

## **GAMBIA GOLF ASSOCIATION - PRESS RELEASE**



The Gambia Golf Association (GGA) will like to congratulate the President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr Yahya A J J Jammeh on Gambia's forthcoming 46<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary.

The maiden Baby Mariam Jammeh Golf Tournament is part of events marking the Gambia's 46<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary celebrations and will be held from 11 February 2011 to 18 February 2011. The tournament is being played under the sole sponsorship of our dynamic and visionary leader – H E President Jammeh. This tournament is the biggest yet in the history of golf in The Gambia, with a generous USD40,000 donation from H E the President.

Part of the donation will be used to offer full golf scholarship packages to 3 graduates (one of whom must be a female) of the GGA run Gambia Academy of Golf. The package includes equipment, membership of Fajara Club, 20 golf lessons each, entry fees for 20 Fajara Club competitions, caddy fees, brownsweeper fees, transport fares, clothing allowances, etc.

The GGA is the Governing Body for Golf in The Republic of The Gambia and is overseen by a Committee under the General Authority of the National Sports Council (NSC) of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. GGA is also affiliated to the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) and The R&A. Affiliation to The R&A automatically qualifies The Gambia to send two participants to the biennial Junior Open Championship to be played at Fairhaven Golf Club from 16-18 July 2012. They will compete with under 18s from other countries for a variety of prizes based on handicap and region.

On Sunday 13 February 2011 there will be free lessons and mini competitions for beginners and the general public. Registration will be on a first come first served basis on the day, at the Fajara Golf Course. There is no entry fee and clubs will be provided free of charge.

To date, 29 foreign professionals and 23 foreign amateurs have confirmed their participation in the Baby Mariam Jammeh Golf Tournament and they start arriving on 11 February 2011. Over one hundred players will compete in the tournament. The personal intervention of H E the President, has definitely given Gambian Golf a new lease of life and put it on par with the best the Sub-region has to offer. His Excellency's contribution speaks for the tireless work that the Committee continues to provide to raise the standard of the game.

We congratulate President Jammeh for having the foresight to take this generous step towards ensuring that Gambian Sports and golf in particular becomes world class. GGA will play its part in achieving the objectives for Gambian sports as espoused in the President's Vision 2020 Blueprint.

We would also like to thank the sponsors and partners of the most successful Gambia Open and Pro Am ever, the recently concluded 2010 Gambia Open and Pro Am, played under the most distinguished Chief Patronage of H E the President of the Republic of The Gambia who was also the sponsor of the President's Salver with the biggest ever purse of USD10,000.

Gambia National Olympic Committee

Fajara Club

Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara

National Sports Council

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