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Seychelles Ports Authority  
Study Tour of the Gambian Delegation  
Public Relations and Communications: Content for Publication

Event: Meeting with the Gambian's Delegation  
Component held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Gambia seeks SPA's expertise in port extension project and management**

With the aim to share best practices and experiences in port management, a delegation comprising of 10 officials from the Republic of Gambia met with the top management of the Seychelles Ports Authority (SPA) on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The delegation hails from the State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) Department, a newly established directorate, under the ambit of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Republic of Gambia, with a mandate to oversee the country's SOEs. The delegation was headed by Mr Bai Madi Ceesay, the Director of the SOE Department.

Their visit to the Seychelles came upon a request made to the Seychelles' Public Enterprise Monitoring Commission (PEMC) in a bid to learn from Seychelles' experiences in the management of public or state-owned enterprises. This will allow them to strengthen the capacity of the SOE Department in their country.

As part of this mission, referred to as a study tour, the delegation visited the SPA at the Commercial Port, where the meeting was hosted. They were accompanied by Ms Janine Henriette, the Business Analyst and Desk Officer for SPA, at the PEMC.

During the meeting the head of the delegation, Mr Ceesay, and his other delegates, discussed the project being planned by the Gambian Port Authority (GPA) to improve Gambia's port and its management through a port expansion project to place it at par with other ports in the region. In addition, they highlighted the challenges they are encountering in this pursuit. It was remarked that the GPA is the most profitable SOE in Gambia and paying the highest dividend to the government.

On the SPA's side, Ms Philippa Samson, the Project Manager of the Port Victoria Rehabilitation & Extension project, gave an overview of the project and its progress. In the discussions that ensued, the Chief Executive Officer of the SPA, Mr Sony Payet highlighted that as small African states, Seychelles and Gambia share similar issues, which would be improved with the modern infrastructure, systems and equipment that are being planned in the two countries' respective port projects. To note, both Seychelles and Gambia have a single international multi-purpose port serving the entire country.

Other subjects such as inbound and outbound cargo, dredging, cargo and passenger terminals, terminal operations, customs and border control issues, loans and funding for port project, amongst others, were discussed lengthily. Both parties got the chance to appreciate the strategies being applied by the SPA that will serve as a guidance to the Gambian's SOE Department, while making critical decisions concerning their projects.

Mr Payet thanked the Gambian delegation for having chosen Seychelles and, above all, SPA to learn from. He affirmed that the SPA will be available for any further advice if ever needed.