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President Barrow Urges Gambians to Turn New Roads into Economic Opportunities

By Aminata Sanneh

President Adama Barrow has urged communities and the private sector to turn the country's expanding road infrastructure into opportunities for business, investment and economic growth.

Speaking on Saturday, 5 September, during the inauguration of three roads—P6, P9 and P20—under Lot 2 of the 50-kilometre OIC Urban Roads Project in Brufut, President Barrow said the true value of the infrastructure would be measured by the economic activities and opportunities generated around it.

"These roads will contribute to that objective, but their greatest value will come from the opportunities that develop around them," he said.

The President said improved road connectivity should not only ease the movement of people and goods but also create conditions for business expansion, investment and community development.

"We must strive to create urban communities that are better connected, safer, more accessible, and capable of supporting all sorts of economic activities," he stated.

The three roads form part of the wider OIC Urban Roads Project, which is aimed at improving connectivity within the Greater Banjul Area and the West Coast Region. While the project was initially developed in preparation for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit hosted by The Gambia in 2024, President Barrow said the infrastructure has assumed a broader and lasting national significance.

"The infrastructure is here to stay," he asserted.

He described the roads as a long-term investment in the Gambian people, saying their benefits would continue to accrue long after the OIC Summit.

"What was initially an investment in preparation for that international event has become a long-term investment in the people and future of The Gambia," he remarked.

With communities along the West Coast experiencing rapid residential and commercial expansion, the improved roads are expected to enhance access to markets and essential services while facilitating the movement of people and goods.

President Barrow therefore encouraged entrepreneurs and private-sector operators to make full use of the opportunities created by the new infrastructure. He stressed that while government provides the basic infrastructure, the broader economic benefits would depend on how communities and businesses utilise it.

The President also called on citizens to take ownership of the infrastructure and protect it from damage and misuse, noting that proper maintenance would be critical to preserving its long-term value.

"Our responsibility now is to ensure that the infrastructure continues to deliver value," he said.

For residents of Brufut, the newly completed roads represent a significant improvement in their daily lives.

Mrs Haddy Conteh Bojang, a resident of the community, said poor road conditions previously forced her to use longer and more difficult routes when taking her children to school. She recalled that travelling on the rough roads after undergoing surgery in 2022 caused her considerable pain.

"After my surgery in 2022, I suffered a lot of pain because of the poor road network," she said. "Today, I am very grateful to President Barrow for bringing this development to our community."

Mrs Bojang said the improved roads would make movement easier for residents, particularly schoolchildren, patients and elderly people.

The Alkalo of Brufut, Lamin Manneh, and other speakers similarly welcomed the project, expressing appreciation to the government for addressing the community's longstanding concerns over poor access roads.

The ceremony was attended by government officials, local authorities, traditional leaders, development partners, contractors and residents.

UN Declares November 27 International Day to End Child, Forced Marriage

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted a landmark resolution designating November 27 each year as the International Day to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage, in a move aimed at accelerating global efforts to protect children, particularly girls, from the harmful practice.

The resolution, adopted by the 193-member UN General Assembly on Friday, establishes a dedicated international platform for governments, civil society organisations, communities and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts to end child, early and forced marriage and advance the health, education and protection of children worldwide.

The Gambia is among the co-sponsors of the resolution, reaffirming the country's commitment to international efforts to protect children and eliminate child marriage.

The initiative for an international day against child marriage was championed by Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of Just Rights for Children, a global child-rights network working to combat child exploitation, violence and sexual abuse.

Ribhu first advanced the proposal at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2026, arguing that an international day would provide a global platform for accountability and coordinated action by governments, civil society, faith leaders, schools, communities and children themselves.

The campaign subsequently received strong political backing from Dr. Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of Sierra Leone and President of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD), who played a leading role in advancing the initiative internationally.

Welcoming the adoption of the resolution, Dr. Fatima Maada Bio described it as a significant step in the global campaign against child marriage.

"Today, the world has spoken with one voice: child, early and forced marriage has no place in our societies," she said.

She added that the resolution should serve as "a global mandate for action," stressing the responsibility of leaders and communities to ensure that girls have the opportunity to pursue education, develop their potential and live free from forced unions.

"Sierra Leone is profoundly proud to stand at the forefront of this movement, and we look forward to the tangible progress this day will inspire," she said.

Ribhu, who attended the UN General Assembly session, also welcomed the decision, describing it as a major turning point in the campaign to end child marriage.

"Today marks the tipping point showing that the end of the crime of child marriage is inevitable and imminent," he said.

He called on governments to provide decisive leadership towards ending child marriage by 2030, while ensuring that every child has access to education, protection and opportunities for healthy development.

Ribhu also expressed appreciation to Dr. Fatima Maada Bio for her leadership and to the countries that supported the resolution.

The adoption of the resolution represents a significant development in the international campaign against child marriage, which continues to affect millions of children around the world. Advocates say ending the practice requires coordinated action involving legislation, education, child protection systems, community engagement and stronger accountability.

The new international observance is expected to provide an annual opportunity for governments and other stakeholders to assess progress, highlight challenges and renew commitments towards eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

For The Gambia, its role as a co-sponsor of the resolution places the country among states supporting a stronger international response to the practice and reinforces its commitment to protecting children's rights.

Just Rights for Children, founded by Bhuwan Ribhu, is an international child-rights network focused on ending child exploitation and ensuring that children can grow up in safe, healthy and dignified environments.

According to the organisation, its work has contributed to preventing and stopping more than 550,000 child marriages since 2023.

The Office of the First Lady of Sierra Leone, under the leadership of Dr. Fatima Maada Bio, focuses on advancing the rights and wellbeing of women and children, with particular attention to education, healthcare and efforts to eliminate gender-based violence.

With November 27 now established as an international day, advocates hope the annual observance will translate the global commitment into stronger national action and renewed efforts to ensure that every child can grow, learn and reach their full potential free from child, early and forced marriage.

PURA Confirms Successful First Phase of Nine-Digit Mobile Number Migration

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has confirmed the successful completion of the first phase of The Gambia's migration from seven-digit to nine-digit mobile telephone numbers.

The announcement was made on Friday, September 4, 2026, during a press conference held at PURA's headquarters.

Speaking to journalists, PURA Director General, Dr. Njogou Bah, said the migration, which commenced at midnight on Thursday, had been successfully completed.

"I am pleased and proud to confirm that The Gambia's migration to nine-digit mobile telephone numbers, which commenced at midnight last night, has been completed successfully," Dr. Bah said.

He described the development as the result of months of preparation involving PURA, government institutions, telecommunications operators and international partners.

"This is a moment that this Authority, together with our partners across Government, industry and the international community, has been preparing for over many months," he added.

PURA had previously explained that the reform was necessary to address the limitations of the country's existing seven-digit numbering system and create sufficient capacity to support the continued expansion of telecommunications and digital services.

Dr. Bah said the exercise was about more than simply adding digits to existing telephone numbers, stressing its broader significance to the country's digital development.

"Beyond the numbers themselves, this migration matters because it secures an important foundation for The Gambia's digital future," he said.

Despite the successful completion of the first phase, state-owned telecommunications operator GAMCEL did not participate in the initial migration.

Responding to questions from journalists, Dr. Bah explained that the first phase involved operators that were technically ready to undertake the migration at that stage.

However, he stressed that GAMCEL's participation had been anticipated from the beginning of the process.

"The first phase involved the operators that were technically ready to undertake the migration at this stage. However, I want to emphasise that PURA has planned for GAMCEL's participation from the outset," he said.

According to Dr. Bah, GAMCEL, which recently sold an 80 percent stake to YCell, is expected to join the migration during a second phase.

The Authority is expected to provide further details on GAMCEL's participation and the timeline for the second phase.

The transition to a nine-digit numbering system forms part of The Gambia's broader efforts to modernise its telecommunications infrastructure and strengthen the foundation for the country's growing digital economy.

Outgoing Turkish Ambassador Bids Farewell to Defence Mininster

By Lamarana S. Jallow

Minister of Defence Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof on Thursday, September 3, 2026, received the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to The Gambia, His Excellency Fahri Türker Oba, who paid a farewell courtesy visit to the Minister at his office in Banjul.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both sides to reflect on the longstanding friendship between The Gambia and Türkiye and growing cooperation in the defence sector, particularly Türkiye's support to the Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) through military training and capacity development.

Discussions also focused on strengthening existing areas of cooperation while exploring new opportunities in military training, professional development and institutional capacity building for GAF personnel.

Minister Joof thanked Ambassador Oba for his service and contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between The Gambia and Türkiye during his tenure.

He particularly commended Türkiye's continued support to the GAF, including assistance to the Military Training School, and expressed the Ministry's appreciation for the partnership.

Joof reaffirmed The Gambia's commitment to continued defence cooperation with Türkiye, noting that sustained support in training and capacity building is important to enhancing the professionalism and operational capabilities of the Armed Forces.

For his part, Ambassador Oba expressed appreciation to the Government of The Gambia and the Ministry of Defence for the warm reception and support extended to him throughout his tenure.

He reflected positively on the progress made in bilateral relations and defence cooperation, emphasising the importance of preserving and further strengthening the longstanding ties between the two countries.

Ambassador Oba also assured Minister Joof that his successor would remain committed to the bilateral relationship and build on the progress achieved during his tenure.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Mrs Rohie Bittaye Darboe, also joined Minister Joof in commending Ambassador Oba for his contribution to strengthening relations and defence cooperation between The Gambia and Türkiye.

Institutional Support Crucial for Successful Breastfeeding- *NaNA Director*

By Ndey Adama Jobe

As The Gambia joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Breastfeeding Day 2026, the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) has called for stronger institutional and community support to enable mothers to breastfeed successfully.

The call was made as stakeholders gathered to mark the occasion under the theme, "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works." Government officials, health experts, development partners, private sector representatives and community leaders used the event to discuss ways of strengthening breastfeeding support across the country.

Delivering the opening remarks, NaNA Director Malang Fofana stressed that breastfeeding promotion must extend beyond health facilities to communities and workplaces.

"We need to designate communities as Baby-Friendly Community Initiatives," Fofana said, noting the important role of religious leaders and community elders in addressing cultural sensitivities surrounding early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding.

He said cultural practices, including the provision of pre-lacteal feeds and other traditional practices, can prevent mothers from following recommended breastfeeding practices. He therefore called for greater community engagement and education to address misconceptions and promote optimal infant feeding.

Fofana also emphasized the importance of institutional support, noting that partnerships with UNICEF and other development partners have been instrumental in implementing programmes aimed at protecting and promoting appropriate infant and young child feeding practices.

A UNICEF representative, Bakary B. Dampha, reaffirmed the need for greater investment in systems that support breastfeeding.

"Breastfeeding provides essential nutrients, immune protection, and fosters emotional bonds. When institutions create an enabling environment through policies, spaces, and community support, they save lives and build healthier societies," Dampha said.

He noted that the global campaign is focusing on evaluating proven interventions, strengthening support within health systems and enforcing regulations against unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes.

"Our collective goal is to ensure every child receives optimal infant and young child feeding, regardless of background or place of birth," he added.

Health officials also highlighted the importance of initiating breastfeeding within the first hour after birth, which they said can contribute significantly to reducing maternal complications associated with postpartum bleeding and retained placenta.

However, available data indicates that only 36 percent of newborns in The Gambia are breastfed within the first hour after birth, a figure that remains below the desired target.

Fatou Darboe of the Ministry of Health stressed that breastfeeding should not be viewed solely as an individual decision, but as a matter requiring support from the wider health and social systems.

"Breastfeeding is not just a personal choice; it is a systemic issue," Darboe said.

She explained that healthcare workers, families, employers and policymakers all have a role to play in determining whether mothers are able to practise exclusive breastfeeding and continue breastfeeding for the recommended period.

Darboe called for renewed efforts to strengthen programmes such as the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and community support groups, alongside sustained behaviour-change communication campaigns to increase awareness and acceptance of recommended breastfeeding practices.

Breastfeeding remains a major public health priority, providing infants with essential nutrition, immune protection and emotional bonding. The first two years of a child's life are particularly critical, with optimal infant and young child feeding helping to reduce illness and mortality, prevent malnutrition and promote healthier development.

Despite these benefits, many mothers continue to face significant barriers to breastfeeding, particularly in the workplace. The absence of private and comfortable spaces for breastfeeding or expressing breast milk, limited workplace flexibility, cultural misconceptions and inadequate employer support can make it difficult for women to breastfeed exclusively and continue breastfeeding beyond six months.

Creating breastfeeding-friendly workplaces, stakeholders noted, can also contribute to a healthier and more supportive organisational culture. Such measures can improve employee satisfaction, support gender equality and reduce the economic burden associated with childhood illness and healthcare costs.

As part of its call to action, NaNA urged both public and private institutions to establish dedicated lactation spaces, introduce flexible workplace arrangements for breastfeeding mothers and educate managers and staff about the importance of supporting breastfeeding.

The agency also called for maternity protection and breastfeeding support policies to be extended to women working in the non-formal sector, where many mothers may have limited access to such provisions.

Lands Ministry Awards Scholarships to Four Gambian Students Through GIRAV Project

By Majula Samura

The Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs, through the Gambia Integrated and Resilient Agriculture Value Chain (GIRAV) Project, has awarded fully funded undergraduate scholarships to four Gambian students to pursue degrees in Geomatic Engineering at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana.

The scholarship initiative is being implemented under Sub-Component 1.5 of the GIRAV Project, which focuses on strengthening institutional capacity and supporting reforms within the country's land sector.

The initiative is intended to address some of the longstanding challenges in land administration and governance by supporting the development of a robust National Land Information System (NLIS) and the implementation of systematic land rights registration.

Through the investment in specialised human resources, the Ministry seeks to strengthen its capacity to deliver a more efficient, transparent and data-driven land administration system.

A formal ceremony was held to hand over the scholarship award letters to the beneficiaries. The occasion also marked the signing of bonds by the four students, committing them to serve the Government of The Gambia upon successful completion of their undergraduate studies.

Under the terms of the scholarship, the beneficiaries are expected to serve within the Ministry of Lands, where they will apply their expertise in geomatics to support ongoing land administration and reform initiatives.

Geomatics is an interdisciplinary field that incorporates surveying, mapping, geographic information systems (GIS) and other technologies used in the collection, management and analysis of geographic data.

The Ministry expects the acquisition of these specialised skills to significantly enhance its capacity to manage land resources, improve land registration processes, strengthen land information management and contribute to reducing land-related disputes.

The scholarship programme forms part of the Ministry's broader commitment to strengthening land administration through institutional development, comprehensive reforms and sustainable management of the country's land resources.

Officials described the initiative as a strategic investment in human capital that will contribute to the establishment of a modern land governance framework capable of meeting the country's long-term development needs.

The GIRAV Project remains a key component of the government's efforts to improve agricultural productivity and build resilience across the agricultural value chain. Within this broader agenda, secure land tenure is recognised as an important foundation for economic development, investment and social stability in The Gambia.

Editorial

The Gambia and the Global Fight Against Child Marriage

The United Nations General Assembly's decision to designate November 27 as the International Day to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage is a significant milestone in the global effort to protect children and promote their rights. For The Gambia, the decision carries particular importance, as the country is among the co-sponsors of the landmark resolution.

The Gambia's support demonstrates its commitment to working with the international community to protect children and eliminate practices that can undermine their education, health, wellbeing and future prospects.

The new international observance should also provide an opportunity to strengthen national efforts. Ending child marriage requires sustained action involving government institutions, communities, families, traditional and religious leaders, civil society and development partners.

The Government of The Gambia has an important role in ensuring that national policies and child-protection measures are effectively implemented. Continued investment in education, social protection, child protection services and community awareness will be essential to ensuring that vulnerable children receive the support they need.

Traditional and religious leaders can also play a vital role in changing attitudes and encouraging families to prioritise the education and wellbeing of their children. Keeping girls in school and protecting them from early and forced marriage is not only a child-rights issue; it is also an investment in the country's human capital and sustainable development.

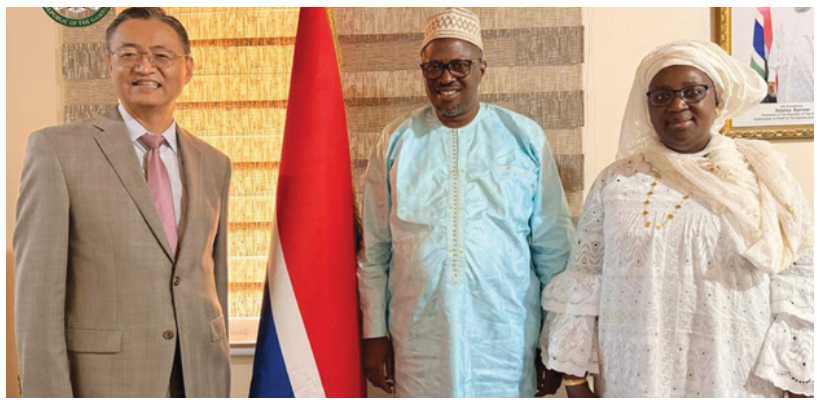
As a co-sponsor of the UN resolution, The Gambia should use November 27 each year to assess progress, strengthen partnerships and renew its national commitment to ending child marriage.

The goal of ending child marriage by 2030 is ambitious, but it is achievable through sustained political commitment, community engagement and coordinated action.

The designation of November 27 is therefore more than an international observance. For The Gambia, it is an opportunity to reaffirm our collective responsibility to protect every child, keep girls in school and ensure that every young person has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Defence Minister Receives Chinese Ambassador, Reaffirms Push for GAF Capacity Building

By Lamarana S. Jallow



Minister of Defence Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof on Friday received the Chinese Ambassador to The Gambia, His Excellency Liu Jin, at his office in Banjul, where discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in defence, capacity building and institutional development.

The meeting explored areas of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on enhancing the skills and technical capabilities of personnel of the Gambia Armed Forces (GAF).

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Mrs Rohie Bittaye Darboe, welcomed Ambassador Liu and expressed appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its continued support to The Gambia, particularly in defence, security and human-capacity development.

She noted that the longstanding relationship between The Gambia and China has created valuable opportunities for institutional cooperation and national capacity development.

Minister Joof also thanked the Chinese Government, through its Embassy in The Gambia, for its continued support to the GAF.

He called for deeper cooperation in areas that would strengthen the skills, capabilities and self-reliance of the Armed Forces, particularly through the development of technical and engineering expertise.

Joof said enhancing the technical capacity of GAF personnel would contribute to the Armed Forces' long-term objective of becoming more self-reliant in meeting some of its essential operational and technical requirements.

"Our ambition is to strengthen cooperation, capacity and develop the capabilities of GAF so that, over time, we can become more self-reliant in meeting some of our essential requirements," Joof said.

China Reaffirms Support

Responding, Ambassador Liu Jin reaffirmed the longstanding friendship between China and The Gambia, describing The Gambia as a longstanding friend of the People's Republic of China.

He expressed appreciation to the Government of The Gambia, through the Ministry of Defence, for the continued partnership and assured Minister Joof of China's commitment to supporting the country.

Liu said China would continue to explore opportunities to deepen cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, particularly in strengthening institutions and developing human resources.

He identified capacity building as an important area for future cooperation, highlighting possible programmes for GAF personnel and Ministry staff, including professional training, seminars, governance-related programmes and other development initiatives.

According to the Ambassador, such programmes would help strengthen institutional knowledge, enhance professional skills and develop the human resources required to support effective defence and security management.

The meeting reaffirmed the longstanding friendship between The Gambia and China and underscored both sides' commitment to expanding practical cooperation in defence, capacity building and institutional development.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA
Ministry of Health
The Quadrangle, Banjul

PRESS RELEASE ON THE INCIDENT AT THE BRIKAMA DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Dated: September 1, 2026

The Ministry of Health wishes to address the general public regarding the tragic passing of a patient who suffered an asthma attack at the Brikama District Hospital earlier this week.

First and foremost, the Ministry of Health extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. We share their grief and profound loss at this incredibly difficult time. The loss of any life under medical care is a matter of the utmost seriousness and sorrow.

The Ministry acknowledges the concerns raised on social media regarding the circumstances of this incident, specifically allegations of insufficient actions and power supply challenges. We want to assure the nation that we are treating this matter with the gravity it deserves.

In response, the Ministry has immediately launched an investigation to thoroughly examine the facts of this case. The investigation will look into all the facts related to the issue.

Once the investigation is concluded, the Ministry will take all necessary actions in line with the recommendations of the investigation team.

It is expected that the public and the media exercise patience and refrain from speculation while the investigation is ongoing. We also call for respect for the grieving family's privacy during this period of mourning.

The Ministry remains committed to ensuring the provision of quality healthcare services for all.

News

DRC Ebola Response Gains Ground Despite Funding Gaps

By Kumba Leigh

Health authorities and international partners responding to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo say the situation is showing early signs of improvement, but warn that sustained action is needed to fully interrupt transmission.

Officials said new cases have plateaued over the past two weeks, while several health zones have gone more than 42 days without reporting infections. However, response leaders cautioned that the progress remains fragile and that the outbreak cannot be considered under control until transmission is completely interrupted.

"We need to reach 100 percent control," said Dr. Wessam Mankoula, Regional Director for the North Africa Regional Coordinating Centres at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), stressing that even a single new case could signal ongoing transmission.

Mankoula said the response has expanded across six affected provinces, with 60 health zones currently reporting infections and another 91 under heightened surveillance because of the risk of further spread.

Authorities are combining contact tracing with active case finding, particularly in areas where transmission remains intense. Community health workers are being deployed to identify people with Ebola-like symptoms, trace contacts and strengthen surveillance at community level.

More than 1,100 healthcare workers and frontline responders have reportedly received Ebola vaccines in affected areas, including Goma, Bukavu and Kinshasa. Officials said vaccination is being used alongside surveillance, infection prevention and control, case management and other response measures.

The response is also moving toward clinical trials of vaccines and therapeutics. Officials said one planned

trial is expected to recruit about 500 participants, with an initial group of roughly 100 expected to provide early indications of safety and efficacy.

Researchers cautioned, however, that the long-term effectiveness of currently available vaccines against the circulating Ebola strain has not yet been established. Evidence is still being gathered through vaccination campaigns, laboratory investigations and clinical research.

Authorities are also working with vaccine manufacturers and research partners, including an Egyptian pharmaceutical company, to assess additional vaccine options and their potential effectiveness against the current strain.

Despite encouraging epidemiological trends, insecurity remains one of the biggest obstacles to the response.

Officials said some affected health zones are difficult or impossible for response teams to reach because of insecurity, particularly in remote and forested areas. The lack of access is hampering case detection, contact tracing, community engagement and the rapid deployment of response teams.

Health authorities are therefore using population-mobility data and risk mapping to identify areas most likely to report infections in the coming weeks. The aim is to deploy resources before cases emerge rather than waiting until transmission is established.

Border surveillance has also been strengthened, particularly following the declaration of an Ebola outbreak in Uganda. Screening and community-based surveillance are being reinforced at points of entry and in communities near the border to detect imported cases quickly.

Response leaders said community engagement remains central to controlling the outbreak. They acknowledged that mistrust is not solely an Ebola-related issue but is influenced by wider political, security and humanitarian conditions.

In some communities, residents remain suspicious of outsiders and international responders because of past experiences and allegations of misconduct.

Africa CDC officials said the response is increasingly involving local leaders, young people, teachers, faith leaders, community organisations and other trusted figures.

The DRC's recently adopted national preparedness and response plan also places greater emphasis on community leadership and participation, with the aim of improving trust and ensuring that surveillance and response activities reflect local realities.

Officials said schools also face protection challenges as they reopen, raising concerns about the potential for Ebola transmission.

Africa CDC officials said schools require adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, as well as strong infection-prevention measures.

Remote learning through radio and other technologies has been considered, but access to those technologies remains limited for many families.

At the same time, officials said schools and students could serve as important channels for community surveillance by helping identify health concerns and sharing information between schools, households and communities.

Financial support for the response has increased, with partners reporting approximately US$1.69 billion in pledges, of which slightly more than US$1 billion has been released.

Major contributors include the United States, the World Bank, the European Commission, the Pandemic Fund and CEPI, with some funding supporting medical countermeasures and clinical trials.

Officials acknowledged, however, that it remains difficult to track exactly which implementing partners receive funds and how resources are distributed among different response pillars.

A more comprehensive financial-tracking update is expected to provide greater transparency on how the money is being allocated.

The funding needs have also risen sharply as the outbreak has persisted. Officials said the estimated monthly cost of controlling the outbreak has increased dramatically, illustrating how delays in financing and implementation can make an outbreak increasingly expensive to contain.

Officials repeatedly urged caution over the recent plateau in cases, warning against declaring victory too soon.

The response has previously experienced periods of apparent stabilisation followed by increases in infections. Authorities therefore want to see a sustained decline over several weeks before drawing stronger conclusions about the trajectory of the outbreak.

Among the indicators being monitored are daily case numbers, deaths, the proportion of contacts successfully traced and followed, infection-prevention standards in health facilities, treatment capacity and the geographical spread of transmission.

With continued surveillance, stronger community involvement, improved access to affected areas, adequate funding and successful clinical trials, health authorities believe the outbreak can eventually be brought under control.

Until transmission is completely interrupted, however, response leaders say the effort must continue at full intensity.

Ministry of Water Resources Validates New National Water Policy

By Lamin B. Darboe

The three-day validation of the National Water Policy (2026–2035) and the Water Resources Strategic Plan (2026–2030) concluded on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at Mosses Lodge in Soma, Lower River Region (LRR).

The validation was organised by the Department of Water Resources under the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters and brought together representatives from key government sectors.

The two strategic documents seek to ensure equitable access to sufficient, clean and safe water for domestic use while promoting the efficient, sustainable use and conservation of the country's water resources through an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach.

They also aim to reduce and prevent pollution and degradation of water resources, promote sustainable management of the natural environment, preserve

ecosystems and strengthen the capacity of key institutions to manage water resources effectively.

Other priorities include implementing measures to reduce flood risks and supporting national efforts to respond to droughts, particularly in the face of growing climate-change impacts.

In her closing remarks, Deputy Permanent Secretary-Technical at the Ministry of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, Fanta BS Manneh, thanked participants for setting aside their regular duties to take part in the validation exercise.

Manneh said the level of participation demonstrated that stakeholders had placed the national interest first and were committed to developing policy documents that reflect the priorities of all government sectors.

She said the validation was also important in ensuring that institutions work in a coordinated and strategic direction during the implementation of the two documents.

"We want these strategic documents to be embedded in our policy documents. During the validation, we made recommendations and adjustments. We scrutinised the two documents completely. We want to see the consultant and the team go back to the drawing board to make sure whatever was finalised is reflected in the final documents," Manneh said.

She thanked UNICEF for funding the validation exercise and expressed hope that the organisation would continue supporting the ministry and other key government institutions.

"Water is a cross-cutting issue," she noted, underscoring the need for continued collaboration among stakeholders.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Director of Water Resources Foday Conteh described the two documents as comprehensive and high-quality strategic instruments.

Conteh said the documents capture the key issues surrounding water resources management and commended participants for their contributions throughout the validation process.

He said the recommendations and inputs provided during the exercise would help strengthen the documents and ensure they adequately address the country's water-resource needs.

The validation exercise is expected to pave the way for the finalisation and subsequent implementation of the National Water Policy (2026–2035) and Water Resources Strategic Plan (2026–2030).

News

Government Reaffirms Support for Young Gambian Entrepreneurs and Local Industries

By Ramatoulie Njie

The Government of The Gambia has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting young Gambian entrepreneurs, promoting local industries and creating employment opportunities for young graduates as part of efforts to transform the national economy.

On Wednesday, 2 September 2026, the Ministry of Trade, in collaboration with the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), conducted a tour of several Gambian-owned businesses and emerging industries.

Speaking during the tour, the Honourable Minister of Trade, Mod K. Ceesay, said the Government welcomes foreign investment but wants to create greater space for domestic investors, particularly young Gambians, to participate meaningfully in key sectors of the economy.

"We welcome foreign investment, but we also want to create space for domestic investors, especially upcoming Gambian investors. This is what we are promoting and want to champion. We all know what that means: we must create opportunities," he said.

The Minister said the Government would assess the businesses visited before deciding on appropriate forms of support, including tax incentives, financial assistance, technical support and concessions on inputs.

He explained that the tour was intended to give officials an opportunity to verify the entrepreneurs' operations, investments, challenges and growth potential before public resources are committed.

"We are here to familiarize ourselves firsthand with what they are doing on the ground. Once we satisfy ourselves, then we can come and justify why this particular industry should be supported," he said.

The Minister stressed that the Government must remain accountable for the use of public resources and ensure that incentives, grants and loans are directed towards credible enterprises with the potential to contribute to national development.

"We are also accountable to The Gambia. We are using the money of The Gambia. Why should we give incentives, privileges and financial support, whether grants or loans, to these businesses without ourselves knowing where they are, what they are doing and who they are supporting?" he asked.

Supporting Local Manufacturing

The delegation visited Applied Research Innovation and Manufacturing in Yundum, a Gambian-owned enterprise engaged in the production of agricultural equipment. The facility is owned by young Gambian entrepreneur Wally Saine and was highlighted as an example of the growing involvement of young Gambians in manufacturing and innovation.

The delegation also visited Niro Company Limited at the airport, a Gambian-owned company providing ground-handling and in-flight catering services. The Minister commended the company for establishing a large-scale complex and creating employment opportunities for Gambians.

Another stop was Pasma Company Limited, a food commodity supply and distribution company. Although its facility is still under construction, the Minister expressed optimism about its potential once completed.

"When that complex is completed, it will definitely be a game changer, especially in the area of food commodity supply and distribution in the country and even overseas," he said.

The delegation subsequently visited a poultry farm, where officials observed poultry production, animal husbandry and other related activities. They were also taken through a large complex under construction which, when completed, is expected to support the production and calibration of various products.

The Minister noted that all the entrepreneurs visited were young Gambians, with none above the age of 45.

"This is quite encouraging, and it gives us high hope in these young Gambians," he said.

He assured the entrepreneurs that the Government, through the Ministry of Trade, GIEPA and other specialised agencies, is prepared to provide support to help them expand their businesses.

Such support, he said, could include tax incentives, financial assistance, technical support and concessions on inputs required for their operations.

"We are quite satisfied with what we have seen, and we encourage them to continue the good work they are doing because it is only through this that we can transform our economy and provide opportunities for Gambians," he said.

Creating Jobs for Young Graduates

The Minister stressed the importance of developing local industries capable of absorbing the thousands of young people who graduate from schools and universities every year, including those trained in scientific, technical and engineering fields.

"These are the kind of workplaces that we want to support and promote so that we can provide opportunities for our upcoming young graduates from universities and high schools," he added.

He said the businesses visited represented only a small selection of the emerging industries developing across the country.

The Minister also announced plans for a major industrial zone which, he said, is expected to accommodate close to 60 industrial units when completed. According to him, the development is expected to generate significant employment opportunities and further strengthen the country's industrial base.

"It is very easy to be dismissive and say that it is nothing. But you have all seen, and I am a witness to the transformation that is happening in this country," he said.

While acknowledging that the country is approaching an election year, the Minister maintained that the Government's development initiatives and the progress witnessed during the industrial tour demonstrate its efforts to promote investment, industrialisation and employment.

Protecting Local Poultry Producers

The Minister also highlighted measures being taken to support local poultry producers through trade and fiscal mechanisms.

He explained that while imported poultry products have not been completely banned, applicable import levies are being used to create a more favourable competitive environment for locally produced goods.

He said the Government had initially focused on eggs and would continue assessing the quantity and quality of locally produced poultry products before introducing further measures.

"We started with the egg, and we will definitely continue to assess the quantity and quality of poultry produced locally and respond adequately. That is our next step," he said.

According to the Minister, the Government will continue to use monetary, tax and targeted support mechanisms to strengthen domestic production and give local businesses a better opportunity to compete with imported products.

Encouraging Gambians to Invest at Home

The Minister said the hotel and tourism industry, for example, offers significant investment opportunities that have traditionally been dominated by foreign investors. He encouraged Gambians to occupy some of the available niches.

He also emphasised the need to create employment opportunities for young engineers, university graduates and others entering the labour market.

The Minister said the Government does not discourage Gambians from travelling abroad in search of opportunities but wants to ensure that viable opportunities are also created at home.

"We are not saying young Gambians should not travel. If they have to travel overseas to look for opportunities, by all means. But where opportunities exist here, we will create them and encourage Gambians to stay and work at home. And if they must travel, we want them to do so safely," he said.

He reiterated that the overall objective is to empower Gambian entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, create jobs and compete not only within The Gambia but also across West Africa and the global market.

"I am not necessarily anti-foreign investors, but I am saying preference should be given to what is our own, The Gambian. We will continue to champion and support Gambians to occupy the space that is available and support them to compete not only in The Gambia and West Africa, but even globally," he said.

The Minister maintained that supporting young Gambian entrepreneurs, strengthening local industries and creating employment opportunities for young graduates remain critical to transforming the economy and building a stronger, more self-reliant private sector.

Senegalese Tourism Professionals Impressed by Gambia's Eco-Tourism Potential

By Lamin Njie

Senegalese tourism professionals visiting The Gambia on a familiarisation tour have expressed strong interest in the country's tourism attractions, particularly its growing potential for eco-tourism and nature-based experiences.

The delegation, led by Youssouph Diallo, President of the Collective des Acteurs du Tourisme au Sénégal (CATS), is in The Gambia for a week-long educational familiarisation tour organised by the Gambia Tourism Board (GTBoard).

Speaking during the tour, Diallo said the delegation was invited by the GTBoard to explore tourism attractions and facilities across the country and identify destinations and experiences they could recommend to their clients.

"Our first impression is very good because we received a very warm welcome on arrival and this continues," he said.

The delegation visited Katchikally

Crocodile Sacred Pool, Yabouy Home Cooking, Tanji Fishing Village and Monkey Park, where members were introduced to some of The Gambia's cultural, culinary and nature-based tourism attractions.

Diallo described the sites as interesting, singling out bird-watching as one of the highlights of the tour.

He said the experience provided the delegation with detailed information about different bird species, their habitats and the various bird-watching sites available across the country.

According to Diallo, bird-watching presents significant opportunities for attracting European tourists, many of whom have a strong interest in nature and wildlife experiences.

"As Senegalese tourism professionals, we are here to learn how to attract tourists who are very interested in bird-watching," he said.

He also praised Monkey Park for its contribution to wildlife conservation and nature-based tourism, describing it as an important attraction for visitors seeking environmentally friendly experiences.

"Monkey Park is very interesting because it helps protect the animals living here. It is also very important for tourism because nature is part of tourism," Diallo said.

He stressed the need for tourism operators to promote environmentally responsible experiences, noting that The Gambia has considerable potential to develop its eco-tourism sector.

"We have to focus mainly on this to promote eco-tourism and eco-friendly visits, and The Gambia is a country that is ready for this," he said.

The familiarisation tour is part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the GTBoard to strengthen tourism cooperation between The Gambia and Senegal and promote cross-border tourism.

As part of the programme, the delegation on Thursday participated in a business-to-business (B2B) networking session with Gambian tourism stakeholders.

The session provided an opportunity for tourism operators from both countries to explore potential partnerships, exchange ideas and identify opportunities for promoting travel between The Gambia and Senegal.

The Senegalese delegation is also scheduled to visit the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Centre and ABCas Creek Lodge before concluding its visit to The Gambia.

News in portuguese
- From Bissau

ALFAIATARIA MILITAR COM FOCO NA REDUÇÃO DE IMPORTAÇÃO DE FARDAMENTOS

O chefe da alfaiataria militar,Tenente Mamadú Djau Djaló pede continuidade de esforços do Estado-maior-General das Forças Armadas(EMGFA),para o reforço da capacidade de produção de fardamentos e acessórios militares e redução da dependência de aquisição externa de fardamentos .

Numa reportagem realizada, quinta-feira, a equipa da Imprensa Militar acompanhou, no local, o trabalho dos profissionais responsáveis pela confeção dos fardamentos e recolheu testemunhos dos militares alfaiates sobre os desafios e as potencialidades da unidade.

Mamadú Djau Djaló destacou os esforços do Chefe do Estado-maior-General das Forças Armadas (CEMGFA) para criação de melhores condições de funcionamento da unidade.

Djau Djaló pediu a continuidade desses esforços, considerando que a melhoria das condições de trabalho poderá aumentar a credibilidade da alfaiataria e atrair parceiros interessados em investir no setor e aumentar a produção.

Djaló disse que a unidade dispõe de profissionais qualificados para a produção local de fardamentos militares e paramilitares.

O seu adjunto, Tenente Sélu Sané, exaltou a capacidade da equipa e destacou a necessidade de confecção de equipamentos mais adequados para alcançar os padrões de qualidade exigidos pelas Forças Armadas.

"Todos os fardamentos militares podem ser produzidos localmente, contando com o empenho do CEMGFA, Major-general Tomás Djassi", sublinhou o Tenente Sané.

Por sua vez, o Primeiro-Sargento Abudo Camará e o Soldado Djenabu Djau, ambos militares alfaiates da Divisão de Logística, destacaram o profissionalismo da equipa e garantiram estar preparados para produzir diferentes modelos de fardamento destinados à classe castrense.

Segundo os dois profissionais, a unidade já produziu fardamentos para diferentes estruturas militares, incluindo os Batalhões da Banda de Música, Engenharia Militar, Presidência da República, Guarda de Honra e pessoal menor do Estado-maior-General das Forças Armadas.

A Alfaiataria Militar foi fundada em 1974, mas suspendeu as suas atividades em 1998, na sequência da guerra civil. A unidade só retomou o funcionamento em 2008, quando o então CEMGFA, General Tagme Na Wae, adquiriu máquinas manuais para permitir o reinício da produção.

Em 2014, o General Biaguê Clussé Na N'tan adquiriu máquinas elétricas, dando novo impulso à capacidade produtiva da unidade.

A imprensa militar destaca que esta Alfaiataria é capaz de responder às necessidades das Forças Armadas, reduzindo a dependência de aquisições externas.

UINÉ-BISSAU DEFENDE OCI MAIS EFICAZ ORIENTADA PARA RESULTADOS EM PROL DO DESENVOLVIMENTO DOS ESTADOS MEMBROS

A Guiné-Bissau defendeu uma Organização de Conferência Islâmica (OCI) mais coesa, eficaz e orientada para resultados, em prol de desenvolvimento dos Estados membros.

A posição guineense foi apresentada pela ministra dos Negócios Estrangeiros, da Cooperação Internacional e das Comunidades, Fatumata Jau, durante a 23.ª Sessão Extraordinária do Conselho de Ministros dos Negócios Estrangeiros da organização, realizada no dia 27 de Agosto, em Djeddah, na Arábia Saudita.

De acordo com a página do Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros, Cooperação Internacional e das Comunidades, na facebook, a governante guineense apelou a uma OCI mais próxima das prioridades dos seus Estados-membros e capaz de transformar as decisões tomadas em resultados concretos.

Na sua intervenção, Fatumata Jau saudou a eleição, por unanimidade, do diplomata mauritano Ismaïl Ould Cheikh Ahmed para o cargo de secretário-geral da organização, sucedendo ao chadiano Hissein Brahim Taha, que terminou o mandato.

A questão da Palestina também esteve entre os principais temas abordados na cimeira, tendo, Fatumata Jau reafirmado o compromisso da Guiné-Bissau com o Direito Internacional, a proteção dos civis, o diálogo e a busca da paz.

A reunião discutiu a situação nos territórios palestinianos ocupados e culminou com a adoção de uma resolução especial sobre a Palestina e Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

À margem da reunião ministerial, a ministra guineense manteve encontros com o vice-ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros da Arábia Saudita, Waleed bin Abdulkarim Al-Khuraiji, e com o vice-ministro dos Negócios Estrangeiros do Kuwait, Hamad Sulaiman Al-Mashaan, entre outros interlocutores.

As conversações centraram-se no reforço das relações bilaterais, no aprofundamento da cooperação e na identificação de novas oportunidades de interesse comum entre a Guiné-Bissau e os países envolvidos.

A 23.ª Sessão Extraordinária do Conselho de Ministros dos Negócios Estrangeiros da OCI foi antecedida por uma reunião preparatória realizada no dia 26 de Agosto.

O encontro contou com a participação de delegações de vários Estados-membros, incluindo Senegal, Guiné-Bissau, Iraque, Azerbaijão e Argélia.

UARDA NACIONAL CAPACITA SEUS AGENTES NO DOMÍNIO DE COMPETÊNCIAS EM INVESTIGAÇÃO CRIMINAL

A Guarda Nacional(GN) da Guiné-Bissau iniciou, quarta-feira, em Bissau, uma formação especializada destinada a reforçar as competências dos seus operacionais na área de investigação criminal.

A informação foi publicada na página de Guarda Nacional na facebook, e refere que a iniciativa, que decorre até 18 de Setembro, reúne cerca de 50 militares provenientes de diferentes especialidades da corporação.

A formação vai ser ministrada pelo mestre Domingos Etiene Gomes, subinspetor da Polícia Judiciária da Guiné-Bissau, no âmbito da cooperação e partilha de conhecimentos entre as forças de segurança do país.

Durante duas semanas, os participantes serão capacitados em matérias relacionadas com os principais desafios da investigação e do combate à criminalidade, as técnicas de investigação criminal, gestão do local do crime, técnicas de entrevista e interrogatório.

O programa inclui igualmente formação sobre procedimentos de buscas e revistas, seguimento e vigilância, bem como matérias relacionadas com crimes de furto e roubo.

A recolha e validação de provas em contexto judicial são outros temas desta formação para além dos módulos dedicados às provas e aos meios de obtenção de provas.

Com a iniciativa, o comando da Guarda Nacional pretende reforçar a qualificação técnica dos seus efetivos e melhorar a capacidade de resposta perante os desafios da criminalidade urbana e organizada no país.

Tech & Innovation

How Malawi is taking AI technology to small-*scale farmers who don't have smartphones*

MULANJE, Malawi -- Alex Maere survived the destruction of Cyclone Freddy when it tore through southern Malawi in 2023. His farm didn't.

The 59-year-old saw decades of work disappear with the precious soil that the floods stripped from his small-scale farm in the foothills of Mount Mulanje.

He was used to producing a healthy 850 kilograms (1,870 pounds) of corn each season to support his three daughters and two sons. He salvaged just 8 kilograms (17 pounds) from the wreckage of Freddy.

"This is not a joke," he said, remembering how his farm in the village of Sazola became a wasteland of sand and rocks.

Freddy jolted Maere into action. He decided he needed to change his age-old tactics if he was to survive.

He is now one of thousands of small-scale farmers in the southern African country using a generative AI chatbot designed by the non-profit Opportunity International for farming advice.

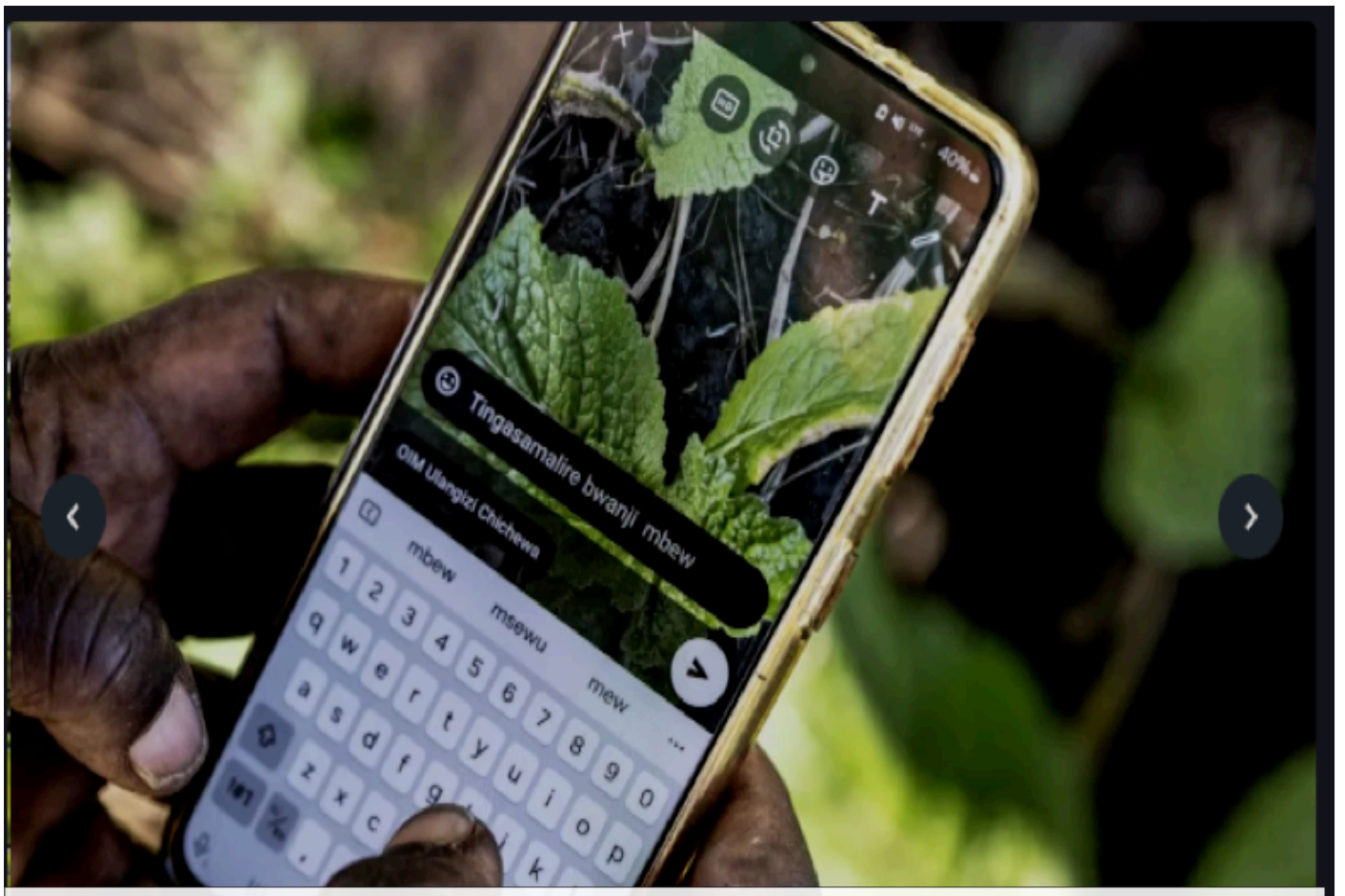
The Malawi government is backing the project, having seen the agriculture-dependent nation hit recently by a series of cyclones and an El Niño-induced drought. Malawi's food crisis, which is largely down to the struggles of small-scale farmers, is a central issue for its national elections next week.

More than 80% of Malawi's population of 21 million rely on agriculture for their livelihoods and the country has one of the highest poverty rates in the world, according to the World Bank.

The AI chatbot suggested Maere grow potatoes last year alongside his staple corn and cassava to adjust to his changed soil. He followed the instructions to the letter, he said, and cultivated half a soccer field's worth of potatoes and made more than $800 in sales, turning around his and his children's fortunes.

"I managed to pay for their school fees without worries," he beamed.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to uplift agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 33-50 million smallholder farms like Maere's produce up to 70-80% of the food supply, according to the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development. Yet productivity in Africa — with the world's fast-growing population to feed — is lagging behind despite vast tracts of arable land.



Some small-scale farmers in the southern African country of Malawi are using an AI chatbot for advice to help them improve their methods and become more resilient to climate change
By GREGORY GONDWE Associated Press

As AI's use surges across the globe, so it is helping African farmers access new information to identify crop diseases, forecast drought, design fertilizers to boost yields, and even locate an affordable tractor. Private investment in agriculture-related tech in sub-Saharan Africa went from $10 million in 2014 to $600 million in 2022, according to the World Bank.

But not without challenges.

Africa has hundreds of languages for AI tools to learn. Even then, few farmers have smartphones and many can't read. Electricity and internet service are patchy at best in rural areas, and often non-existent.

"One of the biggest challenges to sustainable AI use in African agriculture is accessibility," said Daniel Mvalo, a Malawian technology specialist. "Many tools fail to account for language diversity, low literacy and poor digital infrastructure."

The AI tool in Malawi tries to do that. The app is called Ulangizi, which means advisor in the country's Chichewa language. It is WhatsApp-based and works in Chichewa and English. You can type or speak your question, and it replies with an audio or text response, said Richard Chongo, Opportunity International's country director for Malawi.

"If you can't read or write, you can take a picture of your crop disease and ask, 'What is this?' And the app will respond," he said.

But to work in Malawi, AI still needs a human touch. For Maere's area, that is the job of 33-year-old Patrick Napanja, a farmer support agent who brings a smartphone with the app for those who have no devices. Chongo calls him the "human in the loop."

"I used to struggle to provide answers to some farming challenges, now I use the app," said Napanja.

Farmer support agents like Napanja generally have around 150-200 farmers to help and try to visit them in village groups once a week. But sometimes, most of an hour-long meeting is taken up waiting for responses to load because of the area's poor connectivity, he said. Other times, they have to trudge up nearby hills to get a signal.

They are the simple but stubborn obstacles millions face taking advantage of technology that others have at their fingertips.

For African farmers living on the edge of poverty, the impact of bad advice or AI "hallucinations" can be far more devastating than for those using it to organize their emails or put together a work presentation.

Mvalo, the tech specialist, warned that inaccurate AI advice like a chatbot misidentifying crop diseases could lead to action that ruins the crop as well as a struggling farmer's livelihood.

"Trust in AI is fragile," he said. "If it fails even once, many farmers may never try it again."

The Malawian government has invested in Ulangizi and it is programmed to align with the agriculture ministry's own official farming advice, making it more relevant for Malawians, said Webster Jassi, the agriculture extension methodologies officer at the ministry.

But he said Malawi faces challenges in getting the tool to enough communities to make an extensive difference. Those communities don't just need smartphones, but also to be able to afford internet access.

For Malawi, the potential may be in combining AI with traditional collaboration among communities.

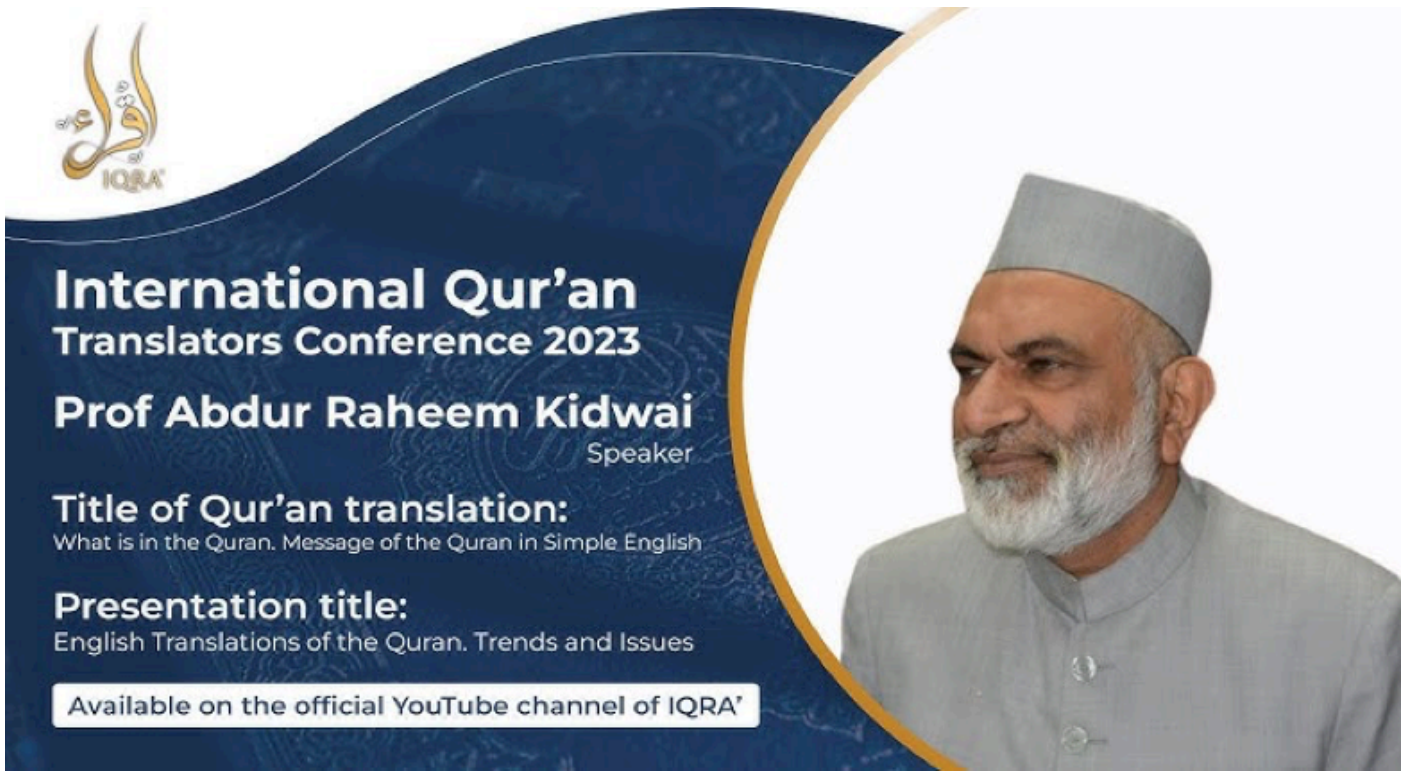
"Farmers who have access to the app are helping fellow farmers," Jassi said, and that is improving productivity.

Islam

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

A survey for best Quran translation in English

Source: A.R.Kidwai (Abdur Rasheem Kidwai), Professor of English, with two Ph.D.s in English, including one from the University of Leicester, UK, has a special interest in the following areas of study: Literary Orientalism/English Translations of the Quran/Urdu-English-Urdu Translation/Inter Faith Dialogue! Islam in the West.



, has a special interest in the following areas of study: Literary Orientalism/ English Translations of the Quran/Urdu-English-Urdu Translation/Inter Faith Dialogue! Islam in the West.

This is an excellent survey for best Quran translation in English. you will probably find no article like it on the internet.

Despite the historical fact that the early Muslim community's stand on the translation of the Arabic text of the Quran was ambivalent, as indeed, the general Muslim attitude remains so to this day, the act of translation may be logically viewed as a natural part of the Muslim exegetical effort. However, whereas the idea of interpreting the Quran has not been so controversial, the emotional motives behind rendering the Quranic text into languages other than Arabic have always been looked upon with suspicion.

This is obvious as the need for translating the Quran arose in those historic circumstances when a large number of non-Arabic speaking people had embraced Islam, and giving new linguistic orientations to the contents of the revelation - as, for instance, happened in the case of the 'New Testament' - could have led to unforeseeable, and undesirable, developments within the body of the Islamic religion itself. (For a brief, though highly useful, survey of the Muslim attitudes towards the permissibility of translating the text of the revelation to non-Arabic tongues, see M. Ayoub, 'Translating the Meaning of the Quran: Traditional Opinions and Modern Debates', in Afkar Inquiry, Vol. 3, No. 5 (Ramadan 1406/May 1986), pp.34 9).

The Muslim need for Quran English translation arose mainly out of the desire to combat the missionary effort. Following a long polemical tradition, part of whose goal was also the production of a - usually erroneous and confounding - European version of the Muslim scripture, Christian missionaries started their offensive against a politically humiliated Islam in the eighteenth century by advancing their own Quran English translation.

Obviously, Muslims could not allow the missionary effort - invariably confounding the authenticity of the text with a hostile commentary of its own - to go unopposed and unchecked. Hence, the Muslim decision to present a faithful translation of the Quranic text as well as an authentic summary of its teaching to the European world. Later, the Muslim translations were meant to serve even those Muslims whose only access to the Quranic revelation was through the medium of the European languages. Naturally, English was deemed the most important language for the Muslim purpose, not least because of the existence of the British Empire which after the Ottomans had the largest number of Muslim subjects.

The same rationale, however, applies to sectarian movements within Islam or even to renegade groups outside the fold of Islam, such as the Qadiyanis. Their considerable translational activities are motivated by the urge to proclaim their ideological uniqueness.

Although there is a spate of volumes on the multi-faceted dimensions of the Quran, no substantial work has so far been done to critically examine the mass of existing English translations of the Quran.

Even bibliographical material on this subject was quite scant before the fairly recent appearance of World Bibliography of the Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Quran (Istanbul, OIC Research Centre, 1986), which provides authoritative publication details of the translations of the Quran in sixty-five languages.

Some highly useful work in this field had been done earlier by Dr. Hamidullah of Paris. Appended to the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature Volume 1, Arabic Literature to the End of the Umayyad Period (Cambridge university Press, 1983) is a bibliography of the Quran translations into European languages, prepared by J.D. Pearson, as is the latter's article in the Encyclopaedia of Islam. It is, however, of not much use to the Muslim.

Since none of the above-mentioned works is annotated, the reader gets no idea about the translator's mental make-up, his dogmatic presuppositions and his approach to the Quran as well as the quality of the translation.

Similarly the small chapter entitled 'The Qur'an and Occidental Scholarship' in Bell and Watt's Introduction to the Qur'an (Edinburgh, 1970, pp. 173-86), although useful in providing background information to Orientalists' efforts in Quranic studies, and translations, more or less for the same reasons, is of little value to general Muslim readers. Thus, studies which focus on those aspects of each translation of the Quran are urgently needed lest Western scholars misguide the unsuspecting non-Arabic speaking readers of the Quran. An effort has been made in this survey to bring out the hallmarks and shortcomings of the major complete translations of the Quran.

The early English translations of the Quran by Muslims stemmed mainly from the pious enthusiasm on their part to refute the allegations leveled by the Christian missionaries against Islam in general and the Quran in particular.

Illustrative of this trend are the following translations:

(i) Mohammad Abdul Hakim Khan, The Holy Qur'an:'with short notes based on the Holy Qur'an or the authentic traditions of the Prophet, or and New Testaments or scientific truth. All fictitious romance, questionable history and disputed theories have been carefully avoided' (Patiala, 1905);

(ii) Hairat Dehlawi, The Koran Prepared, by various Oriental learned scholars and edited by Mirza Hairat Dehlawi. Intended as 'a complete and exhaustive reply to the manifold criticisms of the Koran by various Christian authors such as Drs. Sale, Rodwell, Palmer and Sir W. Muir' (Delhi, 1912); and

(iii) Mirzal Abu'l Fadl, Qur'an, Arabic Text and English Translation Arranged Chronologically with an Abstract (Allahabad, 1912).

Since none of these early translations was by a reputed Islamic scholar, both the quality of the translation and level of scholarship are not very high and these works are of mere historical interest.

Later works, however, reflect a more mature and scholarly effort.

Muhammad Marmaduke William Pickthall, an English man of letters who embraced Islam, holds the distinction of bringing out a first-rate rendering of the Qur'an in English, The Meaning of the Glorious Qur'an (London, 1930).

It keeps scrupulously close to the original in elegant, though now somewhat archaic, English. However, although it is one of the most widely used English translations, it provides scant explanatory notes and background information. This obviously restricts its usefulness for an uninitiated reader of the Qur'an.

Abdullah Yusuf Ali's The Holy Qur'an: Translation and Commentary (Lahore, 1934 37), perhaps the most popular translation, stands as another major achievement in this field. A civil servant by vocation, Yusuf Ali was not a scholar in the classical Muslim tradition. Small wonder, then, that some of his copious notes, particularly on hell and heaven, angels, jinn and polygamy, etc. are informed with the pseudo-rationalist spirit of his times, as for instance in the works of S. Ahmad and S. Ameer Ali.

His overemphasis on things spiritual also distorts the Qur'anic worldview. Against this is the fact that Yusuf Ali doubtless was one of the few Muslims who enjoyed an excellent command over the English language. It is fully reflected in his translation. Though his is more of a paraphrase than a literal translation, yet it faithfully represents the sense of the original.

Source: A.R. Kidwai

Profile

Ralph Alpher Biography, Life, Interesting Facts

Ralph Asher Alpher was an American cosmologist famous for his contribution to the Bing Bang evolution theory.

Early Life

Ralph Asher Alpher was born on February 3, 1921, in the US capital Washington DC. He was the son of the Samuel Alpha and Rose Maleson, Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. He lost his mother at the age of 17. He went to Theodore Roosevelt High School and graduated in 1936. Upon graduation, he secured a scholarship to stud science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or MIT. His scholarship was withdrawn without any explanation. Alpher speculated the withdrawal was prompted when he disclosed his Jewish heritage. He got employed by the US Navy and worked full time to fund his studies. He joined the evening degree classes at the George Washington University. Alpher graduated with a science degree in 1943. He got his Master degree in 1945 and earned his doctorate in 1948.

Scientific Research

He suffered a major setback while doing his doctorate dissertation. Alpher prepared to present his research on the formation of the galaxies and their dynamics. When he was finalizing his thesis, another student published a similar paper in a local daily without his knowledge or due citation in 1946. Fearing plagiarism accusations, Alpher started working on his paper again. He wrote another research paper on the state of the universe in the early stages of its formation and the buildup concentration of the relevant elements. He published his findings in a scientific journal in April 1948 and got a positive review from the public and fellow physicists.

Despite his young age, he started working on mega projects when he got employed by the navy. He worked with the Navy for four years beginning from 1940. As a doctorate student, he worked at the John Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory from 1944 to 1955. Alpher made vital contributions in the safety technology of maritime vessels from torpedoes and anti-aircraft missiles. The technology helped the Navy reduce casualties during WW2. He got the Naval Ordnance Development Award for his contribution to the safety maneuvers of the warships and aircrafts.

He teamed up with his friend physicist Robert Herman. They commenced in the study of nucleosynthesis calculations in a bid to discover the physical elements and dynamics of the early stages of the universe formation. Alpher based his research on the effects of the hot temperatures on the universe. Alpher and his partner noted that any disturbance in the atmosphere by radiation and separation from matter substances could have caused the matter fragments to fill the universe. They established that for the universe to have disintegrated in the manner it is, the temperatures should have been superficially high.

Alpher delved in finding scientific calculations to verify the authenticity of the Big Bang Theory as advocated by Fred Hoyle in his 1950 papers and lectures. They discovered that the theory gave out radiation relic calculations that supported very little distant time calculation. Thus it did little to enable physicists to determine the exact age of the Big Bang.

Industrial Engineer

The two physicists left their research laboratories in protest of the lack of support for their work. I 1955, they got employed with two different companies. Alpher got a job at the General Electrics, while Herman went to General Motors. Alpher went to the Research and Development Center of the General Electrics based in New York. He stayed at the company for over three decades. He contributed immensely in the fields of high-speed aero-dynamics, magneto-hydrodynamics, and technological forecasting and strategic planning.

Intellectual Piracy

As the two contributed to the development of their fields of employment, several scientists continued with their researching work. In 1965, two physicists Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson published the former duo's work. Penzias and Wilson passed the findings on the cosmic as their own thus denying due credit to their rightful owners. Other scientists followed suit in the publication of pirated material findings done by Alpher and Herman. Penzias and Wilson got the Nobel Prize for Physics on potentially pirated material. They never cited Alpher and Herman in their acceptance speeches.

Late Life

Alpher left General Electrics in 1987. He became a researching professor at the Union college from 1987 to 2004. He also served as a board member of Dudley Observatory. Alpher got elected as the administrator of the observatory from 1987 to 2000. After the observatory post, he joined a local television station as part of the board and eventually its president. He served as president of the television station WMHT for two consecutive terms. He was also active in supporting the scout movement, having been one in his childhood.

Awards

Alpher received among other awards and recognition, the Magellanic Premium of the American Philosophical Society, the gorge Wetherill Medal of Franklin Institute, the George Vanderlinden Prize and Mathematics Prize from the New York Academy of Sciences. In 2005, Alpher received the National Medal of Sciences.

Private Life

Alpher married Louise Simons on January 28, 1942. They had two children namely Harriet and Victor. Though he grew up under Jewish traditions, Alpher recanted his Jewish vows and became an agnostic with little regard to religion.

Legacy

Ralph Alpher died in Austin, Texas on August 12, 2007, at the age of 86. He is remembered as the pioneering physicist to scientifically try to prove the Big Bang theory.

Sports

Man City maintain 100% start with win over Coventry

Manchester City highlighted their early season credentials by maintaining their 100% winning record after three Premier League games, but had to cling on to leave newly promoted Coventry still searching for their first point of the campaign.

The result was ultimately a satisfying one for City manager Enzo Maresca after giving debuts to Iliman Ndiaye and £125m signing Enzo Fernandez, with the Argentine drafted in minutes before kick-off after Nico O'Reilly sustained an injury in the warm-up.

City's star striker Erling Haaland was the match-winner, powerfully heading home the only goal of the afternoon after Antoine Semenyo dug out a cross to the far post. Fernandez played a key part in the goal with a slide-rule pass to the Ghanaian.

On another day, Norway striker Haaland could have had a hat-trick. He had a thumping effort pushed away by visiting goalkeeper Carl Rushworth and another close-range strike in the second half ruled out for offside.

Rayan Cherki turned inside and struck against the foot of a post after being set up by Fernandez, but City were thankful to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, who made a string of saves.

The Italy captain kept out Jack Rudoni's diving header at the far post and Loum Tchaouna's low strike with a full-length save, and stood tall to deny substitute Ellis Simms late on.

Frank Lampard's men should have gone ahead when Taiwo Awoniyi picked up a loose pass from Semenyo and ran through on goal, but the Nigerian struck wide to leave Coventry without a goal this season.

Anderson the pass master

This was the first meeting between the two sides in 24 years since they faced each other in the old First Division, and City came out on top to extend their unbeaten run to 31 games against promoted sides.

The full-time statistics from this game will show City as having 78% possession, 15 shots and attempting 800 passes, but they were fortunate to somehow escape with all three points.

Maresca's side needed two late goals to rescue a result in the opening game against Bournemouth and, although this was another narrow victory at Etihad Stadium, it will continue to build their confidence and momentum.

Despite being the start of a new season, Haaland continues to find the back of the net with regularity. He has now scored against 24 of the 25 Premier League sides he has faced, apart from Sunderland.

Summer signing Anderson was the best player on the park, making an incredible 155 passes - one of three City players, alongside centre-backs Marc Guehi and Ruben Dias, to attempt more than a century of passes.

Fernandez slipped seamlessly into the starting XI despite getting a late call-up for a winning debut, but Lampard and his Coventry side will be left ruing the gilt-edged opportunities that fell their way.

Awoniyi should have hit the target when through on goal, and it proved extremely costly.

Coventry have lost their opening three games without finding the net for the first time in their history, with Lampard winning only one of his past 20 Premier League games.

Late Ramsey equaliser earns point for Newcastle against Bournemouth

Newcastle fought back from 2-0 down to earn a hard-fought Premier League point at home to Bournemouth thanks to Jacob Ramsey's late equaliser.

The Cherries had taken an early lead when Alex Scott's deflected shot looped into the box and Marcus Tavernier stole a couple of yards on Amar Dedic at the back post and poked the ball under Lukas Hornicek.

Newcastle fans booed the officials after the goal - aggrieved by what they thought was a foul in an earlier phase of play after some grappling between Adrien Truffert and Anthony Elanga.

Bournemouth added a second when Justin Kluivert's fizzing long-range effort hit the post, bounced off the back of Hornicek and dropped to Scott.

The former England Under-21 midfielder's effort from a tight angle spooned off Malick Thiaw beyond Hornicek and was chalked up as an own goal.

Newcastle pulled one back moments later when Harvey Barnes cut inside from the left and curled a stunning right-footed effort into the top corner.

A breathless and entertaining first half was followed by a second period which became more of an arm wrestle.

Newcastle gave a 63rd-minute debut to Belgium forward Matias Fernandez-Pardo, signed from Lille for £51m before the transfer window shut, in a bid to provide a bit more impetus.

Bournemouth looked to have showed the necessary grit to see out the remainder of the game only for Ramsey to strike with two minutes of normal time remaining.

A Newcastle attacking move culminated in Thiaw, with his back to goal, knocking the ball down in the box and Ramsey seizing on it to score with a low cushioned finish into the corner of the net.

Forest and Spurs both still looking for first win after scrappy draw

Tottenham are still waiting for their first Premier League win of the season after a scrappy draw at Nottingham Forest.

Roberto de Zerbi's expensively assembled side had 12 shots but failed to get any of those on target at the City Ground to continue their poor start in the top flight.

They avoided defeat after Neco Williams' second-half goal was ruled out, the full-back adjudged to have bundled the ball in with his arm after some calamitous Tottenham defending.

Micky van de Ven nodded Spurs' best chance wide but the visitors, who started Savio and Omar Marmoush for the first time together, were unable to find a breakthrough.

Including add-ons, Tottenham's summer outlay is over £350m and more is expected from the team after three winless top-flight games.

They are still trying to find an identity following 10 senior arrivals and a point can be viewed as a posiitve but they faced a Forest side also winless and finding their feet under Oliver Glasner.

The hosts felt aggrieved to have Williams' goal disallowed and are still looking for their first home goal of the season as Glasner - who gave a home debut to £50m striker Liam Delap - tries to put his stamp on his new side.

Nottingham Forest analysis: Fan anger towards officials, rather than performance

Oliver Glasner took the applause from the emptying City Ground as he grabbed his coat from the dugout.

They are yet to see his Forest side score a goal at home this season but their frustration was directed to referee Craig Pawson.

The decision to disallow Williams' goal, after Van de Ven and Sandro Tonali failed to clear Gibbs-White's goalbound chip, drew most of their anger.

It was controversial, Williams bundling in during comical Spurs defending, and added to the frustration of opening the season to two draws and a defeat.

Glasner knows - and has said - he needs time and Forest showed enough willing and determination to prove they are on the right track, even without the victory.

Tottenham analysis: Goals needed as Spurs try to find their way

Spurs failed to have a shot on target until the 81st minute and even then Matz Sels could have gathered Pedro Porro's effort with his eyes closed.

With Richarlison, last season's 12-goal top scorer, excluded from the Premier League squad and expected to leave, they need to find goals from elsewhere.

Marmoush and Savio, big-money signings from Manchester City, were unable to inspire the visitors.

Savio was withdrawn on the hour while Marmoush missed his best chance, shooting wide with just Sels to beat - although he was penalised for a foul in the build-up.

Tottenham did not play badly but after the summer spending spree it is not the level which is demanded or expected.

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