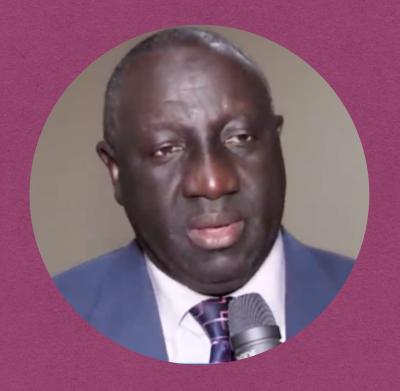


MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

A very warm salutation from the Office of National Security on the initiation of the third edition of Our Reform newsletter, the newsletter that highlights some of our acheivements with respect to the SSR process in The Gambia. In this edition, the consultation workshop on the Security Sector Reform Strategy takes centre stage. This is significant in that, the consultation was undertaken at a critical time when the debates on our security sector situation both positive and negative are at their peak. Whatever the case, we continue to praise God for keeping us together and sustaining The Gambia as a peaceful and stable country. But that doesn't mean that we should rest on our laurels.



Momodou Badgie, National Security Adviser Office of National Security

Given the sensitivities of the issues surrounding the governance of security sector reform, it is important that the process of developing the Security Sector Reform Strategy be transparent and consultative incorporating as many stakeholders as possible. I am therefore glad to note this cross-section nature of participants and institutions, which are the central building blocks of our peace and security architecture, as well as experts, management and oversight bodies/authorities, since sound governance of security is crucial, not only for stability, but also for the success of democratic consolidation and social development.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Security Sector Reform is saying, if we have repeatedly done certain things the same way and are still not getting results, we need to change / reform strategy, operations, and tactics needed to yield new results with a new commitment. It is therefore our collective commitment, both state and non-state actors, to engender a reform that would be realistic and in synchronization with both modern best practices and be contextual.

Security Sector Reform and by extension security transformation has become a national appeal as we speak, and whose time arguably has come. Consequently, there is a need for us to tinker with our constitutional, security policy, security sector reform and national security strategies and subordinate frameworks to accommodate new realistic thoughts that will certainly help provide answers to our developmental challenges.

Along this line, the consultation on the Security Sector Reform Strategy is to help reposition our mind set as we generate inputs, new ideas and initiatives that would make our security sector reform and its related strategic development worthwhile. At this juncture, I would like to thank members of the International Advisory Group, the drafters and all those who contributed to the success of the strategy development process. My thanks and appreciation goes to the chairman of the SSR Steering Committee, its members and our International and bilateral partners.

Ladies and gentlemen, this national consultation is therefore a crucial step. Yet it is only a step in many. I would therefore warmly welcome your support in carrying the result forward into steps/phases of the security sector reform process. I wish you the best of luck.

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OUR REFORM: Issue 03, Vol 001

Whether triggered by a crisis or undertaken as part of continuing efforts to ensure ongoing restructuring of the security sector, SSR deal with issues related to the performance of security mechanisms, their compliance with ethical norms of individual and collective behaviour and their responsiveness to democratic oversight.

This, far from being isolated interventions, are an integral part of the broader process of strengthening the rule of law and consolidating peace. For this reason, SSR is run in conjunction with other governance processes that are sometimes undertaken in parallel, such as transitional justice, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of service personnel or efforts to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Perhaps the greatest misnomer about SSR is its perceived slow pace. It must be noted that this perceived slow pace is a direct representation of the actual dynamics internal to most of the new government's active dialogue across the diverse interest groups. Consensus and strong ownership is required as has been reiterated in the DCAF's series of dialogues on SSR conducted this August and September.

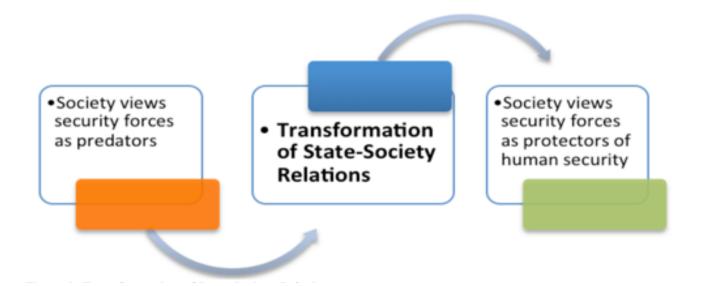
In general, a number of consultative projects, involving numerous stakeholders, and outreach activities have been accomplished these past two months with support from international partners and national stakeholders. Most significantly are the national youth dialogues on reforms spearheaded by the UNDP RC in collaboration with NYC done to breach the information gaps about security sector reforms among the youth.

This third issue of Our Reform newsletter continues to report on the major acheivements of SSR programming. Have a pleasant read!

Rohey Samba-JALLOW
 Communication Strategist for SSR

NEWS

National Consultation on the Security Sector Reform Strategy



A national consultation workshop on the Security Sector Reform Strategy (SSRS) took place from the 22nd to the 23rd August 2019 at the Kairaba Beach Hotel. The purpose of the national consultation was to seek stakeholder feedback on any potential issues in the draft strategy document with a view to harness their inputs to further enrich the SSR strategy, engender national ownership of the document and foster a common understanding of its contents to support its overall implementation.

Invited subject matter experts, namely Dr. Ismaila Ceesay and Dr. Henry Carol of the University of The Gambia, Alagie Nyagardo, Director of Strategy Policy Department-State House, Hon. Halifa Sallah, National Assembly member, Sheikh Omar Fye, Management Development Institute and Momodou Badjie, National Security Adviser, Office of National Security led discussions in the 5 thematic areas of the strategy document namely:

- 1. Addressing post authoritarian legacies
- 2. Developing an overarching framework
- 3. Civilian management and oversight
- 4. Addressing cross-cutting issues
- 5.Reform activities relating to individual security institutions.

The consultation exercise which involved a wide range of participants from government, NGOs, CBOs, women and youth groups focused on internal national issues related to a common understanding and expectation of security sector reform, a common national vision, national ownership, and the role of key coordination institutions as well as civilian oversight of the security sector.

The principles of engagement of the SSR Strategy is laid on anchoring SSR programming in state reform. Whereas, restructuring of different security institutions and infrastructure improvement are essential components of the SSRS, focus is laid on SSR governance. This involves the provision, management and control of the security sector based on democratic principles and values for the benefit of the people. It requires separation of powers, a participatory and inclusive approach involving citizens through their legally and regularly chosen representatives in decision-making processes, management and control of State activities and functions in the Security Sector.

Moreover, strategic priorities of the SSRS are tied to priority areas of intervention identified in the SSR Assessment Report, namely the five thematic areas with each area outlined and a responsible office identified to coordinate implementation and for monitoring and handling each thematic/priority area.

To ride the wave of SSR success, and to create some more gravity for it, the national consultation on the Security Sector Reform Strategy document seeks to subvert the challenge for a coherent and cohesive national SSR process that is based on national ownership and predicated on a common national vision, notably, the transformation of State-Society relations.

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SECURITY SECTOR REFORM STRATEGY (SSRS) 2020-2024

THE GAMBIA

WHAT IS THE SSR STRATEGY?

It describes The Gambia's plan to implement the key findings and recommendations of the SSR Assessment Report with a view to reforming the security sector.

SSR STRATEGY VISION

A security sector that is effective, efficient, apolitical, affordable, accountable, transparent and responsive to the security and justice needs of the people based on democratic norms and principles.

SSR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

To set out required parameters that will enable government fulfill its legitimate security functions through reforms to ensure the security sector is democratically accountable, effective and efficient.

WHY IS THE SSR STRATEGY IMPORTANT?

It sets a comprehensive, coherent and systematic strategy for clear actions in order to address the gaps and malfunctions identified during the assessment.

Three Dimensions

Political

Holistic

Technical

PRIORITY AREAS FOR INTERVENTION

- Addressing Post-Authoritarian Legacies to enhance Reforms
- Developing Overarching security governance legal and policy frameworks
- Reform activities to enable Civilian Management and Oversight Bodies
- Reform Imperatives to Address Cross Cutting Perennial Challenges
- Specific Reforms Activities Relating to Individual Security Institutions

FIVE (5) THEMATIC/PRIORITY AREAS FOR INTERVENTION

PRIORITY ONE - ADDRESSING POST AUTHORITARIAN LEGACIES TO ENHANCE REFORMS

To entrench democratic practices that uphold the principles of good governance and justice

PRIORITY TWO - DEVELOPING OVERARCHING SECURITY GOVERNANCE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

To establish a decentralized security architecture at National, Regional and District levels to enhance effective command and control within the security sector.

PRIORITY THREE - REFORM ACTIVITIES TO ENABLE CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT BODIES

To urgently strengthen Civilian Management and Oversight bodies to ensure a robust, effective and efficient performance of functions in conformity with relevant legal and policy frameworks.

PRIORITY FOUR - REFORM IMPERATIVES TO ADDRESS CROSS-CUTTING PERENNIAL CHALLENGES

To mainstream gender, human rights and environment in order to transform the security to a responsive one to the well-being of all vulnerable and differently-abled groups.

PRIORITY FIVE - SPECIFIC REFORM ACTIVITIES RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL SECURITY INSTITUTION

To have a formidable Security Sector that is compact, well resourced, apolitical, effective and accountable to a democratic civilian control.

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT TOUR TO THE SISTERLY REPUBLIC OF SIERRALEONE



The government and the people of The Gambia aspire to reform the security sector following a comprehensive assessment to identify the gaps and malfunctions that beset the security sector inherited by the new administration. A critical finding of the assessment indicated the need for the heads of the institutions to benefit from sharing experiences with regional counterparts and beyond on security sector governance. Accordingly, two countries were identified. The first such trip was undertaken to the neighboring country of Sierraleone amidst warm reception and celebration.

"We wanted to go somewhere where we could share practical experience and we thought Sierra Leone was the best place to come. Sierra Leone has a success story in security sector reforms. Also, our two countries have shared security, historical and cultural values.

The purpose of our visit is to come and share with our colleagues and learn a lot of things because of the similarities between our two countries," said Momodou Badgie, National Security Adviser. This statement was made during a courtesy call paid to President Julius Maada Bio on a capacity enhancement tour, which forms part of efforts to build capacity for the service chiefs in order to ensure an effective reform in The Gambia.

In his response, President Julius Maada Bio said Sierra Leone and The Gambia had had a very strong relationship and cultural ties which kept the two countries together. He said development and security had a very strong link and that development was



difficult without security, adding that security would provide the ecosystem for development.

He added that since the end of the war, Sierra Leone's security sector had gone through reforms and had become the envy of many other nations. He noted that the country had provided support to other nations and was ready to learn from and share experience with other countries.

National Youth Dialogue on Reforms: The Youth Connekt Initiative

Youth Connekt Gambia identified dialogue as one of the main strategies to facilitate youth civic leadership and participation in the reform processes in The Gambia.

Young people played a significant role in ending dictatorship in The Gambia through mass sensitization. With the advent of the new government, several plans and reforms have been instituted including the formulation of the National Development Plan 2018 – 2021 (NDP), The Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission, Security Sector Reforms and Human Rights Commission among others respectively.

These initiatives are expected to establish durable institutions. progressive laws, a responsive security sector that contributes to peace and support entrenching democracy and rule of law. For these processes to meaningfully impact citizens and further stand the test of times, it is essential that various stakeholders especially, the youth, are engaged to mobilize their views, concerns and perspectives on how the various mechanisms affect their lives. The National Youth Dialogue on Reforms sponsored by UNDP and held in three administrative regions of the Gambia so far, generated a lot of feedback from young people. Young people in the regions provided recommendations and suggestions on how to improve the reform and development trajectory of The Gambia.

Specific topics were identified for discussion in each of the regions with representatives of other regions invited to attend in order to facilitate exchange of ideas on issues that might not be subject of discussions in their regions.



"the Initiative could enhance citizen ownership and grassroot participation in the processes."

	Level of Local Ownership	
Capacity Building Training for civil society and the security sector to support human security	Information Sharing	Governments identify human security threats to civilians Civil society identifies human security threats to government
	Dialogue and Consultation	Governments, security forces, and civilians identify human security threats and jointly design potential human security strategies
	Joint Implementation	Civil society and the security sector participate in joint problem-solving and programming to implement human security strategies
	Joint Institutional Oversight	Civil society representatives have institutional capacity, and legal authority at the local, regional, and national level to participate in assessing threats, designing and implementing security strategies and monitoring impact.

Each regional activity lasted for a period of two days. During the first day, the capacities of youth reps were built around the issues to be discussed on the following day. The second day provided an opportunity for young

people to dialogue with stakeholders on appropriate ways to enhance their contribution into these processes. In the meantime, the respective institutions' heads, namely TRRC, CRC, SSR and NHRC presented their mandates to provide young people the understanding on their roles and responsibilities.

A cross section of participants of The Youth Connekt Initiative in Bakau, Bwiam and Mansakonko

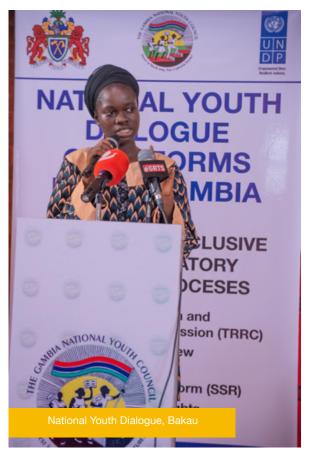
















The Government of The Gambia has articulated a strong commitment to the reform of the security sector. Efforts to date have centred around the completion of a Security Sector Reform Assessment (SSRA) in December 2018, the development of a National Security Policy (NSP), launched in June 2019, and the drafting of a National Security Strategy (NSS) and Security Sector Reform Strategy (SSRS), currently in progress. These strategies are intended to provide detailed guidance to security sector institutions for short and long term SSR.



DCAF Forum for Dialogue on Reforms.

Directing Security Sector Reform in The Gambia

The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance working with the European Union, World Bank, Office for National Security and invited experts, organised a Forum for Dialogue on 'Directing Security Sector Reform in the Gambia'. The forum, which took place on 27 August 2019 at the Residence Hotel Metzy, Banjul, was attended by senior members of government, parliamentarians, the National Security Advisor (NSA), the International Advisory Group (IAG), representatives of security sector institutions (SSIs), civil service, the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) and civil society.

The purpose of the forum was to enhance understanding of some of the main challenges within the Gambia's SSR process, and to facilitate debate on key issues affecting

the process pertaining to rightsizing, executive-level decision making and resource management.

It was agreed that political will at the highest level is needed to make security sector governance an integral part of that shared national objective, and strong political leadership is required to guide the reform process towards the achievement of clearly designated objectives. The Executive must provide direction if the technical elements of reform are to be effective. Strong leadership is also required to engage institutions and citizens, in order to make the democratic governance of the security sector a matter of public interest and not just an elite concern. Executivelevel guidance to national planners must

address the core components of how security institutions operate: their purpose, size, management and governance structures must be balanced with allocated state resources, national development priorities and the interests of civil-society. Delivering reform across these areas is often politically and institutionally contentious; a constitutionally robust and time-bound framework for executive-level decision-making can serve to mitigate the challenges and obstacles that will inevitably arise.

Photo credit: DCAF Gambia Office

Culled from Forum for Dialogue: Directing SSR in The Gambia Jonathan Marley, Andry Ralijaona, Brig. Gen. (rtd.) Saleh Bala

A WINING OF HEARTS AND MINDS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY THE GAMBIA ARMED FORCES

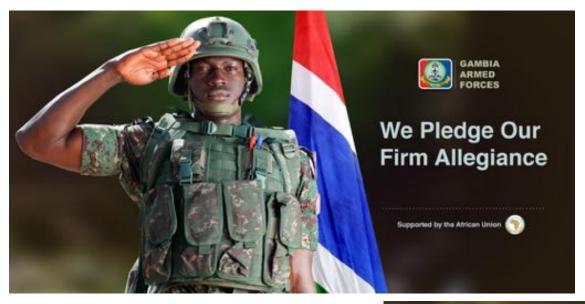


AN IMAGE BUILDING CAMPAIGN

In our new democratic dispensation, reform of the Armed and security forces is a fundamental requirement to ensure the traditional state centric approach of defending the territorial integrity of the state is complemented by human security.



As part of the contribution of AU towards changing the perception of GAF by the general public, slogans addressing issues that GAF is moving away from the traditional role of preserving and protecting the territorial integrity of the state only to the human security approach is clearly evidenced by 8 Billboards, 4 in the provinces and 4 in the general Kombo areas.



An image building, promotion of professional competence and restoration of positive institutional reputation is a critical requirement for armed forces in post-conflict development and reconstruction or armed forces emerging from authoritarian regimes such as ours. Therefore, since GAF is going through a phase of 'post difficult transition,' following the end of 22 years of authoritarian regime, which

first came to power through a military coup, and with the ongoing testimonies at the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission adversely mentioning armed and security officials, there is need for sensitization campaigns.

Cognizant of this need, the Gambia Armed Forces (GAF) have endeavored to engage in an extensive imagine building campaign to help to rebuild and promote the good image of GAF, thereby restoring the professional competence and good reputation of the force.



Office of National Security Hosts Presentation of Findings of Legal Analysis on Maritime Crime

On Wednesday, 15th September 2019, the Office of National Security hosted a meeting on the presentation of the overall analysis of the existing legal system regarding the fight against crime at sea in The Gambia.

As part of the implementation of the new European Union project "Support to West Africa Integrated Maritime Security" (SWAIMS), the European Commission has decided to carry out, in ECOWAS Member States, a comprehensive analysis and assessment of legal and judicial systems to combat illicit activities at sea. These analyses are conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the "Global Maritime Crimes Programme" (GMCP), in close collaboration with the European Union project "Gulf of Guinea Inter-regional Network" (GoGIN) and the Interregional Coordination Center (ICC) based in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The analysis of The Gambia legal system applicable to crime at sea is an essential prerequisite for a full and thorough knowledge of the existing situation throughout the region in terms of legal instruments related to the fight against maritime crime. In light of the resulting recommendations, guidance will be provided for the implementation of the SWAIMS project with a view to improving the coherence and effectiveness of legal and judicial institutions of the beneficiary country.

The legal analysis meant in The Gambia was conducted between the 15th and 21th of May 2019. This preliminary report was developed within the framework of the Yaoundé architecture and after the agreement of the national authorities concerned.

Towards the formulation of a Security Institutions Public Relations Association (SIPRA).

The harmonious working relationship of the security forces of any nation would provide the enabling environment for the citizenry to co-exist in peace and safety. This is because the provision of safety and security are major pillars upon which attainment of other needs are anchored. The attainment of these needs largely depend on a stable and secure environment and how effectively the armed and security services interact to achieve a common purpose.

A proposal for the formation of the Armed and Security Services Public Relations Association (ASSPRA), which would provide a platform where members of the armed and security services of The Gambia would interact and sensitize the general public on issues of national importance especially relating to security has been made. This would also provide an avenue where the security forces could control the narrative and set the agenda for national discourse and also dispel any rumour-mongering as it relates to national security activities. Furthermore, this association, if formed, would conduct joint sensitization of the general public through security talk shows in the electronic media especially GRTS and other media outlets. Additionally, communication lines could be opened for the general public to make calls, which could give an opportunity to gauge public interest and opinion about the armed and security services. Finally, the association would coordinate the conduct of outreach programs and town-hall meetings with communities and media fraternity with the aim of improving civil-security-media relations. With this, the association may also promote the sharing of information with the public to enhance national security.

KEY POINTS TO NOTE ABOUT SSR IN THE GAMBIA

There has been no visible reform in three (3) years:

- I. Public and institutional frustration with the lack of progress is increasing significantly.
- II. The unwillingness to prioritise areas within the Security Sector for fast-tracked reform is undermining public support and the long-term sustainability of the process
- III. The situation is exacerbated by a total absence of strategic communications at the executive level.

(Culled from report: Forum for Dialogue: Directing SSR in The Gambia)

PROFILES

AFRICAN UNION ESTABLISHES A STEERING COMMITTEE ON SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

"The Steering Committee on SSR will also provide a platform for stakeholders and partners to jointly assess the overall implementation of the Policy Framework and develop recommendations for consideration by Member States."

Section G1 of the AU Policy Framework on SSR requires the Commission of the African Union (AU) to coordinate the implementation of the policy and oversee compliance by Member States.

Additionally, and in its efforts to support national SSR processes, the Commission is required to collaborate with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), the United Nations (UN) and other stakeholders on all related aspects, as well as assist in the mobilization of funding and other resources for SSR.

The field of Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Africa is rich with a range of regional and international actors, including donor nations, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental bodies, that are involved at varying levels and provide different forms of support.

While Member States stand to benefit substantially from the expertise and resources such entities offer, the lack of proper coordination and a common approach and vision among them often overwhelms the coordination ability of beneficiary states, and result in suboptimal allocation of resources and competition among implementing entities as well as the relevant national institutions.

This could in turn contribute to disrupting the reform process and the erosion of national ownership and leadership. It is within this context that the AU Steering Committee on SSR will be established to provide a consistent and institutionalized platform where the AU, RECs/RMs, UN, and international partners can share information, reflect on

"The field of Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Africa is rich with a range of regional and international actors"

challenges and opportunities, and devise effective means to coordinate and consolidate efforts and approaches to advance SSR across the continent in line with the principles set out in the AU Policy Framework on SSR.

The Steering Committee on SSR will also provide a platform for stakeholders and partners to jointly assess the overall implementation of the Policy Framework and develop recommendations for consideration by Member States.

The concept of an AU Steering Committee on SSR was endorsed by the 2nd Africa Forum on SSR, held on 22-24 October 2018.

Member States stand to benefit substantially from the expertise and resources such entities offer

The overall objective of the Steering Committee is to foster an integrated AU approach to SSR and effective partnerships, in line with the AU SSR Policy framework, through dialogue with regional stakeholders and international partners to: Provide a forum for regular information sharing and dialogue between stakeholders and assistance providers to align visions and harmonize approaches in support of national ownership and in line with the overall priorities of the African Union; Monitor SSR processes across the continent, assess capacity gaps and identify joint interventions to engage and support as per their requests, Member States and RECs/RMs. Review and evaluate the opportunities and constraints facing the implementation of the AU Policy Framework on SSR and develop measures to strengthen communication and outreach; and finally to provide a platform to assess, capture and share experiences and lessons learned.

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STUDY VISIT TO PRISTINA, KOSOVO BY SELECT SSR VETTING TEAM TO LEARN GOOD PRACTICES



DURING BREAKAWAY SESSIONS ON COUNTER TERRORISM TRAINING AT KOSOVO

A successful workshop and study visit to Pristina, Kosovo was undertaken under the State Building Contract (SBC1 CS) of the European Union in The Gambia.



Gambian security officials got to learn from their local counterparts across the security institutions. Chris Jagger, Advisor on Security Sector Reform, and Shaun Romeril, Counter Terrorism Expert, facilitated and supervised a counter terrorism strategy and security vetting planning team. European Commission - Development & Cooperation - EuropeAid

Letters To The Editor

Why are there people who are serious at work, don't talk to coworkers unless it is work-related?

Have you ever made a few friends at work? Most of the time it is perfectly fine. However, as soon as you plan on a long term CAREER that is when things usually go wrong. You don't anticipate anything changing and you certainly don't want to leave the job. It is like Murphy's Law. As soon as someone realizes that you are staying a long time (years)... the drama begins.

Enter a Friendly Boss....she started telling me all of her problems and innermost secrets. I listened avidly and I tried to give her advice and counsel her. One day she told me something huge (she was dying...) and I was like..." oh that is terrible." What could I say? We stayed friendly for a while but others warned me about her. How she always seems to pick and choose her favorites. She was notorious for befriending the new people and just forgetting about the others when she found someone new. I didn't think it would be that much of a major impact. One day I met the new girl who entered our sphere. As soon as they locked eyes I knew this was going to be trouble. They KNEW each other from a previous job. I ignored it but this girl suddenly became her new best friend. Fast forward six months of working on the job. This lady decided she wanted MY position and then the Boss listened to her and gave it to her! After three weeks of feeling dismissed and resentful I immediately asked for a transfer and started working for a new Supervisor. I met her other former employees and they were disgruntled with her as well. We all learned that she has no loyalty to anyone on the job!

I have a dozen more co-worker stories. I was invited EVERYWHERE. I was invited to shop with them, I was invited to Parties and even once to someone's house. I heard the little voice in my head say "No... you just work with them." But I went to Chop Shop and ordered Charwarma with one. One day this "best friend" at work turned on me and yells "why do I have to do it. Why can't 'Dew' do it instead?" and I had to politely remind her that "best friends" don't throw each other under the bus! She started an argument with management while I had to hold myself together and ignore her obvious betrayal. A month later she couldn't "take the job anymore" (it was so easy too..) and she quit. Then she moved to another place and got a new job there. We only text now and then and that is it. So long "Best Friend".

You cannot really trust people in the workplace. People don't mean to turn on others. It just comes out when Sally says"I wanted that promotion!" People are vying for certain positions or for certain favors in the workplace. Once I received the weekends off. Suddenly a few of my friends became jealous! Once I made RANK in the military! (well, more than once lol). My so-called friends became jealous too! I am used to it. I just befriend people now but I don't get very close to them.

Now to be fair: I do break my rules sometimes. My rules are not to get too close to anyone in the workplace. I don't mix business with pleasure. Now...I won't go into my exceptions lol because they are far and few. If you want to avoid DRAMA, the basic rule is ... don't befriend others in the workplace. Full Stop!

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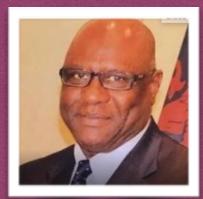
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Hon. Yankuba Sonko Min. of Interior



Momodou Badgie National Security Adviser, ONS

Positioning the country and its security services to meet the changing human security needs of Gambians

Your Feedback Please!

Our Reform – the newsletter of the Office of National Security dedicated to Security Sector Reform is for everyone who is interested in our work.

As the objective of SSR is to increase both the effectiveness of the security sector and the level of accountability of the actors involved in it, we would like to receive your feedback, comments and suggestions for our new features.

Email: communication.ons@gmail.com

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