

First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1)

Presided by H.E. President Adama Barrow – 13 January 2018

Annual Consultative Dialogue on Development Policy and Practice

Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF) was conceived as part of the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia (MSDG) Project. It is an important event held during Gambia Diaspora Month (15 Dec to 14 Jan) and marks the anniversary of the end of dictatorship in The Gambia. It is a practical mechanism for diaspora and other stakeholders to engage with government and non-state actors on practical and substantive aspects of policy development and implementation in The Gambia. The plenary sessions are to be used as platform for policy statements, initiatives and priorities to be presented to decision-makers, practitioners and key stakeholders. The thematic workshops bring together experts and citizens to dialogue and explore practical ways of improving and enhancing policy implementation. SNF is also a high profile platform used by the President of the Republic to deliver an annual 'Stake in the Nation Address', highlighting challenges, opportunities, options and priorities of the government.



From L to R: Hon. Ousainu A.N.M. Darboe, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Mariama Jack Denton, Speaker of the National Assembly; H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador to The Gambia; H.E. Fatoumata Jallow Tambajang, Vice President; H.E. President Adama Barrow; Prof. Gibril Faal, GK Partners & MSDG Project; Hon. Dr Isatou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry & Employment; Ms. Fumiko Nagano, IOM Chief of Mission; Hon. Henry Gomez, Minister of Youth & Sports

Attaining Progress in the New Gambia

In his first 'Stake in the Nation Address', President Adama Barrow stated:

“For nearly a generation, our time, resources and efforts were spent to oppose, counter and defeat the dictatorship and the brutality it represented. One year after our victory, I proclaim to the nation that never again shall we suffer the brutality, humiliation and the injustice of dictatorship, or accept the victimisation of our people. We should now fight for the best course of action. We have a National Development Plan (NDP) and we must focus on operational excellence in order to succeed in its implementation. We must be vigilant against the fundamental development challenges we face; and be vigilant for the new opportunities we have created for ourselves.”

The President urged vigilance against the problems of a dysfunctional public sector, and of corrupt practices, and advised vigilance for the opportunities of infrastructure-led development, diaspora-development. He declared that:

“The enormous capacity, capabilities and potentials of the diaspora are not fully utilised by The Gambia. This is a loss to our country. My administration recognises the Gambian Diaspora as the Eighth Region of The Gambia.”

Thematic workshops were held on: Migrant Returnees from Libya and Niger; Human Rights & Access to Justice for All; Information & Communication Technology; Agriculture & Agribusiness; Education & Employment; Health & Medical Services; Infrastructure & Industrial Development

LAUNCH OF GAMBIA DIASPORA STRATEGY, GAMBIA DIASPORA DIRECTORATE & REPORT ON CURBING IRREGULAR MIGRATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Key Elements: Gambia Diaspora Strategy	Key Elements: Gambia Diaspora Directorate (GDD)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gambia Diaspora Directorate 2. Capacity Development on Diaspora-Development 3. Reducing the Transaction Cost of Remittances 4. Diaspora Direct Investment and Diaspora Bonds 5. Diaspora Development Fund 6. Customs Waiver for Diaspora-Development Projects 7. Preventing Irregular and Dysfunctional Migration 8. Global Migration Dialogues and Bi-lateral Engagement 9. Ethical Recruitment and Circular Migration 10. Physical and Online Forums for Engagement 11. Diaspora Voting at Presidential and National Assembly Elections 12. Diaspora as the Eighth Region of The Gambia 13. Network of Diaspora-Development Organisations 14. Access to Diaspora Expertise 	<p>GDD Vision: For the Gambian diaspora to be the eighth region of The Gambia, fully integrated in all aspects of progressive national life.</p> <p>GDD Mission: To promote, support and facilitate consultative, productive and purposeful engagement of the Gambian diaspora in national development.</p> <p>GDD Guiding Value: Practical, inclusive and sustainable development results, through operational excellence, purposeful endeavour and positive engagement</p>
Key Recommendations: Curbing Irregular Migration through Sustainable Livelihoods	
<p>Submit Cabinet Paper; Dialogue with relevant Ministries and partners to identify interventions for the returnees; Undertake radio and TV sensitisation, provide advice, and address unreasonable expectations from returnees, other youths and the general public; Reach out to international, regional and national institutions for support.</p>	

For notes on the proceedings of the thematic workshops of SNF1, please visit www.gambiandiaspora.net



The First Stake in the Nation Forum (SNF1) was presided by the President, attended by the Vice President, ten cabinet ministers, Secretary-General & Head of the Civil Service, Speaker of the National Assembly, Chair of the Independent Electoral Commission, parliamentarians, heads of security services, ambassadors and heads of missions, Permanent Secretaries, business and civil society leaders, academics, diaspora professionals and experts, irregular migrant returnees. The 400 delegates included 200 irregular migrant returnees from Libya and Niger. The media partners were Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS) and Eye Africa TV. SNF1 as livestreamed and watched by 9,000+ people, reported as GRTS headline news, and broadcast as a special edition of GRTS's 'Face the Nation' programme.

<p>MSDG is a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP), financed by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):</p>	<p>The TCP was designed by GK Partners, implemented by GKP, in partnership with the Government of The Gambia (GOTG):</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;">Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 10px;">Partners advisers to socially responsible business</p>