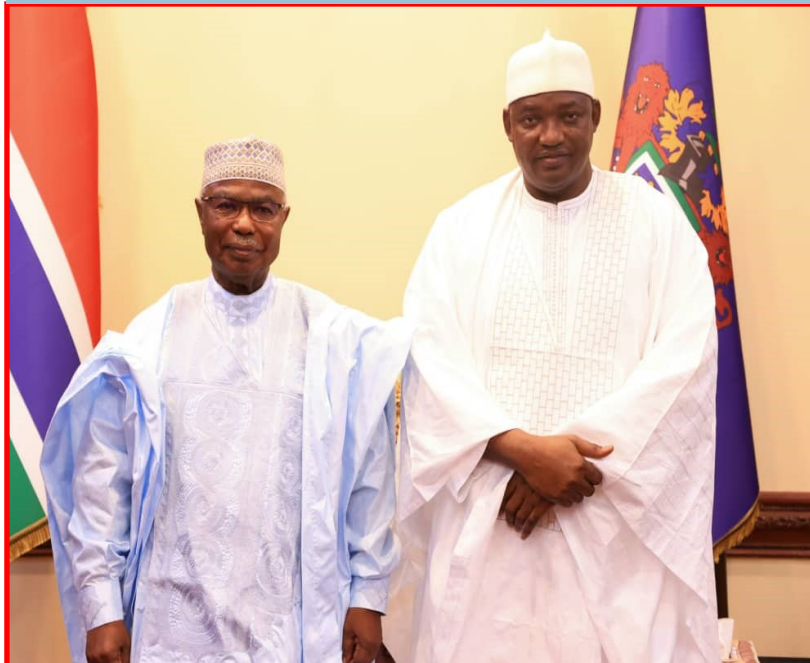


# THE PRESIDENCY

VOLOUME 2

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## Gambia on Track to Host OIC 2022 Summit



Officials of the OIC Secretariat in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have frequented The Gambia to monitor the level of preparedness and progress of work to host the OIC Summit 2022. The latest such visit was by the OIC Secretary General, Dr Hissein Brahim Taha, on 17th June 2022.

Receiving the OIC SG, His Excellency, President Adama Barrow, urged the members of the OIC States to support his country’s hosting of this important summit. Their support will highlight the fact that a nation's capacity to host an Ummah that

promotes fostering Unity and Solidarity and helping those in need within its Ummah, rather than its size, is what matters.

The Secretary General in no small measure, assured the President of the member countries commitment to supporting The Gambia’s hosting of the Summit.

Although a small country, The Gambia is determined to host the 15th Islamic Heads of State and Government Summit on its soil.

Since the announcement in 2019, The Gambia government has

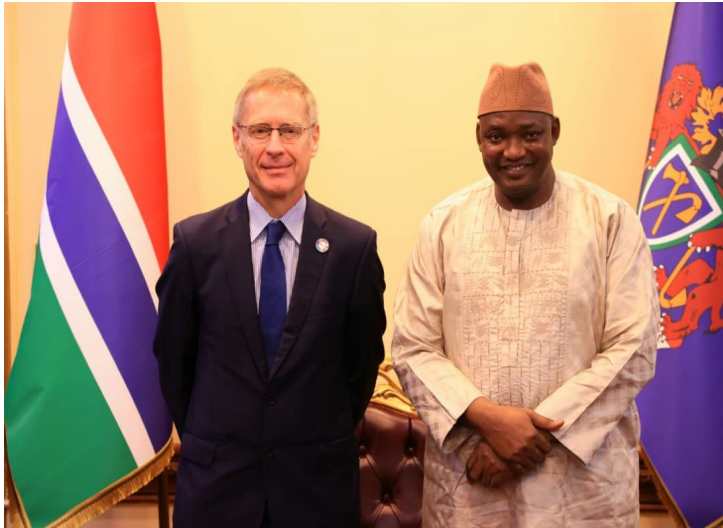
established the OIC Gambia Secretariat and has been actively lobbying for support to host the second-largest global meeting of member organisations effectively.

The airport has been upgraded to an international standard, a \$50 million international conference center has been built, and work on a VVIP lounge is nearly complete.

This is in addition to the ongoing road construction as well as water and electricity upgrade.



## President Barrow Meets IFAD VP on Strengthening Agriculture Sector



Agriculture is one of the crucial sectors in the Gambian economy and hence a key priority development area for President Barrow’s administration.

The sector accounts for approximately one quarter of GDP and employs 75% of the country’s labor force.

In his efforts to strengthen the agriculture sector to meet national demands particularly in this new global climate of price escalation of basic food commodities, President Adama Barrow on Thursday,

16th June 2022, received Mr. Donald Brown Associate Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at the State House in Banjul. Mr. Brown was in Banjul to meet with stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

Following his meeting with President Barrow, Mr. Brown said IFAD’s projects in The Gambia, such as the ROOTS value chain project, will help increase food production in the country and ensure food self sufficiency in the long run.

The IFAD official referenced the impact the war in Ukraine has on global food security, and the priorities countries have placed on producing enough food for themselves to be able to support their populations.

**“overall, we are looking to help with that national food security in countries like The Gambia,”** Mr. Brown asserted.

The Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Demba Sabally, stressed the importance of food availability and its linkages to national security. He said some of the issues discussed with IFAD are on revitalizing rice production in Jahally-Pacharr as

well as the availability of fertilizer to farmers in the country.

Honourable Sabally stated that most of the farmers in Jahally-Pacharr are smallholder rice producers, arguing that the country needs a more dynamic agricultural land use policy to ensure food self-sufficiency. He added that private investors in the agriculture industry could complement the processes to enhance food security.

On the availability of fertilizer to farmers, Minister Sabally said there are currently 14,000 metric tonnes available in all regions around the country.

## President Barrow Decorates 12 GAF Officers



The Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) has been a pinnacle for ensuring the safety and security of The Gambia and its territory.

As a result, President Barrow has ensured that the welfare of security personnel remains one of his priority areas.

On Friday 24th June 2022, President Barrow decorated 12 officers of The Gambia Armed Forces to the ranks of Commander and Lieutenant Colonel, respectively, in a ceremony held at the State House in Banjul.

The President congratulated the newly promoted officers, challenging them to make use of their positions to “reinforce the success and efficiency of the

Army.” He called on the officers to “remain loyal, guided and

motivated by the spirit of patriotism and service to the country.”

President Barrow assured the officers of his government’s commitment to the welfare of the Armed Forces members. He said the cabinet would soon look into the military’s existing Terms and Conditions of Service and address its inherent training and capacity challenges.

*“My government is very concerned about the welfare of the Armed Forces. To improve the Conditions of Service of our gallant officers and soldiers, we will maintain a close relationship with them and our partners to achieve this successfully.*

*This will complement the review of the 1993 Terms and Conditions of Service for Officers and Soldiers, which Cabinet will review shortly.*

*Along similar lines, we will persistently seek ways of addressing the inherent training and capacity challenges of GAF, as well as the issues highlighted in the 2017 Security Reform*

*Assessment report.”* President Barrow said.

Speaking earlier, the Chief of Defense Staff, Lt. Gen. Yankuba Drammeh, said the promoted officers are among 60 others out of a total 106 who excelled in a promotion exam. Drammeh said the promotion exercise is entirely based on merit and is the best the military has ever held

CDS Drammeh said the military would continue to build the intellectual capacity of its members, arguing that training is the mainstay for the growth of any institution. He told the promoted officers to deserve their badges and called on them to live up to the expectation of the people.

## President Barrow Reaffirms His Commitment to the Success of the Transitional Programme

President Adama Barrow received the US Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Michael Gonzales at the State House in Banjul on Friday, 10th June 2022. The meeting was centred on The Gambia Government’s reform programme and development priorities.

President Barrow reaffirmed his commitment to the attainment of the objectives of the transitional programme for institutional and political reform. The President assured Mr Gonzalez that his Government is committed to ensuring the implementation of the TRRC outcomes, CRC, and the institutional reform programme.

President Barrow called on development partners to provide the necessary support to accelerate this process. He reiterated that with all stakeholders, Government would ensure justice, peace, reparation, and reconciliation

prevail in the country. Gonzales pledged that The Gambia and the US would continue cooperating, highlighting developments between the two countries, particularly with the Millennium Challenge Corporation and USAID. He said his office would work with the US Embassy in Banjul to continue to support The Gambia’s development agenda.

Gonzales was accompanied to the State House by the US Ambassador to Banjul, Sharon L. Cromer.



**Michael Gonzales speaking to reporters after his meeting with the President**



## President Barrow Calls on Faith Groups to Propagate Peace and Tolerance



The Gambia has been known for its religious tolerance in the sub region and beyond. It prides itself on its broad-minded acceptance of all faiths and believes.

On 9th June 2022, at the Statehouse in Banjul, President Adama Barrow called on faith groups to propagate and maintain peace and tolerance as a prerequisite for social and economic development during a meeting with the Outgoing Vatican Ambassador to The Gambia, H.E Dagoberto Campo Salas.

President Barrow expressed gratitude to Ambassador Salas for nurturing and expanding the cooperation and collaboration between the Catholic Church and his government. The President went on to acknowledge the support he receives from the religious community.

He concluded by assuring that The Gambia shall remain an oasis of peace for all religions and that Christians will always find the country a haven for the practice of their faith.

For his part, Ambassador Salas expressed gratitude for the support and fruitful engagement that has been the hallmark between the catholic diocese and the government. He conveyed Pope Francis' fraternal greetings and pledged that the Papacy would continue to be a powerful voice for world peace, human rights, religious tolerance, and shared understanding among all faiths.

Bishop of the Catholic Dioceses of The Gambia, Dr. Gabriel Mendy CSSP, and Mr. Pierre LM Sarr, Liaison Officer between the catholic diocese and The Gambia government, accompanied the Ambassador to the Presidency.

### STATEHOUSE NEWSLETTER

The Statehouse Newsletter (THE PRESIDENCY), is brought to you by the Media and Communications Unit of the office of the President, Banjul, The Gambia. Follow us on Social Media **@PresidencyGambia** to get regular updates and information about the President's engagements. Don't miss out on **@BarrowPresident** too.

# A Flurry of Diplomatic Engagements as President Barrow Receives 14 Ambassadors to The Gambia

June witnessed a flurry of engagements for the President as he received 14 ambassadors to The Gambia. In receiving the letters of Credence, President Barrow urged the ambassadors to make good of The Gambia’s strategic location and peaceful and democratic disposition to expand trade and investment opportunities for the benefit of our countries. He also called on them to build on people-to-people relations and cooperation by the private sector in The Gambia and their respective countries.



H.E. Lusi Dimingo Camara de Barros  
Ambassador of Guinea-Bissau



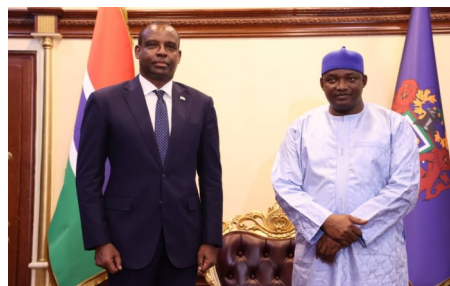
H.E. Enrique Ernesto Escorza Zamudio  
Ambassador of United Mexican States



H.E. Tamas Endre Feher  
Ambassador of Hungary



H.E. Ben Bourgal  
Ambassador of the State of Israel



H.E. Karabaranga Jean-Pierie  
Ambassador of The Republic Rwanda



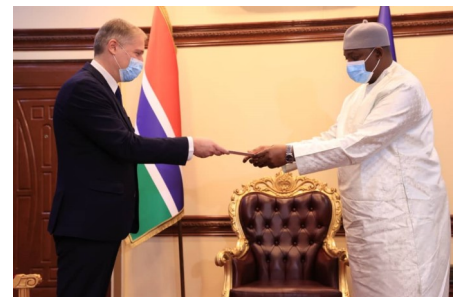
H.E. Masudur Rahman  
Ambassador of People’s Republic of Bangladesh



H.E. Marek Skolil  
Ambassador of Czech Republic



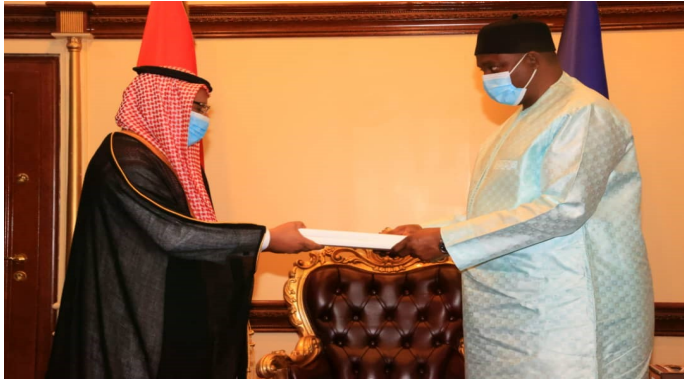
H.E. Elvis Toolouto Shiweda  
Ambassador of Namibia



H.E. Efthymois Georges Costopoulos  
Ambassador of Hellenic  
Republic of Greece



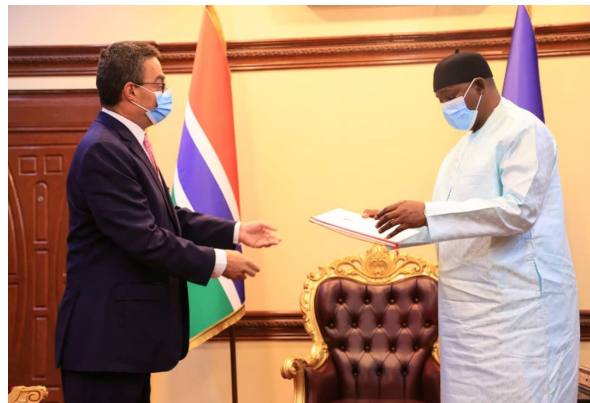
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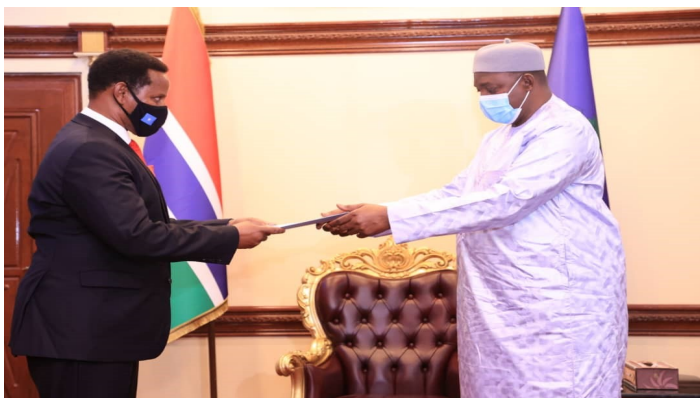
**H.E. Saad A. Alnofai**  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**H.E. Bongiwe Qwabe**  
Ambassador of South Africa



**H.E. Andrea Semadeni**  
Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation



**H.E. Mohamed Hussein Abukar**  
Ambassador of Federal Republic of Somalia



**H.E. Izawa Osamu**  
Ambassador of Japan



## President Barrow Welcomes Sierra Leone First Lady Madam Fatima Maada Bio



President Adama Barrow received the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Madam Fatima Maada Bio, Tuesday, June 7th, at the State House in Banjul, where the two had a tête-à-tête on issues of concern to the Sierra Leonean community in The Gambia.

Madam Bio said she discussed with President Barrow the concern of Sierra Leonean students in The Gambia paying higher tuition fees than international students in Gambian educational institutions.

She said most of these students have lived in The Gambia for years and now consider it as home.

Madam Bio highlighted the historical ties between The Gambia and Sierra Leone, noting that many Gambians have benefitted from similar largesse at Fourah Bay College.

Madam Bio said President Barrow welcomed her plea, saying that issue has already been brought up in a Cabinet meeting. She thanked President Barrow for a warm reception, adding that she is glad that Sierra Leonean nationals in The Gambia are now exempted from carrying alien cards.

## President Barrow Receives Khalifa Sheikh Mahy Ibrahim Niasse to the Statehouse



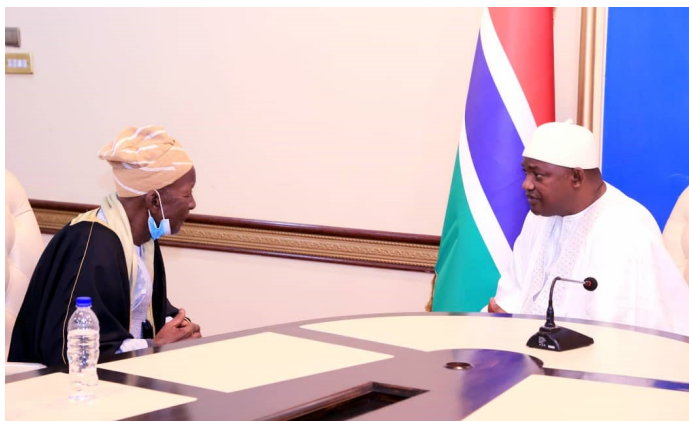
President Adama Barrow, on Friday 17th June 2022, welcomed Khalifa Sheikh Mahy Ibrahim Niasse to The Gambia, imploring the spiritual leader to continue his mission to ensure peace and tranquility are strengthened in Africa.

rainy season. He is hopeful he will shower blessings of more rains in the country. He called on Gambians to make good of Sheikh Mahy’s presence in the country to seek his prayers and blessings.



President Barrow applauded Sheikh Mahy’s peace missions in Africa, noting that the work of entrenching peace and stability in the continent is not that of politicians alone. He said it is reassuring to have people such as Sheikh Mahy in Africa today working to establish peace in some of the continent’s troubled regions.

Sheikh Mahy hailed the peace and fraternal solid relations between The Gambia and Senegal championed by President Barrow and his counterpart President Macky Sall. He said this relationship is vital to building a prosperous future for the two countries.



President Barrow welcomed Sheikh Mahy to The Gambia, saying he is glad to receive him, especially during this

Other speakers included Imam Muntaha Faye and H.E. Basirou Sene, Senegalese High Commissioner to The Gambia, among others.