing contemporary challenges.

Hon. Njai emphasized the importance of countering negative portrayals of Africa in the media. He encouraged young Africans to take pride in their



continent and recognize the collective responsibility to shape its future. The event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on Africa's historical and cultural significance while fostering empowerment among attendees.

## First National Storytelling Final

On June 25th, 2022, Honorable Abdoulie Njai delivered a keynote address at the inaugural National Storytelling event held at Alliance Française. The event, brimming with energy, highlighted the power of storytelling in evoking emotions and leaving lasting impressions. Hon. Njai reflected on the significant role of storytelling in shaping narratives, emphasizing Africa's need to reclaim its story. He celebrated the talent of young people in the creative industry,

noting that their narratives embody ethics, hard work, and innovation.

The Honourable urged the audience to appreciate the transformative power of storytelling and the responsibility of information influencers in shaping societal views. He also recognized the Young Writers Association of The Gambia (YWAG) for nurturing emerging talents and helping to foster sustainable livelihoods.

Concluding his speech, Njai praised storytelling as a tool for



preserving ethical values and the nation's traditional virtues. Special recognition was given to the renowned author Modou Lamin Sowe for his foresight in supporting such initiatives.

## Hon Njai Attends Unity Day Care And Kindergarten School Graduation Ceremony

On July 21, 2022, Honorable Abdoulie Njai attended the inaugural graduation ceremony of Unity Day Care And Kindergarten School in Spalding.

During his speech, Hon. Njai emphasized the importance of early education in shaping a child's growth and development. He highlighted the critical role parents play in fostering education, discipline, and motivation, acknowledging them as key contributors to the nation's future.

Drawing an analogy to nurturing a garden, he stressed that, like blossoming flowers, children



flourish when given proper care and guidance. He advocated for positive parenting and the importance of discipline, hard work, and dedication in enabling children to reach their full potential.

He, therefore, expressed his appreciation to the school's management and staff for their commitment to nurturing young minds and pledged continued support for the school's educational initiatives.



## Youth Peace And Security Familiarization Dialogue

On October 2nd, 2022, fifty (50) young people from various civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth groups gathered for an open space dialogue organized by Peace Hub to discuss the opportunities for Youth Peace and Security (YPS) in The Gambia. This workshop marked the beginning of the conceptualization phase for YPS, aimed at bridging capacity gaps among young people and advancing the YPS Agenda in the country.

During the dialogue, Hon. Abdoulie Njai actively engaged with fellow youth, sharing perspectives and encouraging collective responsibility in shaping the YPS roadmap. The event was a collaborative effort with Peace Hub The Gambia, emphasizing the importance of leveraging existing opportunities to create a society that supports youth development and sustainable peace.

Hon. Njai stressed the need for a culture of peace and a conflict-free environment, particularly among the youth. He highlighted that young people, as products of their communities, are key agents of peacebuilding,



especially those who have experienced conflict firsthand. These youths, with their clear vision of peace, have crucial roles in peace processes and are driven to work towards the realization of these goals.

The dialogue reaffirmed the commitment to promoting peace now and for future generations, with Peace Hub The Gambia as a trusted partner. Further sensitization on YPS in Banjul will be featured in future editions, continuing the effort to engage and empower young people in peacebuilding.

## Kunta Kinteh International Book Festival



On October 16, 2022, The inaugural Kunta Kinteh International Book Festival, which proved to be a great success was held. The event brought together notable intellectuals, including Dr. Cherno Omar Barry, Vice Chancellor of the International Open University (IOU), and Mr. Muhammed Ms Bah, President of the Gambia Press Union.

Dr. Barry shared valuable insights on the relationship between literature and education, while Mr. Bah discussed the importance of media freedom and accountability.

Hon. Abdoulie Njai added to the discussions with his perspective on the theme "Social Movement Programs to Support Political Transparency in The Gambia." Drawing from his experiences in charitable initiatives and civil society, he emphasized the vital role of social movements in promoting political transparency.

The festival also featured an inspiring book fair, showcasing the brilliance of Gambian writers. Hon. Njai toured the fair, engaging with authors and purchasing several books. He expressed optimism for the future of Gambian literature and culture, appreciating the intellectual talent on display.

In addition to the literary exhibits, captivating performances highlighted the growing potential of Gambian performing arts. The festival underscored the vibrant literary scene in The Gambia and the ability of literature to spark dialogue, inspire change, and bring communities together. Hon. Njai thanked all those involved in organizing the event and commended the Young Writers Club of The Gambia for their dedication to promoting literacy and intellectual engagement.



## Conferences

### Hon Njai's Trip to Liberia for the AYEAL Conference

On July 29th, 2022, Hon. Abdoulie Njai participated in the African Youth Entrepreneurs and Leaders (AYEAL) Conference in Kakata, Liberia. The event brought together enthusiastic youth leaders from Liberia and beyond, eager to engage in meaningful discussions about leadership and community development.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Njai emphasized the importance of learning from the experiences of others while sharing his own insights on leadership. He also highlighted the role of environmental advocacy and climate action, symbolized by his planting of a tree during the conference.



The presence of Margibi Local Government officials underscored the significance of the event, marking a strong partnership between The Gambia and Liberia in addressing shared challenges.

### Hon. Abdoulie Njai Visits the Republic of Liberia

From July 27 to August 1, 2023, Hon. A. Njai visited Liberia, where he served as the Guest of Honor at the 6th Annual Youth Education and Leadership Conference (AYEAL) in Buchanan City.

It is his second time at the AYEAL, the conference brought together youth delegates from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, and The Gambia to discuss pressing issues such as peacebuilding, education, climate change, and good



governance.

At the event, Hon. Njai was honored with the title "Symbol of Peace - Africa" and was named Ambassador for the AYEAL Conference and the Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO).

Throughout the visit, Hon. Njai engaged with youth leaders, shared his experiences, and encouraged them to actively contribute to positive change in their communities. He also revisited Kakata City, where he had previously planted a tree in

2022 to symbolize the peace and friendship between The Gambia and Liberia. Furthermore, he visited the Booker Washington Institute, Liberia's premier vocational school, and expressed admiration for its role in national development. Hon. Njai's visit strengthened bilateral relations and promoted youth empowerment, underscoring the importance of



international collaboration in achieving sustainable development goals.

### Hon. Abdoulie Njai Mentors Young Leaders on Ethical Political Representation on African Liberation Day

On African Liberation Day, the Member of Parliament for Banjul Central, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, participated in a continental Zoom convergence organized by ILEAD Africa through the Youth Elect Project, engaging through his political consultancy firm, Young-Consult. The session brought together young Africans from across the continent to discuss ethical political representation, principled leadership, and service-oriented governance.

In a separate engagement, Hon. Njai

also participated, through The Young-Consult Initiative, in the Anybody Summer Xchange Program following an invitation to serve as a mentor. The Programme focuses on leadership development, cross-border exchange, and mentorship for young Africans aspiring to public service and governance roles.

Both engagements reflect a continued commitment to nurturing



ethical, disciplined, and values-driven leadership among Africa's next generation, strengthening the foundation for sustainable governance and continental progress.

# Amplifying Youth Voices: Insights from Benin and Oslo



Participating in the GLOBAL YOUTH DIALOGUE in Benin and the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (IPCI) in Oslo was both enlightening and empowering. In Benin, alongside 400 young leaders from 130 countries, we passionately advocated for critical issues such as sexual and reproductive health, education, human rights, and youth

participation in decision-making. This diverse exchange of ideas underscored the urgent need for inclusive policies that truly reflect the aspirations of young people worldwide," Hon Njai stated after his participation at the Global Youth Dialogue held in Benin and Oslo.

In Oslo, he had the privilege of delivering statements that highlighted the importance of youth representation in politics and policymaking. The adoption of the Oslo Statement of Commitment further solidified parliamentarians' dedication to prioritizing the rights and needs of young people across the globe.

"These experiences reaffirmed my belief in the transformative power of youth engagement. As we move forward, I remain committed to advocating for youth empowerment and ensuring that their voices remain central to global discussions and decision-making processes. Together, we can build a world where every young person has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to positive change," he added.

## Gambian Delegation at PUIC Conference Calls for Action on Climate Change, Terrorism, and Refugee Crisis

As a member of The Gambia's parliamentary international delegation to the PUIC, Honourable Abdoulie Njai, along with colleagues, participated in the 18th session of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member Parliaments in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The conference, themed "Climate Change in the World: How Can PUIC Members Confront It," provided a platform to address urgent environmental challenges.

the root causes of terrorism and fostering regional stability. They also emphasized the critical need to address the plight of displaced people and refugees, whose numbers have surged due to terrorism and ongoing conflicts, worsened by the global economic downturn. Immediate attention and comprehensive solutions are necessary to alleviate their suffering and restore their dignity.

Additionally, we reaffirmed our commitment to safeguarding the rights of Muslim minorities and combating injustices they face globally. The establishment of a committee for Muslim Communities and Minorities underscores our dedication to advocating for their rights and welfare.

In light of the escalating crisis, they urgently called upon Islamic states to enhance their support for African nations in eradicating terrorism. The collective efforts of the international community are essential in addressing



On the climate front, as advocates for environmental stewardship, we are committed to raising awareness, mobilizing resources, and fostering international cooperation to combat climate change effectively.

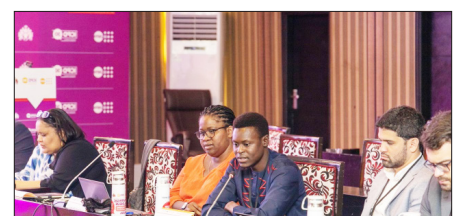
## Reflecting on the Strategic Dialogue with Young Parliamentarians in Banjul

From December 3rd to 5th, Banjul hosted 30 young parliamentarians from around the world for the #StrategicDialogue forum. Hon. Abdoulie Njai, a key advocate and youth leader for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in The Gambia, shared valuable insights from his diplomatic experiences in Benin and Oslo.

The Gambia under the leadership of Country Representative Ms. Ndeye Rose Sarr, focused on advancing the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. Peace Hub The Gambia and the National Youth Parliament-The Gambia 1 played vital roles in promoting peace and amplifying youth voices nationwide.

**The dialogue concluded with a powerful call to action:**

• Strengthen the #YouthPeaceAndSecurity agenda



Drive the realization of #ICPD30 goals

• Lead transformative policies that amplify youth voices worldwide  
This milestone event highlights the renewed commitment of young parliamentarians to champion progressive change, peace, and global security. Together, we move forward towards a brighter future!

The event, organized by UNFPA

# Awards

## Hon Abdoulie Njai Receives Prestigious African ICON Award

Honorable Abdoulie Njai was awarded the prestigious African Icon Award for being the youngest parliamentarian in the Sahel region. The award ceremony, which included a three-day event, brought together young leaders from various African countries.

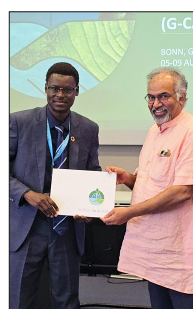
Hon. Njai was recognized for his unwavering commitment to youth representation, ethical leadership, and his selfless dedication to community service. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the recognition, attributing his success to the



support of his family, the Andandorr Movement, and the people of Banjul Central. This honor serves as an inspiration to many young Africans, demonstrating that youth can be powerful agents of positive change.

The youngest Parliamentarian acknowledged that the award was not just a personal achievement, but a testament to the potential of young leaders in Africa. This milestone reflects his ongoing mission to serve his community, country, and continent, fostering unity and development across Africa.

## Hon. Njai Receives Certificates of Achievement and Appreciation



While away on official duties, Honorable Abdoulie Njai was honored with two important accolades. Mr. Mikailu Ngum received the awards on his behalf, presenting Hon. Njai with a Certificate of Achievement from the National Youth Council and

a Certificate of Appreciation from the Banjul Youth Committee. These awards recognize Hon. Njai's ongoing dedication to youth empowerment and community service, acknowledging his long-standing commitment to the betterment of young people and society as a whole.

## Recognition Among Emerging Young Leaders and Public Servants



Hon. Abdoulie Njai was recognised among a distinguished list of young ministers, parliamentarians, representatives, and appointed officials whose influence and service were making meaningful contributions across different sectors of society.

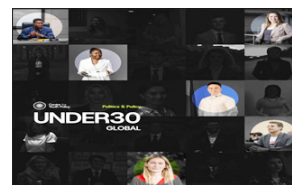
The recognition, conferred through the Centre for Youth Policy, acknowledged a growing generation of young leaders advancing governance reform, climate action, public service innovation, and youth empowerment within their respective countries and institutions.

In reflecting on the honour, Hon. Njai noted that the recognition extended beyond any individual achievement and represented the efforts of countless young people working to create positive change in public life. He emphasized

## Honoring Excellence in Service & Leadership



The 9th Executive Council of the University of The Gambia Nursing Students Association (UTG-NSA) at the Banjul Central HQ proudly presented Hon. Abdoulie Njai with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his unwavering dedication to human capital development and nation-building.



that it reaffirmed the importance of youth voices in shaping policies and decisions that would define the future of communities, nations, and the wider continent.

He further observed that young leadership, when guided by principle, competence, and service, continues to demonstrate that age should

never be a barrier to meaningful contribution in governance and national development.

Hon. Njai expressed sincere appreciation to the Centre for Youth Policy for the acknowledgement, and extended gratitude to his staff, constituents, supporters, and the broader Andandorr movement, whose encouragement and commitment had remained central to the journey. He also recognized the many changemakers across society who continue to challenge limitations, push boundaries, and open new paths for future generations.

# Educational/Institutional Tours

## Select Committee Tours Regional Bodies and Authorities

The Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands, Ombudsman, and IEC has been conducting site visits to regional projects and engaging with key stakeholders such as Regional Area Councils, contractors, beneficiaries, and officials from the Governors' offices and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). These visits are a vital part of the Committee's oversight role, as outlined by the National Assembly in the 1997 Constitution and Standing Orders.

The main objective of these field visits is to exercise oversight over Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), allowing Committee members to gather firsthand information on issues affecting the public. By directly observing project sites and engaging with stakeholders, the Committee ensures transparency, accountability, and effective use of public resources.



These visits also provide an opportunity to assess the progress and challenges of ongoing projects, identify areas for improvement, and recommend necessary interventions.

Ultimately, these visits are a key component of the Committee's function, helping to inform legislative actions and support good governance by providing valuable insights for decision-making.

## Banjul Central Lawmaker Embarks on Bilateral Visit to the People's Republic of China

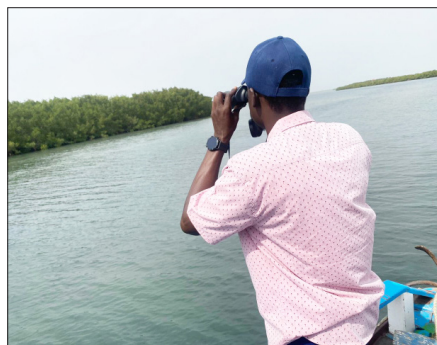
Hon. A. Njai embarked on intensive three-week bilateral visit to the People's Republic of China in May 2023, culminating in a seminar hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce at Jiangxi Vocational College of Foreign Studies in Nanchang City. The visit aimed to strengthen mutual understanding, identify areas of collaboration, and learn from China's legislative and policy-setting processes. It also deepened the long-standing friendship between The Gambia and China.

At the visit, Hon. Njai and his colleagues met with members of the Chinese People's Congress, provincial congresses, and visited the Gambian Embassy, engaging in productive discussions. The seminar offered valuable insights into China's path to self-sufficiency and independence, emphasizing the importance of discipline, hard work, and resource utilization for national development. Hon. Njai's visit underscores the commitment to furthering cooperation between both nations for mutual development.



## Safeguarding the Environment: Routine Visit to Tanbi Wetlands

As part of his ongoing commitment to addressing environmental challenges, Hon. Abdoulie Njai conducted a routine visit to the Tanbi Wetlands, an area of significant ecological importance to his community. This visit reflects his dedication to staying informed about local environmental issues and ensuring that the community's concerns are actively addressed.



The encroachment upon the wetlands is a pressing issue,

not only because it threatens biodiversity but also because it disrupts the livelihoods of those who rely on the area for sustenance. Wetlands play a vital role in

maintaining ecological balance, providing habitats for wildlife, and supporting community activities.

Hon. Njai's proactive approach, including on-the-ground visits, allows him to gather firsthand information that can inform parliamentary debates and advocacy efforts aimed at safeguarding the community natural resources. These visits are essential for creating policies that will ensure the preservation of environment for future generations.

# Hon. Abdoulie Njai, Others On Oversight Tour to Monitor Progress of Key Infrastructure Projects



**H**on. Abdoulie Njai, alongside the National Assembly Select Committee on Monitoring the Implementation of Government Projects, embarked on an oversight tour from May 15th to 20th, 2024.

The purpose of this tour was to assess the progress of ongoing government infrastructure projects nationwide. Accompanying the Committee was Mr. George Jatta, Technical Director at the National Roads Authority (NRA).

Throughout the six-day tour, the Committee engaged with contractors, consultants, engineers, and supervisors to evaluate the status of key road

projects, including the Nuimi Hakalang Road, Kaur Jimbala Road, Kabada Corridor Road Project, Kiang Road Project, and the OMVG Electricity Project. The Committee also inspected urban roads to ensure comprehensive oversight of the country's infrastructure development.

The engagements were designed to provide the Committee with a clear understanding of both the progress and challenges involved in the implementation of these projects.

Regarding road infrastructure, the Committee raised concerns over delays, particularly highlighting the urgency of expediting work on drainage systems in urban areas to mitigate potential flooding during the upcoming rainy season. Delays in the relocation of utilities, such as water pipes, network cables, and electricity lines, were also identified as significant challenges hindering progress.

The Committee remains optimistic that continued engagement with stakeholders will ensure the timely advancement of these projects while maintaining adherence to the quality standards outlined in the contracts.

## Public Enterprises Committee Outreach in Basse



*Hon. Njai with Public Enterprise Committee*



**T**his Public Enterprises Committee (PEC) of the National Assembly, with support from the Gambia Fiscal Management Development Project (GFMDP), took their work to the people through a public outreach program in Basse, Upper River Region (URR).

The initiative, launched on Monday, April 15th, 2024, aimed to bridge the gap between citizens and their elected officials.

The program focused on educating

residents about the PEC's role in overseeing state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and collecting valuable feedback on the services provided by these entities. Committee members were eager to hear firsthand from citizens about their experiences with essential services. "Many constituents lack regular opportunities to connect with their representatives," explained Committee Chairperson Hon. Lamin J. Sanneh. "These strategic outreaches offer a crucial platform for open dialogue."

The outreach began with discussions with the Office of the Governor of URR, the Basse Area Council, and Gambia Radio & Television Services (GRTS), focusing on the PEC's oversight responsibilities regarding SOEs operating within Basse.

Looking ahead, the outreach program is expected to enhance accountability among PEC members, increase citizen access to parliament, and shape future strategies for improving services based on public feedback.

## Oversight Visit to Kotu Stream under the WACA Resilience Project

As a member of the National Assembly Project Monitoring Committee, Hon. Abdoulie Njai joined colleagues on a field visit to the Kotu Stream under the West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) Resilience Investment Project.

The visit provided an opportunity to assess challenges affecting nearby communities, including flooding, erosion, and waste management issues that continue to threaten livelihoods and local ecosystems. The WACA team also presented updates on restoration and reprofiling works aimed at improving water flow, strengthening embankments, and increasing climate resilience.

Hon. Njai reaffirmed the commitment of legislators to monitor progress, ensure accountability, and support policies that protect the environment. Safeguarding natural resources remains both a development priority and a duty to future generations.



## Study Tour to Ghana on Land Administration and Policy Reform



**H**on. Abdoulie Njai, Member of the National Assembly for Banjul Central, joined a strategic Gambian delegation on an official study tour to Accra, Ghana, focused on strengthening land governance and advancing policy implementation in The Gambia.

The delegation, which included the Governor of URR, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Directors, and a Policy

Consultant from the Ministry of Lands, engaged with Ghana's National Lands Commission to study their advanced land administration systems. Key areas of focus included digital transformation in land management, legislative and policy frameworks, sustainable land use planning, environmental protection integration, and climate resilience mechanisms.

The visit provided critical

comparative insights to support the implementation of The Gambia's newly validated National Land Policy—the first comprehensive land policy in the country's history. This milestone represents a significant national legacy aimed at improving land tenure security, strengthening governance systems, and promoting sustainable development for present and future generations.

The knowledge and lessons acquired are expected to directly inform legislative processes and enhance policy execution in The Gambia's land sector reform agenda.

Hon. Njai expresses appreciation to the Select Committee on Lands and special thanks to the Chairman, Hon. Sulayman Jammeh, for the confidence placed in him to contribute to this important national assignment.

## Hon Njie: Parliamentary Study Tour to Senegal on Decentralisation and Local Governance Reform

As a member of the National Assembly Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands, IEC, and Ombudsman, Hon. Abdoulie Njai concluded a four-day study tour in Senegal aimed at benchmarking parliamentary best practices and strengthening institutional collaboration between the two legislatures. The delegation, supported by technical staff, was led by the Chairman of the Committee, El Hajj Hon. Sulayman Jammeh.

The engagement provided an opportunity for in-depth dialogue with Senegalese counterparts responsible for urban planning and decentralisation. Discussions focused on community planning systems, decentralisation policies, and governance structures that enhance local government efficiency and citizen participation. Members also shared

experiences and working approaches, with the aim of identifying practical lessons to improve legislative oversight and policy implementation in The Gambia.

The exchanges further explored areas of regional cooperation, including improved coordination on transport systems and commercial exchanges to support equitable growth and cross-border development.

The study tour strengthened mutual understanding between both parliaments and reinforced the importance of shared learning in advancing effective governance. The insights gained will contribute to ongoing efforts to improve decentralised governance structures and legislative effectiveness in The Gambia.



## HON. Abdoulie Njai strengthens regional representation through high level Pan-African programs

Hon. Abdoulie Njai was invited to a series of high-level regional gatherings across West Africa to speak, inspire, and promote youth-centered leadership, democratic governance, and Pan-African cooperation.

He was first invited to Liberia during the Annual Youth Education and Leadership (AYEAL) Conference, organized by the Youth Network for Positive Change. There, he was inducted into a leadership role and presided over the official launch and signing of the founding Memorandum of Understanding. In this capacity, he addressed young parliamentarians from across the sub-region, encouraging stronger collaboration on youth-focused legislation, shared democratic values, and collective action for inclusive governance.

Following this, he was invited to Abidjan by the Africa Young Parliamentarians Network in partnership with the United Nations Office on



Drugs and Crime (UNODC). At this high-level dialogue, he contributed to discussions on strengthening parliamentary oversight, improving inter-parliamentary cooperation, and advancing regional commitments to combat illicit financial flows and promote accountability in governance systems.

He was also invited as a guest speaker to Abuja by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID), where he engaged participants on issues of youth participation in governance,

the challenge of political apathy, and the need to safeguard electoral integrity in emerging democratic contexts across Africa. He used the platform to encourage greater youth engagement and responsible civic participation.

Through these successive engagements, Hon. Njai continued to project The Gambia's voice on regional and continental platforms, reinforcing his role as an advocate for youth empowerment, democratic consolidation, and Pan-African legislative cooperation.

## Hon. Abdoulie Njai Strengthens Main Referral Hospital with Medical Supplies

In a significant gesture of support for public health, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, on 7th April 2023, made one of his frequent visits to the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital in Banjul, the heart of healthcare in The Gambia, and a critical institution within Banjul Central.

During his visit, Hon. Njai proudly donated a substantial supply of essential medical items, enhancing the hospital's ability to deliver vital care to the community. Among the donations were 5,000 face masks, boxes of powdered detergents, various injections, and other essential medical supplies.

This donation was part of Hon. Njai's ongoing commitment to strengthening the healthcare sector, a cause he has championed since 2014. It aligns with his campaign pledge to advocate for increased resources for the healthcare system, using both vocal advocacy and

direct action to bring about meaningful improvements.

Hon. Njai took a moment to express his gratitude to the dedicated staff at the hospital, acknowledging their tireless commitment to public service. Their work, often performed under challenging circumstances, is vital to the health and well-being of our citizens. He also extended his heartfelt thanks to the generous donors whose contributions made this donation possible, noting that their collective action is a shining example of how unity can drive positive change.

Looking ahead, Hon. Njai called on the diaspora community to continue supporting initiatives that benefit the nation, urging them to contribute to communal projects that enhance the lives of all citizens. Through collaboration and shared determination, he believes



we can overcome challenges and achieve a healthier, stronger nation.

Hon. Njai's visit to the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital serves as a clear reflection of his commitment to public health and his dedication to turning political promises into actionable, impactful solutions. As he moves forward with his mission to improve healthcare, future editions of the newsletter will highlight successful health-related legislation, demonstrating his ongoing efforts to improve access to quality care for every citizen.

## Banjul Central MP Collaborates with Supportive Activist Foundation to Visit Children's Ward at Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital

On July 16th, 2023, Hon. Abdoulie Njai, in collaboration with the Supportive Activist Foundation (SAF), visited the Children's Ward at the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital. The visit was punctuated with donation of toys and medical packages for the children, alongside the provision of psychosocial support to both the patients and their caregivers. As a committed supporter of SAF in Banjul, Hon. Njai engaged with families to understand



the challenges they were facing and the progress of their children's health. He assured them that their concerns would be raised with the Health Committee of the National Assembly for further action.

SAF, dedicated to raising awareness about mental health and providing psychosocial support, continues to advocate for better healthcare services and remains committed to assisting vulnerable populations.

# Banjul Central Office and Partners Organize Free Hypertension and Diabetes Check-up

The office of Banjul Central Constituency, under the dynamic leadership of Hon. Abdoulie Njai in collaboration with the Initiative for Diabetes and Hypertension Control (IDHC) organized a day of free health check-ups in Banjul. Dozens of residents took the opportunity to assess their health status, benefiting from the expertise and care provided by junior healthcare professionals affiliated with IDHC.

IDHC, a dedicated association of junior healthcare professionals, is committed to raising awareness, offering educational initiatives, and facilitating prevention and treatment for diabetes and hypertension. These two prevalent conditions affect many households in our country, necessitating urgent intervention and support.



The event, held on May 17th, coincided with the global observance of Hypertension Awareness Day, underscoring the importance of proactive health management. Through initiatives like these, Hon. Njai and his team reaffirm their commitment to the well-being of their constituents, providing essential healthcare services and empowering individuals to take charge of their health.

This successful collaboration sets a precedent for future events, with plans for more frequent health check-up initiatives. As part of his pragmatic approach to governance, Hon. Njai recognizes the vital role of preventative healthcare in ensuring the overall well-being of his people.

Such initiatives will continue to be highlighted in future editions, as a testament to Hon. Njai's dedication to promoting healthcare and addressing public health concerns.



## Hon Abdoulie Njai Makes Another Donation to Improve Healthcare in Banjul



Honorable Njai on 1st September 2024 made a generous donation of essential medical supplies to the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital, a gesture he has consistently undertaken since 2014.

This donation was warmly appreciated by the hospital staff and has come at a crucial time, helping to address urgent public health needs.



## Hon. Abdoulie Njai Marks Birthday with Medical Support to UTG NSA



On the occasion of his birthday, Hon. Abdoulie Njai had the honor of handing over essential medical supplies to the University of The Gambia Nursing Students Association (UTG NSA) under the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital (EFSTH) in Banjul. The donation included medical drugs, a fully equipped medical cabinet,

The donated items were entrusted in preparation for UTG NSA's upcoming outreach programs, ensuring that nursing students were better equipped to deliver essential health services across communities nationwide.

Hon. Njai expressed heartfelt gratitude to partners at the Al Saaf Foundation Charity Commission, whose support ensured that every contribution directly advanced relief efforts and health preservation in The Gambia and beyond.



Special appreciation was extended to UNITY FOUNDATION for Islamic & Humanitarian Purposes (UFIHP) and the Humanity Youth Foundation, led by dedicated young people committed to charity and civic activism. Their sustained efforts in food distribution, medical outreaches, borehole projects, and orphan support continued to transform lives across Greater Banjul and rural Gambia.

CAZON electronic blood pressure monitors, medical magnifiers, and other vital medical kits.

Deep appreciation was also conveyed to the staff and volunteers of the Banjul Central Constituency Office for their effective coordination and dedicated service.

The presentation took place on the EFSTH grounds within the School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences of the University of The Gambia, reinforcing a shared commitment to strengthening frontline medical education and practical training.

Initiatives of this nature exemplified the Andandorr ethos of service and solidarity. Hon. Njai reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening primary healthcare delivery in Banjul Central and across the nation, noting that this initiative formed part of a broader, ongoing effort toward sustainable and inclusive progress.



# Contribution to sports and Development

## Member of Parliament for Banjul Central Presents Sporting Gear to Nawettan Teams



**O**n August 28th, 2023, Honorable Abdoulie Njai made a generous contribution to the Nawettan teams in Banjul Central by providing them with sporting gear, including jerseys, ahead of the 2023 Nawettan league tournaments. The event, which attracted a diverse group of stakeholders, including youth, councillors, community leaders, and sports enthusiasts, highlighted Hon. Njai's commitment to supporting local sports.

Among the teams receiving the sporting gears were Rapid Vienna, Warriors F.C., Lancaster United, Juventus F.C., MacDonald F.C., Tesito F.C., and Fire House F.C. In addition to Hon. Njai's contribution, Honorable Mamour



Touray of New Town East Ward demonstrated his continued support by donating D5,000 to each of his three ward teams and pledging a monthly stipend

to sustain them throughout the Nawettan season.

In his speech, Honorable Njai encouraged the teams to prioritize





practice, discipline, social cohesion, and fair play. He emphasized the unifying power of sports and recognized the abundant talents in The Gambia, and within Banjul, especially.

He, therefore, pledged to advocate for policies and legislative measures aimed at boosting sports development and empowering young people to reach their full potential.

Highlighting the transformative impact of sports on

youth empowerment, Honorable Njai reiterated his dedication to creating an environment that supports young people's aspirations. The event concluded with best wishes for the teams' success in the upcoming tournaments.

Special thanks were extended to Hon. Modou Lamin B. Bah, Hon. Ablie Krubally (youth counsellor), Gambian Talents Promotion, and EYE Africa TV Online for their valuable support and exceptional media coverage of the event.



# Champions of Banjul Central

It was a thrilling and historic weekend for Banjul Central as our outstanding basketball team clinched the Banjul Sports Committee Inter-Constituency Basketball Zonal Competition title. The victory was secured after a gripping, closely contested final against Banjul North at the Manneh Sillah Basketball Lawn, a match that kept supporters on edge until the final whistle.

The passion, discipline, and determination displayed by the team were exceptional. Their performance reflected months of preparation, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Throughout the tournament, every dribble, pass, and basket demonstrated that Banjul Central stood ready to compete and succeed at the highest level.

To our heroes of Banjul Central, you made the constituency immensely proud. This trophy was more than a win; it was a testament to



resilience, unity, and the enduring sporting spirit of our community. Sincere appreciation was extended

to the Banjul Sports Committee for organizing a well-coordinated and competitive tournament.



# NAYCONF 2022 AND 2024 Joint Donations



## Morale Boost and Support

After the successful conclusion of the Nawettan season, the final knockout game featured Warriors Football Club of Banjul Central. Hon. Njai delivered pre-game motivational words to encourage the players to demonstrate patience and respect.

Although Warriors FC was ultimately defeated, Hon. Njai congratulated the team and urged them to remain optimistic, stating, “Pick up the sports spirit, keep going forward, and know that you are champions.” Warriors FC had previously won the 2021 and 2022 football trophies, and Hon. Njai highlighted the importance of community unity, respect, and using sports as a tool for peace.



# Wrestling Tournament

The first-ever presidential bout wrestling tournament was held at McCarthy Square, with Hon. Abdoulie Njai serving as the Chief Guest of Honor. He dedicated the ultimate semi-final bout between Kartus and Sora. It was a historic night, showcasing traditional sports and national unity. This recognition highlights Hon. Njai's commitment to traditional sports and his representation of all citizens. The event was organized by Ala Promotion.



# Celebrating Unity & Skill at the Inter Vous Tournament Final in Kg 5



## Community Spirit Shines as Banjul Sports Committee Hosts Successful Beach Soccer Nawettan



## Special Acknowledgements

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Mr. Sulayman Njie (Slim)

Mr. Ousman Njie

Mr. Amadou Wurri Jallow (Prezi)

Mr. Ismaila Bah

Mr. Mikailu Ngum

Mr. Habib nyang

Mr. Foday Sarr

Ms. Jankeh Sallah

Mr. Sulayman Sarr

Mr. Basiru Jaye

Mr. Yuspha Cham

Mr. Chernoo Ceesay

My brother, Mr. Modou Njie

Ms Jankey Njie

Mr. Muhammad Leigh (USA L.C Branding co. Ltd )

Natty Production co Ltd

Ms. Iesha Camara (Canada)

Unity Foundation and Humanity Youth Foundation

Yunus / Dodou (Our Editors)

Friends, colleagues, advisers, local and international partners and associates.

Team Andandorr Women Association and entire Team Andandorr Movement.

## Final Note

As steady legislative progress continues to be made, I highlight a few key reforms that respond directly to long-standing public concerns in The Gambia, particularly in Banjul and Banjul Central. These issues reflect real pressures faced by households and require practical, enforceable solutions.

### Reinventing Tenant Protection – The Rent (Amendment) Bill

One of the most persistent challenges affecting Gambians remains the rising cost of rent, unpredictable increases, and heavy advance payment demands. In densely populated urban areas like Banjul, where demand for housing significantly exceeds supply, these pressures have contributed to financial strain, housing insecurity, and periodic displacement of low- and middle-income earners.

The Rent (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which modernizes the Rent Act of 2014, was introduced to address these realities by improving fairness, predictability, and legal protection within the rental sector.

#### Key provisions include:

##### 1. Cap on Rent Increases

Landlords are restricted from increasing rent by more than 5% within a three-year period, ensuring gradual and predictable adjustments and reducing sudden financial shocks on tenants.

##### 2. Advance Payment Limitations

For low-cost rental properties priced at GMD 7,000 or below, tenants are no longer required to pay six months' rent in advance. Instead, monthly payment arrangements are permitted, easing upfront financial pressure particularly for civil servants, traders, and low-income households who typically earn within monthly cycles.

##### 3. Eviction Protections

A mandatory 90-day notice period is required before eviction, strengthening due process protections and giving tenants adequate time to secure alternative accommodation. This measure also supports housing stability for families and school-going children.

##### 4. Landlord Obligations

Landlords are legally required to maintain rented properties in a habitable condition throughout the tenancy, including essential repairs and maintenance, shifting housing standards toward enforceable minimum living conditions.

#### Broader Legislative Focus Areas

Beyond housing reform, parliamentary work has continued to address broader national development priorities through targeted oversight, policy advocacy, and legislative action:

#### Youth Employment and Economic Participation

According to national labour statistics, youth unemployment remains significantly higher than the national average, estimated at over 30% among

young people in urban areas. In response, initiatives such as placement programmes and skills mapping exercises have supported the integration of young people into both formal and informal employment pathways.

#### Environmental and Climate Resilience

With The Gambia's coastline highly vulnerable to flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise, estimates indicate that over 60% of coastal settlements face moderate to high climate-related risk exposure. Parliamentary oversight has therefore increasingly focused on wetland protection, drainage systems, and climate adaptation infrastructure.

#### Land Governance Reform

The development of The Gambia's first-ever National Land Policy marks a historic milestone in addressing long-standing issues of tenure insecurity, fragmented land administration, and land-use conflict. This framework is intended to improve transparency, reduce disputes, and modernize land governance systems nationwide.

#### Closing Reflection

These reforms represent structured responses to real and measurable challenges affecting citizens. While progress has been made, sustained implementation, accountability, and continued legislative refinement remain essential to ensure that these policies deliver lasting impact.

## Reforming Emergency Healthcare Protocols Through Parliamentary Advocacy

The reform of emergency healthcare protocols was triggered through Hon. Abdoulie Njai's formal parliamentary question and sustained oversight, which brought national attention to delays in emergency medical treatment caused by procedural requirements, particularly the insistence on police escort before patient admission.

Through his intervention in the National Assembly, Hon. Njai raised critical concerns regarding cases where patients in urgent condition were reportedly delayed at health facilities due to administrative protocols. His question challenged relevant authorities to clarify and address the gap between emergency medical needs and institutional procedures that were contributing to avoidable risk to life.

Following this parliamentary engagement, a policy directive was issued through the relevant state institutions. The Office of the Inspector General of Police, in coordination with the Department of Health, instructed all health facilities to accord prompt medical attention to emergency cases with or without police escort. This directive established an immediate operational standard prioritizing urgent care over procedural

clearance.

The policy shift marked a significant correction in emergency response practice, ensuring that hospitals no longer delay critical treatment due to administrative requirements at entry points. It also strengthened coordination between the health and security sectors in managing emergency admissions, reinforcing the principle that the preservation of life must take precedence over procedural formality.

The Ministry of Health and security leadership acknowledged the importance of aligning institutional procedures with urgent medical realities, reinforcing commitment to improving emergency care delivery across the country.

Hon. Njai's parliamentary question remained the catalyst for this reform, demonstrating the impact of legislative oversight in addressing systemic gaps in public service delivery. His continued work in this area focused on ensuring that the directive is fully implemented across



all facilities and consistently applied without exception.

A further legislative push is currently underway to convert this policy directive into binding law. This process seeks to provide statutory backing that will permanently entrench emergency care obligations within The Gambia's legal framework, ensuring full compliance, accountability, and protection of patients' right to immediate medical attention in all emergency situations.

# Draft Constitution Status

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The Gambia has not successfully adopted a new constitution in this period. The 1997 Constitution remains in force because the legislature has twice rejected proposed new drafts intended to replace it.

In 2024, the Government tabled a Draft Constitution (Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia – Promulgation Bill 2024) aimed at overhauling the country’s legal framework, including introducing reforms such as presidential term limits and modern governance structures. The draft was gazetted in August 2024 and underwent readings in the National Assembly.

In my view, based on consultations and interactions across communities, a significant number of Gambians became fixated on a binary narrative: the 2020 Draft Constitution as “the people’s draft” and the \*\*2024 Draft as “the government’s draft,” largely due to executive alterations. This framing created a serious vacuum in public understanding of the actual contents of the draft, limiting citizens’ ability to make fully informed judgments.

This challenge, in my assessment, was compounded by political rivalries, where debates were driven less by holistic engagement with the draft and more by selective focus on clauses of convenience. As a result, the broader constitutional architecture, trade-offs, and safeguards received insufficient attention in public discourse.

It was against this background that I supported committal of the draft to committee, in line with the National Assembly’s Standing Orders, which mandate committee referral to allow for detailed clause-by-clause scrutiny, expert input, and wider stakeholder engagement. Such a process would have created space for deeper consultations, structured dialogue, and clearer public education on the draft as a whole.

This rejection marked the second major setback for constitutional reform in The Gambia, echoing a similar failure in 2020 when an earlier draft was also blocked in the Assembly.

As it was evident consensus remained difficult to achieve at the parliamentary level, a referendum could have remained a viable democratic option, allowing the people to directly exercise their sovereign right to determine their constitutional future.

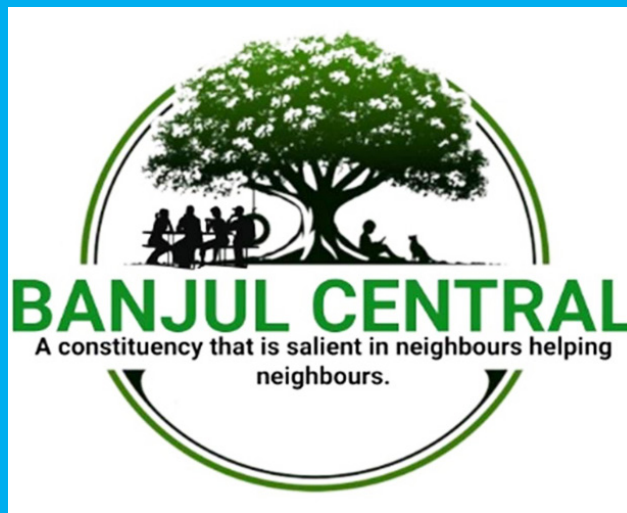
On 7 July 2025, the National Assembly voted on the draft constitution at its second reading stage. Although a majority (35 out of 56 lawmakers) voted in favour, the bill failed to secure the constitutionally required three-quarters majority needed to advance to further consideration. As a result, the draft constitution did not proceed and remains constitutionally stalled.

## Quote

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“Our leadership is not measured by positions or titles, but by the purpose we choose to serve. It is reflected in the quiet help we offer, the strength we show in times of resistance, and the compassion and cooperation we extend beyond party, sentiment, class, religion, or culture. True service is built on a foundation of faith, competence, and character and that is the essence of our leadership.”

*Hon. Abdoulie Njai*



*A special dedication of this newsletter in  
memory of late Hatib Njie (RIP) who was a key  
motivator to my political push. May his soul rest in tranquility. He would've  
been proud to witness our victory*

# Connect with us:

 3919164/ 3296106 /  
7783005

 Hon. Abdoulie Njai  honnjaimbjlcentral

 [www.honabdoulienjai.com](http://www.honabdoulienjai.com)