

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL MOURNING

The Embassy of the Republic of The Gambia in the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission to the European Communities regrets to announce the demise of **His Excellency, Alhaji. Sir. Dawda Kairaba Jawara, Former President of the Republic of The Gambia from 1970 to 1994.** This sad event took place at his residence in Fajara, The Gambia on Tuesday, 27th August 2019. He was 95 years old.

H.E. Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara was born on May 16th 1924 in Barajally village, in the Central Region of The Gambia. He was educated in the Methodist Boys High School in former colonial capital of Bathurst (Banjul). He studied Veterinary medicine in Achimota College – Ghana; Trained as a Veterinary Surgeon in the University of Glasgow and studied Tropical Veterinary medicine in University of Edinburgh.

H.E. Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara served his beloved country The Gambia as veterinary officer, principal veterinary officer until his nomination as the leader of the Protectorate People's Party (PPP), later known as, People's Progressive Party.

As a Pan-Africanist, and leader of the Independence movement, he was elected as The Gambia's Prime Minister from 1962 to 1970. H.E President Jawara led the Gambian delegation to The Gambia's Independence Conference held in Marlborough House, London in 1964 and became the **First President of the Republic of The Gambia from 1970 – 1994.**

Fondly referred to by his birth name **"Kairaba" (the great blessing; the peace-bringer)**, President Jawara became the symbol of Peace in The Gambia. He was a strong believer in Human Rights and democracy and was globally recognized for his great contributions to sub-regional peace and stability in West Africa; African Independence and integration as well as global diplomacy.

A state funeral will be held on Thursday, 29th August 2019 and H.E. Sir. Dawda Kairaba Jawara will be laid to rest in The Gambia on the same date.

During this period of national mourning, the Embassy's flag will be lowered to half-mast and **a book of condolence will be opened to the General Public, at the Embassy of The Gambia, 126, Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1050 Brussels on the following dates:**

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| Thursday, 5 th September 2019 | 10:00am to 12:00pm | and | 14:00pm to 16:30pm |
| Friday, 6 th September 2019 | 10:00am to 13:30pm | | |
| Monday 9 th September 2019 | 10:00am to 12:00pm | and | 14:00pm to 16:30pm |

May his soul rest in Peace!