

# Vice President opens health centre

by Bunja Touray

**THE expansion project at the Jahally Health Centre, sponsored through German funding to the tune of of D3.5 million has been officially opened by The Vice President and Secretary of State for Health, Isatou Njie-Saidy.**

Speaking at the opening ceremony last Thursday, the Vice President said the intervention of the sponsors, through a local NGO - Project Aid the Third World - is a clear testimony of the viability of the partnership between the government, the donor community and the Non-gov-

ernmental sector.

She added that the present health policy emphasises consolidation as well as the selected expansion of health facilities and greater service coverage.

In the first phase of the project, established since in 1991, it has been able to serve over 100,000 patients. She described the new phase with expanded facilities as a welcome development. These include the addition of a maternity wing to the outpatient block, consultation rooms as well as the staff quarters. She assured the health centre that

government will ensure that the required number of trained health personnel are available to match the level of increased services provided there such as child care, eye clinic, laboratory and pharmaceutical services and other ancillary facilities such as accommodation and storage facilities.

The Vice President thanked the German Project sponsors, and the Jahally community for their participation in its realisation.

The Project chairman, Matthias Ketteler, said asserted The German embassy and authorities had provided

money for the installation of a solar system, a project vehicle and an ambulance. He added that catchment area of the health centre covers a radius of 60-kilometres. Mr Ketteler said the large number of patient s reporting at the health centre shows that their work and commitment was gratefully accepted. He thanked the German government for providing D2,342,200 of the project sum and Gunter Hageman, the general manager of the project, for supervising the works for the past nine months.

Dr. David L. Tembo, the WHO country representative appealed to the NGO partners to closely work with the health authorities. WHO will continue to give what ever assistance is required, he said.

Ahaji Marie Tamedou, a native of Jahally who initiated the project, and who contributed 20% to phase one of the health centre, said the health belongs to all persons in need of health services.

## About Jahally centre

Jahally Health Centre located in CRD and was opened in May 1991, and up to May

1996 more than 100,000 patients were registered. It has a total staff number of 19 qualified nurses and midwives. The expansion project just opened will serve the purpose of consultation facilities for general outpatients, a block for conducting maternity deliveries, laboratory tests and health education programmes, among other things.

The Vice President also visited the Kudang health centre. The acting health officer in charge of the division, Kebba Gibba, said the centre have started eye surgery since November 1997. The main cases handled at the centre include malaria and other diarrhoeal diseases.

Mrs. Njie-Saidy later visited that Bansang Hospital where she inspected the ongoing expansion of the maternity ward. The expansion project is said to be funded by an organisation called the Friends of Bansang and the Bansang community.

She was taken on conducted tour by the acting chief executive, Gibril Sumbudou.