

REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

LAHIDOO TIMANANDOO DIGEH BORRLA

**Leadership Driven by
Conviction and Passion
for Development**

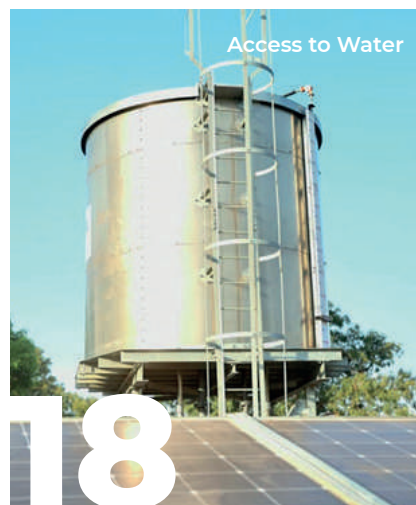
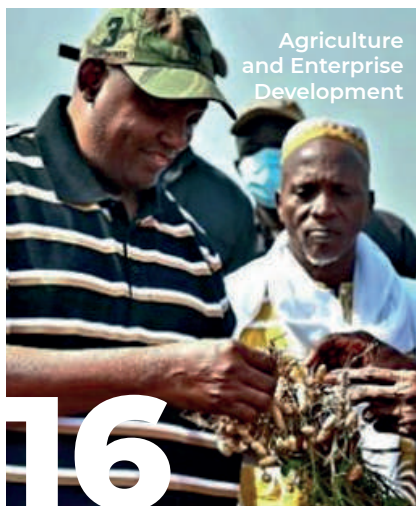
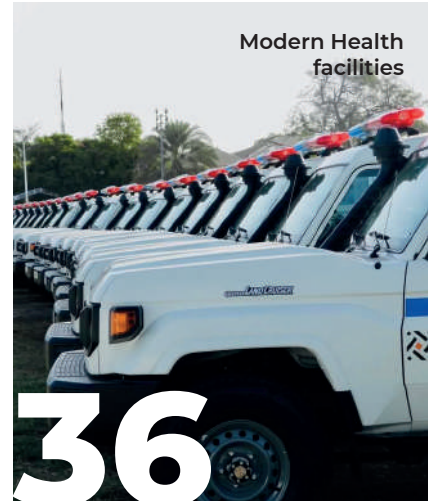
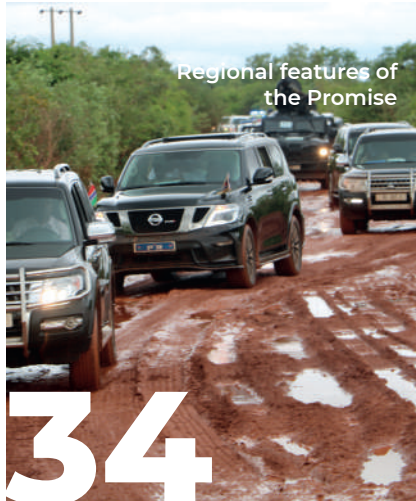


"The New Gambia we desire, a nation full of possibilities and opportunities for all." President Adama Barrow



Media and Communication Unit
Office of the President
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Acknowledgement

Through thick and thin, a dedicated team at the Media and Communication Unit endeavoured to document the developments realised within a decade of His Excellency President Adama Barrow's leadership.

The Director of Press and Public Relations, Amie Bojang-Sissoho, recognised that it is best practice to document and share information to tell the story of the New Gambia within a decade in images no one can deny.

Leadership Driven by Conviction and Passion for Development, Lahidoo Timanandoo! Digeh Borrla!, is a compendium of promises made and fulfilled under the leadership of President Barrow since 2016, when he sought the consent of Gambians to lead them in governing the country. Having initiated the storytelling in pictures concept, the dedicated team got inspired and produced a documentary titled **The Journey of a Decade**, giving an overview of infrastructural development under the leadership of President Barrow as part of the Diamond Jubilee of The Gambia's political independence in February 2025.

Sincere gratitude goes to the contributors to the documentary and this storybook, Senior Photographer, Sulayman Touray, Videographers, Junkung Jawneh and Momodou Njie. The editorial team, Mabinta Colley and Zainab Faal, did a great job in realising the final draft. The reviewers who took the time to go through the book are appreciated.

The book is dedicated to all Gambians and friends of The Gambia whose contributions motivate us to leave this document as evidence of the unprecedented development of the Smiling Coast of Africa to inspire the next generation of the Media and Communication Unit, Office of the President, to do even greater documentation of the country's story.

Introduction

Leadership Driven by Conviction and Passion for Development

The fulfilment of his ‘Promise of Peace and Development’ in a democratic environment that would open opportunities **for the youth to earn skills, gain livelihoods and be self-reliant** has been the cornerstone of President Adama Barrow’s leadership.

As the 3rd President of the Republic of The Gambia, a country realising six decades of political Independence, President Barrow, for eight years, stayed true to his promise.

His belief in peace as a fundamental pillar of development has earned him recognition amongst his peers, and at the continental level, adding to his accolades the title of **“Africa Peace Promoter of the year 2023”**. He echoes **that no country in the world has advanced without peace**. Thus, nurturing **peaceful co-existence and cohesion** amongst Gambians.

The Gambia’s unprecedented advancements in **road, energy, health, and education infrastructures** are paving the way for the Gambian **private sector** to take the opportunity to make **agriculture a viable venture** that will feed the nation and improve livelihoods. The Barrow Government brought to light the possibilities that Gambians could gain from.

In his 2021 Presidential campaign, with his slogan of **Peace, Progress and Unity**, President Barrow pledged to build on the gains realised in his first term in office. Convinced, the Gambian electorate gave him a resounding support of over fifty-three (53) per cent of the votes cast, to undertake the job of fulfilling a social contract with them.

This story book, **Leadership Driven by Conviction and Passion for Development - Lahido Timanandi, Dige Borrla**, showcases the greatest achievements in advancing The Gambia’s development, including building health facilities, educational institutions, roads, bridges, modern markets, the energy infrastructure, and more.

The establishment of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare, the procurement and distribution of fertiliser, seeds, and farming implements to farmers, all demonstrate the Barrow Government’s conviction in fulfilling its promise to Gambians.

Its Institutional Reform programme is impacting the Security Sector, the Judiciary and the Civil and Public Services, coupled with its human development agenda through education and skills development to create a healthy population and grow the economy.

Context of the journey

It is essential to understand the context in which President Adama Barrow began his journey to the presidency. His journey was preceded by over three decades of democratic rule and two decades of autocracy. During the latter, critical thinkers and commentators were silenced. The few who dared to speak out under the dictatorship faced severe repercussions, while many others remained unreachable, as they were living in the diaspora.



Those in neighbouring countries tried their best to stay connected with their families, whereas those in Europe, America, and beyond faced the hardship of not being able to see their loved ones. Some even lost family members and were never afforded the opportunity to say goodbye or have a closure.



Another group that chose to remain in the country adopted a **“mind my business”** attitude while still working to raise awareness through advocacy and civic engagements.

As The Gambia prepared for the 2016 Presidential elections, several key issues emerged as campaign points: the promise of democracy and freedom of speech, the promotion of peace and development, the creation of job opportunities for young people, and other governance priorities.



Throughout the 2016 campaign, candidate Adama Barrow and his Coalition team travelled extensively to the most remote areas of The Gambia. They witnessed first-hand the exclusion and isolation experienced by many Gambians, who lacked access to good roads, clean drinking water, health facilities, and adequate school infrastructure.



2016 Presidential Campaign





They experienced that access to electricity was a distant dream for many Gambians, often not even seen as a priority in their lives, especially in rural communities. Furthermore, access to markets for their hard work and products was minimal and challenging, creating conditions that fuelled migration and rural-urban drift.



Before Rural Electrification Project



High voltage electricity transmission line

At the institutional level, professional civil servants faced ongoing challenges due to censorship, uncertainty, interference, harassment and frustration, and hindered their ability to initiate and implement sustainable national policies and programmes.



Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure

At the international level, the country's reputation suffered due to damaging diplomatic policies and troubling reports of extrajudicial killings, injuries, and wrongful imprisonment of political opponents and activists.



Demand for the release of Political Prisoners in 2016

The political impasse following the Presidential elections of December 2016 up to January 2017 further created instability and increased risks that citizens had to endure. However, once the situation stabilised, the challenges of governing a country within a democratic framework resumed, starting from the Jawara administration but with renewed energy. The Barrow administration had to learn new best practices for leading in a democratic setting, while also promoting development, something his predecessors did not face. The previous Presidents had the option of either allowing democracy to flourish with slow infrastructure development, as in the case of the first republic or enforcing a dictatorship to expedite it under the second regime. Both approaches had their merits; unfortunately, citizens were unable to experience rapid and simultaneous progress in both democracy and infrastructure development.



Basse crossing point before the construction of the bridge



Basse bridge 2018

President Adama Barrow's journey began with high hopes, expectations, and excitement, amidst limited public understanding of the processes in good governance. Citizens anticipated immediate results, unaware that the established rules, regulations, and legal frameworks were designed to entrench bureaucracy and make it challenging to fast-track inclusive development. Notwithstanding, the scenarios leading up to the 2016 presidential elections established a clear agenda for positive change and transformation of the nation.



2016 Presidential Election



Banjul International Airport

While some opponents propagate that “nothing has changed under the Barrow administration,” **this story of Leadership Driven by Conviction and Passion for Development -**

Lahido Timanandi, Digeh Borrla will highlight the transformations that have occurred under his leadership. It provides factual data to illustrate the changes and progress realised. The transformations have been guided by the enablers of the National Development Plan 2017-2021 and its subsequent version for 2023-2027, titled RF-NDP, also known as YIRIWA.

The Gambia's development partners, providing essential funding, support the modern and necessary infrastructures across the country. In line with the vision outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP), MRC Holland Foundation is an example of a dedicated partnership assisting the Barrow Government in constructing and modernising schools and teachers' quarters, renovating classrooms, kitchens, and toilets in schools throughout The Gambia.



Basse Koba Kunda

The first public university in The Gambia was established in 1996 during the second regime. Initially, it provided temporary classes across various locations in the Greater Banjul Area, with students travelling between Banjul, Kanifing, and Brikama for 28 years.

**School of
Business
and Public
Administration**



However, in less than a decade, with significant financial and technical support from major partners, including the Kuwait Fund, Islamic Development Bank, OPEC Fund, Saudi Fund for Development, and BADEA, led to the development of the first modern campus of the University of The Gambia (UTG) at Faraba Banta.



**University of
The Gambia
Faraba
Bantang
Campus**

Additionally, under the Barrow regime, the Gambia Technical Training Institute (GTTI) was upgraded and transformed into the University of Science and Technology (USET), the Management Development Institute (MDI) became a Civil Service University, and the Gambia College achieved university status. These developments included the establishment of the necessary modern infrastructures and technologies.



USET Campus in Brikama under construction

Building on such educational systems in the country provides citizens with options and opportunities to acquire the skills and knowledge needed for effective resource management and nation-building.



USET Campus upon completion 2025

Recognising that a country cannot progress without its people possessing the necessary skills in key technical areas, the Barrow Government prioritises advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) within the education system. To promote inclusivity, the government has integrated TVET education to include students from Arabic and Islamic educational backgrounds, preparing them to acquire skills for improved livelihoods, employment, and self-reliance. The Gambia Madrassa Integration Strategy – GMIS creates inclusivity and equal opportunity for all citizens to partake in nation building.



Ndemban, Foni



Gambian Youths in TVET



Launch of The Gambia Madrassah Integration Strategy

These higher learning institutions serve as the foundation for uplifting the youth and women, thereby transforming the country's human resource base.



Across Regions

Agriculture and Enterprise Development

Agriculture, the backbone of the country's economy, has been prioritised for food security and sustainable livelihoods. A ten-year Transformation Programme (2020-2030) was developed to support farmers across the regions with fertiliser, seeds, and farm implements to modernise the sector. In 2019, with support from Japan, the President distributed 50 tractors to Gambian farmers and in 2024, two hundred 200 tractors and related machinery were procured for the 2025-26 cropping season.



Distribution of 50 tractors to Gambian Farmers

Distribution of fertilizers to Gambian Farmers

Similar efforts to transform agriculture under the Resilience of Organisation for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture (Roots) project have developed the capacity of young and female farmers in rice cultivation, vegetable growing, and farming implements. Meanwhile, the GIRAV project focuses on enhancing the value chain for the production of rice and maize. The group and individual approaches targeting farmers are creating networks of farmers countrywide, and farmer education field study sessions to enrich their experiences.

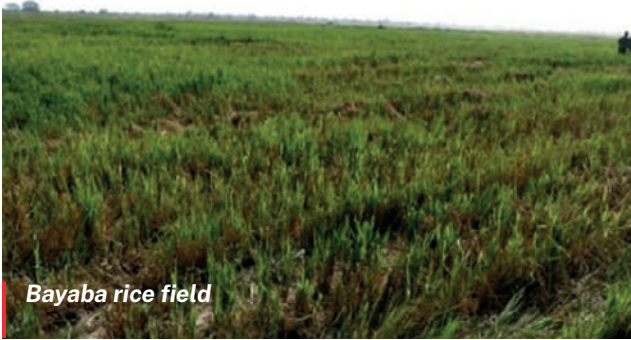


Presentation of matching grants to Gambian Farmers



Farm visit

Addressing food security and sustainability, the Barrow government encourages Gambians to invest in agriculture as a viable venture, rice and vegetable production to feed the nation and export excess. Gambian businesses have bought into the strategic policy some have already started producing and bagging locally produced rice.

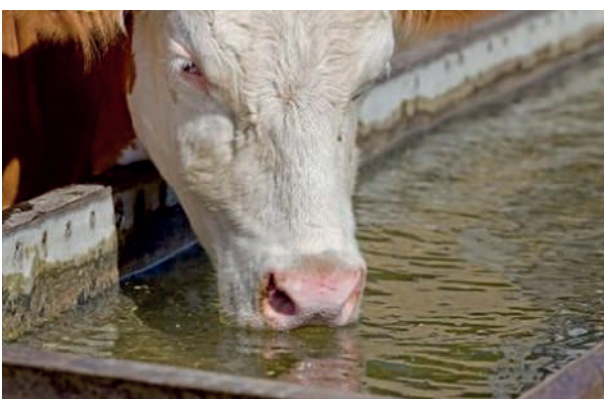


Bayaba rice field



Bayaba rice field

Livestock and cattle rearing are important components of food security and economic drivers under the agriculture and livestock services of the country. Aware of herding practices in the country, ninety-nine (99) solar powered boreholes have been constructed as drinking points in different parts of the country to serve herders and their cattle.



Raneru



Access to Water

The key interventions undertaken by the Department of Water Resources from 2017 to 2025, focus on enhancing access to clean and sustainable water supplies across The Gambia. A significant highlight of this period is the implementation of solar-powered water supply facilities, which align with national and global sustainability goals, addressing water scarcity and reducing dependency on fossil fuels.

Before 2021, the main source of water supply for rural Gambians was traditional wells, and the past two governments focused on improving the situation with hand-pumped wells. Parallel to these developments, under the current government, communities are now benefiting from the supply of clean water from industrial boreholes, relieving women and children from the drudgery of getting water for the family and other uses.



Faraba Sutu



Industrial borehole

Regional Distribution of Solar-Powered Water Supply Facilities implemented between 2017 and 2025:

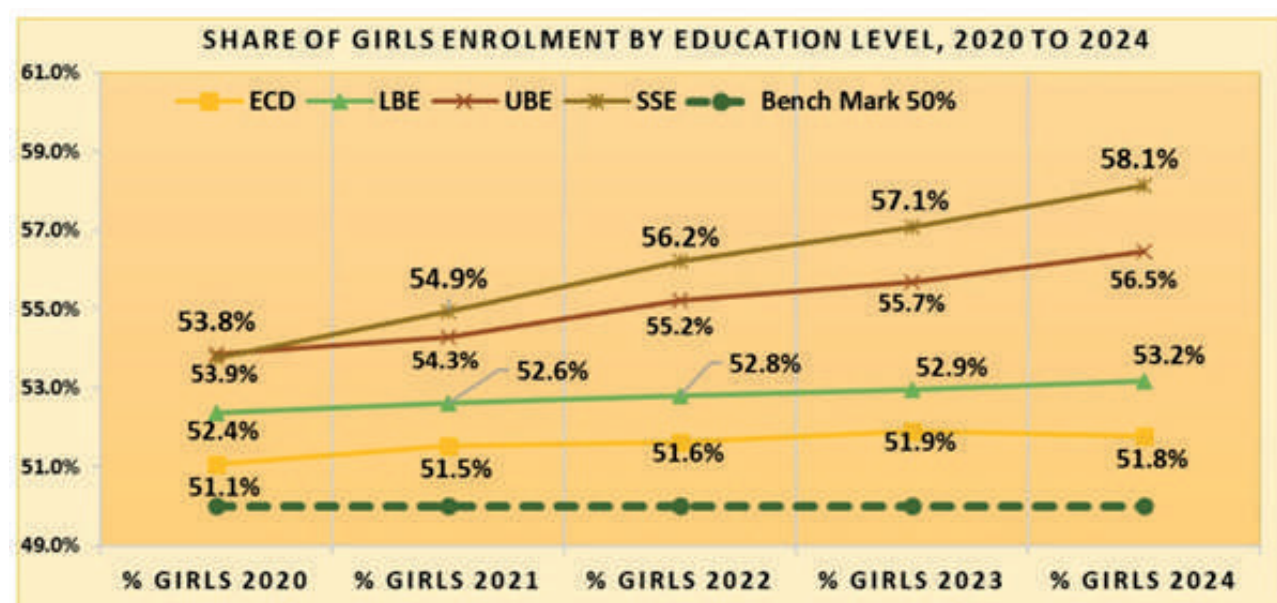
Region	Number of Facilities	Communities Benefited	Population	Tank Capacities (ltrs)
West Coast	22	28	34,773	30,000 – 100,00
Lower River	12	18	13,188	30,000 – 50,0000
North Bank	36	59	44,371	30,000 – 100,000
Central River	59	113	86,958	30,000 – 150,000
Upper River	37	68	41,736	30,000 – 100,000
Total	166	286	221,026	



The initiatives for improved access to clean water, factoring sustainability and cost efficiency and community empowerment between 2017 and 2025 mark significant progress in sustainable water management. The focus will remain on expanding solar-powered water supply systems throughout the rural populace, enhancing maintenance frameworks, and integrating advanced water monitoring systems to improve service reliability and resilience to climate variability.

Gender Representation, Education and Skills Development

Share of Girls in the Enrolment by Edu. levels										
Edu. Level	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Total	% Girls 2020	Total	% Girls 2021	Total	% Girls 2022	Total	% Girls 2023	Total	% Girls 2024
ECD	130,112	51.1%	126,573	51.5%	130,952	51.6%	136,283	51.9%	142,302	51.8%
LBE	393,057	52.4%	401,333	52.6%	414,477	52.8%	428,053	52.9%	432,514	53.2%
UBE	111,752	53.9%	119,405	54.3%	123,081	55.2%	133,672	55.7%	138,089	56.5%
SSE	73,563	53.8%	76,537	54.9%	78,706	56.2%	85,026	57.1%	88,565	58.1%



Enrolment Trends in Tertiary and Higher Education Institutions

Year of enrolment	Type of institution	No. of Male enrolment	No. of Female enrolment	Total number of enrolments
2021	Higher Education	680	639	1319
2022/23	Higher Education	8046	6320	14366
2023/24	Higher Education	7312	6527	13839
2024/25	Higher Education	6667	5228	11895
	Grand Total	22705	18714	41419

Enrolment Trends in Higher Education

	Diploma		Bachelors		PGD		Masters		PhD	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
UTG	26	31	640	837	56	42	43	105		
USET			46	148						

Analysis of Gender Distribution in STEM in two Public Universities

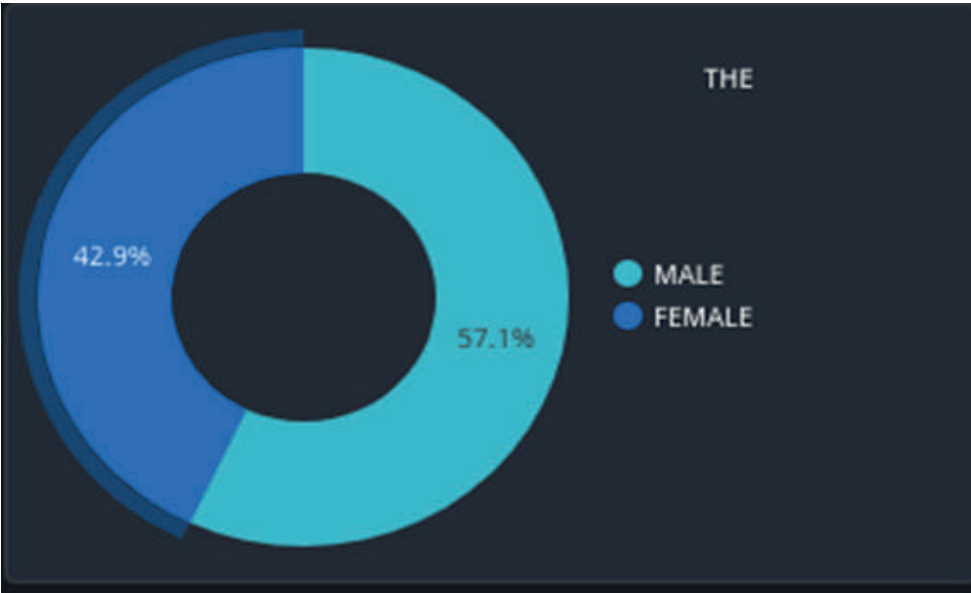
Year	Type of Institution	Full-time male	Full-time female	Part-time male	Part-time female	Sub of the total number
2023	Higher Education	454	89	245	43	831
	Tertiary	247	98	205	46	596
	Total	701	187	450	89	1427
2024	Higher Education	433	104	272	45	854
	Tertiary	230	100	198	47	575
	Total	663	204	470	92	1429
	Grand Total	1364	391	920	181	2856

Analysis of Gender Distribution in STEM in two Public Universities

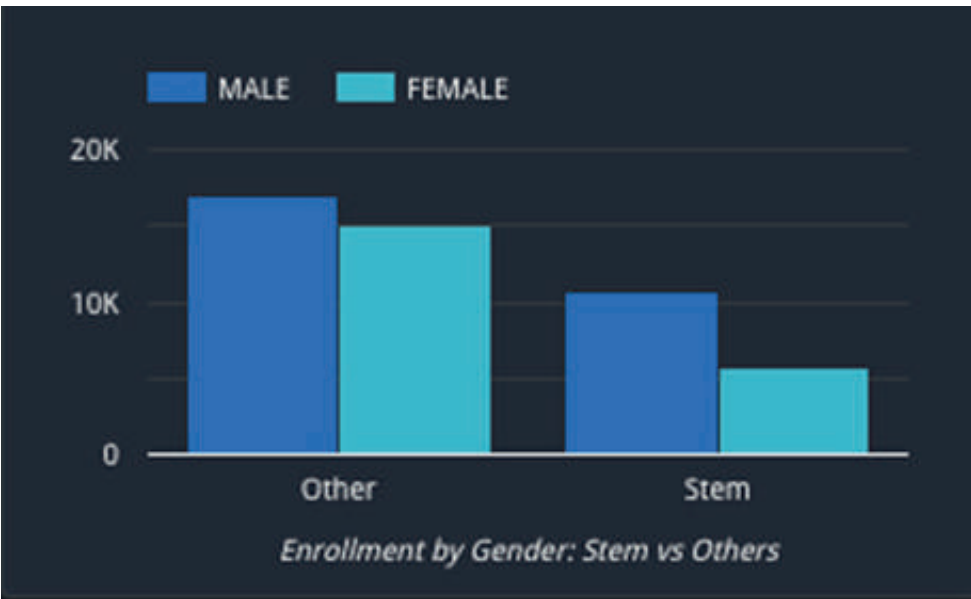
USET and Affiliated Schools	Gender of Academic Staff		
	Female	Male	Grand Total
Schools			
(USET) KANIFING	11	71	82
Advanced Diploma	1	19	20
Bachelors	3	23	26
Diploma	4	16	20
Doctorate		3	3
Masters	3	9	12
Post Secondary Certificate		1	1
BACHELOR'S IN COMMUNITY BUILDING AND DESIGN (BCBD)		3	3
Bachelors		1	1
Masters		2	2
BANJUL SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE	1	5	6
Diploma	1	4	5
Post Secondary Certificate		1	1
INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TRAINING	3	15	18
Advanced Diploma		7	7
Bachelors	1	1	2
Diploma	1	5	6
Masters	1	2	3
JULANGEL SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE		6	6
Advanced Diploma		3	3
Diploma		2	2
Post Secondary Certificate		1	1
MANSAKONKO RURAL SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE		5	5
Bachelors		1	1
Diploma		3	3
Masters		1	1
NDEMBAN SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE	1	10	11
Advanced Diploma		2	2
Bachelors		1	1
Diploma	1	6	7
Masters		1	1
Grand Total	16	115	131

Staff data from Skills Training Centres

Enrolment at the University of The Gambia (UTG) (Source: University of The Gambia (UTG) admissions data 2018-2022)



Enrolment by Gender
– STEM Vs Other
Academic Studies



The University of The Gambia - UTG is attracting many young people, both male and female. By 2022, the gender representation at the UTG, stood at 42.9% female and 57.1% male, the steady trend to gender equality.

Advancing Gender, Children and People with Disabilities

Apart from ensuring that the right laws, policies and strategic plans are in place to guide gender mainstreaming and promote equality and equity, it is under the leadership of President Adama Barrow that major milestones have been realised for women's empowerment and social inclusion.



- Established the first Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare in 2020
- Established a Women Enterprise Fund in 2020 and disbursed over sixty-six million Dalasis between 2020 and 2024
- Enhanced Social Protection fund – NAFA providing cash transfers to vulnerable families
- Enacted the Disability Act 2021 and a national Disability Advisory Council set up to support people with disability
- Construct a Shelter Service in Bakoteh in 2023
- Introduced a victims' support fund to facilitate the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of victims of sexual and gender-based violence
- In 2023, Special courts have been established, specifically to handle cases related to child custody and other child-related issues
- National Social Protection Agency instituted to support vulnerable families and persons



Shelter Service in Bakoteh

Youth and Sports Development

Development projects

Stadium Renovation

Farafenni Youth Centre (NBR)

Mboyo Football Field

NEDI Youth Enterprise Food & Food Processing Centre at Kiang West

GSI Project and its impact on Young People

AFCON Qualification

NYSS National Youth Service Programme & the regular batch

New Youth and Sports Bill

PIA Skills Centre

The government's commitment to advancing the youth has been demonstrated in the areas of sports and skill development. While youth matters cut across all sectors, specific programmes for the youth sector within this decade include the renovation of the old Independence stadium constructed in 1980 to a modern and CAF-approved standard.

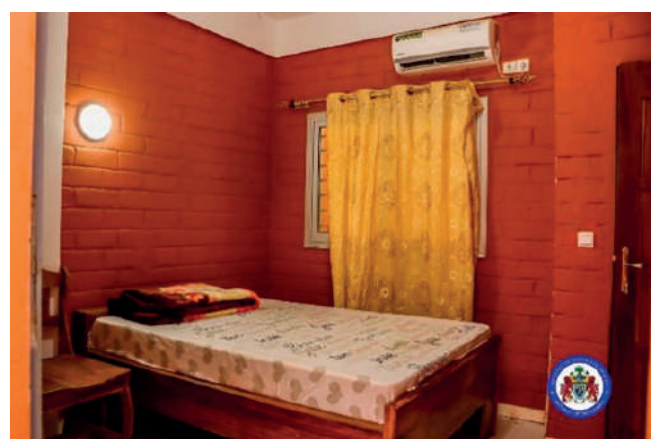


To further decentralise sports facilities, the Government continues to build sporting facilities in the Upper River (URR), Lower River (LRR) and the Kanifing Municipality to reach more young people. The Government is further encouraged by the performance of Gambians in sports and donated cash prizes to performing sportsmen and women.



While sports catch the attention of many young people, the administration is advancing skills development through the NEDI Youth Enterprise & Food Processing Centre at Kiang West in the LRR, the Gambia Shonghai Initiative – GSI in the North Bank Region, the National Youth Service Programme and the President’s International Award Skills programme.

The recent completion of the Farafenni Youth Centre in the NBR, adds to the opportunities open to the youth in both urban and rural areas and youth engagement there.



Farafenni Youth Centre

Trade and Economic Growth

Under the leadership of President Adama Barrow, The Gambia's trade performance improved from minus (-) 24,635,180,000 Dalasis in 2017 to an impressive growth of 64,562,104,000 Dalasis in 2024. Furthermore, investor confidence has increased and more Gambians are investing in various areas the economy.

GAMBIA'S TRADE PERFORMANCE FROM 2016 - 2024(D'000)

TRADEFLOWS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TOTAL TRADE	19,822,370	26,720,923	33,249,749	32,649,234	36,350,063	37,881,231	47,916,659	56,531,411	71,389,878
IMPORTS	15,898,749	25,678,051	32,621,590	31,076,150	34,913,753	36,521,225	44,888,775	51,346,955	67,975,991
EXPORTS	744,428	639,284	225,018	451,891	261,188	567,330	1,289,703	864,896	1,574,811
RE-EXPORTS	3,179,193	403,587	403,141	1,121,193	1,175,122	792,676	1,738,182	4,319,559	1,839,076
TOTAL EXPORTS	3,923,621	1,042,871	628,159	1,573,084	1,436,310	1,360,006	3,027,885	5,184,456	3,413,887
TRADE BALANCE	11,975,128	24,635,180	31,993,431	29,503,066	33,477,443	35,161,219	41,860,890	46,162,499	64,562,104

The GIEPA recorded the following investments 2017-2024

Energy

The poor capacity to cater for the energy needs of a growing population and new settlements has been a major challenge for the government since 2017. The country relied heavily on old generators with high fuel consumption to provide electricity, resulting in constant power cuts.



NAWEC Kotu power station



When his government promised universal access to electricity, very few trusted that it was possible. However, with a clear vision guided by the **Gambia Strategic Electricity Sector Roadmap 2019 - 2025**, the Barrow administration has proved many wrong. Since the promise of universal coverage by the end of 2025, over 90% of that promise has been realised.



OMVG Mansakonko Jarra Soma



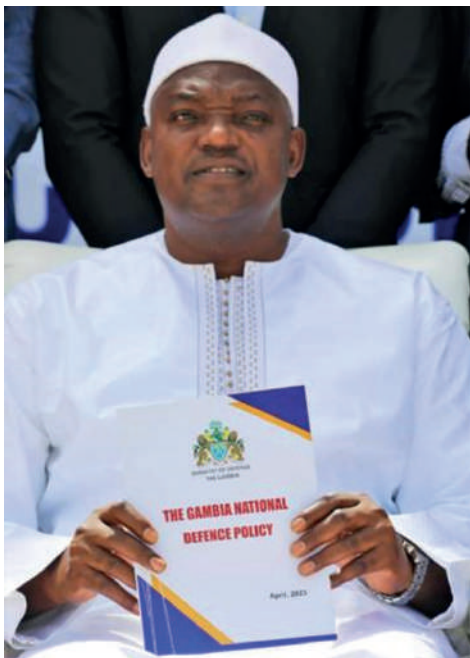


Light up Kiang



Jambur Solar plant

Defence and Security



The administration inherited a security sector that had been deeply politicised. Over three thousand ghost workers were recorded, and clear policy directions were missing.

In 2017, the Security Sector Reform project was initiated to ensure an effective and account-able security sector under democratic control with respect for human rights, the rule of law, and fundamental principles of good governance. It reset its direction to reform and transform the Security Sector into a professional, functional and effective one that delivers for the good of our people.

The National Security Office coordinates the relationship with the various Security outfits. By 2024, several policies and strategies were developed to guide the Security Sector. Additionally, a Communication Strategy document was published to enhance effective communication, strengthen collaboration and inclusivity, better coordination and create stronger partnerships.





Aside from the Policy, new infrastructures were built to create a conducive work environment that respects human dignity. Several model Police stations have been completed and are functional.

To better equip the Security Sector, The Gambia and its partners provide the necessary equipment to the sector.



Advancing military capabilities of The Gambia Armed Forces

Handing over of farm equipments to GAF

Regional features of the Promise



President Barrow's emphasis on infrastructure development has been stressed in his response to what his development priority was.

1. Infrastructure development!

2. Infrastructure development!

3. Infrastructure development!"

Upper River Region

Roads and Bridges

The Gambia's roads and bridges constructed between 1964 to 2016 included 683 metres of roads and bridges - Denton Bridge, (210 m) Kerewan Bridge in the North Bank Region (350 m) and Sankulay Kunda Bridge (123 m).

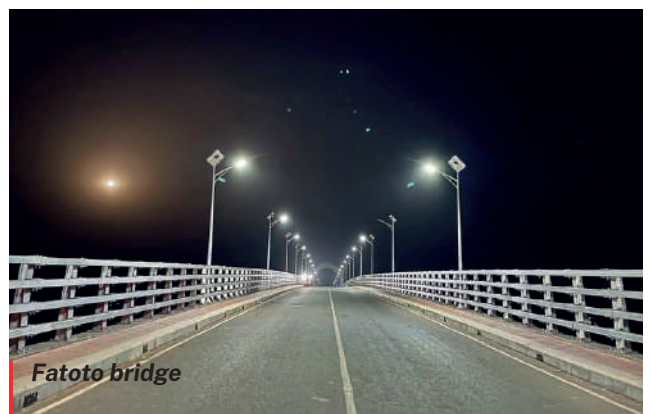
President Barrow's emphasis on infrastructure development has been stressed in his response to what his development priority was.

"1. Infrastructure development! 2. Infrastructure development! 3. Infrastructure development!"

Without the needed infrastructure in education, road, communication, health, and energy sectors, it would be difficult to achieve other developments. This is reflected in the unprecedented road projects undertaken by the government. In the rural areas, close to 1,000 km (995.9km) of roads have been completed or are close to completion. Concurrently in the urban Gambia, over two hundred (205.13) Km of roads have been undertaken.



The 250 metres long Samba Juma Bridge in Basse and the 170 metres long Fatoto Bridge, in the Upper River Region, connect with the Lamin Koto-Pasamass 121 km Road through the Badala – Yorobawol roads on the northern part and the 52.1 kilometres Basse – Koina Road on the South of the River. This created a ring road in the Region of 240,000 population.



URR Ring Road

The ring road has significantly improved travel safety and convenience for Gambians and other travellers, allowing easier access to goods and services in the region. For instance, pregnant and nursing mothers often cross the river in small canoes and boats to reach health services from the North to the South Bank at Basse.



Yoro Bawol



Wuli Badala Road

Modern Health Facilities



Mankamang Kunda Health Centre

In addition, people from the East frequently spend a considerable amount of time travelling to Basse for health and socioeconomic services. To further decentralise social services, such as health care services, Tumana and Jimara districts have modern health facilities for the first time since 1965, in 2023. The Honourable Assan Musa Camara and Aja Juma Jallow Health Centres prioritise respecting women's rights and dignity during labour by providing all-inclusive delivery rooms within their district health infrastructures.

Higher Education

For 52 years of political independence, the Upper River Region did not have a college of education. However, within just eight years, the first College of Education, named Basse College, was established in 2018 in the Upper River Region. This institution has helped close the gender gap in higher education, enabling married women and single mothers to pursue their educational ambitions, better equipping them to participate actively in public life.



Basse Koba Kunda



Basse College

Modern Market

In 2020, a devastating fire destroyed the central market of the Upper River Region, impacting the local community. In response, President Barrow visited the scene and committed to constructing a modern, planned market that would include safety measures and more hygienic stalls, particularly for market women. This plan was successfully implemented, resulting in the completion of 246 shops and stalls in less than two years after the fire.



Inferno at Basse market



Newly built Basse market

Rural Electrification



Ensuring access to electricity in deprived parts of the country is critical for advancing both public and private enterprises. Under the Universal Access to Electricity Programme, communities as remote as Nyamanari in Kantora and Sinchu in Sandu districts are among the 171 communities in the Upper River Region benefiting from developments associated with access to electricity.

Central River Region North

Roads and Bridges

It is often reported by development agencies that the Central River Region (CRR) North of The Gambia is among the most deprived parts of the country. Despite its historical significance, including pre-colonial institutions such as Armitage High School—the only boarding school and alma mater of many prominent Gambians—and the first rural major hospital in Bansang, the region has struggled to sustain its agricultural potential. Known for its rice production, the Central River Region has been unable to maintain any significant rice project initiatives, which could have reduced the country's reliance on rice imports and the associated foreign exchange costs.

Rice Production

Under the current administration, President Barrow has encouraged the Gambian private sector to partner with the government in investing in rice production. This initiative aims to transform the sector from seasonal production to an all-year-round business model.



Jahally-Pacharr rice field

Learning from the negative impacts and disruptions of global food supply chains and international trade, this remodelling has inspired private Gambian businesses to explore opportunities not only for profit but also to ensure food security, create jobs, and produce surplus rice for export. At the renowned Jahally-Pacharr rice fields, industrial-scale production has been undertaken by Marou Farms. Similarly, at Bayaba in Central River North, Jah Oils Farms harvested and bagged its first rice crop in 2024.



Bayaba rice field

Additionally, Q-Group, GACH, and the Ahmadiyya Jamaat have initiated commercial rice production projects across the country, contributing to the nation's drive for food security.



Bayaba rice field

Roads



Nyakoi road

Infrastructure development has also been a priority. The construction of a 13.6 km road in Kaur and a 38.77 km road from Njau to Nyanija, funded by domestic resources, has improved connectivity. Remote communities along the Laminkoto-Passamass highway now enjoy 121 km of tarred roads, enhancing public transport systems in the area. Under President Barrow's leadership, Bush Town has been connected to the Laminkoto-Passamass route with a new tarred road and electricity supply as part of the rural electrification project under the Universal Access Electricity Programme.

For instance, Nyanija, with a population of 9,876, now benefits from improved social services, including a health centre, a senior secondary school, a tarred road network, electricity supply, and clean water. These developments reflect the Barrow administration's commitment to fulfilling its social contract with citizens.



**Industrial borehole
in Nyanija**

Skill Centres

To promote decentralised rural development, the Barrow administration has embarked on constructing a major modern skills centre in Kuntaur. The aim is to equip the youthful population with skills that will enable them to create job opportunities within their regions. This initiative has the potential to build the capacity of young people in various trades. Additionally, another skills centre has been established in Brikamaba, designed to address the needs of the community while fostering climate resilience.



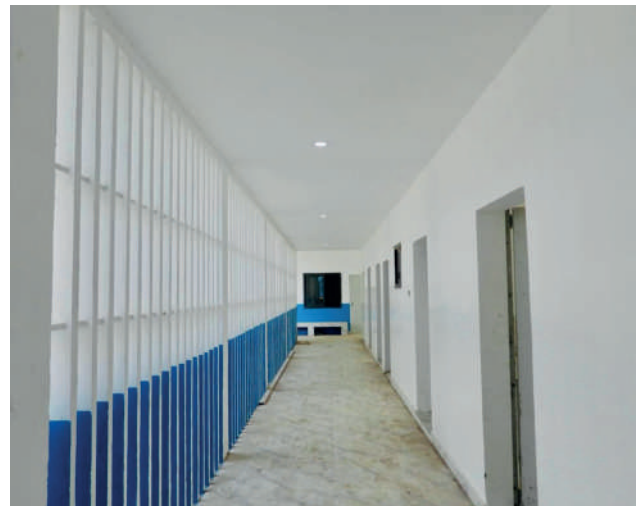
Capacity building at the decentralised level has also been prioritised. Kaur Senior School now boasts a modern laboratory to promote Science, Engineering, and Technology education in rural Gambia.

To make education more accessible, teachers' quarters have been built in remote areas such as Sami Pachonki, encouraging qualified teachers to work in all parts of the country.



Health Facilities

The decentralised health system has brought modern health centres to rural Gambia. The Central River Region has benefited significantly, with a major health infrastructure project in Njau, Saloum. This facility reduces the distance residents must travel to access major hospitals in Farafenni or Bansang, bringing essential services closer to the people. Equipped with a theatre, maternal and children's wards, and other modern facilities, the Njau health centre serves the Saloum and Nyanija areas with improved healthcare services.



Water Points for Livestock

For many years, herders in the Central River Region had to move their livestock to Senegal in search of water. However, a borehole with a capacity of 30,000 litres has been constructed in (Ballangarr) to serve fourteen (14) communities in Lower Saloum.



Pasture fields

Furthermore, the Barrow administration has introduced modern livestock-rearing practices, including the development of pasture fields and the provision of water sources for livestock. Sare Yewto village in Lower Fuladu is among the eleven (11) clusters of beneficiaries of this initiative nationwide.



Lower River Region

In the Lower River Region, the smallest region in The Gambia, development had been limited for over five decades under two successive governments. The region benefited only from the main trunk road connecting Greater Banjul to the eastern interior. Notably, the Kiang area was deliberately excluded from most social amenities due to its political affiliations, particularly during the second regime.



Roads

Since 2017, the Lower River Region has seen substantial improvements in road infrastructure. For the first time since colonial rule, an 80 km road was constructed in Kiang West under the Barrow administration. Similarly, the Kabada belt on the eastern side has benefited from a 102 km road project, marking a historic development for the area.

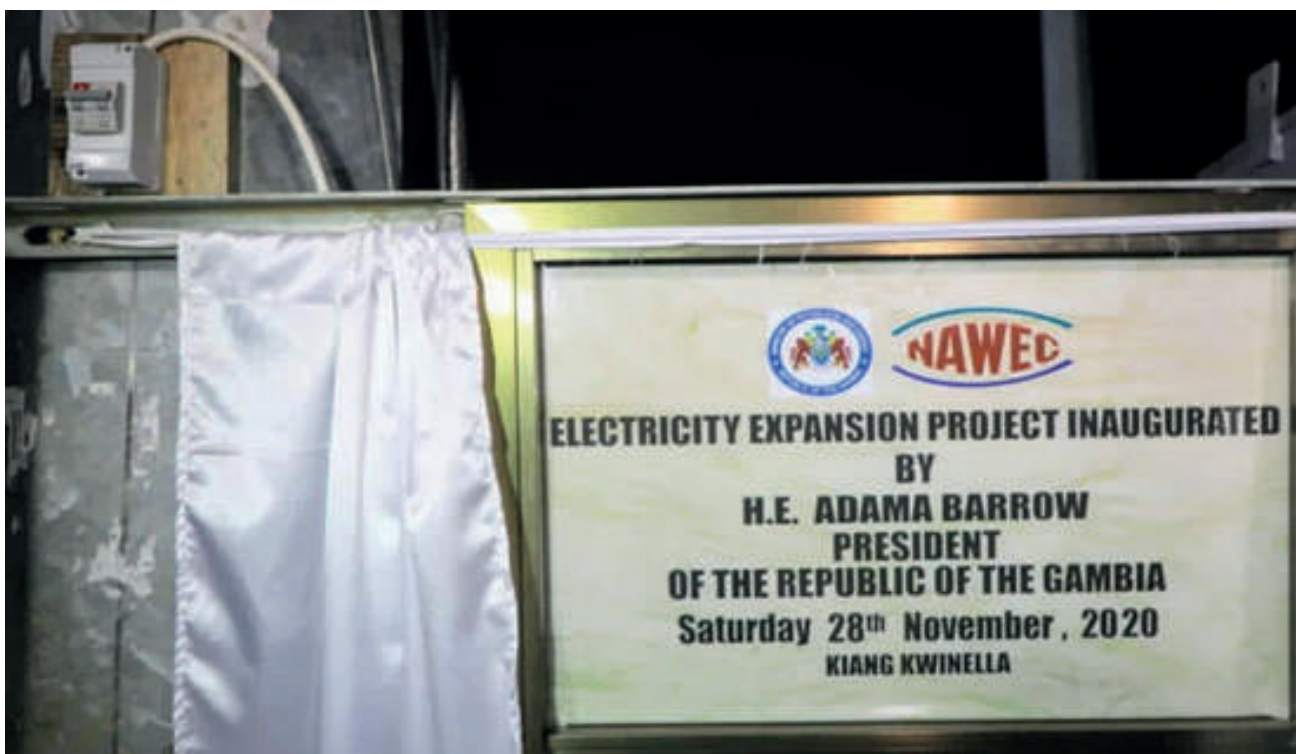


Kabada road under construction

These roads have not only improved connectivity but also made communities feel included in the national development agenda, unlocking the region's potential.

Electricity

The political change in 2016 marked a new dawn of development for the Kiang districts. One of the first significant achievements was the **“Light Up Kiang”** project, initiated by President Barrow in 2017, which brought electricity to the area for the first time.



Health Facility

Before 2024, the Kiang districts had no public health facilities apart from the MRC outreach clinic in Kiang Keneba. However, the Barrow administration initiated and completed the construction of a multi-million-dollar health facility in Kiang West.



Kiang Jali health centre



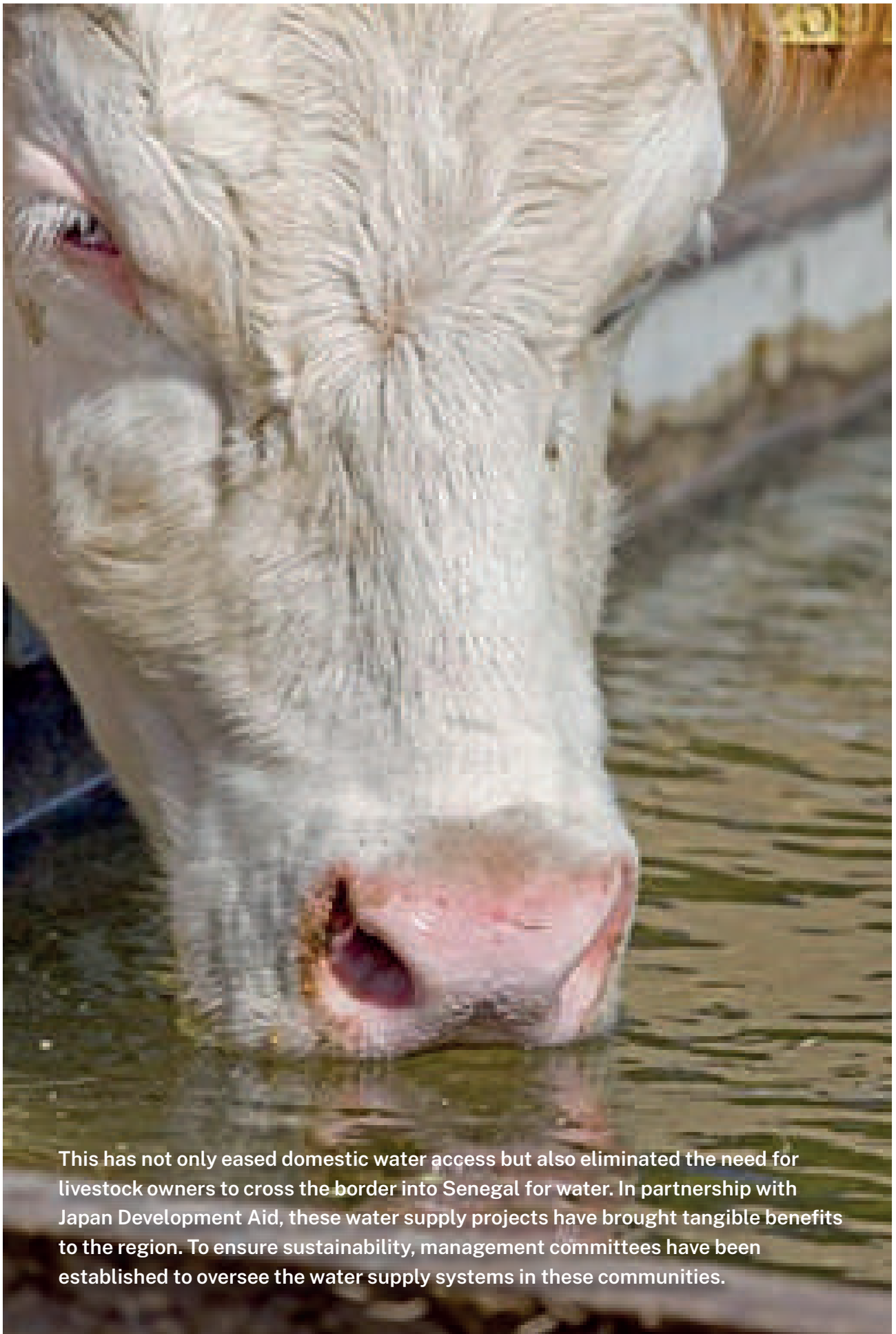
This modern health centre, equipped with 15 facilities, has significantly improved healthcare delivery in the area. Patients no longer need to travel long distances for basic services such as blood tests, and health workers can now operate in a fully air-conditioned environment under dignified conditions. The facility also includes staff housing, ensuring that healthcare providers have decent accommodations. This modern infrastructure has contributed to reducing risks associated with reproductive and child health, ultimately fostering a healthier population.

Clean Drinking Water

Access to clean water for both human consumption and livestock has also been addressed. Over the past eight years, five communities in the Lower River Region have gained access to clean tap water.



Access to clean drinking water



This has not only eased domestic water access but also eliminated the need for livestock owners to cross the border into Senegal for water. In partnership with Japan Development Aid, these water supply projects have brought tangible benefits to the region. To ensure sustainability, management committees have been established to oversee the water supply systems in these communities.

North Bank Region



President Barrow is capable of doing something for the remote and isolated Hakalang belt.”

The historical accounts describe how colonial rulers traveled to the North Bank to meet with the Chiefs. In one such account, the late Ambassador Bakary Jammeh mentioned that after gaining independence six decades ago, it was not until the second regime that the Essau-Baddibu stretch in the North Bank Region was equipped with a motorable highway and a bridge at Kerewan.

Roads

Under the leadership of President Barrow, his government broke new ground by undertaking the major construction of the Hakalang Road—an ambitious project that some had previously doubted



Hakalang road

However, with determination and a commitment to improving road infrastructure, which is critical for bringing essential services to rural communities, by 2024, even the project’s most significant critics began to acknowledge the benefits of Hakalang. The renowned Cora King, Jaliba Kuyateh, understood the importance of the road during the laying of the foundation stone. He famously stated in Mandinka, “**Hakalang, President Barrow ya Kalang leh,**” which translates to “President Barrow is capable of doing something for the remote and isolated Hakalang belt.”



The road is more than just a physical path; it symbolizes progress by allowing for the erection of electricity poles—a sign that the promise of Universal Access to Electricity is becoming a reality in the once-isolated communities along the Hakalang belt of the North Bank Region, including the historic village of Juffureh, among others. The improved Hakalang road opens up numerous opportunities, such as enabling local women to easily access markets for their vegetables, boosting tourism activities, and facilitating community development.

In the Baddibu region of the North Bank, new roads connecting to the main trunk road are facilitating access to communities such as Njawara, Salikenni, Ngayen Sanjal, and Banni, making it easier for individuals to travel for business or social purposes.



Health Infrastructure

Upgrading and modernising the Essau Health Centre allows it accommodate more services at the facility, reducing the need for referrals to Banjul and the challenges associated with traveling from Barra to Banjul. The Government prioritises decentralised health services, aiming to provide modern facilities and employ qualified local medical personnel.



In the North Bank region, modern health facilities have been established in Chissay Majaw and Salikenni. The improved maternal and child health ratings under the Barrow administration reflect the enhancement of services and strategic planning within the health system.



A healthier population contributes to a stronger workforce, enabling citizens to engage in viable enterprises that drive national progress. It is widely recognised that a nation can only develop when its people are healthy and self-reliant.

Education

Additionally, communities in the North Bank have benefited from new schools and classrooms, including Bali Mandinka Cycle School and Badibou Dobo School.



West Coast Region



President Barrow is capable of doing something for the remote and isolated Hakalang belt.”

The Kombo area of the region is known for gardening and horticulture, while the Foni area is primarily involved in seasonal farming and gardening. Despite being situated close to urban centres, the region retains rural settings that require improved infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, and water access. These are priority needs as the population grows, and new sub-settlements emerge. These developments also bring an increased demand for social amenities.

Faraba Sutu



Access to Social Amenities

University Campus

In less than a decade under President Barrow's leadership, the West Coast Region has become home to a modern university campus—the University of The Gambia at Faraba Banta—and a transformed University of Science, Engineering and Technology (USET) at Brikama.



Electricity

Jambur, now connected to the new Sukuta-Jabang-Jambanjelly road leading to Brikama, is home to the country's largest solar plant, completed in 2024. The powerhouse for the 20 MW plant is also located in Brikama.



Jambur Solar Plant



Brikama NAWEC



20MW Solar Plant in Brikama



Health Facility

Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges, the government has prioritised preparedness for national emergencies. Currently, a 1,500-bed National Emergency Hospital - three times larger than the main hospital in the capital, Banjul—is under construction in Farato, Kombo South.



On-going Construction of Farato Hospital



This facility will include all necessary departments. Additionally, a Medical Waste Treatment Centre has been completed and is now operational in Farato village under Barrow's eight-year administration.

Market

In Brikama, the Barrow government has completed the first phase of a modern market in this densely populated district, which serves as a hub for goods from various sources in the region.



In Kombo East, a 30,000 litre capacity borehole has been constructed in Faraba Sutu, serving a population of 1,978 across multiple communities in the area.



Faraba Sutu borehole project

Skills Centres

In the Fonis, skills development centres have been established in Ndemban and Kanilai to provide technical and vocational education for young people. Feeder roads connecting communities such as Sangajorr, Kamfenda, Kanilai, Kalagi, Kangmamudu, and Mayork are under construction to improve travel and provide better access to markets and other facilities.



Port Expansion

Plans for a new port site at Sanyang include the expansion of the coastal road, which will link to the Southern Kombo Highway. This comes with economic benefits and growth.



Roads

The West Coast Region, along with the Kanifing Municipality, benefits from a 50-kilometer OIC road network, including the six-lane Bertil Harding Highway with flyovers. This highway has transformed the country's image and eased traffic congestion caused by the increasing number of vehicles. The Barrow government is also working on dual service roads along the Bertil Harding Highway to improve access to commercial areas and services along the route



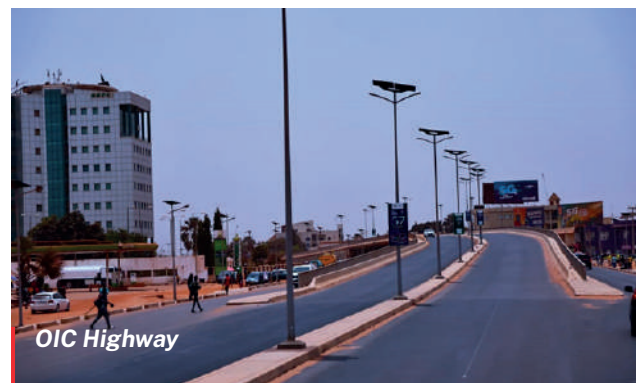
Old Bertil Harding Highway



OIC Highway



Old Bertil Harding Highway



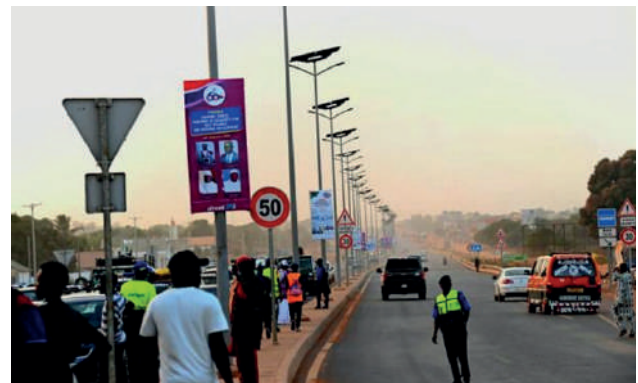
OIC Highway

Kanifing Municipality

The Barrow administration plans to develop roads, drainage, and sewage systems in the Kanifing Municipality, following the successful transformation of Banjul with concrete roads, modern sewage systems, and improved drainage.



Airport junction OIC road



Banjul

The revitalisation of Banjul since 2016 demonstrates how innovative financing and domestic resource mobilisation can lead to self-reliance and rapid infrastructure development.



Comparism of sewage and drainage facilities in the capital city of Banjul before and during the Barrow administration

The main referral hospital and polyclinic in Banjul are also undergoing modernisation and transformation to meet the evolving needs of the health sector. Under the current administration, significant progress continues to be made in infrastructure and public services.



Facelift at the main referral hospital



EFSTH

Good Governance and Institutional Reforms



President Barrow's emphasis on infrastructure development has been stressed in his response to what his development priority was.

Since 2017, the Barrow administration has initiated legal and institutional reforms. A key component of the Security Sector Reforms is the emphasis on professionalism, which is fundamental to the overall transformation. This includes the development of policies and programmes that prioritise respect for civilian leadership and democratic governance. The various sister forces have also crafted policies and strategic plans to guide their operations. Capacity-building is a crucial factor in fostering a change in attitudes among security personnel, making it another important aspect of the Security Sector Reform.



Gambia Security Sector Reform project launch

Building institutional capacity with the relevant tools complements the human resource output by increasing efficiency and effectiveness. This includes enabling appraisal methods, accountability, transparency, and establishing monitoring mechanisms. Significant strides have been made to motivate staff through salary increments, culminating in an increase of 110% by 2025. On average, civil servants have realised a 30% salary increase to further encourage them to maintain professionalism and reduce brain drain in key social sectors such as health and education.

The increased accessibility of audit reports is pressuring the government and compelling institutional leaders to take responsibility. The financial accounting systems, such as IFMIS and others, enhance the accuracy of transaction monitoring, preventing financial leakages and aiding in the fight against corruption. An anti-corruption law has been enacted, and an Anti-Corruption Commission has been established. Furthermore, digitalisation is enhancing accountability.



Surprise visit to Personnel Management Office

Transitional Justice for Peace and Reconciliation

“

In 2017, a commission of Enquiry of the Financial Activities of Certain Public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices, and the Related Accumulation of Assets by the Former President Yahya Jammeh and Associates referred to as the “Janneh Commission.”

As part of the Transitional Justice Programme, the Barrow administration opposed autocratic leadership and established a commission of specialists to investigate issues and allegations impacting the nation’s progress.



The initiative began with the Gambianisation of the judiciary, encouraging Gambian legal experts to take leadership roles in administering justice and upholding the rule of law in the country. By 2026, the Transitional Justice Programme is expected to reach its final stage of delivering justice and reparations.

In 2017, a **Commission of Inquiry into the Financial Activities of Public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices as regards their dealings with former President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh and Connected Matters** referred to as the “Janneh Commission.”

The Commission completed its work and submitted its report to President Barrow on 29th March 2019. Subsequently, the government published a White Paper detailing the findings of the Janneh Commission and its reaction to it.

<https://moj.gov.gm/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/White-Paper.pdf>



Submission of the Janneh Commission of Inquiry Report

Another major achievement in pursuing human rights and governance in The Gambia, President Barrow institutionalised a **National Human Rights Commission** on 14th February 2019, the first time in the history of the country. The Commission provides services to citizens to report and get redress on human rights issues.

National Human Rights Commission



So far, the Barrow government is on track in fulfilling its promise of good governance to the Gambian people and, by extension, its development partners. **In 2023, an Anti-Corruption Act** was enacted, and the Government, through the Ministry of Justice, was set to have a Commission and Secretariat for its operations in 2025.

Notwithstanding the achievements, one of the pending promises is realising the Diaspora vote. The Independent Electoral Commission has the task of fulfilling this promise as it undertakes the **Electoral Reform Programme**.



The Promise of a New Republic and Constitutional Reform

The promise of a New Republic is being realised through an ongoing process of establishing a New Constitution to guide the nation. The Barrow Government established a Constitution Review Commission in June 2018, and by November 2019, a draft Constitution for 2020 was presented to the President. Following a Cabinet review, the Government submitted a revised proposal to the National Assembly. The 2024 Draft Constitution was submitted to the National Assembly to be subjected to parliamentary processes and procedures before it could be put to a referendum.

Economic Growth and Entreprises

Under the leadership of President Adama Barrow, government revenue has significantly increased. When he assumed office in 2017, the country had only one month of import cover.

The international reserves, which stood at five hundred and fifteen million US Dollars (US\$515 million) in January 2025. This was sufficient to finance over four-point-six (4.6) months of prospective import of goods and services. (Sourced: SONA 2025).

According to GIEPA sources, trade and investment have also grown over the past eight years, rising from over twenty- six million (26, 720,923) in 2017 to more than seventy-one million (71,389,878) in 2024. The Gambia Investment and Enterprise Promotion Agency, GIEPA from January 2017 to December 2024, registered investments to the tune of two hundred and eighty-four million, nine hundred and sixty-six thousand and eight hundred and forty-two Dollars (\$284,966,842 Million) and created eight thousand, three hundred and eighteen (8318) job opportunities in The Gambia. It is national pride that about 59%, equivalent to 40 out of the 67 investments, are Gambian. Furthermore, 37 companies are in

manufacturing and eight are in Agriculture-farming, poultry and processing. The other investments are in fisheries, health, financial services, tourism, river transport and information technology. The investments are contributing to the government's policy to promote private sector investment to create employment and grow the economy.

Revenue Generation

A substantial increase in revenue generation has been recorded under President Barrow, driven by advancements in digitalisation. The Gambia's revenue grew from 26,720,923 in January 2017 to 71,389,878 in January 2024, representing a 267% increase.

The Gambia's revenue grew from

26,720,923 in January **2017**
to **71,389,878** in January **2024**,
representing a **267%** increase.

Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment

Girls' education currently stands at 53.2% at the primary or basic level and, at 58.1% at the higher level. Females constitute 42.9% of the student population at the University of The Gambia. In the public service, women make up 39%. Meanwhile, women's representation in the Cabinet has fluctuated under the Barrow administration. As of February 2025, only three of the Cabinet members are women, far below the UN recommendation of 33% affirmative action.

Women who served under President Barrow's Cabinet 2017 -2025

Women who served under President Barrow's Cabinet 2017 -2025	Position held
H.E. Fatoumatta Jallow Tambajang	Vice President and Minister of Women's Affairs
H.E. Dr Isatou Touray	Minister for Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment and later Vice President and Minister of Women's Affairs
Honourable Claudiana Cole	Minister for Basic and Secondary Education
Honourable Fatou Kinteh	Minister for Gender, Children and Social Welfare
Honourable Amie Fabureh	Minister for Agriculture
Honourable Rohey John Manjang	Minister for Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources
Honourable Haddijatou Sey	Minister for Basic and Secondary Education
Honourable Habibatou Drammeh	Minister for Basic and Secondary Education
Honourable Saffie Lowe-Ceesay	Minister for Health

**GENDER REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING
POSITION 2017-2025**

NO.	Positions in Governance and Public Services	Number of Females who held the position	Number of Males who held the position
1.	Secretary General	1	4
2.	Chief of Staff	0	1
3.	Deputy Chief of Staff	0	1
4.	Cabinet Secretary	1	2
5.	Accountant General	1	1
6.	Auditor General	0	2
7.	Ambassador	10	45
8.	Permanent Secretary	16	44
9.	Deputy Permanent Secretary	37	103
10.	Directors/Heads of Departments/Units	47	152
11.	Presidential Adviser	0	12
12.	Managing Director	0	

Environmental Protection and Climate Change Mitigation

Climate is a natural phenomenon, and human activities continue to impact the environment both positively and negatively. The Barrow government is committed to creating a policy environment that positively influences people's lives. However, the balancing act of environmental protection and investment for economic growth remains a challenge. Factors such as population growth and new settlements in urban centres are contributing to increase demands on the environment. Clearing land for housing, industries, and social amenities is a reality, and the government continues to seek alternative solutions for environmental management.

To address these challenges, there is a need for increased awareness-raising, effective policy implementation, and enforcement of laws to improve environmental protection and preventive measures. One major project undertaken by the government is the WACA project along the Kotu Stream.



Information and Communication: Freedom of Expression

Media freedom, and by extension freedom of speech, has significantly improved under President Barrow's leadership. For over two decades, Gambians were silenced under the Jammeh regime, and the fight for democracy included liberating the media. This liberation led to a surge in both traditional and online media outlets. The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Ministry of Justice has licensed over 50 media outlets.



The government has partnered with stakeholders to develop a Communication Strategy, enact an Access to Information Act (ATI), and enhance the visibility of government programmes through the Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services. Initiatives such as commendable town hall meetings (Mansa Kunda) and regular press conferences have been instrumental in enlightening the public.



Licenced Media type	2016	2025
Radio	34	47
Television	1	5
Newspaper		
Online		



Media freedom, and by extension freedom of speech, has significantly improved under President Barrow's leadership.

In 2024, a Media Commission was established, contributing to the favourable democratic environment in The Gambia. The country's positive ranking in Freedom of Expression for several consecutive years enhances its image as the ***"Smiling Coast of Africa."***

In the 2024 rankings, Reporters Without Borders placed The Gambia 10th in Africa and 58th in the world. In the Point Newspaper publication dated May 6th, 2024, Saidibou Marong was referenced as follows: ***"Suffice it to state here that after 22 years of abuse under Yahya Jammeh, The Gambia has made great progress in press freedom. In 2023, one of those responsible for the assassination of the late veteran Gambian journalist, Deyda Hydera was sentenced to life imprisonment by a German court...It is also believed that the 'difficult' economic situation also weighs down on the country's score, which also has a "rather good" social and security situation."***

Media and Public Relations

Under President Barrow's leadership, the Office of the President has opened up to the media like never before. It encourages media engagement, sharing information, and keeping the public informed about the President's activities while enhancing relations beyond official duties. Initiatives such as the establishment of annual events, including the National Dialogue in 2023 and the first Media Dinner in 2024, demonstrate a commitment to collaborative efforts in nation-building.

“

Suffice it to state here that after 22 years of abuse under Yahya Jammeh, The Gambia has made great progress in press freedom. In 2023, one of those responsible for the assassination of the late veteran Gambian journalist, Deyda Hydara was sentenced to life imprisonment by a German court...It is also believed that the ‘difficult’ economic situation also weighs down on the country’s score, which also has a “rather good” social and security situation.”



Presidential Media dinner at the State House



Media and Communication Unit, OP Staff



“Diamond Jubilee: Marching Forward for Self-Reliance and National Development,”

National Dialogue

The Barrow administration in pushing democratic value of consultation and dialogue, initiated an annual National Dialogue that goes through constituency exchanges and culminate to a National one give Gambians the opportunity to annually meet and highlight key issues and concerns Government should give attention. In 2023, for the first time all registered parties participated in the political dialogue and the National Dialogue is now an annual national event.



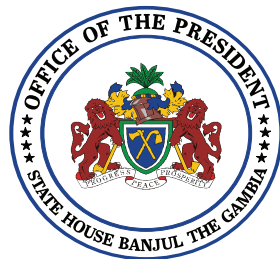
Political Forum

Conclusion

As the country celebrates 60 years of nationhood with the theme ***“Diamond Jubilee: Marching Forward for Self-Reliance and National Development,”*** it highlights the journey that began in 2017. This theme effectively directs the Republic of The Gambia, its citizens, friends, and partners toward the path of self-reliance and development.



Independence March Pass



Media and Communication Unit
Office of the President

