

Ndioum Bridge Inauguration
Remarks by Chargée d’Affaires Sandra Clark
Monday, 27 October 2014

(As prepared)

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall
The Honorable Governor of Saint Louis
Ministers,
The Mayor of Podor
Residents of Podor
Citizens of Senegal

It is an honor and a privilege to stand beside the President of the Republic of Senegal to inaugurate this bridge in Ndioum for which we have all worked so long and so hard. Today marks a day of connection and of unity. We are joining the people of the Ile of Morphil to the rest of Senegal physically and symbolically. For too long they have been separated by the sometimes deep waters of the Doué River. And we have been impressed by their patience and resilience during the 40 years they have waited for this day.

This conclusion to construction marks the first of several major works that will be completed in the final year of the program under the 540 million dollar Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a US Government Agency. The overall aim of this investment is to reduce poverty and increase economic growth by unlocking Senegal’s agricultural productivity and expand access to markets. Working in collaboration, MCC and the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), are implementing the projects that are rehabilitating the RN2 and RN6 transport corridors, improving performance of the Delta to irrigation systems and creating the Ngalenka irrigated perimeter. Just as important, the program also reaffirmed the traditional rights of Senegalese in the collaborative and comprehensive land tenure security process that formalized land use rights allowing access and cultivation the newly irrigated Ngalenka perimeter. And this magnificent bridge, which stands where previously there was nothing, is a testament not just to the connections between the Ile of Morphil and Senegal, but as well to the connections between the American people and the Senegalese people, and the long and strong links of friendship and cooperation that bind our respective governments.

The American people, and the Embassy of the United States in Senegal are proud to have been responsible for this gift, which will contribute so positively to the people of Podor. And I would like to thank the President of the Republic of Senegal, his Excellency Macky Sall, for the commitment and dedication to reform and improvement that have made it possible. As you know, MCC invests in countries that respect the rule of law, that invest in their people, and that promote economic freedom. It is in defense of those goals that we stand before you today in pride and satisfaction of what we have accomplished.

I wish the people of Senegal the best of success, as they use this bridge to deliver their goods to market, to bring their sick to hospitals, and to visit families and loved ones. And as you cross over the waters of the Doué, remember this: that the American people, in friendship and in generosity, support you every day in the fullest.