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EXCLUSIVE

NIA director to testify in private in ex-immigration DG trial

Fatoumatta Manneh

The director of investigations at the National Intelligence Agency, NIA, is to testify in camera (private) in the trial of former director general of Gambia Immigration Service.

Magistrate Hillary Abeke of the Banjul Magistrate Court granted a request from the State prosecutor Mam N. Jobe on 19 May for the director to testify in private.

Ex-immigration DG Buba Sanyang is accused of 'issuing an entry clearance to a Lebanese and a Syrian without following the proper procedures'. He has since pleaded not guilty to the charge brought against him by the State.

Prosecutor Jobe said her request is based on the fact that the evidence that might be given may touch on issues of public safety and public order.

Defence counsel Edward Singatey didn't object to application but said he needed an adjournment to proceed.

The trial has been adjourned for a week, on 26 May, 2014.



Buba Sanyang

GAMBIANS DEPORTED TO NIGER FROM LIBYA RETURN HOME

Mafugi Ceesay

Twenty six Gambians who were reportedly deported to Niger by Libyan authorities have arrived home, in The Gambia, one of them told *The Voice* on Monday May 19, 2014.

Musa Minteh, a native of Badibou Conteh Kunda, said he was among a group of Gambians who were held for five months and sent out of Tripoli, the Libyan capital to the Niger border. He said the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) offices in Niger help facilitate their return to The Gambia via Dakar, Senegal on May 14.

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MAJORITY LEADER CALLS FOR RE-STRUCTURE OF UN

Bakary Ceesay

Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta, majority leader and member of Serekunda East, has stressed that "there is need to re-structure the United Nations (UN), if we all believe in the basic principles of equality and sovereignty of nations."

On Tuesday, he said UN is a body that was formed after the end of world two for nations to come together to prevent world wars and to maintain international order.

Jatta was contributing to a report by a

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Fabakary Tombong Jatta

MILITARY SERGEANT TESTIFY IN PORNOGRAPHY TRIAL OF BRITON

Lamin Kujabi

Sergeant Francis Mendy, a military officer attached to the Tourist Security Unit at Senegambia on Wednesday testified in the trial of a Briton who is accused of playing 'child pornography films' in a public place.

Reginald Thompson is also charged with 'unlawful destroying evidence' by damaging a laptop said to have contained the pornography films. He has denied the charges brought against him by the police.

A police charge sheet indicated the alleged offence was committed on March 1, 2014 at the reception of the Palma Rima hotel at Kololi.

On 14 May, the first witness, Mendy told the Kanifing Magistrate Court that two white ladies who introduced themselves as tourists complaint to him the Thompson was watching a child pornography film on his laptop at the reception of the hotel.

Mendy said he went with two intelligence officers to the hotel and found the hotel manager and Thomson in room 103 where he told the accused that a complain about child pornography films has been lodge against him and ask him to can come to the TSU office. Continue on Page 2

BRITON DETAINED PENDING BAIL APPEAL

Fatoumatta Manneh

The Banjul Magistrate Court Tuesday ordered for a British woman, Joy Buchanan, to be placed in prison custody, pending an appeal for bail. She was earlier granted bail by the same court.

Buchanan is charge with offences relating to judicial proceedings after she was accused of forcefully banging the office door Justice Emmanuel .A Amadi at the high court and hailing and insulting him and his orderly on 15th January 2014.

On 20 May, her lawyer Moses Richards informs the court that Buchanan intends to change her plea - from not guilty to guilty.

"We urge the court to enter a plea of guilty to the

accused on the charges brought against her," he said. His request was granted by Magistrate Hillary Abeke, presiding.

The director of public prosecution Salie H. Barkium has called for the woman to be convicted and sentenced accordingly on her plea.

Counsel Richards told the court that the accused person have admitted a criminal responsibility and has not wasted the court's time and have saved the resources of

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NCCE out to broaden knowledge of civic rights in schools

Modou S. Joof

Students and teachers in Central River Region have been trained on formation of civic education clubs in schools to broaden and deepen their knowledge of civic rights and responsibilities.

The May 16-17 training for participants from Kaur, Jangjangbureh and Fulla Bantang upper basic schools is part of a nationwide activity funded by the UN Development Programme.

National Council for Civic Education, NCCE, has stated students will be taught to realize their roles as future leaders and in consolidating Gambia's democratic system through civic clubs, and to ensure active participation in Gambia's socio-political process.

The civic clubs are meant to study, analyse and discuss the content of the constitution and to develop a practical commitment to social justice, democracy and equality, according to the Council.

"This exercise is aimed at nurturing a culture of democratic citizenship among young school goers," Junkung K. Saïdy, a senior civic education officer at NCCE, said on Friday at the CRR forestry department in JangJangbureh.

"This training will help enhance the

capacity of teachers and students on civic awareness, democracy and human rights as per the 1997 Constitution and increase their participation in the governance process of the country."

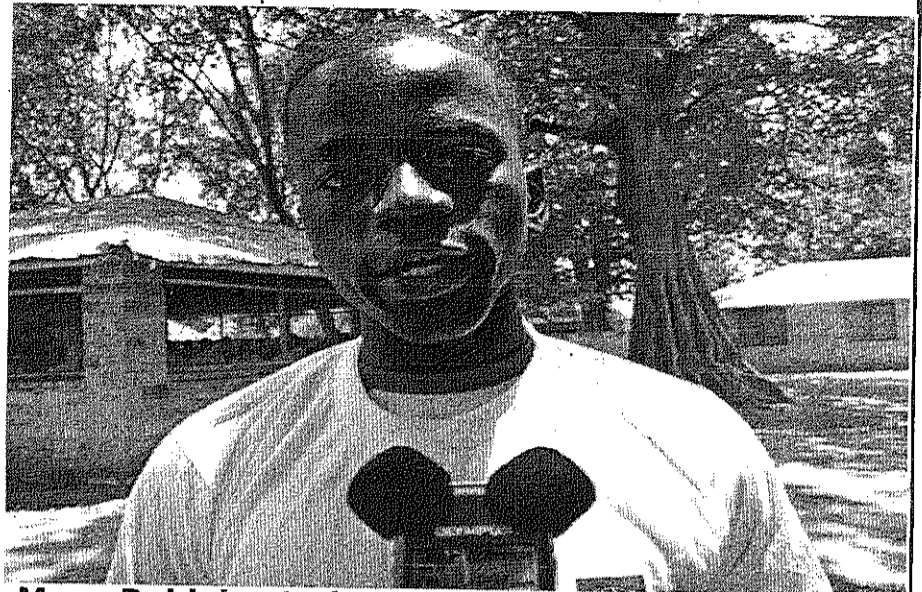
Civic education is learning for effective participation in democratic and development processes at local and national levels.

Ansumana Yabou, a civic education supervisor at NCCE, said civic education facilitates the active involvement of citizens in their own governance by enabling them to take informed decisions.

"It also promotes seasoned commitment to the rule of law and fair play, and facilitates the understanding and acceptance of rights and responsibilities," Mr Yabou said.

Kajali Janneh, a senior education officer in CRR, said students and teachers are expected to keep alive civic education activities in their schools.

"You are expected to create vibrant clubs. That is why NCCE came up with the idea of establishing civic education clubs in schools," added Janneh



Musa Baldeh, student of St. Therese's Upper Basic School, Fulla Bantang (Photo Credit: M.S.Joof)

of regional educational directorate. "Civic education is a key area in human development."

Musa Baldeh, a student of St. Therese's Upper Basic School at Fulla Bantang, said he will share knowledge gained from the training and work toward setting up an active civic club at his school.

"This training is very important be-

cause it will help us know a lot about our rights and responsibilities as young citizens," he said. "I will work with my teacher and fellow students to set up the club because it is important for us to be aware of our civic rights and duties."

This story was first published by The Standard on May 19, 2014.

Gambian writes book on terrorism

Bakary Ceesay
Bakary Ceesay

Lamin Njie, a young Gambian writer, has authored a book on terrorism called 'The Boston Bombings; A Gambian Rethinking.'

He said he is seeking financial support for the publication of the book. He said he is calling on public and private institutions and embassies to support this "important" project.

Njie told *The Voice* on Monday that he was inspired to write on terrorism after major terrorists' events redefined world affairs.

"The book takes the form of a comprehensive analysis of events on international terrorism since September 11 which has greatly transformed the state-of-play of global affairs. Some countries have been ad-

versely affected in terms of security than others," he said.

He said terrorism has led to the point-less death of thousands of innocent civilians, the fall of regimes and economic chaos. He said the Boston Marathon bombings in the United States [of America] which killed three people and injured hundreds turned out to be a major inspiration for this work.

"Notwithstanding, the global response on counter-terrorism both in theory and practice has assumed increased importance and the book seek to add to an ongoing conversation on the issue," Njie said.

Njie, who is also a journalist, further argued that Al Qaeda-style terrorism has evolved remarkably in the last decade - put-

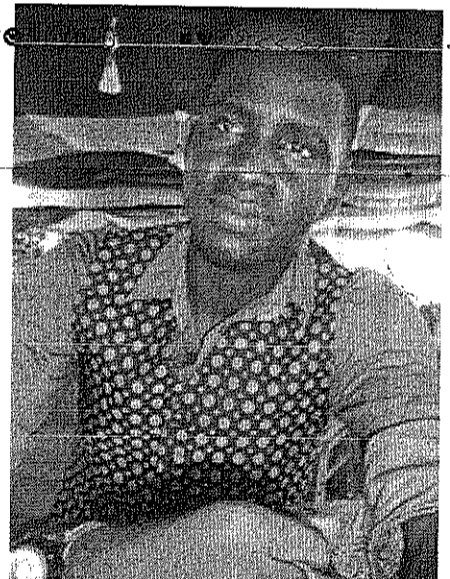
ting great nations to test.

He said the United States has been a leading force to tackle international terrorism given the continued security threats it poses to the world.

He added: "These evolving threats are not only targeted at America alone but all other countries fighting against terrorism. In the last decade, we have seen some serious effort coming from the Islamic world to fight Jihadi movements.

"Even African countries like Nigeria where the Islamist group Boko Haram is now active, have been affected and their governments have common sense to work with more powerful countries on the issue."

Njie said anyone willing to support



can reach him on mobile phone number +220 7164369.

WCR is in support 2016 food sufficiency agenda

Aliou Darboe

The West Coast Region is in support of President Jammeh's 2016 food self-sufficiency scheme, its new governor Aminata



Siffai Hydra has said, urging people of the region to respond positively to the president's Vision 2016 rice production plan.

Speaking at a May 18 clearing of President Jammeh's farm at Tanji, Hydara noted Jammeh's pledged of commitment to an all-

year-round agricultural production to achieve sustainable economic growth and food self-sufficiency.

"Responding to the call made by the president for the people to go back-to-the-land is vital since his wish is for the people to eat what they grow and grow what they eat," she said.

APRC National Women mobiliser Isatou Jifanga Jarju, said Gambians should complement President Jammeh's efforts to ensure there is not only enough food for local consumption, but for export as well.

"Agricultural activities are the only way forward in the realization of food self-sufficiency and I am therefore challenging the youth of the region to make maximum use of the enabling environment created by the Jammeh administration in order to eradicate poverty," she said.

TBT programme giving exporters access to markets

Amadou Bah

Addressing Technical Barriers to Trade, TBT, has become a top class in trade and trade related issues in the international market, Papa Secka, director general of the Standard Bureau, has said.

He said the TBT, an EU-ACP programme being implemented by the Standard Bureau in The Gambia, also gives the opportunities to local exporters access to markets.

Secka was speaking Tuesday at a two-day awareness and capacity building seminar for local stakeholders on TBT related issues held at a local hotel in Kololi from 20-21 May, 2014 under the theme: "The Gambia in an emerging Africa-opportunities and demands in the global trade regime."

The EU has since approved 15 million Euros for implementation of The Gambia's project on TBT. The

programme is intended to address barriers in trade.

Secka said the Standard Bureau needs to build the capacity of its national stakeholders. He also noted that people need to sensitized and be aware of technical regulations and standards that applies to products and in terms of access to market.

Nichodemus Rudaheranwa, lead consultants of TBT programme in The Gambia, said the programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of national institution on TBT related issues.

It means citizens need to make assessments on what are the current situations and gaps on TBT related issues, he said. It also gives opportunities and creates understanding by the TBT agreement and could benefit the private sector.