

Jahally Clinic expanded

by *Mohammed Fauzee*

The Vice President and Secretary of State for Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Isatou Njie-Saidy, has said the intervention of the Project Aid Third World was an indication of partnership to attain the objectives of sectoral policies.

Mrs Njie-Saidy was speaking on Thursday at the official inauguration of the expansion of the Jahally Clinic in Jahally village, Central River Division.

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

She noted that the fact that the first phase of the project established since 1991 had been able to serve over 100,000 patients reflected the need for an expanded facility.

The Vice President said the addition of a maternity

wing to the outpatient and consultation rooms as well as the staff quarters, mirrored the effort to provide the minimum package required for the health facilities to respond effectively to the health needs of the average catchment areas they have been designed to serve.

Mrs Njie-Saidy said Government would ensure that the required number of trained health personnel are available to match the level of increased services in pediatrics, ophthalmic care, laboratory and pharmaceutical services and other ancillary facilities such as accommodation and storage.

She noted that the second phase of the Jahally health centre project would ease the pressure that has been exerted on the clinic and would definitely be a source of improvement in both the quality and access of health care to the inhabitants of the area.

She thanked the German charity Projekthilfe Dritte Welt and the German gov-

ernment for providing the financial resource required for the expansion of the facility, the widening of the scope and improvement of the services it provides; and praised the community for the labour they provided.

Earlier the chairman of the Project Aid Third World, Mathias Keltéber gave a brief history of the organisation and thanked the Government and people of The Gambia for their support in the realisation of the project.

Other speakers included the country representative of the WHO, David Tembo and the Commissioner, Central River Division, Cherno Touray who was also chairman for the occasion.

Present were the director of Medical Services, Dr Alieu Gaye, the head of the Gambia National Army, Col Babucarr Jatta; Fatmata Baldeh-Njie of TANGO and a cross-section of the local community.