



NAYCONF

National Youth Conference & Festival
BANJUL 2022

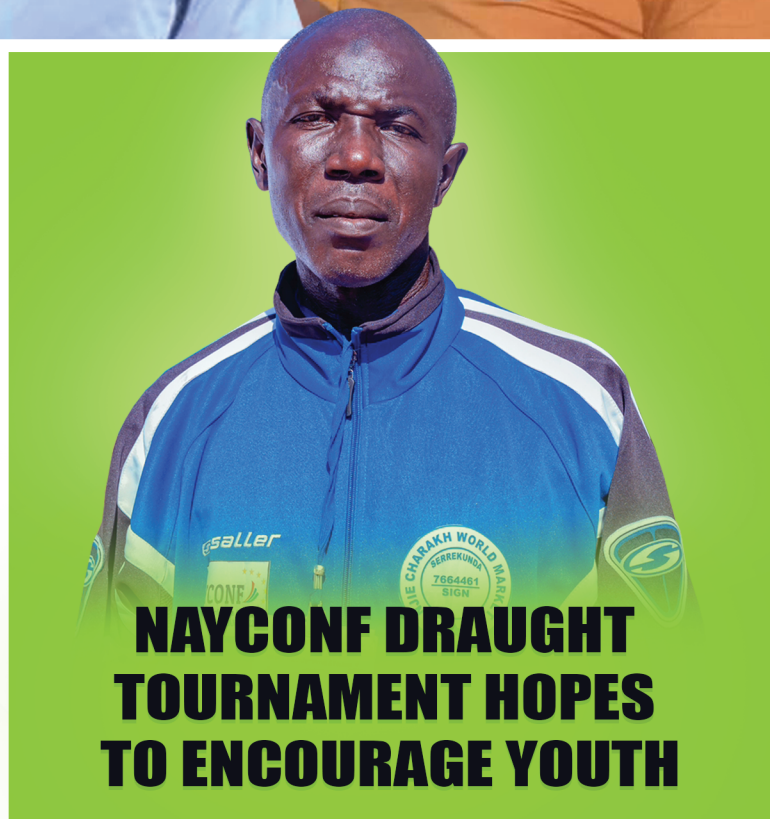


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YOUTH LEADERS OF URR, CRR & LRR CALLS ON GOV'T TO DO MORE FOR RURAL YOUTH



CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE
CHAIR SPEAKS



NAYCONF DRAUGHT
TOURNAMENT HOPES
TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH



EDITORIAL

Youth participation in combating climate change is key

Despite contributing less to global greenhouse gas emission, climate change is having serious impacts on The Gambia. Our country is seriously affected by the effects of climate changes including sea level rise, erratic rain fall leading to poor crop production, flooding, biodiversity loss and extreme weather condition.

Many youths in the country are taking giant strides in protecting our environment through their various youth groups. It's therefore important that such youth groups be supported by the government and development partners.

The NAYCONF's organising committee is aware of the efforts been made by these youth across the country in combating climate change through local actions.

This is the more reason; a special thematic area is identified to take a look at climate issues.

The government and other stakeholders should ensure young people are engaged and encouraged to effectively participate in the climate change discourse, mitigation and adaptation both local, national and global levels.

The government needs to take climate change issues more seriously through effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Young people could play an important role in implementation of local climate actions such as tree planting.

The Government also needs to invest more resources on renewable energy, energy efficient cooking stoves and climate smart agriculture, mainstream climate change in all our development endeavours among others.

According to the United Nations Development Program, report, Climate change is estimated to cause millions of deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa, as manifested by extreme famine, flooding, drought, erosion, biodiversity loss and conflicts arising from competition for scarce resources in the next 25 years.

Taking a critical look at these statistics, one is bound to link them with the devastation that occurred in Banjul during the just concluded rainy season. During which young people participated meaningfully mitigating the impact of the

flooding.

Climate change has negatively impacted young people in the country thus causing youth to venture into the irregular migration. The effects of climate change on our youth has contributed to the death of many young people through irregular migration.

The Gambia's current nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are strong and have earned the country global recognition. This recognition does not mean that the country should rest on its laurels. The NAYCONF 2022 theme on climate, biodiversity and agriculture is aimed at intensifying efforts in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation to the realization of the Paris agreement.

Youth are critical in any form of advocacy or involvement in the national and global discuss. Therefore their involvement towards issues around climate change is key. The climate is changing thus the need for concerted efforts by all and sundry to mitigate its impact on all of us.

Banjul NAM Promises to Support Legislation of NAYCONF Resolutions



By Alieu Jallow

Hon. Momodou Lamin B. Bah, National Assembly Member for Banjul North has promised that he will be happy to support if necessary legislation for the implementation

of the National Youth Conference and Festivals (NAYCONF) resolutions. During NAYCONF young people at the conference will be coming up resolutions on issues that will help in advancing their development.

Hon. Bah pointed out that empowering young people is key to national development, noting that as national assembly members they are committed to youth empowerment.

“We will indeed endeavored to making sure that NAYCONF resolutions are implemented,” he said.

Hon. Bah highlighted some of the efforts in place geared towards empowering and supporting young people of Banjul.

“My colleague Hon. Abdoulie Njie and I have contributed each D10,000 to the local organizing committee toward the successful hosting of NAYCONF,” he noted.

NAYCONF Star of the Day



Malang Fatty, Food Committee Member

NAYCONF Star of the Day



LRR wins NAYCONF Cooking Competition

By Aisha Tamba

Lower River Region has emerged the champions of the National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF) cooking competition. As part of culture and academic activities, this is the first time cooking competition is introduced and also aimed to promote the Gambian heritage cuisines. Maimuna Camara and Sirre Sanneh won the competition for the region with their amazing local dish Domoda also called 'Maafe' a delicious groundnut stew mixed with spices.

West Coast Region emerged as 1st Runner up after cooking a delicious 'Caldou', a famous Gambian dish, while Banjul, and came as 2nd Runner up they prepared Fufu a West Africa

cuisine.

Chief Bojang, the president of The Gambia Chief Association expressed delight for the inclusion of food and cuisine in NAYCONF activities.

"As a chef, I am happy and humble to witness this great occasion including the cooking into NAYCONF. I am sure this is just the start of the whole process of bring talents especially cuisine in the NAYCONF. I believe having this concept will take our traditional cuisine to a higher level," he said.

He said the Gambian heritage cuisines are healthy nutritious foods. "Those of you who have participated, I am very much happy that you take us back to the heritage, meaning going back to the old days where healthy nutritious meals that are prepared

by our great grandparents," he said.

Bakary Y Badjie, Minister of Youths and Sports, said NAYCONF is one activity that brings young people together. He described competition as one that will help in encouraging young people to understating the Gambian traditional dishes.

"The cooking competition is important because food is part of our lives, when it comes to traditional food we are losing grip of its origin."

Maimuna Camara, the winner from LRR thanked NAYCONF for providing them the platform to showcase their talent and the delegates for their support. "I thank my organising committee for their full support and my family who are very supportive," she said with delight.



Youth leaders of URR, CRR & LRR calls on Gov't to do more for rural youth



By Sulayman Waan

As the National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF) progresses, youth leaders from rural regions have called on the Gambia Government to do more for youth in rural areas. The NAYCONF brings together youth from across the seven administrative regions of the country and regional delegations are headed by regional youth committee chairpersons.

Speaking to NAYCONF Daily in an exclusive interview, Ebrima Sanyang, chairperson for the Regional Youth Committee (RYC) of the Central River Region (CRR), said there is a greater need for the government to decentralise job opportunities to ensure rural youth get the needed job in their regions.

“The government also should build capacity of young entrepreneurs who have innovative business ideas,” he said.

He said the government should provide subvention to RYCs of the various administrative regions. This, he said, would help the committees to implement their activities at the grassroots level such as sensitizations, skills training, entrepreneurship trainings, and mentorship programmes.

Sanyang opined that authorities should waive tax on investors who want to invest in the provincial regions for a number of years. “This will encourage investors to invest in the rural regions. That would provide more job opportunities for rural regions,” he said.

CRR also could feed the country if the several thousands of hectares suitable for rice cultivation, especially in Sapu, Jahally Pacharr, Janjanbureh, Niani, and Balangarr are well utilised.

However, Mr. Sanyang called on authorities to empower young people that are into agriculture valued chain.

He added that if young entrepreneurs are empowered it would create more employment and help attain food self-sufficiency drive of the government.

Bubacarr Sidibeh, regional youth chairperson for the Upper River Region (URR) said: “The youth empowerment in URR is just about 40 to 50 percent. This means a lot needs to be done in terms of youth empowerment in my region,” he said.

He said there is need for decentralisation of job opportunities for youth of rural regions to be employed and contribute to the development of the country.

Sidibeh said the young people of his region want the government to provide them with skills training centres, job opportunities, and access to finance to make them more productive.

“We also want the government to provide finance to the URR regional youth committee so that we will be able to implement our activities such

as entrepreneurship training, mentorship, sensitizations, and other programmes,” he said, adding “without finance the RYC would find it difficult to execute its functions.”

Ousman Sanneh, regional youth chairperson for the Lower River Region (LRR) said the government is empowering youth but urged them to intensify efforts

in their empowerment drive for young entrepreneurs.

“The government should expand the support base for young entrepreneurs. Government should increase the revolving fund. The grant is often D50, 000 and sometime D150, 000. There is a need to be increased that amount to D500, 000 or D1million because D50, 000 Or D150, 000 is too small for a serious business

persons,” he said.

He recommended to the government to improve the infrastructural development of sports facilities in the region. He said the Soma Mini Stadium is in a poor condition and sub-standard. However, he called on the government to standardize the mini stadium as well as provide a volleyball court in the facility.

Conference sub-committee chair speaks



Ndegan Jobe, chairperson of the conference sub-committee of the National Youth Conference and Festival, NAYCONF has described the performance and representation of women in this year’s convergence as topnotch.

The calls from regions and gender activists for more inclusion and representation of women and girls in NAYCONF have been heard by organisers.

Unlike previous NAYCONF, this year, the NAYCONF has introduced a special sub-

committee on gender. This is aimed at ensuring gender inclusivity in the biannual event. This has attracted an increased number of women delegates in the NAYCONF in various activities including sports and festival competitions among others.

“We are not having more men as usual, we have a lot of women in the NAYCONF this time around because it was a criteria, set during the planning in other to bring equal gender representation from every regions in this year’s NAYCONF,” she said.

She added that the only activity that women did not per take in the NAYCONF is the sporting activities targeting only male (wrestling) but apart from that women participated in all other activities this year.

“We have very brave and eloquent young women participants and they’ve been participating and doing really well make sure that issues of gender are mainstreamed in all discussion,” she explained.

Ms Jobe advised women to not wait for opportunities to be given to them but should instead go grab the already available opportunities at their disposal.

Meanwhile, since independence in 1965, numerous laws and policies have been passed to advance gender equality and women’s rights in The Gambia. However, the representation of women in positions of power and decision-making within public and private bodies and representative institutions at national and local levels and within political parties remains low.

NAYCONF draught tournament hopes to encourage youth



By Aisha Tamba

Mr. Gibril Martin, coordinator of draught competition at the ongoing National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF), has said, that the draught competition could even motivate youth to participate in international draught games. The 13th edition of the NAYCONF brought together 12 participants from all the regions of the country. "Since the inception of the NAYCONF the draught competition has always been good. "It is a mind game and we have youth who can play well and can represent The Gambia at international competitions. We

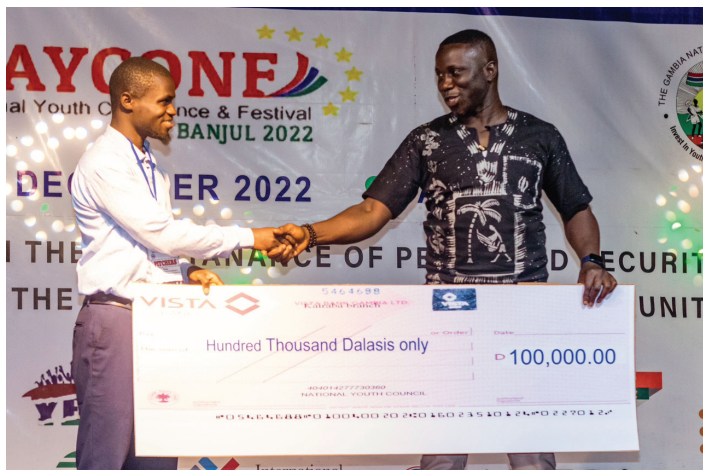
can produce competent draft players," he told NAYCONF Daily.

He added: "All the regions have brought participants to compete in the 13th edition of the draught tournament. So they all want to win and leave here with glory. The game is watched and they are playing through standard procedures. So there is no cheating," he said.

Modou Jagne, participant for the Kanifing Municipality and the defending champion expressed optimism of winning the tournament. "I am hoping for the best because I have games to win to defend my championship. This is an excellent game," he said. He said draught is worldwide

recommend game and it is the best game. "I want to take the trophy to my region," he confidently told NAYCONF Daily. He highlighted that the coordination of the draught competition is good, acknowledging that the judges are doing a great job as far as the NAYCONF draught tournament is concerned.

Mr. Jagne has participated in previous NAYCONF tournament and won three trophies. He is currently leading the competition. Out of the seven games he played in this tournament, he has won six games and one drew. Abdoulie Darboe, veteran draught player called on Gambian youth participate on draught, saying it is as important as other sports.



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Delegates Applauds Health Fair at NAYCONF

By Awa Macalo

As part of events at the National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF), the health sub-committee in partnership with FANTANKA conducted a health fair at St Joseph Senior Secondary School ground.

The health fair was aimed at screening, the blood and sugar levels of delegates and as well raise

awareness of the health implications of Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI) and Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STDs) through the distribution of contraceptives.

Monikou Badjie, the health volunteer, thanked delegates for coming out in numbers to get screened and know their sugar and blood levels.

"We are so glad that participants are coming and are really acknowledging the fair because they need to know their health status,

especially the young ones here," he said.

He explained that since they started, the majority of the people received are youth and this shows that the country needs to advocate for more of these tests for young people to know their status and the steps to take about their health.

"We are also giving out health contraceptive pills, you cannot just look at someone and conclude

that they are free from STDs and STIs and we are glad that youth are coming out to get them," he said.

He added: "We are not saying that they are sexually active, but some of them just collect it on behalf of their friends or relative to prevent them from STIs."

The health team is also provided with height and weight tests (BMI test). This, according to the organizers will help people to know their weight, and whether they are obsessed.

Alagie Jarjue, Executive Director

of the National Youth Council, commended the health committee and FANTANKA for organizing this important occasion.

"One thing is obvious, we are too engaged with other stuff, we barely have time to conduct health tests and checkups, except when we are ill. This is relevant. Knowing one's health status is important and is the way forward for a healthier person," he said.

Yahya Sowe from West Region has not checked his health status for more than four years, he said. With the NAYCONF free health screening, he was able to confirm and know his health. "I have never realized that my blood pressure was low until today. This is why it is important to be screened and be aware of one's health conditions," Mr. Sowe said. Sowe urged his fellow delegates to make the best use of the screening opportunity and check their health status.



Volleyball Officials Impress With Talents Discovered at NAYCONF

By Lamin Fadera

Top officials of the Gambia Volleyball Federation have expressed delight with the talent they discovered in the ongoing National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF) in Banjul. All 7 regions have volleyball players participating in the weeklong tournament. Many players show class with great performance and the youthful exuberance was incredible.

In an exclusive interview with NAYCONF Daily, Coach Pa Baboucarr Barrow, National Volleyball Team Head Coach, impressed his impression with the talents he saw during the competition.

"This is a NAYCONF with a difference; it is a platform where a lot of young stars, upcoming players, and talents are discovered. Nonetheless, we have great talents if we invest in them, the Gambia will have a lot of awards in the future," Barrow said.

Barrow, who guided the Gambia volleyball team to the Commonwealth games earlier this year is confident that NAYCONF will help coaches to have good Volleyball players who can become national assets in the future.

"If you look at the teams from North Bank and Central River Regions they have amazing talents and can be scouted and play in clubs and even at the national level," he said.

Coach Barrow urged the government to build more infrastructure facilities in the country to help the growth of the pool of talent in the country. He said this will help the country a great deal in the development of the country, especially indoor courts.

"We really need an indoor court so that our players can get used to playing in such conditions, if not, it will really affect our performance. Our players have to be exposed to such facilities to boost their performance at the

international level. Our players usually go for international competition but they do struggle to adapt to the sounds of an indoor court. An indoor court will be a great advantage to the country," Barrow said.

Alagie Ceessay, Technical Director of the Gambia Volleyball Federation amazed by the pool of talents he saw especially from the regions.

"This will add a great value in the development of volleyball in the country because we have seen coaches in the league taking notes and scouting talents," he said.

"Manneh Sillah volleyball court has not been functional for a while, but organisers of NAYCONF revitalized it and that is good for the development of volleyball in Banjul," he said.

The volleyball federation officials highlighted the need for the construction of an indoor court in the Gambia to boost the chance of Gambian players at the international level.

Debutant Ebrima Camara of Banjul Won NAYCONF Draught Championship

By Lamin Fadera

Ebrima Camara, a delegate from host Banjul has won the draught championship in the ongoing 13th edition of the National Youth Conference and Festivals (NAYCONF).

Mr. Camara defeated the three times winner Modou Jagne of the Kanifing Municipality who finished 2nd.

Out of eleven games played, Mr Camara won nine, drew two, and lost none and accumulated twenty-six (29) points, while former champion Modou Jagne of Kanifing Municipality finished the second position with twenty-eight (28) points after playing eleven (11) matches one(1) draw one (1)defeat and nine (9) wins.

Amadou Touray of Kanifing Municipality took the third position with twenty-six (26) points and Modou Khan of Banjul, fourth with 26 points respectively.

Gibril Martins, coordinator of the draught told NAYCONF daily that it is very significant to play the regional championship in the capital city Banjul. He said the previous NAYNCONF winner conquer the championship three times in a row, but now there is a new winner.

“Modou Njie won three draught championships in a row with a very unique way of playing, but Ebrima was able to defeat him this time around. This is the first time he is playing, I think is really amazing for him to win the competition and is good for his confidence,” he said.

Mr. Martin said they intend to introduce draught to schools across the county and it will be of benefit to schools and the children’s intelligence.

Assistant Coordinator Kebba B Jadama said it is important for people to embrace draught because is a sport which helps individuals in reasoning well.



Below are the final results of the NAYCONF draught championship

NO	Names of Participants	Region	Games	Win	Draw	Lose	Points	Position
1	Ebrima Camara	Banjul	11	9	2	0	29	1st
2	Modou Jagne	KM	11	9	1	1	28	2nd
3	Amadou Touray	KM	11	8	2	0	26	3rd
4	Momodou Khan	Banjul	11	8	2	1	26	4th
5	Sana Sidibeh	CRR	11	6	1	4	19	5th
6	Modou Touray	CRR	11	5	2	4	17	6th
7	Mbemba Trawally	LRR	11	5	1	5	16	7th
8	Bakary Susso	WCR	11	4	0	7	12	8th
9	Haruna Baldeh	URR	11	3	1	7	10	9th
10	Lamin Kinteh	NBR	11	1	0	10	3	10th
11	Samba Danjo	URR	11	0	0	11	0	11th
12	Modou Jobe	NBR	11	0	0	11	0	12th

Over All Rankings				
Positions	Region	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1 st	Banjul	3	2	0
2 nd	Kanifing Municipality	2	3	0
3 rd	North Bank Region	1	1	2
4 th	Upper River Region	0	0	3
5 th	Central River Region	0	0	1
6 th	West Coast Region	0	0	0

Rank	66 kg	76 kg	86 kg	100 kg	120 kg	Medals
1 st	NBR	Banjul	KM	Banjul	KM	Gold
2 nd	Banjul	KM	NBR	KM	Banjul	Silver
3 rd	URR	NBR	URR	NBR	URR	Bronze