



New clinic for Njaba Kunda soon

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Residents of Njaba Kunda and its environs in the North Bank Region will soon benefit from a new clinic, courtesy of NGO 57/ Project Aid -The Gambia, a press release from the said organisation revealed.

Below is the full text of the release:

In 2011, a new health centre is to be built in Njaba Kunda in the district of Central Baddibu, North Bank Region of The Gambia. Mathias Kettler, chairman of the International NGO 57/Project Aid The Gambia and goodwill ambassador at large of the Republic of The Gambia, announced in Njaba Kunda that work on the model clinic will commence this spring. The project will be financed by own funds as well as subsidies from the German Government. For twenty years, Project Aid The Gambia has been running the Jahally Health Centre in Jahally, in the district of Fulladu West, Central River Region.

For Mr. Ketteler, the journey to Njaba Kunda is a return to the place, where his commitment for The Gambia once began. In April 1986, he and his friend, Frank Hener, came to the Njaba Kunda Health Centre as young nursery student and gained first insights into the Gambian health system. "It was right here in Njaba Kunda, where we decided that it was time to stop talking and start acting," says Ketteler.

They founded the international NGO 57/ Project Aid The Gambia and built the Jahally Health Centre in Jahally, which celebrates its 20th anniversary of successful work this year. The project's primary mandate is to support the government in providing excellent humanitarian services to the rural communities. The project has been involved in series of successful projects since 1991. Its mandate was to provide excellent health care to the people living in the rural areas. As education is the founding block of any meaningful development, its secondary mandate was to provide high quality early childhood education for the children of the target villages.

Project Aid is presently sponsoring four women agricultural garden projects in Jahally (CRR). In the later part of 2010 the project in collaboration with the German government was able to secure funds to build Njaba Kunda Health Centre to a model clinic. The project's administrative head office is situated in Manjai Kunda (KMC) in the Kanifing Municipality Council, The Gambia.

Thus, Project Aid The Gambia decided to demolish the Health Centre in Njaba Kunda and to rebuild it like the Jahally Health Centre. As at now, the project funding is secured and the construction plans are completed. Work is in progress. Mr Ketteler recently presented the plan for the reconstruction of the clinic to the villagers in detail. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

In co-operation with The Gambia Health Department, Ambassador Ketteler is already planning the next project in the development of the country's health care. "The reconstruction in Njaba Kunda is only the beginning," Mr. Ketteler said. The NGO's vision is to modernize all rural health centres in the country within the next years. The role models for all stations will be Njaba Kunda and Jahally.

If this great and important project succeeds, Mr. Kettler said, The Gambia will be the first African country, where all health centres dispose of a constant provision of electricity and water supply.

Author: **Daily Observer**