

Gambian President Barrow vows economic progress at start of second term

Президент Гамбії А. Берроу обіцяє економічний прогрес на початку другого терміну

Президент Гамбії Адама Берроу пообіцяв працювати, щоб прискорити економіку та забезпечити широкі досягнення в її розвитку, під час складання присяги на другий п'ятирічний термін перебування на посаді. 56-річний А. Берроу прийшов до влади в 2017 році, перемігши на виборах свого попередника Ях'я Джамме. В грудні минулого року він успішно виграв переобрання, набравши 53% голосів у першому турі. Під час свого першого терміну він покращив відносини з багатьма іноземними країнами, які охололи під час 22-річного перебування на посаді Я. Джамме, і працював над відновленням громадянських свобод, які були репресовані в той період. А. Берроу зіткнувся з проблемою відродження економіки найменшої країни материкової Африки. Пандемія коронавірусу підштовхнула економіку до рецесії в 2020 році, не дозволяючи туристам відвідувати її пляжі з білим піском. Але, за оцінками, минулого року зростання економіки повернулося до приблизно 5%.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/gambian-president-barrow-vows-economic-progress-start-second-term-2022-01-19/>

Gambian President Adama Barrow on Wednesday pledged to work to jumpstart the economy and ensure broad-based development gains as he was sworn in for a second five-year term in office.

Barrow, 56, came to power in 2017 by unseating his autocratic predecessor Yahya Jammeh at the polls. He comfortably won re-election last month with 53% of the first-round vote.

During his first term, he improved relations with many foreign countries that had cooled under Jammeh's 22-year tenure and worked to restore civil liberties that were repressed during that period.

He faced a challenge reviving the economy of mainland Africa's smallest country. The coronavirus pandemic pushed the economy into recession in 2020, keeping away tourists from its white-sand beaches.

Growth is estimated to have bounced back to around 5% last year.

"Today we can comfortably conclude that my election to another five years is a vote of confidence in my government, a vote of acknowledgment of my achievements," said Barrow, dressed in a white cap and robe, after being sworn in before an audience that included several other West African heads of state.

"2022 to 2027 is a period to press on for accelerated growth, expansion and advancement. The focus now centers on economic development," he said.

He reiterated a previous commitment to introduce a new constitution. He has previously said it would introduce presidential term limits but has not said whether that would prevent him from seeking additional terms.

Debates about presidential term limits have flared in several of Gambia's West African neighbours, including Ivory Coast and Guinea, whose presidents in 2020 used constitutional changes as reset buttons on their tenures in order to stay beyond the two-term limit.

Barrow had pledged as a candidate in 2016 to only serve three years if he was elected but later went back on that commitment.