

## New Programme Officer at CPA

By Nancy Swartwood



Lamin Camara, CPA's new Programme Officer

Effective 15th January 2003, **Lamin Camara** joined the CPA Secretariat as Programme Officer. The position is a most welcome one at the CPA office, and Lamin has proven to be a fast learner and an invaluable part of the CPA Team.

Originally from Serrekunda, Lamin graduated from Gambia High School in 1997. Even before graduation, he was working as a full-time volunteer at Lend a Hand Society in Kanifing South. As Director of Internal Affairs, Lamin was responsible for training and capacity-building workshops for members, and co-ordination of radio programmes. I was able to learn a lot of skills - public speaking, presentation skills, and also negotiation skills - all of which prepared

me to handle many tasks and freely express myself, he said. His work was very effective, and Lamin was awarded a promotion and the position of National Executive Co-ordinator in 2001.

Lend a Hand Society was involved in the initial creation of the CPA. Lamin himself attended the First National Workshop in 2001. I was really impressed and thought it was very necessary to have an organisation which would solely focus on children's rights and protecting children. I believe that children are the people we can count on to salvage the world, he said.

Lamin is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Forum 2001 Alumni and an

International Youth Parliament Action Partner. He is also a member of the Youth Employment Summit Global Partnership Alliance.

After an extensive search for Programme Officer candidates, Lamin was selected by the CPA Board of Directors as the best candidate. His responsibilities at CPA include co-ordinating training programmes, assisting the National Co-ordinator in day-to-day work and helping with research and fund-raising activities. There is the highest sense of team spirit at CPA, said Lamin.

That is something that constantly motivates me to stretch myself to the limits in my work.

## Board of Directors

## John Njie

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John Njie, CPA's Board of Directors

To most CPA members, the face of John Njie is a very familiar one. He presented on Effective Parenting Skills at the Annual Membership Meeting in January and sat on the high table for the Opening Ceremony of the Media Workshop in February.

Born and raised in Banjul, John graduated from Saint Augustine's High School in 1988. He was a Sociology major at the University of Sierra Leone and graduated in 1996. John has worked as a Teacher at the Rev. J.C. Fye Memorial Nursery School and as the Public Affairs &

Education Officer at Social Security & Housing Finance Corporation. He served as Chief Electoral Commissioner of the National Union of Gambian Students in Sierra Leone in 1996 and the Secretary General of the Public Relations Association of The Gambia in 1998.

In 1999, John joined SOS Children's Village Bakoteh as the Assistant Director. He became Director in 2001, where his main responsibilities include: the support and advice of all SOS staff in the Children's Village Bakoteh; the education, welfare and

development of the children at the Children's Village; the care and guidance of SOS youth in gaining their independence; and ensuring the performance of all SOS Children's Village staff through training and supervision.

John has been a supporter of CPA since its early days and is an original member of the Board of Directors.

His other interests include public speaking, writing (poems, development articles), current affairs, debates, lawn tennis, and football.