



# NAYCONF

National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022



NAYCONF DAILY Sunday 18th Dec. 2022 No: 003



**HOSTING NAYCONF  
IS A DREAM COME TRUE  
FOR BANJULIANS  
-SAYS CITY  
MAYORESS**

**NAYCONF 2022  
CREATES SAFE  
-SPACE FOR WOMEN**



**WE HAVE ENOUGH  
FOOD FOR EVERYONE -  
SAYS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

# EDITORIAL

## SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN!

**T**he national organising committee of the 2022 NAYCONF is not taking anything for granted in mitigating violence against women at the youth convergence.

As such, they created for the first time, a gender committee and safe space for women to freely talk to experts on any issue affecting them.

A safe space for women created is the first of its kind in the history of the national youth convergence.

According to gender committee, the safe space is available for both women and men and could be access anytime they feel depressed.

Its by no mistake that such an initiative is provided in this year's NNAYCONF considering their high are of gender based violence in the country.

With this development, organisers have

set standards and mechanisms to create a more conducive environment for female delegates.

The setting up of the toll-free line of 1313 meant for all to report any form of violence meted out to anyone is also a commendable move. This toll-free line will also help in mitigating issues regarding gender based violence during the course of the youth convergence.

In another development, NOC have also installed CCTV cameras in strategic locations at various facilities hosting NAYCONF delegates.

We, therefore urge all delegates to respect the rules set aside by the NOC throughout their stay at NAYCONF and commend the organisers for the developments.





# NAYCONF provides an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to expand businesses

By ALIEU JALLOW

**T**he interest for entrepreneurship among young people in the Gambian has been growing in recent years, with many youth starting their own businesses. These young entrepreneurs are creating employment opportunities for many youth and themselves thus addressing the problem of youth unemployment in the country.

In The Gambia, youth unemployment despite many initiatives and interventions by government and development partners is said to be growing at an alarming rate of 41.5%.

Young people remain the cream of the nation in terms of development and leadership. However, like in many African countries, many young people are struggling to secure a job. The transition from school to the labour market still remains a challenge with limited opportunities such as jobs and inadequate skills. Increased employment is a development goal here in the Gambia.

The devastating effects of youth unemployment can result to poverty, irregular migration, increased crime rate and mental health problems thus called for concern that

needs to be addressed.

In addressing these challenges, the organisers of the ongoing National Youth Conference and Festival, Nayconf introduced exhibition to provide the young entrepreneurs the opportunity to display their products, network and expand their business.

Speaking to Burama Dampha, young entrepreneur operating in CRR and URR, said, he is looking forward to expanding his network by reaching out to his fellow young people to expand his business.

“If you network as an entrepreneur, you will really be able to expand your business, because the one person you are able to network here could also be a channel or network to bring you customers or possible donors,” he said.

Mammy Sira Jagne, youth entrepreneur and a dealer in handy craft, fashion and design is also looking forward to network within the period, find a possible partner and collaborate to expand her business.

She used the opportunity of the interview to call on the government to patronize them and create subsidies to ease the burden of rent and taxes they struggling with.

“We want the government

to come up with youth mall at a reduced rental fee for young entrepreneurs to help us expand; create more employment for our fellow youth and boost national economy,” she said.

Abdourahaman Bah, the founder of Bah Arts and Design, is another entrepreneur who believes that the Nayconf is an opportunity that he couldn't miss as the big youth convergent will help market his products.

“The Nayconf will give us the needed visibility and networking opportunity to promote our business. During the Youth Connekt a young lady contacted me from Basse ordering for one of my products so imagine that's only the youth connect with minimal number, how about the NAYCONF that brought together over 2000 young people?” she asked.

These entrepreneurs are confident that Nayconf is a good platform to network, expand and sell their products and services.

They recommended for the organizing committee to develop mechanisms that will create avenue for young entrepreneurs to network especially during Nayconf.



# NAYCONF introduces 'Mister' as part of its beauty pageant.

By Kaddijatou Jawo

For the first time in the history of Nayconf, men will participate in the beauty pageant competition slated for Wednesday. Mariama Jallow, the head of the beauty pageant, said this year's beauty pageant would be special because men will be participating for the first time in this important youth gathering.

"We are gender balanced, so we deem it necessary to

include our male counterparts to complete the equation." They are very excited about this experience.

There are seven Miss and Mister that will be participating in this year's beauty competition drawn from the seven regions of the country. The pageantry will not only focus on beauty as the name indicates but this would also include talents of all kinds. There will be a cash prize for the first, second runner up and the winner.

Mariama has been head of the Nayconf beauty pageant for a while now, and she describes it as the most important competition at Nayconf.

The beauty pageant winners would be used as goodwill ambassadors for young people across the country.

There are eight thematic areas, and the beauty pageant falls under Culture. Omar Cham, the speaker of the National Youth Council, The Gambia is leading the committee.







## NAYCONF 2022 creates safe-space for women

By Aisha Tamba

**T**he thirteenth edition of NAYCONF has created safe-space where women and girls feel physically and emotionally secured

The creation of the women and girls safe-space emerged as key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls among the NAYONF delegates. The safe-space is a place where they are protected from bodily harm, including sexual abuse and preventable sport injuries.

In efforts to create a safe environment for the delegates, this year's NAYCONF in collaboration with Paradise Foundation created a toll free hotline where Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) cases can be reported. Mbery Jobe, member of the organising committee,

explained that the organising committee has also provided goody bags containing sanitary pads toothbrush and toothpaste for the ladies.

"During the previous Nayconfs this was not happening, women were going out buying sanitary pads in shops but this year we have provided all the necessary materials for them. We have 500 goody bags" she said.

Madam Jobe further disclosed that they have also created a toll freeline where people can all to report anything concerning gender based violence.

"We already have four councilors who are handling the safe-space matters for the young ladies. Regarding the one 1313 hotline, we have our partners from Paradise Foundation too," she added. Talking to Mr. Alfusainey Gano, another member of the

organising committee, said for the first time in Nayconf there is a gender sub-committee specifically looking at all the gender related issues and women rights in particular.

"Looking at the huge number of delegates at Nayconf sometimes voices are not listened to. For the first time there is a corner where when they feel they are not listened to, they can go there and make their voices heard. "This is something to celebrate because is not only SGBV being recognised."

He added the Nayconf's aim is to build the leadership skills of young people in next five-10 years to come. "The strength of Nayconf is uniting young people and for them to see each other as brothers and sisters and be each other's keepers," he stated.

# NAYCONF grand opening sparks spectacular spotlight

*As Regional Authorities committed to support NAYCONF*

By Alieu Jallow

The 13th edition of the National Youth Conference and Festival, Nayconf opening was spectacular thanks also to the full participation of local authorities. The regions were led by their regional governors and area council chairpersons while Banjul and KMC were also led by their respective mayors. This year's Nayconf has also attracted the attention of both local and international partners including the UN system. The biennial youth gathering was put to a halt by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic but organisers were given a greenlight following the easing of the Covid-19 Protocols by authorities. The cultural display at the opening brought smiles on the faces of many including happy looking president Barrow. Speaking to Nayconf Daily, the Lord Mayor of KMC, Talib Ahmed Bensouda revealed that his council has spent D1.7 million to support their participation. He stressed that it has to do with trust and confidence in their youth and Nayconf as a whole.

"We are supporting our delegates because we think it is a good initiative and we hope it will grow in the coming years," he said.

On his part, the Chairman of Brikama Area Council, Mr. Sheriffo Sonko described the day as stunning following display of attain prowess.

Moving in the far east of the country, Foday Danjo the chairman of Basse Area council described the 2022 NAYCONF as an exception and commended the NOC for a good job.

Similarly, he anticipates for the adoption of good resolutions that will be drawn at the end of the event.

"I am urging the government to invest in the youth for they are the cream of the nation and if they left out, it retard the growth of our nation".

The 2022 NAYCONF will live to be remembered not only for it's colorful fanfare and display of cultural prowess but the determination and energy of young people of this nation.





# Banjul, KM emerge winners of the dancing, singing competitions

By Kaddijatou Jawo

**T**hree winners have emerged from the singing, dancing and comedy competition held yesterday under the culture and festival thematic area.

Yamundow Secka, who emerged as the winner of the singing competition for the Kanifing Municipality, said her victory did not come to her as a surprise. "I deserve this win, because singing is part of my life, and the lyrics came naturally," she said.

This is the first time Yamundow is participating in the Nayconf. She describes the biennial event as the perfect platform for young people to connect, network and showcase their talents.

Comedy is an influential art but a different one to master. The winner of this category is Ababacarr Njie, of the Kanifing Municipality. The 16-year-old and a grade 10 science student of Kotu Senior Secondary school said comedy has been part of his life for a while now. "When I heard about the Nayconf, I told myself that I'll make sure I utilise this talent and make something out of it positively," he added.

Ababacarr's message was centred on the use and abuse of drugs by young people and the negative impact on society. He added: "I was trying to convey this message to young people about how drugs can destroy one's life."

He promised to continue this advocacy even after the Nayconf.

Fatoumatta Daffeh, is another young talent that emerged as the winner of the dancing competition. Young Fatoumatta said her win came to her as a surprise because she was not well prepared compared to the rest of the contenders.

"I do dancing as a passion, but I think it's about time I take it seriously as a talent that I can make something out of it," he said.

Fatoumatta is versatile; she does public speaking, pottery as well as dancing.



# Draught National Coordinator brief NAYCONF Daily

**By Sulayman Waan**

As the National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF) sports activities progresses successfully in Banjul, Gibril Martin, National Coordinator for the Draught Competition has given updates on the procedures of the cerebral game.

Meanwhile, the Nayconf sporting activities includes football, volleyball, athletics competitions, and draft. The draught is often played in various towns across the country like any other sport in The Gambia. It is also included in international competitions.

This game is played on a draught board. Draught players develop skills in the game; they must learn how to solve problems to win. Players must be able to predict the opponent's next move and must be able to pick out possible moves during every stage of play.

Mr. Martin also a specialist on draught gave a synopsis of the game in the ongoing national youth convergence. He described the draught game as a technical game that requires critical thinking and high concentration.

The draught technician said this year's Nayconf marked the 13th edition of draught tournament in the country. He recalled that



the game had started since the beginning of the biennial youth gathering 13 years ago.

"Every region has sent two participants. We have given all participants guiding principle of the game and they have read it. This was to ensure they abide by the rules and regulations of the game," he said.

According to him, all the regions have sent two participants except West Coast and the Lower River Regions which are able to produce only one participant each. "In total, we should have

14 participants but we now have 13," he disclosed.

He said the tournament is a round-robin league format that will have nine games in totality. So, this means all will play each other and then the one with the highest point will be declared winner of the tournament," he explained.

Moving forward Mr. Martin said the draught committee is looking forward to seeing this game introduce in the country's educational curriculum to ensure children learn how to play it.

He said as this game requires critical thinking it will force students into calculation and improve their performance on cunning subjects such as math and physic.

The technician lamented that certain authorities may not like to introduce this game in the country's syllabus, saying "they might say the draught is just a waste of time and not important."

Highlighting the importance of this game, he said, even international competitions often have draught games. He finally called for the game to be highly considered like any other game in the country.

The NAYCONF DAILY will monitor and publish the final stage of the draught competition.



# We have enough food for everyone says committee chair

**By Sulayman Waan**

The chairperson for the Nayconf Food Committee, Momodou Juju Jallow has said that there is enough food for everyone attending this year's Nayconf.

Chairman Jallow further assures that there will be sufficient and quality food throughout remaining days of the youth gathering.

The Nayconf Food Sub-Committee is responsible for providing feeding for the National Organising Committee (NOC), Medical Team, Security Team, and NAYCONF media team. The said committee also provides food rations to the medical and security teams to cook for themselves.

In an exclusive interview with the NAYCONF Daily, Mr. Jallow said: "There will be enough feeding for the rest of the four days, and rest assured that my team and I are doing very well in that aspect to ensure all participants under our mandate eat to their satisfaction without any problem."

Mr. Jallow revealed that the budget for feeding in the week-long youth event is D625, 000 but was quick to add that his team is making some adjustments in the budget to avoid shortages of food thus delivering on their promised. Nonetheless, Mr. Jallow said if need arises they

might adjust their beget to meet the expectation of delegates they are feeding.

Meanwhile, The NAYCONF Daily has observed that there has been sufficient and quality food and water since the beginning of the national youth gathering.

In this regard, Mr. Jallow said this happens as a result of proper management and coordination of the food committee. "As a committee, we have been preparing for the Nayconf since inception and we have been discussing how to get a Nayconf with a difference this year, a Nayconf whereby all will eat to satisfaction."

He indicated that the Food Committee has been preparing for the youth

gathering over the past four months just to ensure everything concerning food during the event is done well. He said the committee does not want anyone to stay hungry.

"I think this one is a proper management and coordination by the leadership of Executive Director of the National Youth Council Alhagie Jarju and the entire NOC. They have done well. The Food Committee alone cannot do it but we are doing well because of their immense support," he said.

## On Change of Diet

Mr. Jallow said the Food Committee only has some issues concerning the continuous cooking of chicken over the past few days which some people complained about. This, he noted, happened due to a delay in the delivery of fish that were promised by the Fisheries Ministry.

When asked about possible changes to the diet, he said: "We already got fish, and today we have changed the menu. We are going to eat fish today, and tomorrow we will provide you with meat. That is how we are going to be changing the diet now."

"Until we leave this place we are not going to eat chicken again. We will only eat meat and fish," he concluded.







**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"



**NAYCONE**  
National Youth Conference & Festival  
BANJUL 2022

THEME: "THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY;  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"





# Editorial Team



**MUHAMMED S BAH**  
Editor – In Chief



**NFAMARA JAWNEH**  
Deputy Editor



**SULAYMAN CEESAY**  
Sub-Editor



**MUSTAPHA SONKO**  
Proof Reader



**ABDOULIE SAMBOU**  
Layout Editor



**Lamarana S Jallow**  
Newsroom Coordinator

**YOU CAN REACH OUT TO OUR NEWS DESK ON**  
**+220 733 4325 / +220 797 5610**  
**Email: [nayconfsubeditor@gmail.com](mailto:nayconfsubeditor@gmail.com)**



# Hosting NAYCONF is a dream come true for Banjulians—says City Mayoress

By Lamarana S. Jallow

Banjul on Friday.

The Mayoress of Banjul her lordship, Rohey Malick Lowe, has said that hosting of National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF) is a dream come true for her city noting this was an aspiration for her people.

She expressed her appreciation to the organisers for choosing Banjul to host this year's NAYOCNF.

She made these remarks during the opening ceremony of the 13th edition of the NAYCONF at the Never Again Memorial Arch in

She revealed that the youth convergence is one of the most important activity in the country, since it is about the future of this country.

She added: "It is about the most energetic people of our country that is the youth".

The Mayoress expressed her council's appreciation to Gambian youth in advancing national development.

"I am sure that the youths gathered will work diligently in making sure that we have a

NAYCONF that will remain on the lips of everyone for years to come," she said.

The city Mayoress stressed that the development of the country cannot be realised in the absence of the youth, thus need for their effective participation in the decision making-processes.

Additionally, she outlines the need to revisit youth schemes that will create employment opportunities while highlighting the numerous development programmes initiated by her office to empower the youth of the city.



# Most of my players are sick-Fatou Bah

*CRR female coach link poor performance to sick players*

**By Lamin Fadera**

**F**ollowing her sides defeat against Lower River Region, the head coach of Central River Region female football team Fatou Bah, said her side is struggling to gain momentum in the ongoing Nayconf football competition due to the illness of her players.

‘It is very difficult to play a fitness tournament. As you can see most of my players are sick and some of them have injuries and is very difficult to win matches under such circumstances, but hopefully, we will bounce back for sure,’ she complained.

She added: “Playing matches every twenty four hours is a hectic task for the females in the competition and you can’t get proper recovery session for the team especially for female players Fatou Bah told NAYCONF Daily.

In a related development, CRR for their parts they currently only collected a solitary point in group A yesterday against Banjul.

Despite the number of challenges her side is face with Fatou Bah believe she had an amazing experience at the

Nayconf so far.

With the fantastic fanfare and festival of events with different culture and exhibition the CRR female head coach said she was blown away by the inclusiveness and diversity of different cultural display with majestic dancing and emotional rollercoaster.

“What I learn from the Nayconf is meeting different people, seeing different culture and I am very impress with it, because some of the cultures I use to see them on television

But I never see them in real life and what I saw last night I was very impress honestly”

Bah said

Elsewhere, West Coast Region took control of group A in the female after they defeated Banjul a goal to nil in match day two of the competition at the KG5 Mini Stadium on the 18th December 2022.

A point will be enough for WCR to progress to the semi-finals of the female football competition.

This victory has push the densely populated side on the driving seat in group A

This is the current Standings in group A







# WCR punches LRR while Host BJL played stalemate with CRR

By Sulayman Waan

In the opening game of the female football competition at the ongoing 2022 Nayconf, West Coast Region punched Lower River Region by 2 goals to nil at the KG5 Mini Stadium in Banjul.

Mariama Faye opens the scoring for the West Coast giants before Rohey Williams scored a spectacular free kick to round up the score for WCR.

In another development the Upper River Region female team came from behind in the second half to earn a point against North Bank Region thanks to MaKumba Manneh's second half goal. North Bank Region took the lead in the first but Makumba Manneh's goal level the scores.

The game was fully of swagger as both sides couldn't secure a maximum point in the first game in group B, but their fans will be

grateful to see a respectable football display by both teams.

In his post-match reaction, Salifu S. Camara, head coach for the Upper River Region (URR) female football team said it's unfortunate that he failed to meet his target in the first game.

"I really wanted to win my first game because winning such a game in any tournament is very important. However, we will work hard in order to win our next game," he said.

The football technician blamed his players dismal performance in the first half as a result of not receiving their football boots on time.

"Initially, we borrowed pairs of shoes from others and the shoes could not fit some of my players. This reduces their speed in the first half of the game. But the moment we received our shoes

the girls begins to perform well," he claimed. Coach S. Camara assured to prepare well for the next game to ensure a win.

On his part, Boris Demba, head coach of NBR female team said: "I am not actually disappointed with the outcome of the game. We were ready for the game and we scored them but unfortunately, they equalized out of a mistake. So, we should not be disappointed as it is a wakeup call."

Coach Demba described his failure to get the expected points as a missed opportunity. However, he promised to win the next game in regulation time of the game to outflow penalty kicks.

However, the host Banjul also failed to win their opening game against Central River Region in the opening fixture of group A at the KG5 mini stadium.

