

SPEECH BY
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. ADAMA BARROW,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
GAMBIA

EVENT: THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF
THE TRANS-GAMBIA HIGHWAY
PAVEMENT STRENGTHENING PROJECT

VENUE: MISSIRAH – KERR ALI BORDER

DATE: 2ND OCTOBER 2023

Your Excellency, the Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia,
Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly,
Honourable Cabinet Ministers,
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
Honourable National Assembly Members,
Secretary General and Head of the Civil Service,
Chief of Staff,
Service Chiefs,
Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Public Agencies,
Regional Governors,
District Chiefs and Alkalolu,
Distinguished Guests,
The Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To be precise, in 2019, His Excellency, President Macky Sall of Senegal and I inaugurated the Senegambia Bridge. Laudable as the achievement was, it was realised at the time, nonetheless, that upgrading the Trans-Gambia corridor to international standard would surely add value to the ECOWAS-inspired intra-regional trade initiative.

Against this background, my government engaged the African Development Bank for a grant to standardise the roads along the corridor and build a model one-stop border post in The Gambia and Senegal.

We looked forward to the European Commission for funding through the Africa Investment Platform. It was quite convincing to us that strengthening the road section between the northern and southern border crossings of the corridor would ensure the sustainability of the investments injected into the road section. This opinion was reinforced by the projected increase in traffic after the completion of the bridge.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Trans-Gambia Corridor Project, which included the construction of the Sene-Gambia Bridge, has eradicated the ferry crossing delays and troubles previously encountered between Yelli-Tenda and Bamba Tenda.

With the completion of the construction works here, we are confident that regional trade will be enhanced and goods and services transiting through this corridor will reach more distant countries with ease and on time.

The construction of the model border posts in The Gambia and Senegal will also facilitate the free movement of people and services across the border. In the same way, it will address crime and other related vices.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the light of this achievement, and other major interventions on our infrastructural development programme, I wish to register our gratitude to the African Development Bank and the European Union for supporting my government's endeavour to provide the needed infrastructure for the Gambian nation and, by extension, the sub-region. I thank you Mr. Vice President of the African Development Bank and His Excellency, Mr. Ambassador of the European Union, for making this project a reality.

We are equally thankful to the Contractor for the timely completion of the project.

Likewise, special thanks are due to the Ministry of Transport, Works, and Infrastructure and the National Roads Authority for their dedication and the crucial role they played during the implementation phase of the project.

Last but not least, I thank the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs for their resource mobilisation initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The completion of this pavement strengthening project marks the fulfilment of a promise made to the local communities and the international users of this corridor, as well as the achievement of a wish to end the age-long suffering and hardship experienced in this part of the country.

We thank the residents of the area and everyone else for their cooperation and patience during the implementation phase of the project.

To conclude, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour to declare the strengthened and modernised Trans-Gambia Corridor open.

Thank you for your attention.