



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SIXTH LEGISLATURE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION IN THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE YEAR



PARLIAMENTARY ROUNDUP



The Gambia Assembly



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National Assembly of The Gambia



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SECOND ORDINARY SESSION IN THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

The Parliamentary Roundup Handbook provides a comprehensive account of all the legislative business conducted during the Second Ordinary Session of the Sixth Legislature in the 2025 Legislative Year of the National Assembly of The Gambia. Convened from the 16th June – 11th July 2025.

The handbook chronicles the bills passed, Motions adopted, resolutions made and Committee reports adopted by plenary.

Notable among the legislative business was the Passage of the Student Revolving Loan Scheme.

This handbook also highlights the scrutiny of committee reports, debates surrounding issues of National Concern.

The Second Ordinary Session was adjourned Sine-die without debate.



BILLS



The Session witnessed the **First Reading and Second Reading of the National Environment Management Bill, 2025** by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources. The bill sought to establish a comprehensive and legal framework that promotes the enhancement, protection, conservation, and sustainable management of the environment.

The Medicine and Related Products Bill brought by the Health Committee underwent First and Second Reading during the Session. The bill was introduced by the Chairperson of the Health Committee Hon. Amadou Camara. The bill aims to make exemption in the Medicines and Related Products Act, 2014 relating to the issue of registration of medicines and related products.

The Prerogative of Mercy Bill, 2025 which seeks to establish a clear legal framework for the President of The Republic of The Gambia to grant pardons, detailing how the committee on the exercise of mercy selects members and processes applications without altering the Constitution or imposing financial costs. It ensures transparency in evaluating petitions while maintaining the existing committee structure. The Bill was introduced by the Honorable Alhagi Mbow, Member for Upper Saloum.



During the Second Ordinary Session, NAMs commenced the consideration of the **Students Revolving Loan Scheme, 2024** which was introduced (First Reading) by the **Honorable Minister of Higher Education Research, Science and Technology** during the Fourth Ordinary Session and was committed to the Joint Committee of FPAC and Education after its Second Reading in the same session.

The bill seeks to establish a sustainable student loan scheme that will ensure that students who do not benefit from government scholarship have an alternative source of funding to pursue their academic aspirations. The Report of the bill was tabled and adopted during the First Ordinary Session in the 2025 Legislative Year. The report of the joint committee served as a guide to the Consideration Stage during committee of the whole Assembly.

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The session also witnessed the continuation of the Consideration Stage of the Election Bill, 2021. The bill was carried over from the Fifth Legislature. The session also witnessed the withdrawal of the Judicial Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Bill, 2024, which was first introduced on the 24th June 2024 during the Second Ordinary Session in the 2024 Legislative Year. The bill sought to make provisions for upgrading the salaries, allowances, pensions and entitlements of judicial officers. It also sought to regulate the conditions of service of judges and judicial staff. The bill could not proceed to the next stage due to certain mischiefs in the document which, the Honorable Minister of Justice seeks to remedy.

Following the subsequent **withdrawal of the Judiciary Officers (Remuneration Bill, 2024)**, the Honorable Minister of Justice introduced (First Reading) of the Judicial Officers (Conditions of Service) Bill, 2025 with aim to remedy some of the issues that were raised in the Judiciary Officers (Remuneration Bill, 2024).

During the Session, the Second Reading of the Constitution of the Republic (Promulgation) Bill, 2024 during which the bill failed to proceed to the next stage. The bill was first introduced on the 23rd December 2024, during the Fourth Ordinary Session in the 2024 Legislative Year. The Bill did not secure the required number of votes which is 44 (three quarters of the Members pursuant to Section 226 of the 1997 constitution). The Bill gathered 35 Yes, and 21 Nays, falling short of the required support of 44 votes.

In total, only **one** bill was passed during the First Ordinary Session of the National Assembly.

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MOTION

State of the Nation Address 2025 (SoNA)



The President of the Republic delivered the motion on The State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on the 19th June 2025 in accordance with Standing Order Section 77(1) of the 1997 Constitution which mandates the President to attend a sitting of the National Assembly at least once a year

Following the SoNA by His Excellency the President, Honorable Members debated on the address and raised concerns on key issues around the cost of living, enhancing youth employment opportunities, strengthening national security, and ensuring effective implementation of government projects.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF SoNA 2025



COMMITTEE REPORTS



Report of the Joint Committee on Environment and Agriculture probe into the activities of transhumance in The Gambia by the Co-Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Omar Darboe. Following a motion laid by the Honorable Member for Central Baddibu on the investigation on the activities of transhumance, the Joint Committee of Environment and Agriculture was tasked by Plenary to investigate.

The recommendations of the Committee include: the Government of The Gambia, through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources to develop a comprehensive National Transhumance Policy, while reviewing and updating all relevant laws to adequately regulate transhumance activities in the country; the Ministry of Agriculture prioritise investment in pasture development zones, water reservoirs, and veterinary service posts to support sustainable livestock management; the Ministry of Interior, through the Gambia Police Force, and the Immigration Department, deploy joint patrol teams at critical transhumance entry points to monitor and manage cross-border livestock movements etc. The report and recommendations were adopted by the Assembly.

Report of the Select Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development follow up tour on the implementation of the Resolution on the matter of the seccos by the Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Omar Darboe. The aim of the follow up tour was to assess the level of compliance with the resolutions passed by the National Assembly concerning the groundnut buying process, with particular focus on accountability, efficiency, and transparency in the operations of the National Food Security Processing and Marketing Corporation (NFSPMC), the Seccos, and all stakeholders involved in the groundnut value chain.



Report of the Select Committee on Health, Refugees, Disaster & Humanitarian Relief countrywide tour to some health facilities and refugee settlements from the 17th -23rd February 2025 by the Chairperson of the Committee, **Honorable Amadou Camara**. The tour aimed at gathering firsthand information about the current state of the health facility projects and challenges and report back to plenary explore with viable solutions that can be recommended for addressing these challenges in order to improve service delivery. The Report was adopted by plenary along with its recommendations.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS



Report of the Select Committee on Education, ICT and Training on the Data Protection and Privacy Bill, 2024 was tabled by **Honorable Alhagie Mbow**. The bill seeks to strengthen the legal framework governing Data Protection and Privacy by introducing comprehensive provisions that establish the foundational principles for the lawful processing of personal data. The Committee was tasked to do an in-depth clause-by-clause review of the bill and invite experts and stakeholders for consultations. The Report of the Committee was adopted with its recommendations which will guide the Consideration stage of the bill.

Report of the Select Committee on Education, ICT and Training on the Cybercrime Bill, 2024. The bill seeks to provide a legislative framework for addressing cybercrime and strengthen substantive provisions aimed at combating child pornography, cyber-bullying, extortion, and other “computer-related” offences. The Committee was mandated to scrutinize every clause of the bill and report back to plenary. The report on the bill was adopted along with its recommendations which will help guide the Consideration Stage of the bill.



The Report of the Select Committee on Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports follow up tour to selected Sporting Facilities and Cultural Sites from the 3rd – 9th February 2025 by the Chairperson of the Committee, **Hon. Saikou Bah**. The tour aimed to gain first-hand information on the status of the Cultural Heritage Facilities, Evaluate the status of implementation of the Committees previous recommendations and assess the current challenges faced by these institutions.



The Report of the Public Enterprises Committee (PEC) on the Activity Reports and Audited Financial Statements of State-Owned Enterprises for the year ended 31st December 2021 by the Chairperson of the Committee, **Hon. Lamin J Sanneh**. The Committee was tasked to scrutinise the Annual Activity Reports, Audited Financial Statements, and Management Letters of fourteen State-Owned Enterprises for the financial year ended 31st December 2021.

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Report of the Joint Committee on Health and Gender on the National Population Bill, 2024 by the Co- Vice Chairperson of the Committee **Honorable Fatou Cham**. The Bill was tabled during the Third Ordinary Session in the 2024 Legislative Year by H.E The Vice President of the Republic.

The bill seeks to provide a comprehensive legal basis for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of population and development programs in The Gambia by providing for the continued existence and operationalisation of the National Population Secretariat, the lead institution responsible for driving population-related policies and programs.



Report of the Joint Committee of FPAC and PEC on the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Petroleum Product of 36,953.614 metric tons valued at \$30,000,000 (Thirty million US Dollars) by **Honorable Alhagie S Darbo**. The Committee was mandated to conduct full investigative powers which included summoning witnesses, compelling the production of documents, and receiving both oral and written testimonies through public and private hearings.

The findings of the investigation revealed institutional and regulatory failures, weak enforcement mechanisms, significant breaches of financial and corporate laws, and acts inconsistent with principles of transparency, accountability, and good governance. The Joint Committee made resolutions for the censorship of two Ministers and senior Civil Servants. The report and recommendations was adopted by plenary after debate on the findings of the Joint Committee by the Honorable Members.

Report and Resolution of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) on the 2020 Annual Activity Reports and Financial Statements of Public Agencies, Hospitals and Local Government Councils by the Chairperson of the Committee, Honorable Alagie S Darbo. The Committee is mandated under sections 102,109 and 110 of the 1997 Constitution which gives the mandate to examine and consider the accounts of Government as audited by the Auditor General. The findings of the report reveal widespread and persistent weaknesses in public financial management across the institutions reviewed, non-compliance with the Public Finance Act, the GPPA Act, and other financial governance instruments. The Committee also made recommendations and resolutions with timelines in which the implicated institutions are required to adhere to. The report of the Committee was adopted along with its resolutions.

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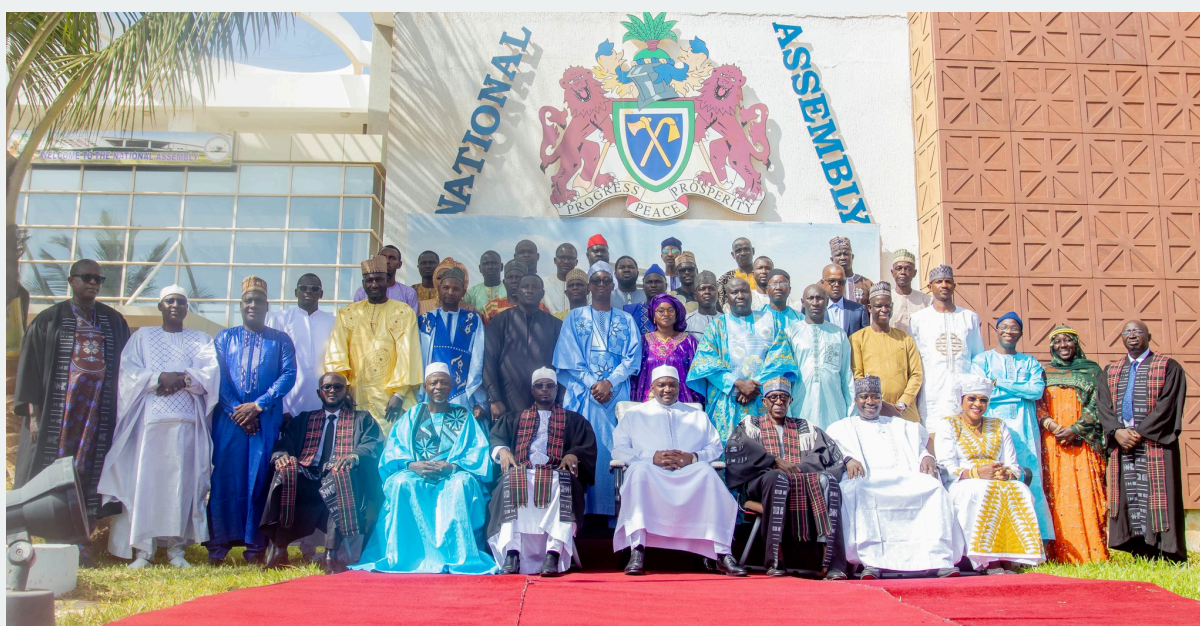
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION REPORTS



The Report of the Gambian Delegation to The Fourth Ordinary Session of the Pan-African Parliament held in Midrand, South Africa, 28th October - November 17th 2024 by the Head of Delegation Honorable Alhagie Mbow.



Report on the 16th meeting of the Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) held in Dar es Salam, Tanzania from 5th – 7th March, 2025. By the Head of Delegation Honorable Modou Lamin B Bah.



Ministerial Engagements

Ministerial Reply to the Report of the Parliamentary Committee Oversight.



HON. EBRIMA M SILLAH
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WORKS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

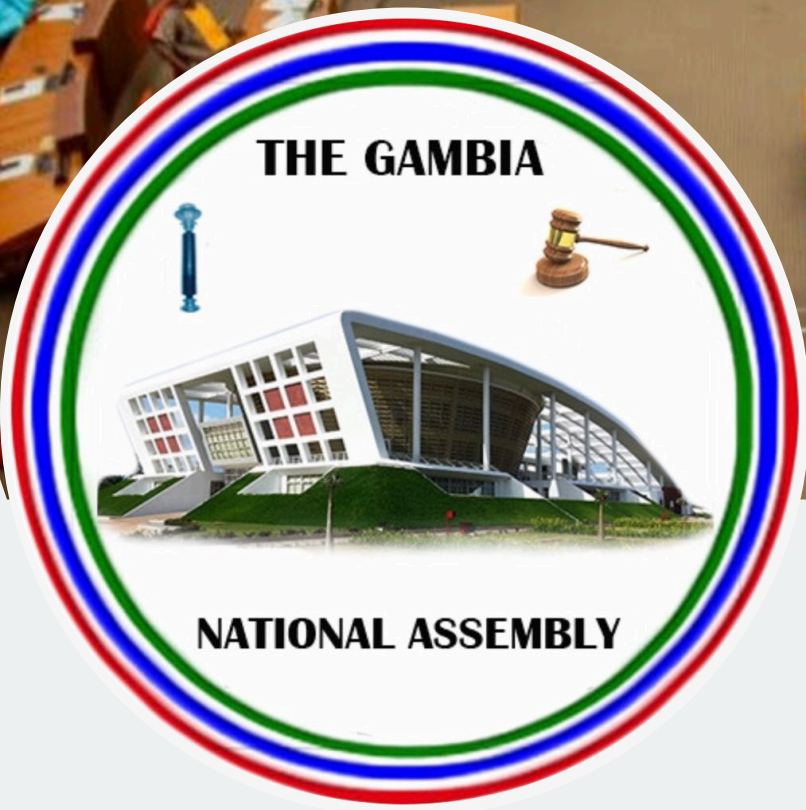
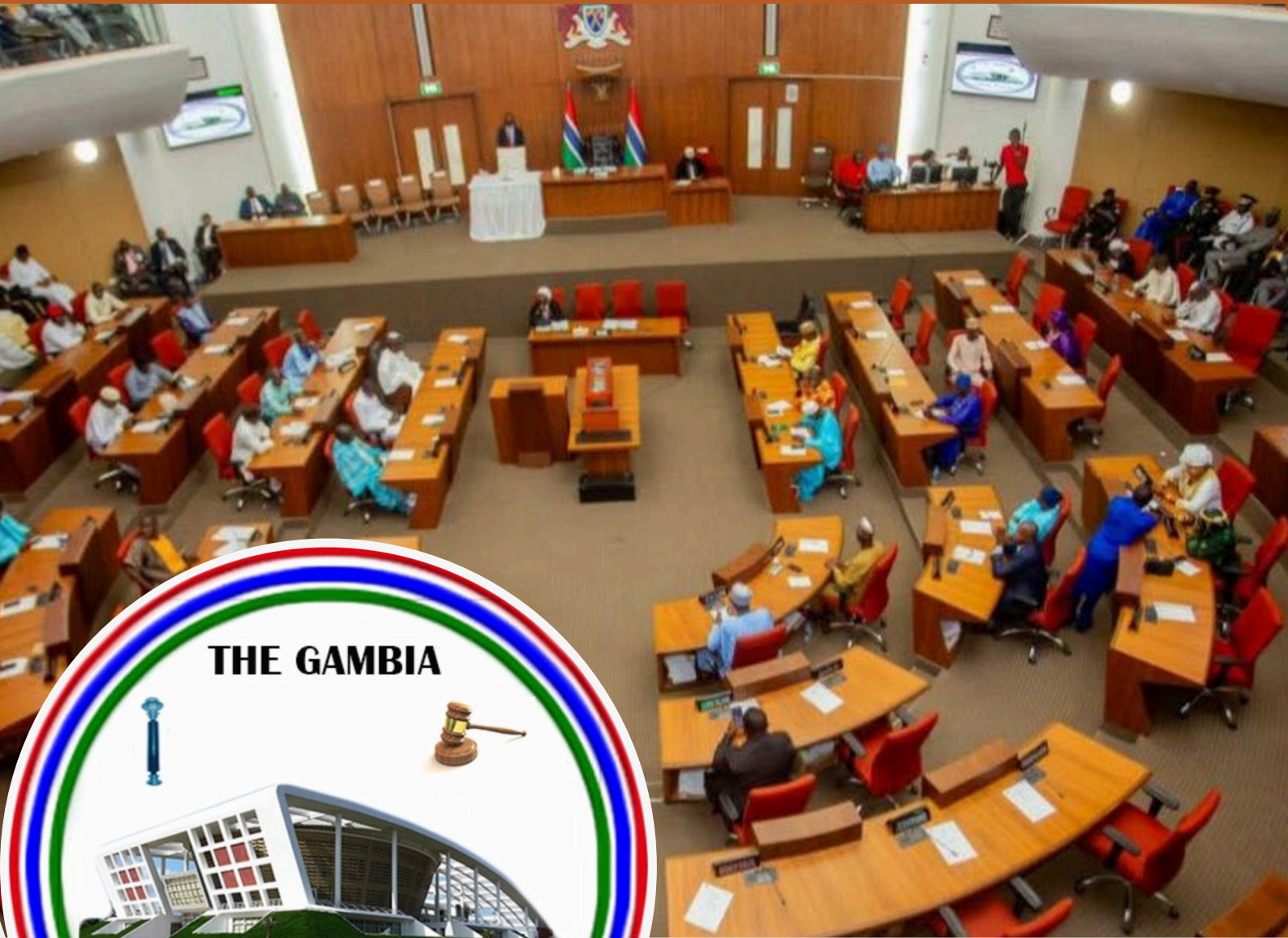
In accordance with Order 100 of the National Assembly Standing Order, the Honorable Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure responded to the Report of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs oversight visit to The Gambia Mission in Bissau which was adopted by the plenary during the First Ordinary Session in the 2025 Legislative Year.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

During this session, a total of 100 Oral Questions and Answers Sessions were poised to Honorable Ministers with respect to their various portfolios of responsibilities. The following Hon. Ministers appeared before the Assembly to orally answer questions from the Honorable Members.

- 1) Hon. Attorney General and Minister for Justice
- 2) Hon. Minister of Youth and Sports
- 3) Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security
- 4) Hon. Minister of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs
- 5) Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Energy
- 6) Hon. Minister of Health
- 7) Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources
- 8) Hon. Minister of Interior
- 9) Hon. Minister of Defence
- 10) Hon. Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure
- 11) Hon. Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services
- 12) Hon. Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
- 13) Hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs
- 14) Hon. Minister of Public Service, Administrative Reform, Policy Coordination and Delivery
- 15) Hon. Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
- 16) Hon. Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
- 17) Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment
- 18) Hon. Minister of Basic and Secondary Education

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