Honesty and Patriotism

“We have a choice to make – work harder with absolute honesty.”

THE EYE OF THE MIND

GUEST SPEAKER AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE EYE MAGAZINE

INSPIRER

MENTAL ILLNESS, WHO IS NEXT?... RESEMBLING THE OPPOSITE
SEX... Brain Drain in Africa –WHO IS TO BLAME?... “I LEARNT TO BE A MASTER OF MY OWN”....
The Beginning of the Herculean Journey....
Studio Kanteh’s Printing Palace
Designing, Printing & Publishing
Is Our Business

Deliveries Are Made As Promised

ADDRESS: Wellingara Kombo Coastal Road, Wellingara Cinema Shop # 5
Tel: +220 7052120, 9720153   E-mail: studiokpp@yahoo.com

Help The Eye Magazine by giving Designing and Printing Contracts to Studio Kanteh’s Printing Palace
Editorial

Youth participation in Decision making-The Gambian scenario.

It’s widely acknowledged that democratic, tolerant and just societies are only sustained by citizens who can make educated use of opportunities for participation. This does not in any small way elude the government of the Gambia as it has and continues to encourage the involvement of young women and men in the making of decisions affecting their own lives. It has always been emphasized in many quarters of the world that the active participation of young people in the decision making, implementation and evaluation of youth friendly health services, anti-drug abuse programmes the Gambia’s national youth policy is fully cognizant of this.

With the inception of the National Youth Conference and Festival in 1999, youth participation has been centered around the following components: Economic participation, which relates to work and development; political participation, which relates to decision making processes and distribution of power; social participation, which relates to community involvement and peer group and cultural participation which relates to the art, music, cultural values and expressions.

Indeed, youth empowerment includes the participation of young men and women not only in decision making but also in society, through access to education, employment opportunities and health facilities as well as to resources, such as land and credit. Although the concept of youth empowerment concentrates in the growing opportunities for young people and their achievements in society, it recognizes that much of the potentials of youths are yet to be realized in most parts of the world, particularly in developing countries.

With a firm knowledge that young people are the cream of the nation and future leaders, there is enough reason to prove that the empowerment of youth is quite colossal to be left to government alone. We should all remember that a society that cuts itself from the youth empowerment of youth is quite colossal to be left to government alone.

Further, given the fact that most if not all of you are not formally trained on the art of journalism which is undoubtedly a very challenging field, I wish to seize this opportunity to encourage you to keep reading yourselves and consulting with people who have an in-depth knowledge and experience in the trade so that you would not fall short of standards like accurate or factual reporting. What am trying to put across here is that you must have an insatiable thirst for knowledge. One way of doing this is to avail yourself of the opportunities presented by the internet otherwise referred to as the information super-highway.

Let me also warn you against being over ambitious in the drive to keep youths, and by extension the public informed. you must fully understand issues first before you and your team of budding can effectively deal with them which could put the credibility of your paper at risk. Don’t bring a particular topic just because that’s what you want to treat but your choice of subjects in the various columns must be based on relevance instead of your liking for them. In the face of growing concerns over climate change and other environmental related crisis I would suggest that you dedicate a special column to the environment so that burning issues relating to it can be discussed.

While I call on all and sundry, particularly the private sector to come forward and patronize you both morally and by way of adverts you must bear in mind that the success of this worthwhile initiative rests not on the shoulders of anyone but yourselves. All what it takes is for you to prove that you can do it despite the odds. So keep the ball rolling and you shall triumph with the help of God.

Momodou S. Jallow Nusrat Sen. Sec. School 10Arts 1

Published By: Studio Kanteh’s Printing Palace
Reporters and Columnists
Ida Jeng
Baboucarr Jofa
Abdoullie Jobe
Modou B. Leigh
Siaka K. Dibba
Lamin Kanteh
Manta Barjo
Mamadi Jallow
Kaddy Jabbi
Sainey Singhatheh
Siya Singhatheh
Saffiatou Colley
Awa Colley
Allhagie Assan Ceeseay

Contact us: theeyemagazine@gmail.com
Phone: (220) 7052120, 7822333, 6942712, 9720153
Address: Wellingara Kombo Coastal Road, Wellingara Cinema Shop No: 5
Sub Editors: Siaka K. Dibba
Modou Baldeh
Editors: Famara Fofana
Muhammed Jamaal Ceeseay

Letter to the Editor

The Eye Magazine, how can it be sustained?

As a young person myself and somebody who is very much interested and concerned about the development and welfare of young people, I welcome wholeheartedly the move by you to come up with a monthly publication that is designed to highlight and bring to the fore issues affecting youth, who are often regarded as the future of a society like ours. Indeed, your undertaking is a noble one and an example that ought to be emulated by all young Gambians although am not saying that each and every young person must venture into a literary enterprise like the one you doing.

However, you must put at the back of your mind that you have set a precedent for others and that you must not relent in ensuring that it flourish and stand the test of time. As it is, there exist out there so many young people who want to where you are because to them you have proven that despite one’s age or academic level, with determination backed by the desire to succeed one will surmount the many hurdles in life. At this experimental stage of the eye magazine, I implore you to remain focus, steadfast and more importantly remain united for unity is and would remain crucial if you are to realize your goal of creating a nation of well informed youths.

Further, given the fact that most if not all of you are not formally trained on the art of journalism which is undoubtedly a very challenging field, I wish to seize this opportunity to encourage you to keep reading yourselves and consulting with people who have an in-depth knowledge and experience in the trade so that you would not fall short of standards like accurate or factual reporting. What am trying to put across here is that you must have an insatiable thirst for knowledge. One way of doing this is to avail yourself of the opportunities presented by the internet otherwise referred to as the information super-highway.

Let me also warn you against being over ambitious in the drive to keep youths, and by extension the public informed. you must fully understand issues first before you and your team of budding can effectively deal with them which could put the credibility of your paper at risk. Don’t bring a particular topic just because that’s what you want to treat but your choice of subjects in the various columns must be based on relevance instead of your liking for them. In the face of growing concerns over climate change and other environmental related crisis I would suggest that you dedicate a special column to the environment so that burning issues relating to it can be discussed.

While I call on all and sundry, particularly the private sector to come forward and patronize you both morally and by way of adverts you must bear in mind that the success of this worthwhile initiative rests not on the shoulders of anyone but yourselves. All what it takes is for you to prove that you can do it despite the odds. So keep the ball rolling and you shall triumph with the help of God.

Momodou S. Jallow Nusrat Sen. Sec. School 10Arts 1

GET TO KNOW!

Text or Send your E-mail address to 7822333/9720153 or E-mail: theeyemagazine@gmail.com and received a copy of the magazine monthly at you mail box.
The Gambia, like any other country welcomed the attainment of self rule in grand style after hundreds of years of British rule. It was the dawn of a new era for freedom means self reliance and better access to education and development in other spheres of life. Forty five years on since the Union Jack was lowered and the red white blue green flag of the Gambia was hoisted to usher in the birth of a new nation, what lessons have we learnt?

That’s the question we all have to ponder over, for self rule means tightening our belts towards the attainment of the goals the nation set for herself during that epoch making day. 18th February each year is undoubtedly a date that put smiles on the face of each and every Gambian who would be living witness to the yearly celebration. But first how did it all begin. Unlike many African countries, The Gambia did not have to take up arms to fight for her independence. However, this does not imply that independence was attained on a silver plate. Rather, it was the culmination of decades of relentless struggle by selfless nationalists, trade unionists as well as politicians.

Most prominent among such nationalists was Pa Edward Francis Small, who founded the first organized anti-colonial vanguard in the Gambia, The Gambia Labour Union. This body was formed in the wake of the historic labour unrest in 1929, which became the vanguard against alien rule and for almost two decades its leader, Mr. Small, led the struggle against forced taxation without representation, development or freedom. Before its split, Pa Small’s organized labour movement kept the colonialists on their toes with many successful workers strikes and agitations which culminated into the 1961 strike.

Earlier and not less important, manifestations of The Gambia Independence struggle were the 1958 All-Party Independence Agreement and the 1959 Bathurst uprising, the so-called bread and butter demonstration. These were sparked off by the arrogance of the visiting British Secretary for colonies, Lennox Boyd, who had refuse to receive a pro-independent petition from a group of nationalists led by A.E. Cham Joof. The demos rattled the British colonialists and the subsequent arrests and trial of the leaders helped to galvanize popular opinion against colonial authorities.

The 1961 constitutional talks in London were crucial in the attainment of Independence. The talks were attended by the following delegates; Rev John Colley Faye and I.M. Garba Jahumpa representing the Democratic Congress Alliance (DCA); Dawda Jawara and Sheriff Sissay represented the Protectorate Peoples Party (PPP); P.S. Njie and Michael Baldeh represented the (UP); Chief Omar Mbacke represented Chiefs; and M.E. Jallow, Henry Madi and Mrs. Rachael Palmer were labour and independent observers, respectively.

The 1964 talks on the other hand, appropriately named the Independence Conference was attended by the following delegates: D.K. Jawara, Sheriff Dibba, Sheriff Sesay, A.B. Njie, Amang Kanyi for the PPP; Chief Omar Mbacke for the Chiefs; P.S. Njie, I.A.S. Burang John, K.W. Foon, M.C. Cham for the UP; I.M. Garba Jahumpha for the GCP; Famara Wassa Touray; Henry Madi and Rev J.C. Faye were independent observers.

Flag Up

At around midnight on 17th February 1965, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time in The Gambia, while the band played “God Save the Queen”. The crowd was silent, and tears in the eyes of some British Officials. At midnight on the 18th February, the new Red White Blue and Green Gambia Flag was unfurled at the top of the pole, while the National Anthem been sung. Gambians at this point in time could not hold their ears.

The Gambia, like any other country welcomed the attainment of self rule in grand style after hundreds of years of British rule. It was the dawn of a new era for freedom means self reliance and better access to education and development in other spheres of life. Forty five years on since the Union Jack was lowered and the red white blue green flag of the Gambia was hoisted to usher in the birth of a new nation, what lessons have we learnt?

That’s the question we all have to ponder over, for self rule means tightening our belts towards the attainment of the goals the nation set for herself during that epoch making day. 18th February each year is undoubtedly a date that put smiles on the face of each and every Gambian who would be living witness to the yearly celebration. But first how did it all begin. Unlike many African countries, The Gambia did not have to take up arms to fight for her independence. However, this does not imply that independence was attained on a silver plate. Rather, it was the culmination of decades of relentless struggle by selfless nationalists, trade unionists as well as politicians.

Most prominent among such nationalists was Pa Edward Francis Small, who founded the first organized anti-colonial vanguard in the Gambia, The Gambia Labour Union. This body was formed in the wake of the historic labour unrest in 1929, which became the vanguard against alien rule and for almost two decades its leader, Mr. Small, led the struggle against forced taxation without representation, development or freedom. Before its split, Pa Small’s organized labour movement kept the colonialists on their toes with many successful workers strikes and agitations which culminated into the 1961 strike.

Earlier and not less important, manifestations of The Gambia Independence struggle were the 1958 All-Party Independence Agreement and the 1959 Bathurst uprising, the so-called bread and butter demonstration. These were sparked off by the arrogance of the visiting British Secretary for colonies, Lennox Boyd, who had refuse to receive a pro-independent petition from a group of nationalists led by A.E. Cham Joof. The demos rattled the British colonialists and the subsequent arrests and trial of the leaders helped to galvanize popular opinion against colonial authorities.

The 1961 constitutional talks in London were crucial in the attainment of Independence. The talks were attended by the following delegates; Rev John Colley Faye and I.M. Garba Jahumpa representing the Democratic Congress Alliance (DCA); Dawda Jawara and Sheriff Sissay represented the Protectorate Peoples Party (PPP); P.S. Njie and Michael Baldeh represented the (UP); Chief Omar Mbacke represented Chiefs; and M.E. Jallow, Henry Madi and Mrs. Rachael Palmer were labour and independent observers, respectively.

The 1964 talks on the other hand, appropriately named the Independence Conference was attended by the following delegates: D.K. Jawara, Sheriff Dibba, Sheriff Sesay, A.B. Njie, Amang Kanyi for the PPP; Chief Omar Mbacke for the Chiefs; P.S. Njie, I.A.S. Burang John, K.W. Foon, M.C. Cham for the UP; I.M. Garba Jahumpha for the GCP; Famara Wassa Touray; Henry Madi and Rev J.C. Faye were independent observers.

Flag Up

At around midnight on 17th February 1965, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time in The Gambia, while the band played “God Save the Queen”. The crowd was silent, and tears in the eyes of some British Officials. At midnight on the 18th February, the new Red White Blue and Green Gambia Flag was unfurled at the top of the pole, while the National Anthem been sung. Gambians at this point in time could not hold their ears.
18 February, as such, will forever remain an important day in this country until doomsday, and as we look forward to more independence anniversaries, all and sundry must be reminded about the obligations that go side by side with nationhood. This brings to mind president Jammeh’s call for Gambians to use this year’s anniversary as a moment of reflection on our past, gains registered now as well as the aims the country set for itself.

“This was the most sensational and pathetic moment when, it was, at last realized that the shackles were not only about our wrist and ankles, but also round our necks, waists and everywhere, but have by God’s grace been broken and shattered, and we now are as God intended us to be in the continent in which He has place us” (Enter Gambia).

Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara became the country’s Prime Minister at independence. Five years later, a new constitution, approved in a referendum in April 1970, transformed the nation into a republic. Sir Dawda Jawara, became President of the Republic in 1970.

The role of the press in The Gambia’s Independence Struggle is no less significant. The pioneer, Mr. E.F. Small’s Senegambia Outlook untiringly exposed the contradictions and excesses of colonialism, in spite of harsh censorship and forced exile heaped on its editor. Equally scathing against colonial rule were Mr. Finden Daily, whose publications exposed racism at Bansang hospital; Lenrie Peters and Downes Thomas whose newspaper, The Gambia Echo, was always on the offensive against British rule; Pierre Sock, editor of African Unity and Spark; and Dixon Colley, who published The National Newspaper were other noble anti-colonialist journalists. In spite of limited resources and restricted circulation, these media outfit succeeded in shaping the opinion of the reading urban elite against colonial rule and also to some extent, informed the outside world about the independence struggle. For instance, while attending an editors’ conference in London in 1943, Downes-Thomas distributed copies of his newspaper to media houses in the UK, such as West African and The Daily Worker, which made reprints of its outspoken anti-colonialist articles’ further constitutional development followed.

Gymnastics Display Independence Day Night 1965 Maccarthy Square
STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY SHEIKH PROFESSOR ALHAJI DR. YAHYA A.J.J. JAMMEH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE GAMBIA’S 45TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2010

Your Excellencies Distinguished Heads of State and Chief Guests of Honour Maitre Abdoulaye Wade And General Saikouba Conateh

Your Excellency, The Vice President

Honourable Speaker of The National Assembly

My Lord The Chief Justice

Excellencies, Our Distinguished Guests Representing Their Heads of State

Honourable Ministers and Ministers of State

Honourable Members of The National Assembly

Secretary General and Head of The Civil Service

Service Chiefs

The Lord Mayor of Banjul

Your Excellencies, Members of The Diplomatic and Consular Corps

Governors, Paramount Chief and Seyfolus

Our Special Guests from The United States of America

Venerable Religious Leaders

APRC Militants, Yai Compins

Green Youths

Teachers, Boys and Girls

Distinguished Guest Ladies And Gentlemen

Today marks the 45th Anniversary of our country’s independence, and as we celebrate with joy and reflections, we should all give back thanks and praises to the Almighty Allah for enabling us to witness yet another independence day when we recount with gratitude, the achievements of the past decades, and anticipate the challenges of the coming years.

The day is a moment indeed to reflect on what we should do better, stronger, with added vigour and perseverance to move The Gambia forward to becoming the nation as imagined in our Vision 2020 development blueprint. It is therefore a moment for individual as well as collective soul searching for answers to questions of what we must do in order to overcome the daunting challenges and the unending task of nation building.

This year, I have decided to select ‘honesty and patriotism’ as the theme to underscore the importance of these two attributes, in the absence of which no nation, no matter how recourses endowed it may be or how well meaning its government is, could achieve rapid sustainable development. In short, I wish to reiterate the need for all of us to inculcate and demonstrate a more practical show of honesty, and selfless services to and infinite love of our dear motherland, the Gambia. We must put The Gambia first before self, and work together in peace, unity, and mutual respect if we are to earn the blessings of The Almighty Allah for us to build one of the greatest nations on earth. It is not a far-fetched dream since small countries like Singapore were able to do it with meager resources. For us to build a modern nation that is better than the rest, we must be ready to put our fate in Allah first and put our country’s interest above our individual interest.

Fellow Gambians, We must be ready to work harder and for longer hours with the little salaries that our country can afford now until such time that the Gambia is wealthy enough to pay fat salaries. This is what the Japanese, the Chinese and Singaporeans had to do before becoming what they are today; modern economic giants where low salaries are a thing of the past.

We have a choice to make – work harder with absolute honesty and build an ultra modern nation in a short span of time; where poverty, small salaries and backwardness would be a thing of the past or work less, be dishonest and stagnate the country into a backward nation where poverty, destitution and low wages would be the order of the day. Nobody can sacrifice without being honest. You cannot be honest if you do not believe in Allah the Almighty and fear Him.

Fellow Gambians, I am confident that after forty-five years of independence, every Gambian knows what the benefits of honesty, hard work and patriotism are. Four hundred years of British rule, not even one Gambian was ever commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant in the Colonial Army. Four hundred years of British rule, not a single Gambian was trained by the colonial master to be a Medical Doctor. Four hundred years of British rule, not a single Gambian was trained to be a scientist. Four hundred years of British rule, they built only one High School (Armitage High School) and two hospitals – Bansang and Royal Victoria Hospitals. Four hundred years of British rule, they constructed only one highway – Banjul to Somalia. Four hundred years of British rule, they did not build even one two-storey building. And at the time of Independence 45 years ago, there were less than fifteen air conditioners in the country and less than five hundred ceiling fans. Four hundred years of British rule did not give us more than four megawatts of electricity in the whole country. In fact, four hundred years of British rule less than one percent of the country was electrified. Today, 45 years, The Gambia has become a modern country to be reckoned with. Today, 75% of the big towns and cities are electrified, including street lights.

Four hundred years of British rule left us with 95% of the population without potable drinking water. Today, 85% of the population have potable, accessible and reliable drinking water. Today, we have more high schools and modern tertiary institutions and a university that can stand up to any modern university anywhere in the world!!!

At the time of Independence 45 years ago, we had less than five Gambians holding a Bachelors degree and none with a Masters degree thanks to the colonial Government.

One may be tempted to ask why I am reminding the Gambians of what has happened under colonial rule? The answer is very simple. This is because Africans are perceived by the same countries that colonized us, to be incapable of Governing well i.e. provide Good Governance. I am tempted to ask you this Question – what is Good Governance? Build one high school, no university and two hospitals in four hundred years or build hundreds of schools, hospitals and a university in fifteen years! Today, we have more than six hundred graduates here in The Gambia! We have more than sixty Medical Doctors in fifteen years trained by The Gambia Government. Today, we have a modern airport, modern highways including street lighting. Still we are accused of bad governance! Not one surviving colonial building was built by the British except for the forts defence and James Island Fort for keeping slaves and the Mile Two Prisons, later on, the same James Island Fort was used to stop slavery.

If we were incapable of caring for our people before the colonial era, and if we were such ruthless rulers, how come there were no prisons in the whole of Africa before the coming of the white man? In Africa and more so The Gambia, there is no local name for a “prison” in any of the local languages! Still we are not democrats and not capable of Good Governance!! Fellow Gambians, boys and girls, let nobody fool you. We have seen the difference between Gambia four hundred years and under British rule, and Gambia thirty years after Independence and fifteen years after the July 22nd 1994 Revolution.
My Dear Compatriots,
Let us unite with honesty; work hard and this country will surpass Great Britain in five more years Allah willing. Nobody is going to develop our country for us. Nobody can love this country more than we the citizens of this country.

Only we The Gambians working together and putting our collective national interest first can make this country an economic super power we aspire to be in the very near future, Allah willing.

As we celebrate 45 years of Nationhood, let us reflect on where we came from, where we are today and where we would want to be tomorrow. Where we shall be tomorrow depends first on Allah the Almighty and we the Gambian people.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
I want to take this opportunity to thank all our true friends who through the years have been and continue to be very benevolent to this country. True friends they are who stood with us through thick and thin and continue to stand by our side as we march towards a very glorious, dignified, peaceful and prosperous Gambia where poverty, destitution and backwardness would be history.

In Allah we put our destiny. In Allah we entrust our Nation’s destiny. With Allah on our side, we shall never fail. We shall never be backward. We shall never be colonized, enslaved or subjugated again. Not even for one day.

Fellow Gambians,
In general, Africa’s progress has been retarded and continues to be so, largely because of the attitude of some African Leaders and intellectuals, who fail in their duties and responsibilities, and often in their deceit of the poor, the illiterate and the vulnerable, promote corruption, disunity and the continuous plundering of the continent’s vast resources at the expense of Africa.

I would like to warn that these unpatriotic and opportunistic tendencies no longer have a place or space to thrive in The Gambia of today, because patriots no matter their size and numerers, would not relent but instead triumph in their struggle to defend and protect the interest of the masses from the man-made calamities of today that are abound in many parts of the continent.

B\Like honesty, patriotism requires good and positive thinking and not tribalism and malicious acts that only lead to discord, disunity, and instability, which, as a continent we should not and would no longer tolerate.

Fellow Gambians,

Honesty and Patriotism in nation-building also require that we move from conducting ‘business as usual’ to adopting innovative, more responsive and improved measures, systems and processes. Development is only possible through the adoption of a revolutionary path and a radical but well guided departure from carefree or non committal attitude. I therefore wish to call on all of you to be more committed to the delivery of effective, efficient and honest services to our dear Motherland. It is only when we do so that we can cut down on the high transaction costs as well as the time involved in delivering public services. In our pursuit to become distinctly identified as the most progressive nation, I would like urge that we all work hard with honesty at all time to make The Gambia a citadel for economic prosperity for the rest of mankind in general, and the African continent in particular to emulate.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to thank and congratulate all those persons who have contributed to the grandeur of the occasion, in particular our honoured and distinguished guests from countries friendly to The Gambia. I also wish to acknowledge with profound gratitude and appreciation, the efforts of parents, teachers and students to help inculcate in our children the values of honesty, love, and selfless service to the Motherland. This is particularly important because children everywhere constitute today’s hope for the future. Families should be wary of the threats of dangerous foreign cultures that are infiltrating our societies unchecked and exposing our children to lifestyles that are neither African nor Gambian and distinctly UNGODLY! Government’s responsibility in this critical endeavour is however limited only to creating the right environment that would ensure that our children are protected from all forms of exposure to such evil and anti human attributes so that they can develop into virtuous and Allah fearing adults. The family as a child’s first institution of learning has the bigger and more challenging role in moulding children into becoming responsible and dependable adults tomorrow.

For its part, I would like to assure you of my Government’s continued and unrelenting commitment to promote economic growth, achieve food self sufficiency and create the enabling environment for the promotion of equity and equality for all as critical ingredients to create a wealthy and prosperous country. My Government would not compromise and relent in its efforts to consolidate the achievements of the past fifteen years. In the coming years, with the help of the Almighty Allah, we will do no less than we have done, as I ask nothing more from you than sincere and committed partnership and rallying fully behind my Government. In this way, and together, we would rejoice in the Promised Land of plenty, and in greater prosperity, peace and love where each one of us would be our brother’s keeper.

Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Boys and Girls,
In conclusion, I would like to thank and congratulate all those persons who have contributed to the grandeur of the occasion, in particular our honoured and distinguished guests from countries friendly to The Gambia. I also wish to acknowledge with profound gratitude and appreciation, the efforts of parents, teachers and school children; and of course, the large turnout of the different cultural and voluntary groups as well as the APRC party militants, particularly those from the Regions. I also recognize with similar gratitude the presence of the diplomatic and consular corps here present and representing friendly governments and organizations that continue to stand by us at all times, ready to help us achieve the goals and objectives for which we set ourselves especially Vision 2020 and the MDGS.

I wish you all a very happy independence celebration.
“You are explorers and not adventurers”

Says HALIFA SALLAH, GUEST SPEAKER AT THE LAUNCHING OF ‘THE EYE MAGAZINE’

Explorers have a sense of purpose and direction. This is why they are discoverers. Adventurers however have no sense of direction. This is why they become shipwrecked in the wilderness of life.

You have made it very clear that the purpose of the Eye Magazine is to promote the culture of reading and writing; raise public awareness; bring information to the door steps of the people; keep the people informed; create a forum for interaction among young people; build the capacity of young people; ensure youth empowerment; and enhance the development of their potentials to the fullest. You know what you want and you are doing what is necessary to achieve your aims and aspirations. You are on the right track. You are focused. You are explorers and not adventures. This is why you are achieving results.

Allow me now to delve into the purpose of being here today. This ceremony, today, marks the beginning of the end of the Eye Newsletter and the beginning of beginning of the Eye Magazine. The Eye Newsletter is to wither away and The Eye Magazine is to arise and develop to take its place. This is the way of the world. Birth, Growth, transformation and development constitute the chain of existence.

The name of the Magazine is The Eye. Let me remind you that the eye is a diagnostic tool. We use it to peep through the windows of life to see the world around us. However, locked in a four cornered wall our vision would be curtailed and our mental horizon would be narrowed if we simply rely on the physical eye. Hence if we do not want our mental horizon not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind. For your information this is not to be restricted by concrete walls nor our vision be curtailed by the destruction of the physical eye, we must rely on another eye, the eye of the mind.

Yes indeed! The physical eye may be torn from its sockets while the person has a more far sighted vision than the person who has a physical eye to see. Such a person relies on the eye of the mind to have a greater understanding of the world around us. That Eye is knowledge. I have said it over and over and would like to reiterate again that information by itself is not knowledge. Information is the raw material for the production of knowledge. It is food for thought which must be digested by the mind to produce knowledge. Knowledge is also irrelevant until it is transformed into a way of life. This is how culture is built.

You have mentioned the type of issues your Magazine intends to cover. You have mentioned columns like the Gambian Your Life, Are we Living Right? Love and so on and so forth. No one has complete answers to all these issues. This means that the Magazine should open up to divergent views to gather all relevant information which could be transformed into knowledge to promote our understanding. Allow me to pose one question; could a young man be seen to be in love with a young woman he impregnates and then abandon? I am glad that all of you without exception answered in the negative. The Eye must therefore serve as a teacher; just look at the plays you have staged. They provide us with school about life. This is how human civilization developed. During classical times, rulers used to mobilize poets, singers, dramatists, researches, painters, sculptors and writers to compete to win their favor. Talented people would appear before the rulers to entertain them and their guests. Initially the poems and songs went to entertain the rulers. Hence they reflected the exploits of the kings and the nobleman. It did not take long for those who were subjects to understand the powers of the songs, the poems and the plays and decided to transform them from tools to entertain patrons to promoters of the right to dignity and self worth of each human person. These ideas about personal freedom which they promoted were eventually emboldened into legal or constitutional instruments and institutionalized into political systems thus giving rise to a 180 degrees turn of the wheel of civilization.

The lesson I want to draw should now be very clear. Writings, songs, drama and the arts in general are media outlets which have shaped the thinking of humanity over the years and gave them the capacity to propel the wheel of civilization. They have enabled human beings to be intelligent and resourceful. Hence they became thinkers, inventors, investors and builders. These are the building blocks of human civilization. It is therefore inspiring that you have discovered the rudiments of human civilization at this early age and are devoting yourselves to the mastery of the craft of developing the awareness which is the foundation for the development of a nation. You have become thinkers, inventors, investors and builders.

You are making the preparation that all young people need to make to be the Architects of their own destiny. You have become practitioners you are in a position now to make discoveries because of their resourcefulness. Do not allow difficulties to stifle the indomitable human spirit to achieve greater results. Transform them into challenges and broaden the horizons of your minds to address them and achieve higher heights. This is the challenge of destiny and must be faced to contribute to national development.

Allow me to offer few words that you may commit to memory. Thinkers are indeed indispensable to development. It is therefore necessary for your minds and pens to speak the language of truth. This is inconceivable until our hearts also speak the language of justice. Honesty must guide our conscience and our will power must speak the language of resolution. This is what will enable you to publish the truth in good faith in the public interest. Once the pen is bound by a honest and incorruptible conscience; a truthful mind; a just heart and strong will power, it will never yield to ill will, bribery, patronage, fear or tyranny. This is what will enable you the pioneers of the Eye Magazine to continue to be the thinkers, inventors, investors and builders of a modern society.

I have looked at your challenges. Inadequacy of material and financial resources are major constrains. Instead of a generation gap you can fill the vacuum by facilitating a marriage of generations by maintain a newspaper library so that young people will have access to information from diverse sources and ages. I am convinced that if Newspaper proprietors are approached they would not hesitate to donate 10 to 30 copies per issue for sale by the Eye Magazine as fundraising activity. The copies left for the library would also enable the Eye Magazine to be a focal point. The drama which unfolded before us gives adequate testimony to your talents and the need to collaborate with the Gambia Press Union to engage in fund raising activities to address the problems of material resources and training. You are explorers. Explorers excel to make discoveries because of their resourcefulness. Do not allow difficulties to stifle the indomitable human spirit to achieve greater results. Transform them into challenges and broaden the horizons of your minds to address them and achieve higher heights. This is the challenge of destiny and must be faced to contribute to national development.
Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara (born 1924) led his nation, The Gambia, to independence and became its first president until a regime change in 1994. This veterinary surgeon brought years of stable parliamentary democracy to Africa's smallest republic.

Jawara was born in a Muslim society to a Mandinka family at Barajally, MacCarthy Island Division, now Central River Region. He was educated in a local Muslim primary institution and later at the Methodist Boys' Grammar School. From 1945 to 1947 Jawara was a trainee nurse in the Gambia Medical Department.

Medical School
Awarded a veterinary scholarship, Jawara spent a year studying science at Achimoto College in the Gold Coast (now Ghana). After passing his intermediate Bachelor of Science examination, he entered the University of Glasgow and graduated from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1953. Jawara was president of the African Students' Union during his Scotland days.

Upon his return to Africa as his country's first veterinarian, Jawara worked upcountry for a short while before joining the government veterinary service in January 1954. In 1958, a year after earning a diploma in tropical veterinary medicine from Glasgow, he became the colony's principal veterinary officer, a post he held until February 1960. Concerned with the uneven level of development between his predominantly native Mandinka area and the capital city Bathurst, he joined the Protectorate People's Party in 1959. By December, he was in charge of the organization, which changed its name to the People's Progressive Party. Jawara resigned from his government post to contest in the May 1960 elections, in which he won a seat in the House of Representatives. Appointed minister of education (1960-1961) by the British, he spent part of that time in London as a member of a finance delegation.

When Pierre Saar NJie, leader of the Opposition United Party, was appointed first chief minister of the colony in 1961, Jawara resigned from the government. In the next election, the People's Progressive Party won the majority of House seats, and Jawara was called on to form a government. He thus became Gambia's first premier. When The Gambia achieved independence, on February 18, 1965, he became the prime minister of this smallest African nation. Located on the western coast and containing only 4,127 square miles, The Gambia is a 30 mile-wide strip of land surrounded on three sides by Senegal. Jawara negotiated the Defense and Foreign Representation Agreement, which placed an independent Gambia within the protection of Senegal's foreign affairs.
Today marks the beginning of the end of the Eye Newsletter and the beginning of the beginning of the Eye Magazine” said Hon Halifa Sallah, the guest speaker at the Launching of “The Eye Magazine”, held on the 23rd January, 2010 at the joint Officers Mess in Kotu. The occasion witnessed the transformation of the newsletter into a monthly magazine.

In his welcoming remarks, a sub editor at The Eye Magazine, Siaka K. Dibba, said The Eye NEWSLETTER now the EYE MAGAZINE is an initiative of a group of young people some of whom are still in school is now on a new pedestal. As a non-political paper, he said the initiative is “aimed at promoting and instilling a culture of reading and writing into the youth. The literary enterprise can today boast of being the only of its kind in the country that is at the fore of harnessing the writing skills of young people especially students with a knack for the art”.

Dibba further disclosed that since its inception dating back to the eye newsletter, 24 editions were published, each with over 300 copies. In the course of the past year, these publications were distributed to government institutions, businesses, schools, students and ordinary people “without a penny attached to it”.

Binta Singhateh, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Information and Information Technology, described Journalism as a profession that has a long history of nobility and instrumentality in promoting democracy, good governance, as well as societal development.

Mrs. Singhateh called on all stakeholders in the Print Media to turn their faces to these young people. “I have learnt that the road to this point has been very rough since inception, and will be rougher if the trend continues as it is now more challenging”.

Halifa Sallah commended The Eye team for their hard work, commitment and determination and for the brilliant idea of graduating from a newsletter to a monthly magazine. See the full text of Hon. Sallah speech on page (6).

Deputizing for the Minister of Youth and Sports, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mambanjik Njie, described the initiative as a step in the right discretion. He further went on to say that journalism is a noble profession, which does not require a hard and fast rule to be admitted into a journalism school to become a journalist. But to be good one, he believes, the talent and the readiness to report accurately”, he said.

“My ministry exploits at all available avenues to support The Eye Magazine to reach its destination”, noting that his ministry recognizes the talents of young people. Other speakers included the Executive Secretary of National Youth Council, Marcel Mendy. The launching was attended by members of the inky fraternity, students among a host of others.

By Lamin Kanteh
In our quest to search for homegrown talents, we feature a motorcycle repairer and dynamic youngster in the field of mechanical engineering, Momodou Wuri Bah. The Twenty-year old Gambian stopped at grade nine but that’s not holding him back. Read on………..

**“I LEARNT TO BE A MASTER OF MY OWN”**

E.M. How did you start your career?

M.W.B During my school days I was really committed to what I was doing academically but at the same time I had a very keen interest in vocational skills. It all started during those days when I will be closing from work and would pass by a mechanical workshop. Having got inspired by what I have been seeing I did not waste time to seize this opportunity by the neck. After undergoing training there for sometime, I moved to my uncle’s workshop where I learnt a lot.

E.M. Why did you leave school so early?

M.W.B I left school due to financial constraint but if I get the support I will still go back to school as the saying goes “its better late than never”. But this time around I would love to undergo formal Technical Training so that I can acquire at least a certificate. This will also enable me fit into any society I may find myself in.

E.M Do you really like the job?

M.W.B Yes I do love it because it helps me take care of my own financial problems and even that of my siblings and parents. To be precise, I can support myself through the profession.

E.M How is work, are you getting sales as you would have desired?

M.W.B Well, business in all aspects is a matter of profit or loss. At times some people will be passing by to buy spare parts, some come to repair their bicycles or motorbikes which are sometimes paid long after being taken care of. There are times when sales become good but the opposite is the case productive in certain instances. Despite all the challenges, everyday I have something to take home. So I thank God for that.

E.M What is your advice to our readers particularly youths?

M.W.B Well, my advice to young people is that, let them engage in something meaningful rather than sitting and folding their arms. Let them desist from traveling without using the legal ways because even if you are lucky to make it to Europe, you may find it so tough without skills. A good number of young people are jobless today because they have not acquired any skill. So skills acquisition, particularly for out-of-school youth is just crucial. I would like to remind young people that no body is born with wealth, people work for it by starting from nothing to something. So am appealing to all of them to engage in something meaningful before letting foreigners to take over or dominate in all spheres of skill work.

E.M How did you start your career?

M.W.B During my school days I was really committed to what I was doing academically but at the same time I had a very keen interest in vocational skills. It all started during those days when I will be closing from work and would pass by a mechanical workshop. Having got inspired by what I have been seeing I did not waste time to seize this opportunity by the neck. After undergoing training there for sometime, I moved to my uncle’s workshop where I learnt a lot.

E.M Why did you leave school so early?

M.W.B I left school due to financial constraint but if I get the support I will still go back to school as the saying goes “its better late than never”. But this time around I would love to undergo formal Technical Training so that I can acquire at least a certificate. This will also enable me fit into any society I may find myself in.

E.M Do you really like the job?

M.W.B Yes I do love it because it helps me take care of my own financial problems and even that of my siblings and parents. To be precise, I can support myself through the profession.

E.M How is work, are you getting sales as you would have desired?

M.W.B Well, business in all aspects is a matter of profit or loss. At times some people will be passing by to buy spare parts, some come to repair their bicycles or motorbikes which are sometimes paid long after being taken care of. There are times when sales become good but the opposite is the case productive in certain instances. Despite all the challenges, everyday I have something to take home. So I thank God for that.

E.M What is your advice to our readers particularly youths?

M.W.B Well, my advice to young people is that, let them engage in something meaningful rather than sitting and folding their arms. Let them desist from traveling without using the legal ways because even if you are lucky to make it to Europe, you may find it so tough without skills. A good number of young people are jobless today because they have not acquired any skill. So skills acquisition, particularly for out-of-school youth is just crucial. I would like to remind young people that no body is born with wealth, people work for it by starting from nothing to something. So am appealing to all of them to engage in something meaningful before letting foreigners to take over or dominate in all spheres of skill work.

E.M How many people are you currently working with?

M.W.B I was working with two young Gambians who were working on voluntary basis. But right now they are all working in different workshops. One has his own workshop after been trained. In fact he is now operating on his own whilst and the other one is working as a staff in another workshop which makes me so proud of myself. Ever since they left am alone working so hard in this place.

E.M Do you have a role model?

M.W.B No, for me I learnt to be a master of my own, I believe in myself, my strength and my skills. So I don’t have a mentor or a role model.

E.M Future plans?

M.W.B I want to expand my enterprise to a bigger one so that it can cater for many young people thereby creating job opportunities for youths. I also envisaged opening branches in the various regions of the country. As they say “aim high” so I will want to get to a stage of an auto mobile engi-
FILE AND FOLDER MANAGEMENT

FILE
A file is a collection of text or data saved under a unique name. Most of the information stored on your computer is stored in files.

DOCUMENT
Any self contained piece of work created within an application program.

Types of files
1. SYSTEM FILES/OPERATING FILES
These are files for booting and operating the system. When windows is installed, the files that run windows are the operating system files or cab files. These files are stored directly in the hard drive (C:) or the windows folder.

2. PROGRAM /APPLICATION FILES
These are files that enable the computer to run programs/applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, etc. Files of such are stored in the program files folder.

Deleting both system and program files will stop the computer from running (booting) and the programs not running.

3. DOCUMENT FILES
These are files created and saved by the user within an application. A document file goes with an icon representing the application in which it is created.

Some applications in windows and icons representing them:
- Microsoft FrontPage
- Microsoft Outlook
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Publisher
- Microsoft Word
- Adobe Photoshop 7.0
- Internet Explorer
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Excel

FOLDER
A folder is a container for programs, files, and other folders used to organize the information on your computer. A folder is represented in windows by a file folder icon, which is usually yellow. Folders are the equivalent of directories in some computer operating systems like DOS.

How to create a folder

- Open the folder in which you want to create the new folder
- Click on file and point to new.
- Click on folder
- Type a name for your folder
- Press the enter key or click outside the icon
- Or
- Right click on the area you want to create a new folder e.g. Desktop
- On the drop down menu point to new and click on folder
- Type the new folder name and click out of it.

Using the Save As dialog box

- In saving a file in a new folder
- Click on make new folder icon on the right of the Save in box
- Type the name of folder
- Click on OK

HOW TO OPEN A FOLDER

- Select the folder
- Click on file on the menu bar and
- Select open

Or

- Click on the folder and press the enter key.
- Or
- Right click on the folder and select Open
- Or
- Double click the folder (click rapidly twice in a row).

The address bar always read the path of the folder that is open. For instance if you open a folder called exam in my documents folder, the address bar will read as follows: C:\My documents\Exam

RENAMING A FOLDER

- Select the folder you want to rename by clicking on it.
- Click the file menu and select rename
- Type the new name and press enter
- Or
- Right click on the folder
- Choose rename
- Type the new name and press Enter

DELETING A FOLDER

- Select the file or folder by clicking on it
- click on the file menu and select delete or press the delete key

You can also drag a folder to the recycle bin. In this case, a message will be displayed to confirm deletion

Note: Pressing Shift + delete will permanently delete a folder without sending it to the recycle bin.

All deleted folders or files sent to the recycle bin are not permanently deleted from the computer and could therefore be retrieved.

HOW TO RETRIEVE A DELETED FILE

- Double click to open the recycle bin from the desktop
- Select the folder you want to retrieve. (to select several items press and hold down the control key while clicking each item)
- click on the file menu and select Restore
- Or
- Right click on the file in the recycle bin and select restore

COPYING A FILE OR FOLDER

- Select the file or folder you want to copy.
- To select several file press and hold down the control key while clicking each item
- click on the edit menu
- Select copy
- Open the folder you want to copy into
- Click on edit menu again
- Select paste

MOVING FILE OR FOLDER

- Select the folder
- Click on the edit menu
- Select cut
- Open the folder you want to move it into
- Click on edit menu again
- Select paste

Note: You can also move a folder by dragging the folder to another folder you want to move it into and right clicking on the folder can also give you the different options from the quick menu.
It is a common phenomenon to see young children in informal garages and workshops as apprentice. They are mostly forced into apprenticeship by their parents and guardians.

In the Children’s Act Heading E is entirely based on child apprenticeship in the informal sector. It states that a child can be an apprentice if he attains the age of twelve or after the completion of basic education. These two statutory requirements are very important and either one or both should be met before the parent or guardian shall enter into an apprenticeship agreement. It must be explicity stressed that every child is guaranteed a basic education by the state as enshrined in the 1997 constitution of the Republic of The Gambia. Therefore, it would be a grave violation of the right to a basic education if the child is given to a craftsman without been enrolled in school.

When the afore-mentioned statutory requirements are met, s.53 (1) of the Children’s Act requires the parent, relative or guardian of an apprentice to enter into an apprenticeship agreement with the crafts-person and that agreement shall be in writing and also in accordance with the custom of that trade. Unfortunately, most apprenticeship agreements are not entered into writing. The commonest type of agreement between parents and craft persons is the giving out of few cola nuts. If the crafts-person accepts the cola nuts from the parent of the child, then the agreement is reached and the child automatically starts the training.

It is prudent to discuss issues that are contained in the apprenticeship agreement as enshrined in s.53 (3). Paragraph (a) enjoins the parent, guardian or relative to provide and “bear the cost of protective clothing and the basic tools for the training of the apprentice”. This provision is certainly not honored by parents who send their children into apprenticeship. They expect crafts-person to provide the basic tools to their own children. At certain times, they ask their own children to tell their ‘master’ or ‘boss’ to provide them with overall coats or other protective gears. Certainly, the failure by parents to give protective clothing signifies marked failure in their responsibility towards the protection of their own blood!

When subsection (3) (b) (c) are looked into, a glaring duty is imposed on the crafts-person to provide shelter for the apprentice. In most so-called apprenticeship situations in this country, children commute from home to the work places either on foot, on bicycles or by asking for free ride from compassion-ate drivers. Most crafts persons are not resident within the localities of the work places. In anticipation of a situation in which an apprentice would either come late or be absent, or go without food altogether, the Act imposes that the agreement shall contain a provision that the crafts-person shall “give the apprentice an allowance of not less than half the minimum national daily wage for his or her daily sustenance”.

For the crafts-person to give not less than half the minimum national daily wage, he should be in know of the national daily wage. The labor department and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment should publicized the minimum national daily wage and labor inspectors needs to inspect these informal work places and request defaulters to comply with afore said provisions. Am saying these because the Act categorically states that any dispute relating to the apprentice agreement shall be referred to the labor officer concerned.

Equally, the apprentice has been entrusted with certain duties by the Act. Section 54 (a) (b) (c) call for the apprentice’s obedience and diligence. It went further to state that the apprentice shall not “absent himself or herself from the apprenticeship without permission”, shall “prevent deliberate damage to the property of the crafts-person”; and must not hide any “damage to the property of the crafts-person”.

At the completion of the apprenticeship training, the crafts-person shall issue a “certificate of release”. The release of the apprentice must be done in a non-exploitative manner. The best interest of the apprentice must be guaranteed. In a situation in which the ‘master’ or crafts-person refuses to issue the certificate of release, he or she has committed an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dalasis or face a two year imprisonment or both fine and imprisonment.

Taking cue from the aforementioned sections of the Children’s Act, it’s too easy to conclude that most of apprenticeship agreement guidelines are not complied with or by the parents, relative, guardians or crafts-person. Children are in most cases forced into the apprenticeship at a very tender age for basically two unjustifiable reasons.

First, parents believe that a ‘stubborn’ and ‘unintelligent’ child should be removed from school and sent into an apprenticeship. I have used quotation marks here to indicate that no person is unintelligent or stubborn to an extent that he or she must be removed from school.

The second reason postulated by parents is that when a child is sent into an apprenticeship early or at a tender age, he or she will easily concentrate and learn faster. This has been proven wrong in many cases. Though it has also been proven in some other cases that a child’s brain’s retention capability is faster that an adult’s. This does not happen in all situations.
The Gambia’s telecommunication industry is now witnessing a very stiff competition as the four cellular companies namely Gamcel, Africell, Comium and Qcell try to win the hearts of the limited customers. With less than two million people, the surge in GSM communication in this country can be attested to by the fact that a single person can own up to four different lines. You may wonder why but I believe the driving force behind this is numerous promotional services or products that are provided by each of these companies in their bid to dominate the market. The Gambia cellular company (Gamcel) is the first of its kind in the country. Established in 2001 as a subsidiary of Gamtel, which is a state owned institution, Gamcel’s primary aim is to create universal access to communication for all those resident in the Gambia.

Gamcel’s customer-base in 2005 is reported to have stood at 15,000 people. These numbers is said to have increased to over 400,000 active customers. “In Gamcel we differentiate between subscribers and customers because during promotions we give out lot of sim cards that people might not use permanently but we believe our customers are the ones that are using our lines and our services” says Gamcel’s Kebba Bojang.

Gambians are very conscious of the fact that Gamcel belongs to them and that they have a very strong market acceptance.

Gamcel believe that despite being state-owned, quality network, affordability of their products and services, their promotional packages and most importantly the value they give to their customers are among factors helping them to retain their customers. Apart from telecommunication business, Gamcel believe that they are a development partner to the state. As a result they are contributing their quota to the various spheres of national development in line with the company’s corporate social responsibilities. In the past Gamcel have been partnering with NGO’s, government and other institutions in the area of health, youth empowerment, Education and lots more.

Gamcel is with the conviction that competition is very healthy in a market as it helps to improve the quality of services.

There was a period when people had no choice but only to use Gamcel, when thousands had to line up for hours just to get a line but that is now history with the coming of others like Africell into the Gambia’s telecommunication sector. Africell is now seen by some as one of the biggest GSM operator in the country with over 650,000 active subscribers. On a daily basis, Africell is said to be attracting over a thousand subscribers, with 93% country coverage which it intends to make 100 percent.

According to Mr. Papa Leigh, sales and marketing director of Africell, a good number of fishing communities in the country use Africell as a network that enables them to communicate even at sea particularly during the rainy season when a company like them withstand the challenges associated with lines. For the simple fact that the fishermen sail in the sea, they can only use a strong network like that of Africell. The quality services coupled with the free bonus Africell offers is making a mark in the lives of many in the country.

The private GSM operator has a long list of services. SMS to email, horoscope, love quotes, love-o-meter, sms class of service, fun ring are enough to be mentioned. Further, Africell is the first cellular company to introduce services like e-credit, which they believe is the reason for its more than 650,000 subscribers. For Papa Leigh, his company is one of a pacemakers in the country’s GSM market and one institution that has invested in all sectors ranging from education, health, sports, religion, to name but few.
A subsidiary of Luxemburg based global telecommunications giant, Comium Gambia with 2G GSM mobile phone network marketed under “Nakam” came in at a time when other cellular companies have already won the hearts and minds of many people. Comium Gambia’s mobile service is specifically tailored made to meet the country’s needs and provide its subscribers with a kind of world-class-products, offering a wider range of advance value added services. It is also striving to ensure nationwide coverage.

With innovative services and products that are tailored made to suit the needs of Gambians, Comium entered the Gambian market as the third GSM operator. This may be challenging but that is something welcomed by Dr. Amer Atwi, director of operations at Comium Gambia. “We believe our success so far is due to the fact we are offering the kind of services that West Africa needs, and then providing them in a way that is familiar and user-friendly”. He continued “we are offering better coverage, better value added services. Nakam will continue to create new employment opportunities. All of this are a plus for the Gambia”.

With new services, job opportunities, dynamic, daring and ready to tackle challenges, the Comium group is growing fast. “For the Gambia, a more mobile, more connected future was born with the coming of Comium. We want to be closer to our customers that is what gave birth to the slogan ‘we are better together’. We want to know our customers better. That is why our customer care service is 24/7 for the first time in the Gambia” says Ya-Sainey Gaye communications officer.

The new kid on the block in the market with the latest mobile technology in the mobile communication industry and Gambia’s only 3G network provider Qcell is also standing tall with other GSM providers, with a network said to be the 1st of its kind in the Gambia and the second in Africa. 3rd Generation or 3G is enough for Qcell to boast in the GSM industry. The Gambian owned GSM Company called ‘Sunu Buss’ with a crystal clear network service is said to have employed a lot of Gambians in a matter of months to help and give them the opportunity to grow what they own and also invest in the country and its economy.

If the words of the communications officer are anything to go by, it will not be difficult for Qcell to make a difference taking cue from Quantum that has a reputation for providing good and quality services. Qcell within 6 months is said to have the second largest nation wide coverage in terms of network “Our quality products and services speaks for themselves including Data card which enables you to access internet anywhere, anytime, QCUG, Qmms, plus much more including one that allows 3G phone owners to download videos and even watch it through your phone. “We provide all the existing facilities offered by other GSM operators plus other new services. The quality of our products and services are maintained. We don’t compromise with them, says Amie Ceesay (communications officer Qcell).

Ganmel, Africell, Comium and Qcell, who does it better? It remains a hot debate between loyalists of the various GSM service providers.
INTER-RACIAL LOVE

Would you choose to be in a relationship when you know that their will be unwanted stress within that relationship? Shall we let our love or affection to die because of inter-racial or inter-ethnic love?

I truly feel that love knows no colour, ethnicity or one’s social status. Rather this has to do with what one feels for the other person, especially the opposite sex. People are bound to fall in love with those they admire by virtue of the qualities those people have.

Sometimes I think that the prejudice and cultural differences that inter-racial couples encounter could strengthen their relationships. Despite the inherent difficulties of blending two cultures into one romantic union one fact is obvious and that is individuals in inter ethnic relations are attracted to each other for the same reasons that individuals in same race, ethnic or cultural background are. They get married because they have strong affection for each other. I for one believe one has to follow his or her heart’s desire which may result to a marital union at the end of the day.

If couples choose to battle it out with the society for the rest of their lives because of the choices they make, let them be. They may be in love but it takes more than the word love to keep these couples together. It is unjust for people more especially our parents to handpick husbands for their daughters based on materialism without putting into consideration the happiness of the girl or the boy in certain instances.

Colour, culture, ethnicity or political background should not be stumbling blocks to relationships. In any case people whom we are answerable to should protect our inner most feelings and respect our decisions. In the same vein, they should give us the right advice and put us on track. “A journey in the dark is always devoid of direction so let’s take the journey in the light not the other way round”

Dear Dr. Truth,
It seems to me that everybody I know has either a girlfriend or boyfriend and this is something that piss me off due to the fact that I don’t have one. I do socialize with girls, but it’s just that I don’t really have interest in them when it comes to building romantic relationship. They are either mere friends, aren’t my type or ethnicity, don’t know them well, or I just kind of ignore them. But if I am to fall for a girl, she has to be so beautiful both inwardly and outwardly. She has to be someone who can handle personal problems and somebody who can also cool me down or help tame me when I go wild or arrogant (I have to admit these weakness). My girl of preference must also have a nice and charming physical outlook (perfect in my terms). One more thing, this girl that am yet to lay hand on must be funny, and someone who is beautiful both in and outwardly. She has to be someone who can handle personal problems and somebody who can also cool me down or help tame me when I go wild or arrogant (I have to admit these weakness). My girl of preference must also have a nice and charming physical outlook (perfect in my terms). One more thing, this girl that am yet to lay hand on must be funny, and someone who is beautiful both in and outwardly. She has to be someone who can handle personal problems and somebody who can also cool me down or help tame me when I go wild or arrogant (I have to admit these weakness). My girl of preference must also have a nice and charming physical outlook (perfect in my terms). One more thing, this girl that am yet to lay hand on must be funny, and someone who is beautiful both in and outwardly. She has to be someone who can handle personal problems and somebody who can also cool me down or help tame me when I go wild or arrogant (I have to admit these weakness).

Although these conditions may prove too much to be met by one girl at a particular time I just want to meet one exactly like that. Look, I know these sounds crazy and may not happen, but at least give me few tips on how to meet the girl I desire, let alone get one. Please help immediately because I don’t want to be the biggest loser neither do I want to be gay.

P/s: don’t tell me to go to advertise myself on the eye magazine!

Abdul

Dear Abdul,

Honestly, I think you know exactly why you don’t have a girlfriend. Being racist, aggressive, arrogant and also being too selective, these few simply don’t mix with intimacy. What are you so angry at? And what makes you arrogant and racist? Usually, these characteristics are signs of a deep and underlying insecurity not to mention unresolved issues in your own life. No girl needs to take on your problems. Why should any other person, much less someone you love, have to manage your feelings? Sorry, but that is your job.

Your letter also shows a marked lack of self-acceptance. No outward situation defines whether or not you are a loser. Maybe those people you consider such are able to make themselves more lovable than you are. Maybe they just know how to let other people in. Actually, your arrogance may keep you from finding the right partner. On the hand, I can tell by your letter that you are bright, funny and thoughtful. You also seem to know exactly what you want, but I don’t think you really do.

What we all want is someone who loves us and makes us feel safe and appreciated. I suggest you start by forming friendships and building trust with some girls you are attracted to. Maybe after you are able to let someone in at least at the level of friendship, you will be able to give up the superficial characteristics you describe and find someone who is lovable, beautiful and kind. In the meantime, learn to love yourself and please read the above INTERRACIAL LOVE it might help you. Good luck in your search and keep me posted.

Sincerely,

Dr. Truth

Are you worried in your relationship? Contact 7822333/9720153 or E-mail: theeye magazine@gmail.com
An encounter with one of the Gambia's promising artists

Mamat Jeng, known to many as “Heartbreaker”, was born and brought up in Farafenni, North Bank Region. He did his schooling in the cosmopolitan settlement. The name Heartbreaker reflects how the musician endured alongside his family to deal with challenges like poverty.

While in school Heartbreaker had many friends as his lifestyle endeared him to both the young and old. He was also very active and used to be involved in many peaceful activities. Despite this coupled with his new found popularity, the artist never got derailed along the academic lane. He proved to be one of the best literature students during his schooling days and graduated with colorful results. Mamut Jeng started his music career at a young age as recalled staging performances during school parties and other social events. As a performing artist, Heartbreaker began to take up music seriously in 1997 and since then, has manage to release a seven-track mix tape comprising hit tunes.

ALLIANCE WITH OTHER ARTISTS
Matayaz musical crew was established in 2000 by young talented Gambians who want to partake in nation development through music. Heartbreaker was the group’s lead vocalist. This was preceded by his alliance in 1997 with friends like Golden B and Diamond B to form a crew called Jorkoji massive in Farafenni. While in Jorkoji massive he was supposed to adopt silver B as artist name but turn that down for what would become Jenga B”. The trio later separated following the 2000 grade nine exams as they all opted for different schools. As a person with a strong passion for music, Mamut Jeng decided to go solo in the same year. He was also featured in a number of major combinations like “be yourself” compilation vol. one, produced by Pierre Carrol of Hi-TECH production, which has now moved to Dakar, Senegal.

Heartbreaker was also featured in the famous ‘smiling coast” compilation, produced by the late MJ of Bull Doff Records as well as the “Guiding Riddim” produced by A-9 productions. “I believe I have the talent to showcase in the musical showbiz and I think it is through music that I can easily inform, educate as well as entertain the masses, especially the younger generation. As a person living on this earth, I have to contribute my quota towards creation, and one way of doing this is by spreading positive messages to people.” He said in an interview with the eye magazine.

Commenting on his ‘sixteen days in death man case’ track, he had this to say “when watching news, all I see is dead people, wars and crimes including the raping of innocent children”. This, he added motivated him to sing and preach the younger generation against thinking and behaving negatively but rather grow with positive minds for their development. The international media is fun of painting gloomy pictures of Africa. Now is the time for the youth to rise up and open up their eyes because no one will develop our country for us’. Heartbreaker warned.

“I heard the cries of the poor and see them knocking on the door “this means I see people carrying heavy loads knocking on borders seeking for food to eat etc. Actually that track is talking about the dark side of Africa that always hit headlines in the international media. Watching such images continuously can make our children stone-hearted. Mamut Jeng further lamented.

On his recent trip to Senegal. “It was basically a familiarization tour meant to exchange cultures as well as build ties in promoting his music to another next level. He then applauded the Gambian leader, His Excellency Sheikh professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya AJJ Jammeh, for his financial support to him. Mamut Jeng shared with the Eye magazine how this helped him to record new songs. “I’m really grateful to the Gambian leader for his financial boost. Am wishing him healthy and long life”. He then appealed to his fans to keep patronizing him, saying the debut album he is working on comprise hit tunes that will storm the country like an erupting volcano.

DEATH MAN CASE
(BAD EFFECT ABOUT INTERNATIONAL NEWS)
Chorus
Sixteen days in a death man case;
yahoo!! yahoo!!yahoo!!
Come down father and save the world.
Yahoo yahoo yahoo
Only he gear savior almighty

I don’t wana be no killer
cause I will end up being a sinner an that why the children are suffer which really case but not for money
Every day I hear the cries of the poor oh I see them knocking on ma door I don’t know what to do that why am calling on you can come and safe the world cause they are living outer stress and pain. (I heard the cries of the poor because to much refugees knocking borders asking a help and only the children were suffered).

Chorus (repeated)
I travel over land and sea but never see a GOD like breaker killer with the rhythm so them the light jah signing bright from the way they thanking out you will giving (love) oh yes I know one day jah. Jah going so them he real can you feel it to breeze you feel with flow the west over the sea and leave hey jah you the only way. see I trade under sea but never see a GOD like him cuz the way he created Africa the nature especially Gambia our mother land.

BRIDGE
Gambia love your woman
Love your nation and defend your leaders to the fullest the children can benefit from the failure because without them our nation and the love our leader it gonna be hard for the future because the future need love so they can grow to see tomorrow.

VERSE
Jah is the only way we going on oh yes I know is the only way we yafi moving on, come down rally run so we can build our nation bright cause we don’t need no stress and peace us come together line as one is the only way out the only we go to cause love is the only going on the way we going on any where we going on sweet Gambia the land of the smiling coast sweet Gambia the land of the decency
The Youth Ambassadors of Peace (YAP) is a youth organization that is committed to promoting and inculcating peace into the minds of young people. Established nine years ago, the organization tasked itself to be educating young people on the concept of peace building so that they can become peace educators.

Saturday the 20th of February witnessed another graduation ceremony which is the 4th batch of young people who were trained to become peace educators.

In his opening statement, the chairperson of the ceremony who also doubles as the president of the Organisation Mr. Buba Darboe welcomed the gathering on behalf of the management of YAP said it is a constitutional requirement for YAP to train young people as peace educators through a process called “recruitment,” during which they are camped to receive lectures from resource persons on different topics. He was hopeful that the YAP will continue to graduate more young people.

The keynote address was delivered by the executive secretary of the organization, Mr. Fabakary Kalleh, whose speech centered on the theme “struggling to survive”. Life is based on few things, he said, we go to bed with hope and make plans for tomorrow, for tomorrow can never be there if not planned. He went on to say the YAP plan for tomorrow taking cognizance of yesterday. According to Mr. Kalleh, Africa has been painted red with the blood of her sons as a result of violence, lamenting every African living on the continent is a potential refugee. Speaking further, Kalleh said it is the responsibility of the YAP to cultivate peace in the minds and hearts of young people to serve humanity.

One important instrument of peace according to Kalleh, is “Dialogue”, which brings understanding and tolerance. He explained that the graduates have received lectures from various resource persons/trainers on topics like understanding conflict, concept of peace education, gender in peace building, role of stakeholders in peace building and human rights. The graduates, he said, are trained to become change agents. This year will be the last batch to be trained as peace educators by the Youth Ambassadors of Peace, the next batch will graduate under “Ambassadors of Peace, The Gambia”. Kalleh ended his speech by saying that the graduates are fully equipped with knowledge on peace and as such, prepared to serve as peace ambassadors.

Edmond Foley – legal officer, who was the occasion’s guest speaker congratulated the graduates and went on to say “Peace and human rights on the continent (Africa) started as a struggle and still remains a challenge. He warned that peace should not be taken for granted and described dialogue as the most efficient tool to be used in promoting peace because dialogue is the by-product of peace. Young people, he said, should maintain peace by teaching, negotiating as well as acting as mediators but this he believe cannot be done if they are not trained and equipped with skills to do that. He reminded about the tendency for the adult group to see them as children and immature to talk to. Such situations, he pointed out, can be handled without being confrontational but by being bold and assertive in addition to using dialogue as tool for peace educators and promoters. He challenged the graduates to be fully prepared to maintain peace in the society because as people already trained and equipped.

Siaka K. Dibba a graduate of the peace class delivered the vote of thanks and reminded his colleagues that “Tough times never last but tough people do”.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of certificates to the graduates, individuals and institutions including a sister organization called the United Guardian Youth Association who were also trained by the YAP on leadership skills. Drama performance on peace was also staged by the peace advocates.

The ceremony was graced by the Youth Representative in the National Assembly, Hon. Seedy Njie, a representative of the Chief of Defense Staff, parents and well wishers.

By Kaddy Jabbi
B eing a parent is a difficult task. Some tend to do it the way they have sub-consciously learned it from their parents. Some try out the things their parents never did, while some just practice it on the basis of some fixed notions or beliefs. Some parents are very strict disciplinarians and some just over pamper their kids, while others are somewhere in between. Some mothers pamper their children and some fathers pet theirs too and then some are just rightly balanced. But the focus of my article is not to discuss parenting or type of parents. On the other hand, this piece seeks to discuss the effects of parental strictness on kids especially daughters.

I am not trying to be biased here but there are many incidents the girl child commits that may incur the wrath of aggressive parents who regard such things as no go areas. Some of these ‘forbidden’ acts may include watching television in a rather irresponsible manner, talking to the opposite sex privately, wearing tight jeans or knee-exposing skirts, outings and among many other related issues at home. I believe the reason behind these drastic acts is that some parents are just tough when it comes to disciplining their children.

I think we all will agree that discipline is part and parcel of good parenting but the extent to which we enforce it needs to be checked too. Excessive stifling of certain pleasure seeking activities or depriving them of certain things like movie watching or outings may do more harm than good even though one may have good intentions for such measures. I don’t think such rigid actions help in building character or serve any other constructive purposes. Seeing other girls using cosmetics, wear tight jeans or banning them watching or discussing things their parents never did, while some have sub-consciously learned it from their parents. Some try out the things their parents never did, while some just practice it on the basis of some fixed notions or beliefs. Some parents are very strict disciplinarians and some just over pamper their kids, while others are somewhere in between. Some mothers pamper their children and some fathers pet theirs too and then some are just rightly balanced. But the focus of my article is not to discuss parenting or type of parents. On the other hand, this piece seeks to discuss the effects of parental strictness on kids especially daughters.

Having said that, we also need to discuss the effects of strict parenting on children. Being strict might just aggravate things. I think denouncing and disowning one’s child is not the best way to guide our children to what is considered the right path. The child must know that in her flight, in her pursuit for shiny things, in her failures she has a nest to fall back on. That is no matter where she goes, whether she is married or divorced or widowed, she has a home to return to and that the doors of that place are never closed for her. Am not saying that parents should allow their children to be free as birds, but everything should have a limit. Too much of freedom is not good and too much of strictness too is bad; employ better and efficient control mechanisms at household level.

Parenting can greatly affect the life of the child or develop one’s potentials depending on how it is employed. With good parenting, your child will adopt good attitude, while bad parenting can negate the development of the child. Certainly children born to very aggressive parents will have different behavioral patterns when compared to those of easy going parents. If you are a strict parent, try to keep one thing in mind and that is “you cannot achieve anything with harshness, whereas with love and affection you can win the heart of your children. It makes the child feel depressed with your strictness and result to several problems among them is:-

- Basically the behavior of the child who has strict parents will vary in two ways; one is a coward and the other is a rude or harsh fellow.
- If such behavior is developed within them, then it cannot be changed easily.
- Sometimes they even revolt against your orders and may not pay heed to you if you remain strict for long period of time.
- Once a negative habit is adopted by them, they tend to have a carefree attitude.
- The degree of love and affection also tend to diminish on the part of parents to their kids.
- It becomes difficult for the young ones to express their emotions or share their personal problems.
- Children who develop rudeness or harshness tend to behave in a rough manner and are likely to forget humanity when they feel tense.

Instead of being strict and harsh, we must show care, affection and love towards our children. By inculcating a high sense of responsibility and compassion into one’s children the prospects of him or her becoming good citizens are greater. The following sayings remind us of what option parents have to adopt. “He who spares the rod spoil the child” but “he who also calls his son a lion, it is your neck he shall first break”.

Brain Drain in Africa –WHO IS TO BLAME?

A re we going to fold our hands and allow the phenomenon of brain drain to persist and rid our continent of her brightest sons and daughters? As a people endowed with abundant natural resources and more importantly able-bodied men, what should we do to tackle this seemingly growing trend.

In order to deal with this situation one has to discuss the reasons fueling Africans to leave their various countries of origin to usually the west where they play significant roles in the advancement of these already developed nations at the expense of their own people. Could it be that the prospects for one to develop his or her career is greater in the England’s and Spain’s or is it that the knowledge our people acquire can be better utilized in this countries instead of Africa. What ever the reason, better incentives such as fat salaries and allowances cannot be ruled out in what looks like intellectual robbery by highly industrialized nations. Well, for the answers to these questions, we all have to ponder over them and give out positive solutions to reverse the situation for it has the potential to negate our development efforts.

Africa’s intelligentsia must also put before their parents and their parents who have done what they could to send them to school. Some will argue that it is a matter of choice whilst those in favour of brain drain would argue that one has to grab life changing opportunities whenever they present themselves. Who so ever one blames for brain drain I think, we as a people must fully exploit the talents of our professionals, support them both morally and financially as well as create for them an environment conducive to their personal and professional wellbeing. With that in place, I believe Africa’s brightest brains would be encouraged to stay home and contribute to the social and economic development of their respective countries.

By: Kaddy Jabbii
INTELLIGENT TEST (One)

Siaka! The only child of his parents lost his father at an early age and was staying with his poor mother in a small village called Kerr Ido. His mother struggled hard on the farm to pay the boy’s school fees. When Siaka was just 21 in his final year of schooling his mother got sick and was unable to be cured by any doctor. The boy was desperate and had no other option than to go to traditional healers including the famous Alhaji Abdoulie Jobe. Siaka travelled with his mother to a small village called Kungkuntu village not knowing that any sick stranger taken to that village never return home because the whole village is evil. When they got to the village, he asked for the healer and they were taken to the place. All the villagers were happy that they got a meal tonight, but Saffi (the daughter of the healer) adored Siaka so much that she could not allow anything bad happen to them. She waited till they were taken to the guest room and went there silently, explained everything to Siaka. They ran away with saffie before midnight.

Reaching the seventh village after Kungkuntu, they were caught by the guards of the king and taken to his palace. In that village, any stranger that comes there must show the king which among his horses is the oldest, if you are able to tell the answer you are set free but if you don’t, your reward is death. The king was having six daughters but Manta, the last among them was so kind-hearted. Immediately she saw Siaka, she felt like somebody who found a missing rib and she was the only one who knew the secret of their father (The King). To save this poor boy, she described to him how the horse is without the knowledge of the king. When the king paraded before them all the horses, Siaka pointed straight at the horse. The bewildered king became shock because no one ever knows his oldest horse. He got angry and wanted to kill them in the next day by asking the boy to do something impossible. This time around Manta could not help so she tried to show them their way home when everyone was not around and knowing that going back home will be the end of her life after disclos- ing her father’s secret to outsiders and help she decided to follow Siaka and the rest. When they reached the crossing point at, a voice was heard from somewhere and said to Siaka “you have to sacrifice one woman to the spirit of the river in order to cross” Siaka never want to loose his dearest mother and the two ladies who saved his life, he was very confused and don’t know what to do. Who do you think he should sacrifice and why?

INTELLIGENT TEST (Two)

Three black and three white men met at the port to cross from Banjul to Barra, but there was only one boat and the boat could only carry two people at a time. If the whites are more than the blacks both in Barra and in Banjul, they will kill the blacks.

How will they manage to cross with this single boat without harming each other?

One only put his or her effort into something knowing full well that something will be achieved at the end of the day. The gains associated with knowledge acquisition are manifold. With hard work, dedication, patience and perseverance, one will achieve what worth achieving. That is no secret.

By combining the afore-mentioned values with seriousness the journey to success becomes easy and enjoyable. By analyzing the route taken by most people who aspire for higher heights, I was made to realize that success is due to holding on and failure to letting go. Education is not something one must joke with. This makes it all the more prudent for those in pursuit of knowledge to take it with diligence and seriousness.

Poem

UNDESERVED PAYMENT

See dwellers of my heart Very heartless like heinous hawks Both the victims and the culprits taste The sweetness of the smiling doom Our heads become chinless wonders, as payment. We have too many chiefs, intrinsigently and lacked sufficient Indians.

Abundance of earthquakes, starvation, malnutrition Pestilences and blood are raining intensely On our children and innocent mothers of earth Transforming them into real solid as hard as bone But still conscious of their pride and culture Never changing as long as their blood remain red Even drowning the saddest sorrows of million prisoners

We the pens are threatened and told

We the pens are threatened and told

Intimidatingly, to mind our P’s and Q’s

Should we? No! No! No!!!

We are the heroes of our circle

We will declaim the word to the globe

Never retreating nor surrender till the dove dives

And sing the happiest melody ever.

To escape the horrible face of tears

Just put my message into your pipe

And smoke it, then the pen will go to sleep

Only if you stop having a hand in every pie

And know that my people want a plain sailing

With a beautiful dove kicking the undeserved payment

Million miles far to dead goat’s mandible.
RESEMBLING THE OPPOSITE SEX

Part of the fitrah (the natural inclinations with which humans were created) is that men should preserve the masculinity which Allah has created in them, and women should preserve the feministic which Allah has created in them, without this, decent human life becomes impossible. Men resembling women and vice versa is something which goes against human’s innate nature (fitrah) and opens the door to corruption and widespread promiscuity. The ruling in sharee’ah is that when it is stated that the person who does a particular thing is cursed, that thing is haraam.

Ibn Abbas (R.A) reported that the messenger of Allah (S.A.W) said; “Allah has cursed the men who make themselves look like women and the women who make themselves look like men” (reported by Al-Bukhari). Ibn Abbas (R.A) also reported that the messenger of Allah (S.A.W) said; “Allah has cursed effeminate men and masculine women” (reported by Al-Bukhari). The resemblance may be in the way they move, walk and speak.

Similarly, the two sex are not permitted to resemble one another in dress or by wearing anything that is specifically for the other sex. So a man is not permitted to wear necklaces, bracelets, anklets or earrings, etc. as is widespread among hippies and the like. Women are not permitted to wear things that are specifically for men, like the thanks (long garment worn by men in Arab countries), shirts, etc;

Whenever she wears should be different in style, details and colour. The evidence that the two sex should not resemble one in dress is found in the hadith narrated by Ahbab or Hara (R.A): “Allah has cursed men who wear the cloths of women and women who wear the cloths of men.” (reported by Abu Dawda).

It’s now funny and shameful that, very hard to differentiate the two opposite sex in terms of dressing. Should a Muslim, a true one for that matter male or female, resemble him/herself with the opposite sex?

GIRLS AND WOMEN WEARING IMPROPER CLOTHES

Girls and women wearing improper cloths are one of the biggest things that Allah has forbidden. One of the ways in which our enemies the non-believers are attacking us in modern times is by means of fashions which they design and promote, and which have become popular among Muslims. These fashions do not cover anything; they are so short, transparent or tight, many of them are inappropriate for wearing even in front of other women or one’s mahrams! The prophet (S.A.W); told us that the these kinds of cloths would appear among the women of the last times, as was reported in the hadeeth narrated by Abu Hurayrah (R.A); “There are two types of the people of Hell that I have not seen: people who have whips like the tails of cattle, with which they strike the people; and women who are dressed but naked, walking with an enticing gait, with their hair looking like the humps of camels, leaning sideways. They will not enter paradise or even smell its fragrance, although its fragrance can be detected from such-and-such a distance.” (reported by Muslim, 3/1680).
Advertise with Us
And increase the prospects of Making a good clientele-base for Your business(es) TODAY

For More Information Call
Hot Line: +220 7052120 / 7822333
Email: theeyemagazine@gmail.com
MENTAL ILLNESS, WHO IS NEXT?

For every human being (You and Me) has an episode of mental illness for about 5 minutes in every 24 hours. Meaning everyone on this universe is mentally ill, what differs is the degree at which one is mentally ill. Those who are admitted and/or receive psychiatric counseling and medication are at another level of mental illness (psychosis) and you and I, the so-called mentally healthy, are day in day out manifesting neurotic symptoms which is another classification of mental illness.

The term mental illness is like any other medical illness and should be viewed with similar respect. View them (psychiatric patients) as the same with those who have respiratory illnesses, cardiac illnesses etc. the major difference is for those who are psychotic deserve an intensive psychological therapy and we know the brain and the mind are very complex processes.

For this being the case, the word MADNESS is not applicable to the modern day society, it is outdated and stigmatizing. From the above, if madness means mental illness then we are all either mad or no one is mad. We should label our brothers and sisters who need and receive psychiatric care as others who receive assistance on other medical problems like malaria, diabetes, hypertension etc.

Psychiatric patients are being abandoning by their families, they are not provided with shelter, clothing, no food to eat: they only eat the leftovers and from the cabbage, no one talks to them and they have no one to talk to, no one sits with them and they have no one to sit with, as they come to us we run away from them at times with no genuine reason, they are not loved and have no one to love, they are chained and beaten, they are insulted and driven away, they are mocked and stoned, we can go on and on. Our society is cruel to the psychiatric patients, it is unfair and inhumane but one thing that is certain is that some day you, I or a close relative will be in the same position and would you like it if you are to be psychotic and you have no one to love and care for you, respect and console you, accommodate and cloth you, feed you and treat you. Oh human kind, let us treat and accept them as if we will be one of them tomorrow. For who so ever does good, good will follow you.

It is a multi sectoral responsibility and requires concerted efforts to have a positive impact. Policies should be enforced, programs implemented, attitudes and approaches changed, families take up their rightful role, groups and communities come on board, government arms and non governmental organizations give attention. For it is only then that duties we owe to all those who live in the Gambia, our brotherly love and cooperate responsibility will be fulfilled.

We will be judged by generations to follow. Give attention to the psychiatric patients and the psychiatric unit.

Dawda Samba (RN)
Psychiatric unit

ORDERED BY BUNDUNG, LATRIKUNDAA SABJI, EBOU TOWN AND CHURCHILLS TOWN, TALLINDING IS SITUATED IN THE KANIFING MUNICIPALITY OR BETTER STILL SERREKUNDA EAST. THE VILLAGE IS NAMED AFTER A LARGE TALL FOREST TREE; ITS SWEET ACIDIC FRUITS ARE EDIBLE AND LOCALLY KNOWN AS ‘KAAIBILOS’. THESE WERE THE FIRST SETTLERS. INTER-MARRIAGE BETWEEN THESE THREE BECAME POSSIBLE WHEN EACH OF THE FAMILIES STARTED PLAYING HOST TO OTHERS WHO THEY ALSO GAVE LAND TO. THAT WAS THE COMING OF THE TOURAYS, SANNEHS, SILLAHS, JALLOWS AND THE MANNEHS WHICH RESULTED TO THE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO COME IN. SOME INCLUDING THE TAALS LATER MIGRATED TO FAJIKUNDA, WHILE THE CAMARAS WENT TO THE MANJAI KUNDA AREA. MODERN DAY TALLINDING CAN BOAST OF A VERY STRATEGIC LOCATION, A CONDITION THAT EXPLAINS THE REASON FOR THE NUMEROUS BUSINESS ENTITIES IN THE AREA.
Five (5) People decide who receives the Nobel Peace Prize. 7.1 million Children have decided that Graça Machel and Nelson Mandela are the World’s Children’s ‘Decade Child Rights Heroes’

Between August and October, 2009, 7,136,222 children representing 53,000 schools in 101 countries took part in the voting for the World Children Prize for the Rights of the Child. This is a global programme initiated in 2000 by Mr. Magnus Bergman, a Swedish National who now heads the Children’s World Organisation. The World’s Children’s Prize for the Rights of the Child is owned by over 23 million in the 101 countries where the participating schools are. The children learn about the rights of the child and democracy. They gain faith in the future, organise the annual Global Vote, elect their prize laureates and role models, and help some of the world’s most disadvantaged children, through the prize money. More than 50,000 teachers and around 500 organisations, departments of education and media projects make the World’s Children’s Prize possible.

In 2009, the children have studied thirteen candidates’ work for the rights of the child. All the candidates have devoted a large part of their lives – 10-50 years – to their fight for children, often in difficult circumstances.

Graça Machel and Nelson Mandela are married. Machel is being honoured for her long struggle for the rights of vulnerable children, primarily in Mozambique, and for her work for girls’ rights in particular. Mandela is being honoured for his long fight for equal rights for all the children of South Africa, which cost him 27 years in jail, and for his constant work to defend the rights of the child. Mandela once said: “The Children of Africa are the most valuable Treasures that Africa will ever possess.”

In their joint statement on being honoured by the children Mrs Machel and Mandela say: “We are extremely honoured to have been voted as the Decade Child Rights Heroes. There is nothing more precious and pure than being loved and appreciated by children. For both of us this award is very, very special given the place children occupy in our hearts and lives. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we also celebrate the significant achievement by mankind in child protection. However, being recognised and honoured by children comes with great responsibility. Too many children still suffer from hunger, no education, preventable diseases, abuse and neglect. While we thank you and accept this award, we also renew our commitment and call on each and every individual, whether in public or private life, to do even more to provide children with a future worth having. In us is in our reach. There is no reason why we cannot make it happen. To all the children, wherever you are, we want you to know that we love you whole-heartedly.”

The children’s prize money saves the most disadvantaged children

The prize money awarded by the children is to be used in the prize laureate’s work for the rights of the child. It helps thousands of the world’s most vulnerable children to a better life – so far in 81 programmes for children in 22 countries. The most recent award was given to support girls who have been sex slaves or bonded labourers, and homeless children.

The tenth World’s Children’s Prize ceremony will be held on 26 April 2010 in the Blue Hall Stockholm City Hall. HM Queen Silvia of Sweden will help the children who lead the ceremony to present the prize.

The World’s Children’s Prize is unique in several ways:

The World’s Children’s Prize programme is the world’s largest annual educational initiative for young people on the rights of the child and democracy, empowering millions of children and giving them hope for the future. An annual Global Vote is organised for the rights of the child. It awards the prestigious prizes of 23 million children, for outstanding work for the rights of the child.

In 2009, the first ever Decade Child Rights Hero is being elected with the winner been awarded in April, 2010. Over 50,000 teachers and 500 organisations help to implement the World’s Children’s Prize programme. At the same time, they gain training on the rights of the child and democracy, as well as learning new methods for teaching on these subjects in schools.

At Children’s Press Conferences, which happen simultaneously and are led only by children all over the world, the children have an opportunity to express their views on how the rights of the child are respected in their home countries. Annual programme for the Rights of the Child

The annual World’s Children’s Prize programme begins with the participating children studying the prize magazine and website, both available in eleven languages. The children learn about and discuss the rights of the child in their own lives and countries. They study the work of the prize candidates and get to know the children for whose rights the prize candidates fight. Then the children prepare their own Global Vote, which determines who is to receive the children’s prestigious prize for outstanding work for the rights of the child. In the first Global Vote in 2001, 19,000 children participated. This year there were 7.1 million children – more than ever. The prize laureates become role models for millions of children, and their work for children has its profile raised all over the world.

The World’s Children’s Prize programme also informs around 10,000 teachers on the rights of the child and democracy, and provides teachers and organisations with an effective way to work on these subjects. The WCPRC educational material and methods have been shown to be effective in all countries and cultures. All countries that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have committed to regularly informing their citizens – children and adults alike – on the rights of the child. The World’s Children’s Prize helps these countries to fulfill this commitment for children in schools, teachers and parents, and through the country’s media. The World’s Children’s Prize draws attention to the rights of the child, and violations of those rights, in the media and in society. Ultimately, the World’s Children’s Prize programme is an investment in the humanisation of humanity. As adults, the WCPRC generation will respect the rights of the child, respect democratic values and use their right to vote, and seek to respect the environment and to foster peace.

In The Gambia, the Child Protection Alliance serve as the coordinating body for this election and it has been facilitating the process for the election in the past four years. In 2009, CPA has distributed the global magazines to more than 60 schools in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and conducted orientations for teachers who volunteered to serve as election coordinators in the new Global Friends Schools. By 24th October, 2009, 28,186 children in 43 schools voted to decide who the winner will be in The Gambia. Like the global outcome, Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel had most of the votes in The Gambia.
CONFESSION

Betty was on her death bed, with her husband Jack at her side. He held her cold hand and tears silently streamed down his face.

“Jack”, she said quickly.

“Hush”, he quickly interrupted, “don’t talk”.

But she insisted, “Jack”, she said in her tired voice. “I have to talk. I must confess,”

“There is nothing to confess.” Weeping Jack said. “It’s all right. Everything is all right.”

“No, no. I must die in peace. I must confess that I have been unfaithful to you”. Jack stroked her hand, squeezed it and sobbingly told her, “Now Betty, don’t be concerned. I know all about it.” He cried uncontrollably and said “Why else would I poison you”?

THE BOSS and THE SECRETARY

One morning, Funneh, the Secretary walk into the office weeping. Dr. Lamin Senegal, her boss, who is also referred to as CEO, the Managing Director, and sometimes watchman was very concerned about his the wellbeing of his employees. He asks sympathetically “What is the matter Funneh”?

Funneh replied, “early this morning I got a phone call informing me of the demise of my grandpa” Dr. Lamin Senegal, who doesn’t really know the meaning of “very good” ironically said to her “very good am terribly shocked to hear that. Why don’t you go home for the day since we are not that very busy? Just take the day off to relax and rest”.

Funneh in a rather somber tone explained, “No, I will be better off here, I need to keep my mind off it and here is the best place for me to do that.”

Dr. Senegal agreed and allowed Funneh to work as usual. “Very good, incase you need anything, just let me know.” He said. Funneh unbearably looked into his face “Sir, what is good about my grandpa’s death”? Dr. Senegal walks into his office. After few hours time, Dr. Senegal decided to check on her again. He looked out of his office and saw Funneh crying hysterically. He rushed out to her, and asked, “Very good, are you going to be okay”? Is there anything I can do to help”? “No”, replied Funneh. “I just got a call from my sister informing me of the death of her grandpa too!

IDEAL HUSBAND

At a local coffee bar, a young woman was expounding on her idea of the perfect mate to some of her friends. The man I will marry must be a shining light amongst many; he must be musical, dancer, funny and stay home at night. An old granny overheard her and said to her, “honey, if that is all that you want, get a TV!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you think you suffer in life, do you suffer as much as he does?</th>
<th>If you complain about your transport system, how about them?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

If your society is unfair to you, how about her?

Hate vegies?

They starve from hunger.

February, 2010 Page 23
The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be the 19th FIFA World Cup, the premier international football tournament. It is scheduled to take place between 11 June and 11 July 2010 in South Africa. The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be the culmination of a qualification process that began in August 2007 and involved 204 of the 208 FIFA national teams. As such, it matches the 2008 Summer Olympics as the sports event with the most competing nations. This will be the first time that the tournament has been hosted by an African nation, after South Africa beat Morocco and Egypt in an all-African bidding process. This decision left the Oceania Football Confederation as the only confederation yet to host the FIFA World Cup. Italy are the defending champions. The draw for the finals took place on 4 December 2009 in Cape Town.

There is an air of cautious optimism in South Africa as the Rainbow Nation prepares to write what is undoubtedly the most significant chapter of its short football history. A mammoth task lies ahead.

Recent years have brought ample disappointments, but Bafana Bafana have also shown, albeit in patches, that - given motivation and purpose - they can be a potential threat. And there can be no greater motivation than representing their country in a FIFA World Cup™ on home soil.

In 1996, four years after their readmission to international football, South Africa shot to prominence and stunned the African continent by claiming their maiden CAF Africa Cup of Nations trophy against Tunisia at Soccer City in Johannesburg. How ironic that, 16 years later, South Africa will return to the venue where they achieved this first major success, aiming to rewrite the script on an even bigger stage.

Their gallant performance at the FIFA Confederations Cup last June, when they lost narrowly to Brazil in the semi-finals and to Spain in the third place play-off, should certainly serve as a chilling reminder to their detractors that this team, when stretched to its potential, cannot be underestimated. That tournament witnessed several impressive performances strung together by the hosts, and ultimately it was only their inability to convert cleverly-tailored moves into goals that led to their demise.

**The road to South Africa**

South Africa, by virtue of their role as hosts, gained automatic qualification.

**The star players**

Talented midfield maestro Steven Pienaar is South Africa's prize asset. In the absence of the country's most successful striker, Benni McCarthy, who remains out of favour, Pienaar brings much-needed innovation and imagination to the side.

Since his arrival at Everton, Pienaar has reinvented himself and matured as an all-round player. While he continues to polarise opinion in his native country, no-one in South Africa disputes the confidence he exudes on the field and his ability to inject inspiration into the team's play. His performances during the FIFA Confederations Cup were yet another reminder that he will be key to any South African success in 2010. Yet arguably just as vital to the Bafana Bafana cause are two players who have laboured tirelessly and effectively with little recognition: wingbacks Siboniso Gaxa and the enterprising Tsepho Masilela.

The coach

Carlos Alberto Parreira's return was greeted with mixed feelings in South Africa, although the Brazilian's many supporters are adamant that he is the man to lead this side to the 'Promised Land' in 2010. Parreira certainly has the pedigree, having led his native country to the beautiful game's ultimate prize at the 1994 FIFA World Cup™ USA. The extensively-travelled coach also brings a wealth of experience, which should prove vital in revitalising a South African side struggling with some significant pre-tournament problems. However, Parreira will be hoping to avoid the difficulties he endured during an inauspicious first spell as head coach, which witnessed him fail to lead South Africa beyond the first round at the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations.

Previous FIFA World Cups

South Africa have failed to make it beyond the group stages in either of their two previous FIFA World Cup appearances. Clearly, this is a situation they will be desperate to remedy. Their first appearance was in France 1998, six years after they had been readmitted to the global football family. Despite a 3-0 drubbing to France in their opening game, they went on to put a decent show against Denmark and Saudi Arabia, drawing against both. Korea/Japan 2002 was expected to be an opportunity for Bafana Bafana to step up to the next level but, ultimately, they flattened to deceive, crashing out after the group stage despite beating Slovenia 1-0 for their first-ever FIFA World Cup win.

**Record**

* This is South Africa's third appearance at the FIFA World Cup. Their first participation was at France 1998 and they also qualified for Korea/Japan 2002.
* Benni McCarthy scored the country's first goal at the FIFA World Cup in a 1-1 draw against Denmark on 18 June 1998.
* South Africa's incumbent captain, Aaron Mokoena remains the country's most capped player.

**What they said**

"We are all aware that it is a huge honour to play in a World Cup on home soil; not many players have had such a privilege. We are also aware of the task that lies ahead. For us, the World Cup is our priority, it's our biggest goal. We need to represent our country with pride," Aaron Mokoena, South Africa captain.
QTUNES
CALLER RINGBACK SERVICE

Dial 127 & choose your favourite Song

Premier League News & Scores
On your QCell Menu or send sms “pl” to 120

Customer Care 111
www.qcell.gm
Studio Kanteh’s Printing Palace
Designing, Printing & Publishing Is Our Business

Deliveries Are Made As Promised

ADDRESS: Wellingara Kombo Coastal Road, Wellingara Cinema Shop # 5
Tel: +220 7052120, 9720153   E-mail: studiokpp@yahoo.com