

## The Gambian Tourism Authority officials visit Miami-Dade County

Riding on the heels of the visit of the Gambian Secretary of State, **Honorable Neneh MacDouall-Gaye** to Miami-Dade County in August, 2006, the Gambian Tourism Authority visited the County on a study tour from December 7 - 12, 2006. **Honorable Angela Colley**, Secretary of State for Tourism and Culture, led a delegation of seven to Miami-Dade County to learn more about our success in the Tourism & Hospitality sectors.

Honorable Angela Colley and her delegation visited Miami International Airport, Dante P. Fascell Port of Miami, and the African American Research Library & Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale. The delegation was treated to a full-day, site-seeing tour of Miami-Dade sponsored by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The highlight of the visit was a dinner organized in honor of the distinguished visitors by **Mayor Kevin Burns** and Council of the City of North Miami. **Bernadine Bush**, Chairperson of ITC's African Trade Initiative, and ITC Board members **Chief Sandrell Rivers** and **Dwayne Wynn** presented the key to the County and a Distinguished Visitor's Certificate to the Secretary of State.

**George Sock**, President of The Gambian Association of Florida welcomed the delegation to Miami-Dade County. **Rony Desvarenes**, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of The Gambia in Miami remarked that this was the third high-level delegation from The Gambia to visit Miami-Dade County since he assumed office in February 2006.

"My role as the Honorary Consul General of the Gambia is to promote Gambia as the gateway to West Africa and educate South Florida businesses about the trade and tourism potential available in The Gambia, be said. He called on the ITC to assist his office in forging closer ties with Banjul and to initiate bilateral cooperative agreements between the Port of Miami and the Port of Banjul. This ground-breaking initiative between the two Ports, he explained, should pave the way for a trade mission to The Gambia in the near future.

The Secretary of State was accompanied by Amadou Ceesay - Director of The Gambian Tourism Authority, Alieu Njie - Chairman of The Gambian Tourism Authority, Tejan Ceesay - staff of The Gambian Embassy in Washington D.C., and others.

**Compiled by Desmond Alufohai, CMP**

**Pictured L - R:** Rony Desvarenes, Honorary Consul General of The Gambia in Miami; Angela Colley, The Gambian Secretary of State for Tourism and Culture; Bernadine Bush, Chair of the ITC's African Trade Initiative and Kevin Burns, Mayor of the City of North Miami.

