

LOOKING BACK AT THE GRADUATION ON 18.6.2022

On Saturday the 18th June 2022 graduands in various fields received certificates or diplomas. Fields like ITC, Journalism, Business Management, Human Resource Development, English for beginners, Construction and Architectural Draughtmanship, Solar and Electrical Installation, Plumbing and Tailoring. Congratulations to all of you!

The ceremony was attended by hon. Prof. Pierre Gomez, the new minister of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoHERST), representatives of the National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA) and partners like the MRC Holland Foundation, International Trade Center (ITC), IMVF, German-Gambian Advisory Centre (GGAC), the National Youths Services Scheme ((NYSS), SOS Childrens Village/BMZ, members of the Board among others Dr. Cherno Omar Barry, special guests, staff and parents and invitees.

In his opening remarks Doctor Ismaila Sisay, CEO of Insight, stated that over the years 2019-2021 1311 youths have graduated. 41% of them are females and 9% inmates who have been trained during detention in Mile II. At insight we see this as quite an achievement, considering hurdles like the COVID-19 period, economic and financial constraints, rising costs of living and climate challenges in this period. As far as we have heard, and at one point stated by the TRRC, none of the trained inmates has committed another crime after having been released.

Dr. Cherno Omar Barry, chairman of the Board of Insight, said that the wants to see more skills training in rural areas. In his view - and also in the view of the Higher Education Minister - The Gambia cannot develop without technical and vocational education and training centers.

The minister, honorable Prof. Pierre Gomez underlined the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in addressing unemployment, low skilled labor and the dependency system in The Gambia. He said: 'Use TVET to develop the country, as it is done in countries like Finland, Germany and South-Korea. We must achieve change, anchored on TVET to create jobs: be employed by companies and, dear graduates, employ yourself and others. That is how to realize development'. To the graduands the Higher Education Minister said: 'You are already part of the national development. We count on you to bring development to our houses, our communities and our country'.

Graduating students in Architectural Draughtmanship gave a presentation of the models they made of 2 schools, Charles Jow Memorial Academy and Apple Tree International High School. They also designed improvements that could be made and showed them in slides and videos.

On behalf of the EU-partners who sponsored Insight students in Sinchu Alhagie and Mile II, Raimund Moser, International Trade Center, thanked the parents for supporting their children to make their dreams come through. He mentioned that the graduates are among those creating the foundation that the country is building. 'Continue to build on your skills', was his message to the graduands, 'and you will achieve results in your careers'.