

**SPEECH BY H.E. ADAMA BARROW,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
GAMBIA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INAUGURATION OF NORTH BANK ROADS
LOT 2 HELD ON**

STATURDAY, 30Th SEPTEMBER 2023

Honourable Cabinet Ministers,
Honourable Deputy Speaker,
Members of the National Assembly,
Secretary-General and Head of the Civil Service,
Chief of Staff,
Security Chiefs, Senior Government Officials and Heads of Public Agencies,
The Governor of CRR and other Regional Governors Present,
Local Government Authorities and Religious leaders Present,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Members of the Media,

As many of you will recall, a few months ago, I inaugurated Lot One of the North Bank Roads Project. All too soon, we are here to jubilantly inaugurate the Lot Two roads in the Saloum and Nianija Constituencies.

The inauguration of these completed roads, spanning forty-eight (48) kilometres, is immensely important for the communities within the project catchment area. They include communities in Kaur Janneh Kunda, Kerr Gibbi, and Chamen.

The design and implementation of this road project were very well thought through to accommodate all relevant road safety issues. In this regard, the road furniture and signs are visibly placed at strategic locations. All these considerations and developments are a result of my government's efforts and commitment to ease movement and assure road safety.

I am happy to add that a total of fifty-three (53) box culverts and twenty (20) Irish crossings have been constructed to ensure a proper drainage system for all the roads in the project area. Shallow drains have been constructed as well to ease the flow of water from the road structure to outfalls.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is important to note that good roads come with countless benefits. As such, these road networks will significantly benefit the nation. They will, for instance, surely improve access to farmlands, agricultural facilities, and business enterprises. Because the networks conveniently link the northern region and other parts of the country, it will be much easier henceforth to effectively implement more rural development programmes and readily expand the provision of public services.

We must also remember that the new roads will not only link the communities of the region, but also promote trade activities, thereby enhancing the socio-economic development of the area.

In view of all these, the road networks will greatly impact the lives of all those within the nearby communities and beyond, as they will create easy access to health care, education and other social services.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Those who knew this part of the country prior to the construction of these roads would agree with me that the laterite roads that existed here were all completely dilapidated for far too long. Consequently, the construction of the project roads is another bold step towards fulfilling my promise to the nation, as enshrined in our last National Development Plan.

We pledged to raise living standards by creating platforms for a dynamic economy that can operate long-term growth and create employment. With this in view, my administration will remain steadfast and continue to pursue our development agenda with the support of the people and our development partners.

Allow me at this point to thank the Ministry of Transport, Works, and Infrastructure, together with the National Roads Authority, for their collective support and dedication to the project. Equally, I am grateful to the Project Consultants for executing their assignments as expected.

By the same token, we acknowledge, with profound appreciation, the fruitful collaboration and support of all other stakeholders. Among them are the North Bank Region Governor's Office, Chiefs, Alkalolu, Village Development Committees, and the National Assembly Members in the project area.

I thank them for their collaboration and cooperation with the Government for the realisation of this long-awaited infrastructural development in this part of The Gambia.

To everyone who worked hard to make the project a success, I say: Thank you for making this big dream come true.

Ladies and gentlemen, the successful completion of this project is a clear indication of our focus on our national development agenda. We will continue to maintain and expand the secondary road networks to improve accessibility and reduce the unacceptable travel time usually taken between destinations within the locality.

With this in mind, let us celebrate this great achievement. As a word of caution, however, I urge all users of the roads, more so the communities living along the corridor, to observe the road safety measures developed for general safety and comfort.

I now have the pleasure to declare the North Bank Lot Two Rural Roads Corridor officially open.

Thank you for your attention.