

REPUBLIC



OF THE GAMBIA

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PRESS RELEASE

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in our courts was introduced as an alternative to the court process and is seen as having the potential to address the backlog of cases in the courts and in general to improve access to justice

Focusing on the above objectives, the Judiciary of The Gambia is pleased to announce its upcoming event for our civil justice system in The Gambia; this is

1. **The inaugural Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Conference**
2. **The Mediation Week,**

With the support of the American Bar Association Promoting Rights and Justice Project in The Gambia (PRJ), the ADR Week will kick off with a flagship ADR conference, **on 17th May 2024 at the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center** serving as a vital platform for sharing insights, experiences, and best practices in ADR. This hybrid conference will gather esteemed judges and legal professionals from Rwanda, Zambia, and the United States of America, renowned for their expertise in ADR. This conference will also introduce the newly trained mediators to the public.

In recognizing the importance of raising awareness about the newly functioning court-connected ADR system alongside the traditional litigation system, amongst the public,

legal practitioners, and potential court users and the need to ensure that the public understands its existence, the Judiciary of The Gambia plans to hold a **MEDIATION WEEK from the 20th to the 24th of May 2024** to promote the enhancement of ADR mechanisms within our legal framework.

The primary objective of this week is to have our trained and certified mediators, mediate many cases to deal with court cases that have been identified as suitable for mediation rather than litigation and to enhance out-of-court settlement of those cases as well as raise awareness about the recently established court-connected ADR system amongst legal practitioners, judiciary officials, and stakeholders in the Justice sector.

Furthermore, the ADR Week will feature various other activities, including media engagements (TV and radio interviews), workshops, networking events, and community outreach programs, aimed at involving participants and the public in comprehensive discussions on ADR and settlement of disputes.

We look forward to a successful conference and mediation week and urge all stakeholders to participate actively and contribute to this landmark event in advancing ADR practices in our Courts and The Gambia.



Judicial Secretary

