



## CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRAINING CENTER AT SUKUTA SANCHABA JOLA KUNDA IN WEST COAST REGION

The Construction of a New Training Center in Sukuta Sanchaba Jola Kunda, Kombo North District, West Coast Region in The Republic of The Gambia, West Africa, called The Youth Integration Training Center (YITC) could not have come at a better time. The idea to construct such a center is conceived at a time when the continuous clandestine movement of potential youths out of the country through what is commonly referred to as Back Way to Europe is in the increase. Most of this risk-taking journey in search of greener pasture often end up leaving them either bankrupt or stranded on the way after investing so much for the venture. A number of them at times end up losing their lives and if lucky, they enter Europe broken, desperate, destitute without any skillful knowledge preparing them for the future challenges in that part of the world. At the end, some of them lacking the required skills and knowledge will resort to the abuse and trafficking of all sorts of drugs, or engage in all forms of banditry to make to make a quick living at the expenses of those hardworking innocent people found hosting them. Some of them cause so much nuisance that they automatically become unwelcomed in a place they call their second dream home.

To address such a situation, The Youth Integration Training Center (YITC) has been conceived to prepare the youths of The Gambia in particular, those in West Coast Region and their surroundings to be enrolled in order to benefit from capacity building training. The Center intends to provide the training needed to prepare the youths for future gainfully employment thereby stemming the flow of youth migration to Europe through back ways. It is the motto of the Center that, "*not all that glitters in Europe is gold*". That is position to acquire training, skills, and knowledge to be able to chart their future destiny instead of engaging on a dangerous journey and depending on an imaginary dream that will end up shattering ones entire hope to the point of nor return. Such a waste serves no economic benefit for the country nor for the community and its people as well.

The Center plans to come out with a policy document that clearly visualizes the objective

of setting up such a project for the youths. However, the profile document as herein outlined shows the entire project cost and seeks to look for funding in order to construct such a facility in the area of the benefit of all and sundry.

The Center plans to open seven specialized training units under one roof as shown below:

1. Computer Science & Literacy
2. Agricultural Development
3. Carpentry & Wood Work
4. Building & Construction
5. Mechanical & Engineering
6. Painting, Artistry & Artisanal
7. Entrepreneurial Training

*The mission of the Center* — is to advocate against irregular migration to Europe. That is, the Center will serve as an advocacy unit to lead the campaign for "Operation No Back Way to Europe". Its establishment is to deter young Gambians from embarking on the perilous journey in search of greener pastures in Europe and other parts of the world, when they can engage themselves into other meaningful socioeconomic ventures such as training, skill development, capacity building, farming and other entrepreneurial undertakings to make a good living and stay of comfortable life at home. The successful establishment of The Youth Integration Training Center (YITC) will immediately help address the problem of irregular migration, travelling by sea on small boats to Europe or by the Sahara through Libya to Europe. Its establishment will also help engage the youths into meaningful socioeconomic activities, change them into becoming productive citizens and give them the brightness they so deserved for the future.

Voyaging across the volatile sea or traveling through the host and unfriendly desert only to lose one's possession and life is as dangerous as slapping oneself at the back for no good reason. The need to remedy this situation is a necessity as the implication of such illegal migration is one of a challenge to all African Countries including The Gambia. That is more the reason why The Center is seeking funding or financial support through aid agencies, international and bilateral organizations to be able to construct and establish such a project to settle "*the unsettles*".

*The aims and objectives for establishing the center are:* — To provide quality and relevant education aimed at bringing sustainable peace and development to the needy. In addition, to empower but stand against those wanting to use back way in search of greener pastures. — To spur growth and development in their country through agriculture thereby [page 1/4]

[p.2] engaging youths to be trained as real time agriculturists (farmers and gardeners) for the country to be food self-sufficient. That is, to promote large-scale agricultural production among others. — To train the youths to become good entrepreneurs who will venture into small-scale micro enterprises through provision of financial Services by way of micro lending (short-term loans) from the Commercial Banks as well as the Micro-Finance Banks. In partnership with the Center, the commercial banks will help promote and encourage the culture of Savings by providing easy access to micro credit facilities after completion of training. Such micro finance interventions will no doubt keep the youths focused as entrepreneurs instead of plying the back way journey to Europe. — To operate through registered Youth Societies or Village Development Committees (VDCs) by way of partnership through a supervised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as will be sign between the Center and the parties. — To train them through gainful income generating ventures and help identify reliable markets for their local produce. — To encourage and support the active participation of youths towards the country's path socio-economic advancement inculcating the ideals of self-reliance, patriotism and hard work. — To forge links with Aid Agencies, as well as other Local and International Organizations who may wish to support the sustainable growth of The Center. This may include the UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, CCF, GF, Action Aid The Gambia, European Union, International Migration Office (IMO) et cetera.

### Methods of Operation

The Center will be opened in Sukuta Village North District, West Coast Region, The Gambia, West Africa. It will operate seven specialized classes with 50 students per class for a start. With an annual enrollment of 350 students, this number will be maintained for three semesters and then increase slightly if need be and upon available funding. There will be enroll on Computer Science & Literacy, Agriculture & Development, Carpentry & Woodwork, Building & Construction, Mechanics & Engineering, Painting & Artisanal, Marketing & Entrepreneurial Training.

*The Center will start with twenty (20) active staff:*

- a Seven Teachers with three reserves in total ten (10) teachers.
- b A Principal
- c A Deputy Principal
- d A Secretary

- e An Accountant
- f Two Cleaners (2)
- g Two watchmen (night & day) (2)
- h A Store keeper
- i A Security Officer

*Target Groups.* The Center's main area of concentration will be in the urban areas, targeting the poor especially those unemployed youths found not engaged into anything meaningful. According to statistics, 90% of illegal migration stems from urban areas where the facility and means of travel are easily made available to them. Most of the youths after travelling from the rural to the urban areas in search of jobs and failing to secure one in those areas will resort to making up their minds to travel abroad in whatever means. With frustration and peer pressure, this is when they start to count their journey to Europe even if it means dying on the way.

The center will undertake series of groundbreaking sensitization and community outreach programs to challenge communities on the effects of back way, on the harmful use of ban substances like drugs and alcohol to name just a few.

*Rural improvement.* It is no secret that the majority of Gambians, about 75% reside in rural areas where they depend entirely on land for their livelihood. In a country, which is, blessed with abundant arable land and predominantly agricultural, one cannot talk about improvement in the life of the rural poor without developing their agricultural needs. That is the reason why The Center will concentrate heavily in teaching and training youths in agriculture, farming and gardening. This is because it is the backbone of the economy accounting for 25% of GDP, supporting 70% of the work force and providing over 90% of the domestic export earnings. For The Center, this method will be the fastest way to fight hunger, improve livelihood and curb rural-urban drift, the gateway to illegal migration to Europe.

*The Challenges for the Center* — It is to prepare the despaired youths into becoming citizens of the country thereby contributing meaningfully to the socioeconomic development of the country. — To develop a spirit of collective youth participation, patriotism, self-reliance and a fulfilled life for all devoid of poverty. — To empower them through capacity building and skill training for those in need and wanting to be responsible citizens in future.

*Factors of Development.* The Center recognizes that success and peace cannot be achieved in families without the effective participation and support for women and youth. They are indispensable partners in economic

**Youth in Development.** The Center aimed at promoting the interest of Youths in a participatory framework through appropriate skill training, abstinence in the usage of dangerous drugs, crimes or other social vices. Such a facility will seek to address youth education, training, and welfare needs. The Center will give Youth Participation the emphasis and prominence it so required.

**Strategic Objective.** The Center's strategic objective for the first five years is to undertake the following: — Conducting more community outreach programs. — Ensuring greater community involvement and participation in youth training and development. — Working hand-in-hand in support of Government policies and programs in curbing illegal youth integration — Collaborating with International and Regional Organizations, Aid Agencies and the Private Sector in addressing the needs of the youths.

### Strategic Programs

*Education* is the only known tool against ignorance and poverty, and the center will concentrate in boosting their enrollment, retention and performance in training to become productive in future.

### Continuity of care

of corporate citizenship and productivity.

### Reject investments

Due to the high costs of operation with shareholders limited resources to cover such, the center will require funding support to be able to meet its operational and administrative objective thereby fulfilling its mission statement of curbing the back-way syndrome.

upon needs.

**Substance:**

July 2020, April 2021

Twitter information portal: [twitter.com/yupastmatters](http://twitter.com/yupastmatters)



### ABOUT THE FILM: PROJECT IN THE GAMBA

therefore can be used for joint international support.

ations through the integration of young people's views,

young away from the determining factors of migration

**Regional and local governments:**

maintaining the livelihoods of around 1500 young people

1990-1991, 1991-1992, 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030, 2030-2031, 2031-2032, 2032-2033, 2033-2034, 2034-2035, 2035-2036, 2036-2037, 2037-2038, 2038-2039, 2039-2040, 2040-2041, 2041-2042, 2042-2043, 2043-2044, 2044-2045, 2045-2046, 2046-2047, 2047-2048, 2048-2049, 2049-2050, 2050-2051, 2051-2052, 2052-2053, 2053-2054, 2054-2055, 2055-2056, 2056-2057, 2057-2058, 2058-2059, 2059-2060, 2060-2061, 2061-2062, 2062-2063, 2063-2064, 2064-2065, 2065-2066, 2066-2067, 2067-2068, 2068-2069, 2069-2070, 2070-2071, 2071-2072, 2072-2073, 2073-2074, 2074-2075, 2075-2076, 2076-2077, 2077-2078, 2078-2079, 2079-2080, 2080-2081, 2081-2082, 2082-2083, 2083-2084, 2084-2085, 2085-2086, 2086-2087, 2087-2088, 2088-2089, 2089-2090, 2090-2091, 2091-2092, 2092-2093, 2093-2094, 2094-2095, 2095-2096, 2096-2097, 2097-2098, 2098-2099, 2099-2100, 2100-2101, 2101-2102, 2102-2103, 2103-2104, 2104-2105, 2105-2106, 2106-2107, 2107-2108, 2108-2109, 2109-2110, 2110-2111, 2111-2112, 2112-2113, 2113-2114, 2114-2115, 2115-2116, 2116-2117, 2117-2118, 2118-2119, 2119-2120, 2120-2121, 2121-2122, 2122-2123, 2123-2124, 2124-2125, 2125-2126, 2126-2127, 2127-2128, 2128-2129, 2129-2130, 2130-2131, 2131-2132, 2132-2133, 2133-2134, 2134-2135, 2135-2136, 2136-2137, 2137-2138, 2138-2139, 2139-2140, 2140-2141, 2141-2142, 2142-2143, 2143-2144, 2144-2145, 2145-2146, 2146-2147, 2147-2148, 2148-2149, 2149-2150, 2150-2151, 2151-2152, 2152-2153, 2153-2154, 2154-2155, 2155-2156, 2156-2157, 2157-2158, 2158-2159, 2159-2160, 2160-2161, 2161-2162, 2162-2163, 2163-2164, 2164-2165, 2165-2166, 2166-2167, 2167-2168, 2168-2169, 2169-2170, 2170-2171, 2171-2172, 2172-2173, 2173-2174, 2174-2175, 2175-2176, 2176-2177, 2177-2178, 2178-2179, 2179-2180, 2180-2181, 2181-2182, 2182-2183, 2183-2184, 2184-2185, 2185-2186, 2186-2187, 2187-2188, 2188-2189, 2189-2190, 2190-2191, 2191-2192, 2192-2193, 2193-2194, 2194-2195, 2195-2196, 2196-2197, 2197-2198, 2198-2199, 2199-2200, 2200-2201, 2201-2202, 2202-2203, 2203-2204, 2204-2205, 2205-2206, 2206-2207, 2207-2208, 2208-2209, 2209-2210, 2210-2211, 2211-2212, 2212-2213, 2213-2214, 2214-2215, 2215-2216, 2216-2217, 2217-2218, 2218-2219, 2219-2220, 2220-2221, 2221-2222, 2222-2223, 2223-2224, 2224-2225, 2225-2226, 2226-2227, 2227-2228, 2228-2229, 2229-2230, 2230-2231, 2231-2232, 2232-2233, 2233-2234, 2234-2235, 2235-2236, 2236-2237, 2237-2238, 2238-2239, 2239-2240, 2240-2241, 2241-2242, 2242-2243, 2243-2244, 2244-2245, 2245-2246, 2246-2247, 2247-2248, 2248-2249, 2249-2250, 2250-2251, 2251-2252, 2252-2253, 2253-2254, 2254-2255, 2255-2256, 2256-2257, 2257-2258, 2258-2259, 2259-2260, 2260-2261, 2261-2262, 2262-2263, 2263-2264, 2264-2265, 2265-2266, 2266-2267, 2267-2268, 2268-2269, 2269-2270, 2270-2271, 2271-2272, 2272-2273, 2273-2274, 2274-2275, 2275-2276, 2276-2277, 2277-2278, 2278-2279, 2279-2280, 2280-2281, 2281-2282, 2282-2283, 2283-2284, 2284-2285, 2285-2286, 2286-2287, 2287-2288, 2288-2289, 2289-2290, 2290-2291, 2291-2292, 2292-2293, 2293-2294, 2294-2295, 2295-2296, 2296-2297, 2297-2298, 2298-2299, 2299-2300, 2300-2301, 2301-2302, 2302-2303, 2303-2304, 2304-2305, 2305-2306, 2306-2307, 2307-2308, 2308-2309, 2309-2310, 2310-2311, 2311-2312, 2312-2313, 2313-2314, 2314-2315, 2315-2316, 2316-2317, 2317-2318, 2318-2319, 2319-2320, 2320-2321, 2321-2322, 2322-2323, 2323-2324, 2324-2325, 2325-2326, 2326-2327, 2327-2328, 2328-2329, 2329-2330, 2330-2331, 2331-2332, 2332-2333, 2333-2334, 2334-2335, 2335-2336, 2336-2337, 2337-2338, 2338-2339, 2339-2340, 2340-2341, 2341-2342, 2342-2343, 2343-2344, 2344-2345, 2345-2346, 2346-2347, 2347-2348, 2348-2349, 2349-2350, 2350-2351, 2351-2352, 2352-2353, 2353-2354, 2354-2355, 2355-2356, 2356-2357, 2357-2358, 2358-2359, 2359-2360, 2360-2361, 2361-2362, 23

— *Third:* To encourage the participation of around 800

and social actions by 2020/2021:

men and 102 young women (based on zero figures),