



PENCHUM REEWMI

The National Assembly Newsletter



UPHOLDING PUBLIC TRUST - A YEAR OF PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATIONS

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Parliamentary Diplomacy &
International Engagement

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Celebrating Excellence
The Inaugural National
Assembly Staff Award

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IPU Global Assembly in Geneva

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NEW ASSEMBLY BUILDING



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORITY



HON. FABAKEY T. JATTA
Chairperson



HON. BILLAY G. TUNKARA
Member



HON. ALHAGIE S. DARBOE
Member



HON. ALHAGIE MBOW
Member



HON. MAIMUNA CEESAY
Member



MR. KALIPHA M.M. MBYE
Member/Secretary

OFFICE OF THE CLERK



KALIPHA M.M. MBYE
CLERK



DANIEL CARDOS
DEPUTY CLERK, LEGISLATIVE
BUSINESS & PROGRAMMES



BUBA M.E. JATTA
DEPUTY CLERK
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

OUR MISSION

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA ASPIRES TO BE AN OPEN, TRANSPARENT AND DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE, BOUND BY THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROBITY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION, SCRUTINY/OVERSIGHT AND REPRESENTATION FOR ALL CITIZENS.

OUR VISION

TO BE AN INDEPENDENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATURE SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA.

CORE VALUES

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE VALUE SYSTEM, IS AN ORGANISED COLLECTION OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTION-WIDE PRINCIPLES:

- INTEGRITY
- PROFESSIONALISM
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- MUTUAL RESPECT

As we unveil yet another edition of **Penchum Reewmi**, we are reminded that strong institutions are sustained not only by laws and procedures, but also by knowledge, reflection, and communication.

This new release stands as a testament to the growing maturity, professionalism, and transparency of the National Assembly. It is more than a newsletter; it is an institutional chronicle, carefully documenting the work, progress, and ambition of the People's House.

At the heart of this edition lies the compelling feature, **“THE ENGINE ROOM OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY.”** This story takes readers behind the scenes of parliamentary scrutiny, illuminating the critical work undertaken in committees, the very backbone of legislative oversight.

It demonstrates how the detailed examination of policies, budgets, and executive actions strengthens democratic governance. By highlighting the diligence of Members and technical staff, the piece reinforces the Assembly's constitutional duty to hold the Executive to account while safeguarding the public interest.

Equally inspiring is **“PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.”** In an increasingly interconnected world, parliamentary diplomacy has become indispensable.

This feature captures how the National Assembly projects The Gambia's voice on the global stage, contributing to multilateral dialogue, regional cooperation, and international partnerships.

It underscores that diplomacy is no longer confined to the Executive alone, Parliaments are key actors in shaping global governance, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Representation, as the cornerstone of democracy, finds vibrant expression in **“PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH.”** This segment reflects the Assembly's deliberate efforts to bring Parliament closer to the people.

Whether through constituency interactions, civic education initiatives, or youth and community engagement, the message is clear: democracy flourishes when citizens are informed, involved, and empowered. This story is a reminder that the legitimacy of Parliament rests on its accessibility and responsiveness to the aspirations of the people.

The flagship highlight of this edition is undoubtedly **“INSIDE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S INVESTIGATIVE BREAKTHROUGHS.”** Here, readers witness Parliament at its most resolute, undertaking bold inquiries, confronting complex national issues, and advancing reforms grounded in evidence and accountability.

The feature captures moments where legislative oversight translates into tangible national impact. It signals a confident and proactive Assembly prepared to confront difficult questions in pursuit of transparency and justice.

A particularly forward-looking milestone is celebrated in **“UNDP-EU FELLOWS STRENGTHENING THE HEART OF OUR DEMOCRACY.”** The fellowship programme represents a landmark investment in institutional capacity-building.

By integrating emerging professionals into parliamentary processes, the initiative fosters knowledge transfer, innovation, and sustainability within the legislative institution. It also reflects the value of strategic partnerships in consolidating democratic governance.

The future of Parliament depends on nurturing such talent, and this programme stands as a model of visionary collaboration. This edition concludes with a heartfelt commendation to our staff.

The story “Celebrating Excellence – The Inaugural National Assembly Staff Awards” is a modest but warm gesture of acknowledgement to the “unsung heroes” whose daily dedication ensures that the wheels of democracy never stop turning.

Readers are invited to explore these pages carefully, for within them lies the story of a Parliament at work, a democracy in motion, and a future being shaped with purpose and accountability.

To ensure that our citizens are never left behind, this edition – and all previous issues – are available on our official **website: www.assembly.gm**.

We invite you to explore our digital archive and follow our routine publications across all our social media platforms, which are managed to keep the public updated with real-time legislative developments and institutional news.



THE ENGINE ROOM OF LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

The 2025 Legislative Year was defined by a rigorous cycle of committee activity, with the National Assembly's Select and Standing Committees serving as the primary vehicles for executive scrutiny and policy reform. Formal committee sittings were strategically phased across three ordinary sessions.

The first from late January to late February, the second spanning mid-April to late May, the third in May-June and the final session throughout October. During these periods, committees functioned as a vital bridge between the State and the citizenry, convening consultative meetings to review legislation with key stakeholders and conducting deep-dive scrutinizes into the operations of Government Ministries and Departments.

Beyond the Legislative Chambers, committees embarked on a series of nationwide oversight tours to evaluate the implementation of government projects and the delivery of public services. The Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands, Ombudsman, and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) conducted an extensive national audit, visiting IEC regional offices, municipal councils, and the Ministry of Lands. This mission aimed to address pressing governance bottlenecks and evaluate the efficacy of local administration.

Similarly, the Select Committee on Monitoring the Implementation of Government Projects performed a critical verification exercise, conducting spot checks on road construction sites and health centres across the country to ensure that public expenditure translates into tangible infrastructural development and service delivery.

Sector-specific scrutiny remained a high priority throughout the year. The Select Committee on Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth, and Sports visited historical heritage sites and youth projects to assess the preservation of the nation's cultural legacy, while the Committee on Trade and Regional Integration interfaced with local producers to identify barriers to domestic market expansion and export potential.

In a demonstration of inclusive law-making, the Joint Committees on Gender and Health facilitated nationwide public consultations on the National Population Bill 2024, performing a clause-by-clause review that allowed community leaders and citizens to voice their concerns directly to the lawmakers.



The Assembly's oversight mandate also extended to the critical sectors of security and agriculture. The Standing Committee on Defence and Security conducted a week-long evaluation of military barracks and police installations across all four provincial regions, gathering first-hand data on the operational challenges and working conditions of security personnel.

In the agricultural sector, the Select Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development monitored the implementation of parliamentary resolutions regarding groundnut sales, engaging directly with farmers at Seccos to ensure transparency in the buying process.

Furthermore, in response to rising communal tensions, the Joint Committees of Agriculture and Environment conducted a specialised investigative oversight into transhumance activities in the North Bank, Central River, and Upper River Regions, aiming to find sustainable policy solutions to pastoralist-farmer conflicts.

The year also marked a significant investment in the professional development of the legislature through international parliamentary diplomacy and capacity building. The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs undertook a high-level mission to the Kingdom of Morocco to strengthen bilateral ties and explore regional economic hubs such as the port city of Dakhla.

Meanwhile, technical capacity was enhanced through two major missions to Ghana. The Standing Committee on Defence and Security study visit focused on security governance architecture, supported by GIZ and ECOWAS, and an intensive two-week financial literacy programme for the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC).

Sponsored by the Central Bank of The Gambia, the FPAC training equipped members with advanced skills in budget analysis, risk management, and the emerging role of artificial intelligence in financial oversight, ensuring that the Assembly remains equipped to guard the public purse in an increasingly complex global economy.



PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Speaker at African Atlantic States Conference (Morocco)
- ECOWAS Parliament Delocalised Meeting in The Gambia
- IPU Global Assembly in Geneva
 - Speaker at Senegal's Legislature
 - APU & CPA Africa Region Conference Hosting
 - Parliamentary Study Visits



PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The 2025 legislative year was marked by an unprecedented expansion of the National Assembly's international footprint, as the institution positioned itself as a proactive player in regional stability and global democratic discourse.

This diplomatic offensive, led by the Hon. Speaker and the Office of the Clerk, sought to leverage inter-parliamentary collaboration as a tool for addressing complex cross-border challenges, from maritime security to the preservation of humanitarian norms in times of crisis.

In early February, the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Fabakary Tombong Jatta, set the tone for the year's diplomatic agenda at the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the African Atlantic States in Rabat, Morocco.

Addressing his peers under the theme of promoting a stable and integrated Atlantic Africa, the Speaker delivered a compelling argument for the necessity of a parliamentary network.

He asserted that the interdependent security, environmental, and economic challenges facing the region transcend geographical borders, calling for a "collective and coordinated action" that only robust legislative cooperation can provide.

This engagement reaffirmed The Gambia's commitment to regional partnerships as a primary driver of democratic governance and policy reform.

The Assembly's role as a regional hub for dialogue was further solidified in early May, when the Hon. Speaker presided over the opening of a delocalised meeting of the ECOWAS Parliament in Banjul. Bringing together four key joint committees, the convergence tackled the sobering reality of the withdrawal of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from the sub-regional bloc.

In a poignant keynote address, Speaker Jatta challenged delegates to move beyond theoretical discussions and engage in deep introspection regarding the founding principles of ECOWAS.

He warned that the fragmentation of the community is no longer a concern of the future but a "stark reality" that requires parliaments to act as the conscience of the people they represent, ensuring that regional integration remains responsive to the aspirations of West African citizens.



The Gambia's influence on the global stage reached a peak in late October during the 151st Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. Led by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Seedy SK Njie, the Gambian delegation participated in high-level debates centred on upholding humanitarian norms.

Addressing the global assembly, Hon. Njie highlighted The Gambia's unwavering commitment to humanitarian values, rooted in its Constitution and exemplified by its landmark international advocacy for the Rohingya people at the International Court of Justice.

He underscored the critical oversight role played by the Assembly's Standing Committees in ensuring security institutions adhere to international standards, challenging the IPU to act as the "moral soul of the world" by depoliticising aid and protecting the impartial nature of humanitarian action.

The spirit of "Senegambia" was also a central pillar of the year's diplomatic activities. In early July, Speaker Jatta delivered a keynote address at the closing of the First Ordinary Session of the 15th Legislature of Senegal in Dakar. Lauding the productive session of his Senegalese counterparts, the Speaker spoke at length on the inextricable links of geography, history, and culture that bind the two nations.

He advocated for a deepening of parliamentary cooperation through the exchange of best practices and joint legislative initiatives on shared concerns such as climate change, migration, and economic integration. He emphasised that no single parliament can address these complexities in isolation, urging a harmonisation of laws to strengthen regional bodies like ECOWAS.

Beyond these high-level summits, the National Assembly's diplomatic mandate was sustained through a series of specialised study visits and international conferences. These included the hosting of the 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Africa Region Conference in August and the Union of African Parliaments (APU) meetings. These engagements, complemented by study missions to Ghana, China, and Morocco, have ensured that the Gambian legislature remains at the forefront of global best practices, effectively translating international knowledge into local legislative excellence.

BILATERAL RELATIONS & COURTESY CALLS

- **Diplomatic Envoys:** Courtesy calls by Ambassadors of the USA, Iran, Sierra Leone,
- **Institutional Partners:** Visits from the UNDP Resident Representative, ACDHRS
- **Parliamentary Delegations:** Hosting of visiting legislators from Nigeria and Zambia.



BILATERAL RELATIONS & ADMINISTRATIVE DIPLOMACY

While 2025 was defined by major regional summits and international missions, the National Assembly's diplomatic calendar was equally shaped by a continuous stream of bilateral engagements and high-level courtesy calls. These interactions, occurring almost weekly at the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk's Chambers, underscore the institution's growing status as a focal point for international cooperation in Banjul. Though space permits only a snapshot of these engagements, they collectively represent a robust commitment to strengthening ties with global partners, UN agencies, and sister parliaments.



STRATEGIC DEPARTURES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

A significant moment in the year's diplomatic calendar occurred when the U.S. Ambassador to The Gambia, Sharon L. Cromer, paid a farewell visit to the Honourable Speaker, Fabakary Tombong Jatta, to mark the conclusion of her tenure. Speaker Jatta expressed profound gratitude for the Ambassador's dedication to enhancing ties between the two nations, acknowledging the positive impact of her initiatives on mutual interests. Ambassador Cromer, in turn, conveyed her appreciation for the consistent support received from the National Assembly, emphasising that the continued cooperation between Banjul and Washington remains essential for regional stability and democratic growth.

Administrative Diplomacy and South-South Learning

The spirit of South-South cooperation was equally prominent, particularly in the realm of parliamentary administration. The Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr Kalipha M.M. Mbye, hosted his Zambian counterpart, Mr Roy Ngulube, for extensive discussions ahead of the SOCATT Africa meeting. This interface allowed both leaders to share insights into their respective parliamentary systems, with Mr Mbye highlighting The Gambia's recent reforms in transparency and public engagement, while Mr Ngulube shared Zambia's successes in leveraging technology to modernise legislative processes. As the Regional Representative of SOCATT for the Central African region, Mr Ngulube commended The Gambia's leadership in hosting the 2025 session, noting that such platforms are essential for Clerks to innovate in the face of common institutional challenges.



Strengthening the Senegambia and Sub-Regional Axis

The Assembly's engagement with the diplomatic corps was further broadened through separate audiences granted by the Honourable Speaker to several newly accredited and resident representatives. Her Excellency Martha Kanagbo, High Commissioner of Sierra Leone, was received in audience to discuss the deep-rooted historical ties between the two sister republics, with Speaker Jatta highlighting the legislature's role in fostering regional democratic harmony. This was followed by a courtesy call from the Ambassador-Designate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Hassan Asgari, where discussions centred on strengthening bilateral relations and exploring new avenues for mutual cooperation.



PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

The institution's commitment to sustainable development and human rights was also at the forefront of its bilateral engagements. The Speaker received the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ms Mandisa Mashologu, for a strategic dialogue on the implementation of the National Assembly's Strategic Plan 2025-2029. This partnership remains a cornerstone of the Assembly's modernisation efforts. Furthermore, the Governing Council of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), led by Executive Director Mrs Hannah Forster and Chairperson Honourable Justice Solomy Bossa, met with the Speaker to discuss advancing democratic values across the continent. Speaker Jatta reaffirmed the Assembly's unwavering support for the Centre's initiatives, acknowledging its critical role in promoting the rule of law.



PEER LEARNING WITH THE SIERRA LEONE BENCHMARK VISIT

Concluding a year of robust institutional exchange, the National Assembly hosted a high-level benchmarking delegation from the Parliament of Sierra Leone. Presided over by the Deputy Clerk for Legislative Business and Programmes, Mr Daniel Cardos, and the Sierra Leonean Director General, Ms Finda Findosia Fraser, the visit culminated in a substantive exchange on parliamentary management and administrative reform. In a gesture of institutional solidarity, Mr Cardos presented key policy documents to the visiting delegation, symbolising a shared commitment to mutual learning and the continuous improvement of service delivery within the parliamentary setting.

While these highlights offer a taste of the Assembly's external relations, they are part of a broader tapestry of engagements, including dozens of other courtesy calls from visiting legislators, international NGOs, and diplomatic envoys, all working toward the singular goal of positioning the National Assembly of The Gambia as a modern, world-class legislative body.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

- National Assembly Open Day 2025
- Revival of Regional Outreach Programme (URR)
- Children's National Assembly Session



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

The National Assembly's commitment to participatory democracy was translated into several flagship initiatives throughout 2025. By opening its doors to the public, taking the legislature to the regions, and empowering the next generation, the institution has worked to dismantle the barriers between the people and their representatives, ensuring that governance in The Gambia remains a shared responsibility.



THE FOURTH ANNUAL OPEN DAY

In late March, the National Assembly grounds in Banjul were transformed into a vibrant hub of civic interaction as the institution successfully hosted the 4th edition of its annual Open Day. Held under the theme "Bringing Parliament Closer to the People," the event attracted a diverse cross-section of society, including government officials, civil society organisations, students, and development partners.

Delivering the official welcome remarks, the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr Kalipha M.M. Mbye, described the initiative as a crucial platform for institutional visibility and public scrutiny. He emphasised that the Open Day is a practical demonstration of the Assembly's transparency, stating, "This is not merely ceremonial; it is a reaffirmation of our belief that democratic institutions must be open, accountable, and connected to the people they serve." The Clerk underscored that legislative and oversight roles require a constant feedback loop with the public to remain effective.

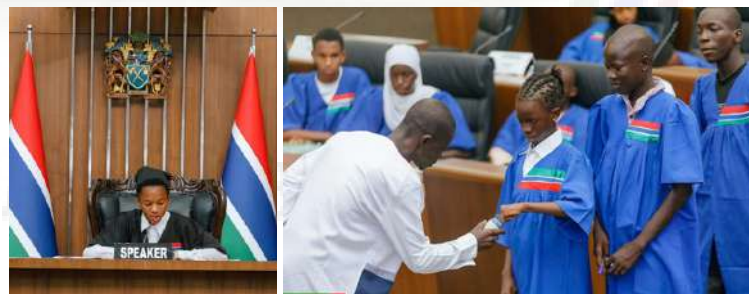
The event was formally opened by the Deputy Speaker, Honourable Seedy S.K. Njie, who announced plans for a new "Speaker's Seminar Lecture Series" to further deepen citizen engagement. Supported by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the day featured guided tours of the Chambers, exhibitions, and direct Q&A sessions with National Assembly Members. British Deputy High Commissioner Martin Norman noted during the event that "Parliament is the people's house," praising the Assembly for upholding the highest standards of responsibility and inclusivity.



REVIVING THE OUTREACH PROGRAMME IN THE UPPER RIVER REGION

Furthering its decentralisation agenda, the National Assembly revived its weeklong Regional Outreach Programme in mid-October, choosing Basse in the Upper River Region (URR) as the focal point. This initiative, which was last conducted during the Fourth Legislature, sought to involve citizens directly in the legislative process by creating a mobile parliament experience.

The forum brought together community leaders, women's groups, and youth representatives for intensive sessions on parliamentary procedures. In his opening address, the Rt. Honourable Speaker, Fabakary Tombong Jatta, emphasised that the Assembly's legitimacy is derived from its proximity to the people. This sentiment was echoed by Clerk Kalipha M.M. Mbye, who commended the leadership's dedication to deepening engagement beyond the capital. "As the embodiment of the people's will, the National Assembly must remain accessible and responsive," Mr Mbye remarked, acknowledging the support of regional directorates in making the Basse convergence a success. The week featured presentations that demystified law-making, allowing constituents to provide first-hand feedback to their representatives.



CHILDREN'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOLDS 2025 SESSION

The Assembly's commitment to inclusivity reached a high point in late August with the convening of the First Ordinary Session of the Children's National Assembly of The Gambia (CNAG). In a display of democratic maturity, young representatives from across the country elected a new speaker, took their oaths of office, and debated a comprehensive position paper titled "Working with Children to Build a Better Gambia."

The session, held in the main National Assembly Chambers, was attended by senior government officials and international partners. Addressing the young parliamentarians, Deputy Speaker Hon. Seedy S.K. Njie declared that the gathering was a "bold declaration" that the nation's future should not be built without the voices of its youngest citizens.

He highlighted the CNAG as a shining testimony that Gambian democracy is forward-looking, recognising children not merely as beneficiaries of legislation, but as active partners in shaping the policies that will govern their lives.

CAPACITY BUILDING & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- WFD Post-Legislative Scrutiny Convergence
- FPAC Financial Literacy Training (Ghana)
- Training for Office Cleaners



CAPACITY BUILDING & INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The National Assembly of The Gambia has entered a transformative phase of institutional strengthening, underpinned by the belief that a robust democracy requires a highly skilled and professionalised workforce. Throughout 2025, the Office of the Clerk has spearheaded a series of targeted interventions designed to sharpen the technical expertise of Honourable Members and support staff alike.

These initiatives are not isolated events but represent a broader institutional direction aimed at ensuring that every level of the parliamentary service, from legislative scrutiny to workplace maintenance, operates at the highest international standards.



STRENGTHENING POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY (PLS)

In mid-January, the National Assembly, in collaboration with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), convened a high-level seminar on Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS).

This convergence brought together Honourable Members, civil society representatives, and the media to develop robust mechanisms for monitoring how laws are implemented after they leave the Chambers.

Madam Tabu Njie Sarr, WFD Country Director, underscored the significance of the session, noting that PLS allows parliamentary committees to enquire into the real-world impact of legislation.

"In an accountable system, citizens can hold power responsible for their decisions," she stated, emphasizing that such scrutiny leads to better public service delivery.

The Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr Kalipha MM Mbye, highlighted the complexity of law implementation, noting that parliaments often lack information once a law is adopted.

He reaffirmed the Clerk's Office's commitment to providing the necessary tools for Members to effectively execute their mandates in legislation and representation, acknowledging WFD's long-standing support in building the legislature's technical capacity.



ADVANCED OVERSIGHT TRAINING FOR FPAC

Recognising the critical importance of the "power of the purse," Honourable Members and support staff of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) concluded an intensive two-week financial literacy and oversight programme in Ghana.

Sponsored by the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG), this mission was specifically tailored to enhance the Committee's ability to scrutinise public expenditure with surgical precision.

The curriculum went beyond traditional budget analysis, delving into financial reporting, investment appraisal, and regulatory compliance. In a forward-looking move, the delegation also explored the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in financial oversight and reviewed global case studies on government accountability.

This training ensures that FPAC remains a formidable guardian of public funds, equipped with the modern analytical tools required to ensure every dalasi is accounted for in the national interest.



DIGNITY AND STANDARDS IN THE WORKPLACE

In a clear demonstration that institutional development encompasses the entire parliamentary workforce, the Office of the Clerk launched a specialised two-day capacity-building programme for the National Assembly's cleaning staff in mid-April.

This initiative, focused on workplace hygiene and professional standards, forms part of the Assembly's broader effort to foster a healthy and dignified working environment.

The Deputy Clerk for Administration and Finance, Mr Buba ME Jatta, presided over the training, describing the participants as the "unsung heroes" of the legislature.

"Your work fosters the health, safety, and productivity that allow this institution to function," Mr Jatta told the staff, emphasising that professional standards must be maintained at every level.

The sessions provided training in modern cleaning techniques and safety protocols, boosting staff morale and reinforcing a culture of professional responsibility.

This holistic approach to development ensures that the National Assembly remains a professional environment that reflects the dignity of the Gambian state.

INSIDE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S INVESTIGATIVE BREAKTHROUGHS



When the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr. Kalipha M.M. Mbye, presented the "Gambia Model" to the Global Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments in Geneva, he was not merely discussing theoretical reforms. He was describing a tangible shift in the power dynamics of Gambian governance.

The rise of "commission-style" parliamentary inquiries has effectively moved the legislature away from the loud but often unproductive debates of the past and toward a forensic, quasi-judicial methodology that prioritises evidence over rhetoric.

This evolution has been most visible in two landmark cases that have tested the Assembly's new investigative teeth - the Jammeh Assets Inquiry and the Petroleum Saga.

The investigation into the sale and disposal of former President Yahya Jammeh's assets served as a masterclass in transparency, designed specifically to provide a clear accounting for a public that had grown weary of ambiguity.

By adopting a professionalised examination process, the Special Select Committee was able to systematically untangle years of complex paperwork surrounding luxury vehicles, livestock, and real estate.

The success of this inquiry rested on its ability to record witness testimonies with the gravity of a court proceeding, ensuring that every finding remained beyond reproach and that the final report served as a definitive historical record rather than a political opinion.

Parallel to this historical reckoning was the urgent investigation into the "Russian Oil" or Petroleum Saga, which tested the Assembly's ability to handle multi-layered economic scandals in real-time.

This oversight operation, conducted through a joint partnership between the Finance and Public Accounts Committee and the Public Enterprises Committee, signaled a new era of executive accountability.

By leveraging specialised financial knowledge and a structured examination protocol, the joint committee was able to track transactions and identify critical gaps in procurement that would likely have remained hidden in a traditional floor debate.

It sent an unmistakable message to government ministries. The Assembly now possesses both the legal counsel and the political will to scrutinise the finest details of state-owned enterprise dealings.

Ultimately, the success of these inquiries reinforces the Clerk's assertion in Geneva that such innovations are a necessity for a 21st-century democracy. By merging the constitutional authority of the People's Representatives with the forensic precision of a commission, the National Assembly has ensured that no stone is left unturned.

Whether addressing the recovered assets of a previous regime or the complex petroleum transactions of the present, the "engine room" of parliament is now calibrated to deliver the transparency that Gambian citizens expect and deserve.

This methodology is no longer a luxury of the legislative branch; it is the foundation upon which national accountability is being rebuilt.

THE SPECIAL INQUIRY INTO THE DISPOSAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT JAMMEH'S ASSETS

One of the major activities of the Assembly in the 2025 legislative calendar was the establishment of a Special Select Committee to investigate the sale and disposal of assets identified by the Commission of Inquiry established to investigate the financial dealings of former President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, and his associates, following public concerns about transparency in the disposal of the said assets partly by the Commission and the Executive.

The public concerns over the executive handling of the assets associated with the former President are the most significant transparency concerns of the post-transition era since the former President lost power.

While the Commission (Janneh Commission) inquired into the Financial Activities of Public Bodies, Enterprises, and Offices, and successfully identified and forfeited several properties and businesses to the State, the subsequent management and sale of these assets have remained shrouded in public debate.

Driven by its commitment to transparency and accountable governance, the Assembly swiftly moved to resolve lingering questions regarding the process adopted by the Executive to dispose of the assets, and thus, summoned for the First Extraordinary Session in the 2025 Legislative Year on the 14th to the 15th May 2025. During the said Extra-Ordinary Session led by the Majority Leader, who tabled a motion to set up a special parliamentary inquiry into the matter.

The motion, moved by Hon. Billay G. Tunkara, sought to determine if the sales were conducted in a manner consistent with the law and the public interest. The Motion by the Hon. Billay G. Tunkara was followed by a motion by the Selection Commission, for the confirmation of a seven-members to the Committee.

The Committee was led by Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay as Chairperson and Hon. Madi M.K. Ceesay as Vice Chairperson. They were joined by Hon. Kebba Lang Fofana, Hon. Alhagie Mbow, Hon. Omar Jammeh, Hon. Suwaibou Touray, and Hon. Sheriff Sarr as members.

The Committee was granted 120 days to execute its mandate. The Assembly further empowered the Special Select Committee to summon witnesses, review confidential records, and investigate the identity of every purchaser and the exact management of the funds generated from the sales of the said assets.

However, during the course of its work, the Special Committee was constrained for time due to the scale of the evidence received. soon became apparent. Consequently, on the 16th day of September 2025, during the Third Ordinary Session of the 2025 Legislative Year, the Special Select Committee appeared before the Plenary to seek approval for an extension, which they were granted for a further 90-days.

The Committee would come to seek another extension during the Assembly's Sitting on Monday, 15th December 2025, in the Fourth Ordinary Session of the 2025 Legislative Year. In seeking another extension, the Committee reported that while it had substantially completed its extensive evidence-gathering, including public hearings and the review of voluminous documentation, the complexity of the task required a final period for verification.

Consequently, a second extension was approved, with a definitive deadline set for the submission of the report to the Clerk on or before 31st January 2026.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of this inquiry has been its openness. Since public hearings commenced on Monday, 14th July 2025, the proceedings have been more than just an administrative exercise; they have been a national event.

The proceedings were broadcast live on the National Assembly's online platforms and other media outlets, allowing the public to witness real-time scrutiny of the Members of the Executive and their allied institutions, and even private persons who became of interest to the Committee.

Though the Committee is yet to submit its final report to the Clerk, the inquiry, which is the first of its kind, already stands out as a milestone in the Assembly's legislative independence and its quest to instill accountability in our governance machinery.

A reminder that accountability is a facet of a modern democracy, which Parliament must never shun when the public demands it.



BEHIND THE CLOSED DOORS OF THE \$30 MILLION PETROLEUM INQUIRY

Away from the televised grandeur of the main debating chamber, the real engine of Gambian democracy was humming in the intensive, paper-strewn confines of the Committee Rooms. Here, for nearly a year, a dedicated group of parliamentarians swapped political rhetoric for forensic spectacles.

Their task was daunting: to untangle a web of alleged corruption involving 36,935 metric tons of petroleum products, a cargo with a \$30 million price tag that threatened to slip through the cracks of regulatory oversight. While the work was done in the committee rooms, it was far from secret.

In a landmark display of transparency, every minute of the proceedings was broadcast live on the National Assembly's online platforms. This wasn't just oversight; it was a public masterclass in accountability.

Citizens across the country and the diaspora tuned in via Facebook and YouTube, watching as the Joint Committee, a union of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) and the Public Enterprises Committee (PEC) painstakingly dismantled complex financial narratives.

The red "Live" indicator on the cameras served as a constant reminder to both the members and the witnesses: the sovereign people of The Gambia were in the room with them. For the committee members, the inquiry was a marathon of endurance.

The rooms became a second home, filled with the aroma of strong coffee and the rhythmic thud of heavy lever-arch files hitting mahogany tables.

This was the "grunt work" of governance. These representatives spent hundreds of hours scrutinising bank receipts, share allotments for firms like Creed Energy, and the fine print of non-binding comfort letters.

It was a painstaking process of "following the money" that required them to think like auditors, detectives, and constitutional lawyers, all while maintaining the composure required for a live national audience.



THE COMMITTEE ROOM ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere in the hearings was often heavy with tension. Unlike the open floor of the House, the intimacy of the committee room meant there was nowhere for a witness to hide. Under the authority of Section 109 of the 1997 Constitution, the Joint Committee wielded the powers of a High Court.

The digital broadcast captured the raw human drama of these moments. The nervous fidgeting of a director under questioning, the sharp intake of breath when a discrepancy in a tax certificate was revealed, and the quiet satisfaction of a committee member connecting two disparate pieces of evidence.

Co-Chairs Hon. Alhagie S. Darboe and Hon. Lamin J. Sanneh laboured to maintain a balance between rigorous cross-examination and the pursuit of objective truth, knowing that their conduct was being judged in real-time by thousands of viewers.

When the time finally came to bring their findings from the committee rooms to the floor of the National Assembly for adoption, the gravity of their labour was evident.

Hon. Alhagie S. Darboe, moving the motion for adoption, spoke as a guardian of the public purse. "This inquiry was a search for the truth. We have followed the paper trail of thirty million dollars to ensure that our systems remain robust," he stated.

Supporting the motion, Hon. Lamin J. Sanneh highlighted the independence they had fought to maintain. "The work of this Joint Committee represents the very best of our oversight functions. In those committee rooms, we looked past the names and the titles.

We looked at the evidence." The report, now adopted, serves as more than a verdict on a shipment of oil; it demonstrates the human effort required to keep a nation's institutions clean. They uncovered systemic flaws, from "ghost" shareholders to fractured communication between the Financial Intelligence Unit and the police.

The "Russian Oil" saga may be closing its chapter, but the precedent for transparent, painstaking, and human-led oversight in The Gambia has been forever established.

The National Assembly Communications Unit provides coverage of legislative committees. Past sessions of the Petroleum Inquiry remain available for viewing on the Assembly's official social media archives.



ENGAGEMENT (2024-2025)

The National Assembly of The Gambia continues to solidify its role as a beacon of civic education. A comparative analysis of the 2024 and 2025 outreach data reveals a significant upward trajectory in public interest, particularly among the youth and basic education sectors. While 2024 established a strong baseline for international and NGO engagement, 2025 saw a domestic "explosion" in school visits.

A Two-Year Comparison of Institutional Participation

Institution Type	2024 (Total Schools)	2025 (Total Schools)	% Change
Lower Basic Schools	157	140	-10.8%
Upper/Senior Secondary	56	108	+92.8%
Islamic (Madrasa) Schools	42	31	-26.1%
ECD & Nursery	—	31	(New Metric)
Total Educational Institutions	255	310	+21.5%

Secondary Education Surge - Visits from Upper Basic and Senior Secondary sectors nearly doubled in 2025, moving from 56 to 108 institutions.

The Rise of Early Childhood Education - 2025 marked the formal tracking of ECD and Nursery schools (31 visits), a demographic that was not explicitly highlighted in the 2024 records.

International & NGO Reach - 2024 was notable for its international footprint, welcoming 5 schools from Senegal and 8 NGOs. In 2025, the focus shifted heavily toward domestic grassroots engagement.

In 2024, the data provided was largely institutional (total number of schools), with less emphasis on the individual headcount of students versus staff.

In 2025, while we began tracking individual attendance (reaching a recorded 8,459 total persons), a significant "Data Gap" emerged where 165 different institutions visited without their full numbers being captured.

The 165 institutions with "unspecified" visitor count in 2025 represent a major administrative significance. If we apply the average attendance of recorded schools (approx. 45 persons per visit) to the 165 unspecified schools, we estimate an additional 7,425 visitors. This suggests that the National Assembly's true reach in 2025 likely exceeded 15,000 citizens, nearly double the recorded amount.

Visitor Demographics (2025)

With the introduction of more granular tracking in 2025, we can now see the specific breakdown of our audience:

Total Students (Recorded): 7,885

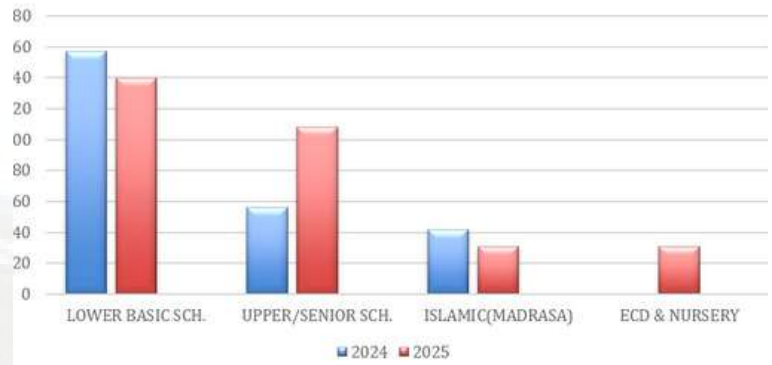
Total Staff (Recorded): 574

Primary Demographic: Lower Basic Students (2,980 recorded) remain the largest single group of visitors.

The comparison between 2024 and 2025 indicates that the National Assembly is no longer just a site for occasional field trips; it has become a primary destination for the Gambian educational system.

The shift from 260 total schools in 2024 to 310 in 2025 represents a 21.5% growth in institutional demand.

INSTITUTIONAL VISIT COMPARISON
2024-2025



COMPARISON OF 2024 & 2025



FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS (NAMs)



Who is a National Assembly Member (NAM)?

As defined under Section 88 of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia, a National Assembly Member (NAM) is an elected or appointed representative who serves in the country's legislature.



FUNCTIONS OF A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBER (NAMs)



LEGISLATION

A National Assembly Member debate and pass laws to guide the country's governance and development.

(Standing Order 65 of the National Assembly.)



OVERSIGHT

NAMs monitor government activities and expose any misuse of public funds, breaches of the rule of law, or unlawful conduct.

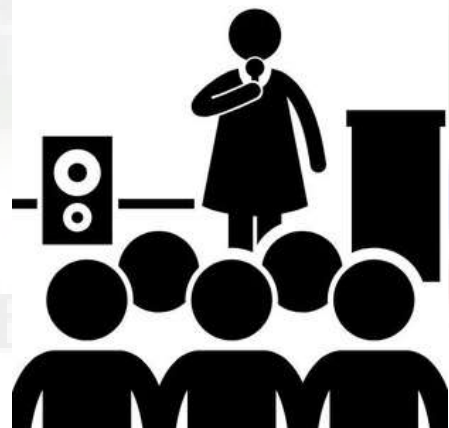
(As mandated by Section 109 of the Constitution.)



BUDGET APPROVAL

NAMs scrutinise and approve the national budget and proposed loans for each financial year.

(Standing Order 81 of the National Assembly.)



REPRESENTATION

NAMs express the views and concerns of their constituents in the National Assembly, and raise matters of public interest with the relevant Ministers.

(As provided under Section 161 of the Constitution.)

OTHER FUNCTIONS OF NAMs

IN THE CONSTITUENCIES

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.
NAMs engage with their constituents to share updates on government activities and gather opinions on issues affecting the community.

2. PUBLIC MOBILISATION
NAMs encourage community participation in government initiatives and public health campaigns, such as immunisation drives, education programmes, and civic awareness efforts.

3. MONITORING PUBLIC SPENDING
NAMs assess how government and local authorities are utilising public funds allocated for development projects within their constituencies. (As provided under Section 112(2) of the Constitution.)

WHAT NAMs DO NOT

DO

NAMs are not responsible for building or repairing roads, bridges, schools, or hospitals.

NAMs are not required to pay school fees or personal expenses for individuals.

NAMs are not obligated to contribute to weddings, naming ceremonies, or other private social event.



UNDP-EU FELLOWS STRENGTHENING THE HEART OF OUR DEMOCRACY

While debates in the hallowed Chamber of the National Assembly often command national attention, the true engine of parliamentary effectiveness lies within the National Assembly Service. In 2025, that engine received a timely boost, as a cohort of highly skilled fellows brought new energy, expertise and professionalism to the heart of The Gambia's legislature.

These specialised fellows sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU) have been embedded within the National Assembly under the GREAT Project, a flagship initiative supporting democratic governance and institutional reform. This six-month fellowship represents a deliberate investment in strengthening legislative capacity, accountability and technical excellence.

Designed to move the Assembly beyond routine administrative support, the fellowship deploys young Gambian professionals with expertise in legal research, legislative drafting, strategic partnerships, and communication. By working alongside permanent staff, the fellows have facilitated a direct transfer of international best practices into the Assembly's daily operations.

Supporting Landmark Oversight Work

The impact of the fellowship has been particularly evident in the work of the Special Select Committee investigating the sale and disposal of assets belonging to former President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh. This inquiry, unprecedented in its legal and historical significance, demanded rigorous research, precision and impartiality.

The fellows provided indispensable support, conducting in-depth legal research, analysing complex financial records, and assisting with evidence assessment. The Committee heard sworn testimony from 35 witnesses, including government officials and private individuals.

As the public hearings concluded, the fellows supported the transition to evidence analysis and report drafting—a critical phase that will culminate in a comprehensive report to the National Assembly, complete with findings and recommendations. Their contribution has strengthened the Assembly's constitutional oversight mandate and enhanced public confidence in the integrity of the process.

Building Capacity Beyond the Fellowship

Sustainability remains a core objective of the initiative. Rather than functioning as temporary support staff, the fellows are embedded in a capacity-building model, working closely with Assembly personnel to reinforce internal systems and institutional memory.

This success has been reinforced by the leadership of the Office of the Clerk, which ensured a conducive working environment through dedicated workspaces, equipment and structured supervision. Such institutional commitment has enabled the fellows to operate efficiently and deliver tangible results.

The Cross-Sector Strategic Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Fellow has focused on strengthening collaboration with traditional partners, including the Friends of Parliament, while opening new avenues for stakeholder engagement. The Fellow also initiated a comprehensive needs assessment across Assembly departments to inform future partnership and resource mobilisation strategies.



Mbakeh Camara

Cross-Seeker Strategic Partnership & Resource Mobilisation Fellow

The Legal Research and Analysis Fellow has been central to the work of the Special Select Committee, providing high-level analytical support throughout the inquiry process and contributing to the drafting of the Committee's final report.



Aji Sainey Kah

Legal Research Analysis Fellow

The Legislative Drafting Fellow provides technical support to Members and Committees in drafting bills, amendments and regulations. The Fellow ensures compliance with the Constitution, national laws and international legal instruments, while reviewing legislation for coherence, consistency and effectiveness.



Ndey Ngoneh Jeng

Legislative Drafting Fellow

Meanwhile, the Communication and Media Engagement Fellow is strengthening the Assembly's public outreach by documenting best practices, conducting research on parliamentary communication, and advising on updates to the National Assembly's Communication Strategy and emerging communications policies.



Saikou Suwareh Jabai

Communications & Media Engagement Fellow

As the fellowship enters its final phase, its impact is clear and enduring. The UNDP-EU partnership with the National Assembly stands as a compelling model of how targeted technical assistance can strengthen legislative independence, transparency and performance.

By investing in people, the National Assembly is better equipped to legislate, oversee and represent with professionalism and credibility. The legacy of the 2025 fellowship cohort will be measured not only in reports produced or skills transferred, but in a stronger, more confident Parliament serving the Gambian people.

THE PROCESSES OF A BILL IN PARLIAMENT

The National Assembly of The Gambia is an organ of state established under Section 87 of the 1997 Constitution.

The National Assembly is precisely vested with the responsibility of making, amending and repealing laws.

The National Assembly does the enactment of laws through passage of bills subject to assent by the President as guaranteed by Section 100(3) of the 1997 Constitution.



WHAT IS A BILL?

A bill is a proposed law formally introduced in the National Assembly for debate, amendment, and approval before being sent to the President for assent to become an Act of Parliament.



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



Order 62 & 79 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, a bill can be introduced in the National Assembly from three relevant authorities. Subject to the provision of this Section, a Bill is introduced to the National Assembly by a member of the Cabinet, Committee or Member of the National Assembly for debate and consideration

GOVERNMENT BILL

A bill introduced to Parliament by the President, Vice President or a Minister. The Bill is a government sponsored and reflects governments legislative agenda or policies.

Gazette: The Bill is first approved by Cabinet and published in the Gazette at least 14 days before tabling in the National Assembly or at least 100 days if it is a constitutional Bill.

First Reading : A Minister introduces the Bill to Parliament for the short title of the bill to be read.

Second Reading : After the First Reading Honourable Members debate on the Merits and Principles of the Bill. After debates, the bill is committed to the relevant Committee for further scrutiny and report back to Plenary depending on the vote.

Consideration Stage: During the second reading stage, Honourable Members will scrutinise the bill clause-by-clause and vote on all necessary amendments.

Third Reading: The sponsor of the bill would have incorporated all the necessary amendments made during the consideration stage.

The person in charge of the Bill will move a motion for the Bill to be read a third time and pass.

Assent: When a Bill is passed at the National Assembly it is then sent to the President for assent by virtue of Standing Order 100(3), the President has 30 days to sign or veto.

COMMITTEE BILL

A Bill introduced by a Committee of the National Assembly.

The bill is a Committee sponsored bill which outlines policies or legislations relevant to the committees mandate or public interest.



The Bill is initiated by a Committee of The National Assembly

The Bill is drafted by Legal Drafters of the National Assembly

Requires approval from the National Assembly before introduction to plenary.

After the adoption of the Bill by the Committee, the Bill is Gazetted at least 14 days before Introduction or 100 days, if it is a Constitutional Bill as well as published in a widely circulated newspaper.

The bill is tabled by the Chairperson or any member of the Committee (First Reading)

After the First reading the bill follows the same Parliamentary procedures of the Government Bill.

PRIVATE MEMBER BILL

A Bill introduced by the a National Assembly Member. The bill is sponsored by a Member of Parliament.

This bill is different from Government Bills and Committee Bill. it deals with social, legal, or governance issues of national importance.



The Bill is initiated by a Member of the National Assembly

The bill requires clearance from the Office of the Clerk and drafted by Legislative Drafters from the National Assembly

The bill is Gazetted for the public at least 14 days before the First Reading or 100 days if it is a Constitutional Bill as well as published in at least one widely circulated newspaper.

The bill is tabled in Plenary by the Member introducing the bill (First Reading)

The rest of the stages of the bill are the same as Government and Committee Bills.



PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

The 2025 legislative year has seen the expansion in the Assembly's publication portfolio driven by the "Bringing Parliament Closer to the People" mandate, moving beyond technical records to produce high-impact, accessible educational materials. These publications serve as the tangible evidence of the Assembly's commitment to proactive transparency and citizen empowerment.



The Parliamentary Roundup Series

Our series of Parliamentary Roundup Booklets represents the evolution of institutional reporting. By moving toward a magazine-style format with high-quality imagery and infographics, we have transformed routine data into compelling stories of legislative achievement.

With all the four booklets successfully produced and distributed, this series provides an unbroken chain of accountability for the 2025-2026 Legislative Sessions. All publications available in hard copies and hosted on the official portal (assembly.gm/publications) adhere to international parliamentary standards of:

1. Ensuring language is non-intimidating and de-jargonised.
2. Providing both digital versions for the global diaspora and physical copies for "last mile" outreach in rural communities.
3. Maintaining a high aesthetic standard that reflects the prestige and seriousness of the National Assembly.

These publications are not merely documents; they are the "Educational Hardware" of our democracy. By combining the real-time reach of our digital platforms with the permanent and authoritative nature of these print and digital publications, the Communications Unit ensures that the National Assembly remains transparent, accessible, and truly accountable to the people of The Gambia.

The Parliamentary Roundup booklets are designed to complement the digital strategy. While Facebook and YouTube provide the immediate "Live" experience, the booklets provide the considered "Reflective" summary. They offer a permanent, physical record that remains accessible even in areas with limited internet connectivity, ensuring "No Citizen is Left Behind."



"Penchum Rewmi"

A cornerstone of our strategic outreach is the initiation of the "Penchum Rewmi," the official National Assembly Newsletter.

Named in the local vernacular to resonate with the grassroots, Penchum Rewmi serves as a periodic digest of legislative activities. It bridges the gap between the formal proceedings and the everyday lives of Gambian citizens.

With this 2025 edition in circulation, the newsletter provides a human-interest lens on the work of Honourable Members. It features "behind-the-scenes" official engagements, spotlights on constituency work, and summaries of parliamentary diplomacy.

Unlike the formal Hansard, Penchum Rewmi is designed for a wider audience, including schools, community centres, and the general public, serving as a vibrant narrative of our democratic journey.

Digital Communications

The 2025 legislative year marked a transformative epoch for the National Assembly of The Gambia, characterised by an unprecedented shift toward digital-first institutional engagement. In an era where public trust is inextricably linked to accessibility, the Communications Unit has successfully leveraged the official website, Facebook, and YouTube to bridge the traditional gap between the legislature and the citizenry. This strategic deployment of technology has not merely served as a broadcasting tool but has functioned as a vital pillar of the democratic process, ensuring that parliament is visible to all, from the local constituent to the Gambian diaspora globally.

Central to this success has been the synergy between platform-specific mandates. While the official website (assembly.gm) remains the definitive legal authority and repository for Hansards and Bills, our social media presence on Facebook has revolutionised real-time accountability through a rigorous schedule of 158 live broadcasts.

Complementing these is the YouTube channel, which has evolved into a high-fidelity digital archive, amassing over 320,000 watch hours of legislative scrutiny. Despite significant infrastructural challenges and the technical demands of a high-frequency broadcast schedule, the 2025 digital footprint, totalling nearly 3 million touchpoints, underscores a successful transition toward a more transparent, responsive, and technologically resilient National Assembly.



The National Assembly Website (assembly.gm):
<https://assembly.gm/>

The National Assembly website serves as the primary digital gateway for the Republic of The Gambia's legislative branch. Beyond being a news portal, it functions as a repository for constitutional documents, legislative records (Hansards), and an interface for public engagement.

This analysis evaluates its performance across content, usability, and its role in the Assembly's broader modernisation strategy.

Information Architecture & Content Pillars

The website is structured around five critical pillars that support the National Assembly's mandate of oversight, law-making, and representation:

- **The Repository:** The "Hansard" section is the website's most vital asset. It provides the public with verbatim records of plenary sessions.
- **Bill Tracking:** The platform allows citizens to see the status of legislation, moving from "Gazetted" to "Assented."
- **Standing Orders:** Hosting the digital version of the Standing Orders ensures that the rules of the House are accessible to all, supporting procedural transparency.
- **Committee Profiles:** Dedicated pages for Sectoral and Standing Committees allow users to track specific oversight activities (e.g., Public Accounts/Public Enterprise Committee - PAC/PEC).
- **Member Profiles:** The website provides a database of all Elected and Nominated Members. This facilitates direct representation by allowing constituents to identify their representatives and understand their roles within the Assembly.

The assembly.gm website is a robust institutional tool that has evolved significantly. While it currently excels at transparency (showing what is happening), its next phase of evolution should focus on interaction (allowing the public to participate).

In the context of the 2025 technical upgrades, the website will remain the anchor that gives permanent, searchable life to the live video content produced by the Communications Unit.

National Assembly of The Gambia Official Facebook Page

During the 2025 legislative year, the Communications Unit transitioned to a "Digital First" broadcasting strategy, prioritising real-time transparency.

- ✓ **Total Posts: 412** (Includes official press releases, session summaries, photo galleries, and community engagement updates).
- ✓ **Total Videos (Uploaded): 87** (Produced content, including specialized reports on the 2026 Budget process and "Assembly Watch" segments).
- ✓ **Live Broadcasts: 158** (Covers all 2025 Plenary Sessions, the State of the Nation Address, and 50% of Committee Meetings).

Audience Engagement Metrics

The following data represents the public's interaction with the Assembly's digital output:

- ✓ **Total Engagements: 142,500+** (Combined likes, comments, and shares).
- ✓ **Total Video Views: 2.1 Million+** (Cumulative views across live sessions and uploaded video content).
- ✓ **Page Growth:** The page saw a **15% increase** in total followers compared to 2024, reflecting higher public interest in legislative proceedings.

The YouTube Channel: [National Assembly of The Gambia](#)

While Facebook remains the Assembly's primary tool for real-time social engagement, YouTube has solidified its position as the official digital repository for high-definition legislative records.

- ✓ **Total Videos Published (2025): 245** (Includes full-length Plenary Sessions, Committee Hearings, and official documentaries).
- ✓ **Total Watch Time: 320,000+ Hours** (A significant increase indicating that users utilize YouTube for long-form viewing of entire sessions).
- ✓ **Total Channel Views: 850,000+** (Focused on high-intent viewers and researchers).

Audience Demographics & Retention

- ✓ **Global Reach:** While 65% of traffic is domestic, there is significant viewership from the Gambian Diaspora (UK, USA, and EU), highlighting the platform's role in connecting citizens abroad to national governance.
- ✓ **Device Usage:** 72% of viewers access content via Mobile Devices, reinforcing the need for the mobile-responsive broadcast quality provided by the new technical upgrades.

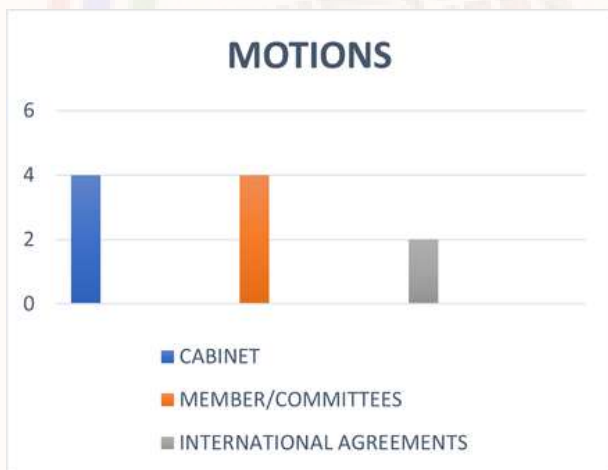
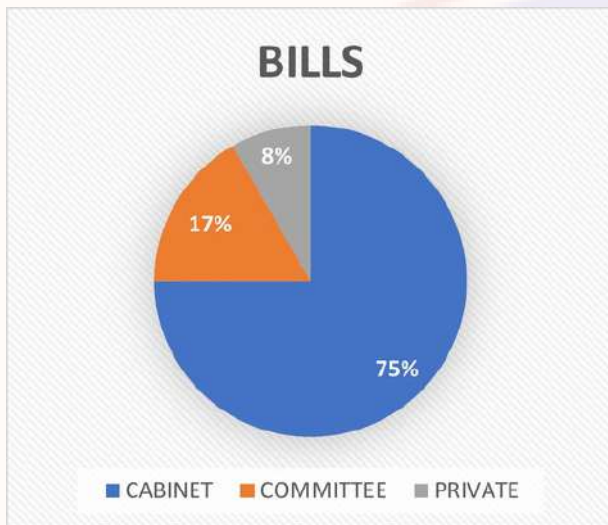


PLENARY SESSIONS

In accordance with Section 98 of the 1997 Constitution and Orders 10 and 11 of the Standing Orders, the National Assembly held Sixty (60) plenary sittings in four ordinary sessions and one Extraordinary Session during the 2025 Legislative Year.

The Extraordinary Session was convened on 14–15th May 2025, following a request by more than one-quarter of Members, to establish a Special Select Committee to Inquire into the Sales and Disposals of the Assets of Former President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh

- Nine (9) Government Bills, all passed and assented to;
- Two (2) Committee Bills, passed and assented to;
- One (1) Member’s Bill, currently undergoing legislative processes; and
- Two (2) International Agreements tabled for ratification, including the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty), and the Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic and Service Passport Holders between the Republic of The Gambia and the United Arab Emirates.



2.4. Questions, Motions, and Resolutions

Hon. Members submitted Oral and Written Questions to Ministers, with an improved response rate compared to 2024. Overall, answers were provided for three hundred and seventy-five (375) questions.

Eight (8) motions were tabled during the year, comprising four (4) Cabinet motions and four (4) motions from Members and Committees.

2.5. Speaker’s Rulings

The Hon. Speaker delivered rulings on Three (3) matters requiring interpretation of the Standing Orders where no express provision existed under the Constitution, Standing Orders, Precedence, or established practice.

BILLS IN PROGRESS (ACTIVE PIPELINE)

The following eleven (11) Bills remain under active consideration by various Committees or at the Plenary level:

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The National Assembly's law-making power was successfully exercised during the 2024 Legislative Year pursuant to Section 100 and 101 of the 1997 Constitution.

A significant number of Bills and Motions were introduced during the year under review which sought to reinforce the administration of Justice and address the general welfare of the people of The Gambia.

Pursuant to Section 98(1)(a)(i) and (b) of the 1997 Constitution and Order 10(1) and 3(a) and (b) of the Standing Orders, the Assembly conducted Fifty-Seven sittings comprising of both Ordinary and Extraordinary Sessions

A number of International Agreements were ratified to improve bilateral and multi-lateral relations, protection of Human Rights especially of those with disabilities and older persons, as well as manpower sourcing to create more employment opportunities and curb irregular migration.

BILLS PASSED AND ASSENTED TO (2025)

Key highlights of the year included the overhaul of the criminal justice framework through the Criminal Offences and Criminal Procedure Acts, the establishment of critical funding mechanisms for higher education and research, and the rigorous management of national finances through two distinct Appropriation Acts.

Furthermore, the Assembly demonstrated its commitment to digital governance and human rights with the passage of the Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act.

By the close of the year, sixteen (16) pieces of legislation had moved successfully through the full parliamentary cycle to receive Presidential Assent, while an additional eleven (11) remain active in various stages of the legislative process, ensuring a robust and continuous reform agenda heading into 2026.

At Consideration Stage:

1. Cybercrime Bill, 2023.

Committed to Committees:

1. Prerogative of Mercy Bill;
2. National Food Security Corporation Bill;
3. Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill;
4. National Climate Change Bill;
5. Waste Management Bill;
6. National Environment Management Bill;
7. Vetting Bill.

At First Reading:

1. GIEPA (Amendment) Bill;
2. Intellectual Property Bill;
3. Communications Bill.

The following twelve (12) Acts were both passed and signed into law within the 2025 calendar year:

- Nutrition Bill 2025 (Assented: 27th Dec 2024)
- Legal Metrology Act 2025
- National Research & Innovation Fund Act 2025
- The National Tertiary and Higher Education Trust Fund Act 2025
- Student Revolving Loan Scheme Act 2025
- Criminal Offences Act 2025
- Criminal Procedure Act 2025
- National Security Council Act 2025
- Judicial Officers (Condition of Service) Act 2025
- Election Act 2025
- Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act 2025
- Appropriation Act 2026 (Assented: 20th Dec 2025)

BILLS PASSED IN 2025 (ASSENTED IN 2026)

These Four (4) Acts completed their parliamentary passage in late 2025 and were formally signed into law in early 2026:

- Medicine and Related Products (Amendment) Act
- National Assembly Salaries & Pensions Act
- National Population Act
- National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Act

SN	DATE	MOTION	TABLED BY
1	04th March, 2025	Motion on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Services Passport Holders between the Republic of The Gambia and The United Arab Emirates.	Motion on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Services Passport Holders between the Republic of The Gambia and The United Arab Emirates.
2	14th May, 2025	Motion on the the Establishment of a special Select Committee to Inquire into all matters relating to the sale and disposal of the asset identified by the Commission of Inquiry into the financial activities of public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices as regards their dealings with former President Yahya A.J.J Jammeh and connected matters	Hon. Billay G. Tunkara, Member for Kantora (Majority Leader) and Member of the Committee of Selection

3	16th September, 2025	Motion on the extension of the mandate of the special Select Committee established to Inquire into the sale and disposal of the assets identified by the Commission of Inquiry into the financial activities of public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices in relation to former President Yahya A.J.J Jammeh and connected matters.	Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, Member for Old Yundum (Dep Majority Leader) and Chairperson of the Special Select Committee
4		Motion on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBN) Treaty)	Hon. Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources
5	Thursday 18th September, 2025	Motion on the appointment of candidates for the position of Chairperson and Commissioners of the Gambia Anti-Corruption Commission	Hon. Attorney General & Minister for Justice
6	Monday 22nd September, 2025	Motion on the Protection of Customary Land Rights and Fair Land Governance in The Gambia	Hon. Sulayman Saho Member for Central Baddibu (Minority Chief Whip)
7	Friday 31st October, 2025	Motion on the Laying of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Republic of The Gambia for the fiscal year 2026, 01st January – 31st December, 2026 (both dates inclusive)	Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs
8	Wednesday 19th December, 2025	Motion on the Debate on the 2026 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Republic of the Gambia.	Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs
9	Monday 24th December, 2025	Committee of supply on the 2026 Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure of the Republic of The Gambia for the fiscal year 1st January – 31st December, 2026	Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs
10	Monday 15th December, 2025	Motion on the extension of time for the Special Select Committee established to Inquire into the sale and disposal of the assets identified by the Commission of Inquiry into the financial activities of Public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices as regards their dealings with former President Yahya A.J.J Jammeh and connected matters.	Hon. Suwaibou Touray Member for Wuli East and Member for Special Select Committee
11	Wednesday 17th December, 2025	Motion on the Adjournment Debate 2025	Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay member for Old Yundum – Deputy Majority Leader

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Nominations for appointments into public office were proposed by the Executive for the consideration and approval of the National Assembly during the year under review.

The table below highlights public appointments confirmed during the year.

SN		MOTION	Person-in-Charge of the Motion
1	Wednesday 3rd December, 2025	Motion on the Position of Chairperson and Commissioners of The Gambia Anti-Corruption Commission	Hon. Minister for Public Service, Administrative Reforms, Policy Coordination & Delivery – stepping in for the Hon. Attorney General & Minister for Justice

COMMITTEE WORK AND REPORTS

In execution of its oversight function and holding government institutions into account, the Assembly through its oversight Committees conducted visits to offices, hospitals, markets, production fields, schools, etc. and tabled 36 reports which resulted to Recommendations and Resolutions.

The Reports laid also expressed opinions of stakeholders including citizens, civil society and government institutions on bills introduced in the Assembly.

This has continued to reflect the role of the Assembly in involving everyone in decision making.

Ministerial Response to Papers and Reports

During the period under review, Cabinet Ministers actively engaged with and responded to concerns and recommendations raised by Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

These responses occurred during the laying of various papers and reports by parliamentary committees.

Key highlights of the Ministerial responses include that of:

His Excellency, the Vice President, provided a comprehensive reply to the report of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) concerning the 2019 audited accounts of Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

- The Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs responded to the Public Enterprise Committee (PEC) Report on the activity and audited financial statements of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) for the years ended 31st December, 2019 and 2020.
- The Minister for Trade, Integration, Regional Integration & Employment addressed the recommendations outlined in the Report of the Trade Committee, which followed their nationwide tour to selected markets.
- The Minister for Lands, Regional Government & Religious Affairs furnished a reply to the Report of the Regional Government oversight visit, which covered offices of Regional Governors, Area and Municipal Councils, the Ombudsman, and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

These interactions strengthen the accountability loop between the Executive and the Legislature and further demonstrates a high level of responsiveness to parliamentary scrutiny.

OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The National Assembly of The Gambia, in adherence to its constitutional mandate, established specialised committees to scrutinise the Executive and public institutions, to ensure accountability, transparency, and probity.

This section outlines the key activities and achievements of each committee, reflecting their contributions to governance, socio-economic development, and accountability.

Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC)

- Reviewed audited financial statements and annual reports of 15 entities, including the Gambia Revenue Authority (2021), Banjul City Council (2019–2020), and National Audit Office (2020–2021).
- Collaborated with the Financial Reporting Oversight Board (FROB) and National Audit Office, proposed amendments to the NAO Act, 2015 to enhance fiscal transparency.
- Held bilateral engagements with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Judiciary, and the Office of the President, etc., with a view to aligning their budgetary allocations with national priorities.

Standing Committee on Privileges and Ethics

- Partnered with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to develop a Code of Conduct and Register of Interest for National Assembly Members.

Assembly Standing Committee

- Reviewed operational guidelines for the Honourable Members' Vehicle Loan Scheme.
- Proposed revisions to the National Assembly Salaries and Pensions Act, 2017, focusing on benefits for Members not completing full terms.

Trade and Regional Integration Committee

- Conducted a Trade Facilitation Tour to Senegal to strengthen bilateral trade frameworks.



- Finalised the Gambia Legal Metrology Bill 2024 and monitored the implementation of a USD 50 million BADEA loan for essential imports. #

Public Enterprises Committee (PEC)

- Scrutinised 2021 reports of 12 State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), including NAWEC, GAMTEL, and SSHFC, and held public hearings on governance challenges.
- Organised a workshop in Senegal on tools for auditing SOE reports.



Select Committee on Health Disaster, Humanitarian Relief, and Refugees

- Scrutinized the National Social Protection Bill 2023 and Nutrition Bill 2023 through consultations with the Ministry of Health and NGOs. Tabled report on its findings to the Plenary for adoption.
- Undertook study tours to Rwanda (National Health Insurance) and Egypt (gender-based violence policies).

Select Committee on Gender, Children, and Social Welfare

- Reviewed the Disability Act 2021 and Women's Charter, through social audits and public hearings organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD).
- Visited Kenya to study affirmative action policies adopted and Egypt to study best practices on Female Genital Mutilation laws.



Select Committee on Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth, and Sports

- Monitored the \$68 million World Bank Tourism Development Project and engaged stakeholders on the Intellectual Property Bill 2022.
- Conducted a study tour to Greece on heritage management strategies.

Regional Government and Lands Committee

- Assessed the Rent (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Performance Audit Report on Land Registration.
- Engaged the Ministry of Lands on staffing challenges and the Local Government Act 2002.

Standing Committee on Subsidiary Legislation

- Introduced the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, to clarify statutory language, following consultations with legal experts.

Select Committee on Monitoring Government Projects

- Inspected progress on the OIC Bertil Harding Highway, 50km Urban Roads, and Rural Electrification Project.



- Met with NAWEC and the OIC Secretariat to address implementation bottlenecks.

Public Petitions Committee

- Completed its scrutiny on petitions from Gambia Tourism Board staff, ensuring accountability in public service.

Select Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

- Tracked groundnut production, rice sales, and recapitalisation efforts through engagements with farmers' associations and the NFSPMC.
- Advocated for improved allocations to the Ministry of Agriculture and its subvented agencies.



Standing Committee on Defence and Security

- Evaluated the Hot Pursuit Agreement with Senegal and scrutinised the National Security Council Bill, Vetting Bill, and the National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Bill 2024.
- Held multi-sectoral consultation meetings with security chiefs on rising crime rates and substance abuse.

Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters

- Conducted nationwide hearings on the Rent (Amendment) Bill 2023 and engaged the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on reparations for victims.

Select Committee on Education, Training, and ICT

- Finalised Stakeholder consultations on the Cyber Crime Bill, involving PURA, the Gambia Police Force, and IT experts.

Select Committee on Environment

- Monitored sand mining regulations, a GLS 10 million borehole project, and collaborated with NGOs on sustainable practices.
- Partnered with the Ministry of Fisheries and the National Environment Agency (NEA) on the Korrop Banana Plantation initiative. Also, had an engagement with MOFEA, MOFWR, and NAO on the Fisheries Development Fund, and WFD on the Environmental Democracy



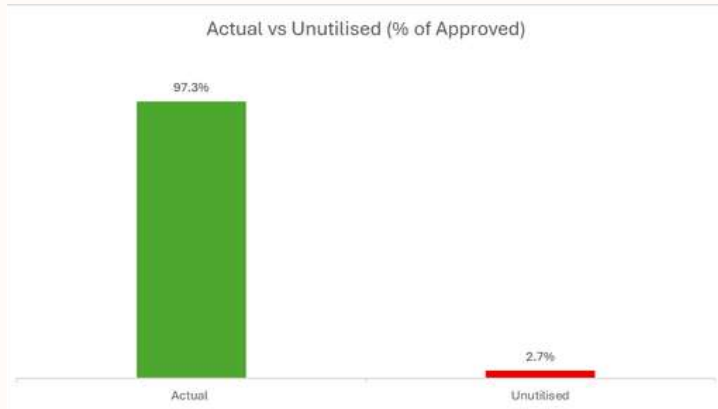
- Held a Joint Committee with the Defence and Security Committee to identify stakeholders on the National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Bill 2024.

Reviewing the 2025 National Assembly Budget (The Budget Chart)

Reviewing the 2025 National Assembly Budget (The Budget Chart)
As part of its commitment to financial transparency, this section presents the National Assembly's stewardship of public funds for the 2025 fiscal year.

With a 97% budget utilisation rate, amounting to GMD 433 million spent out of an approved GMD 446 million, the Assembly continues to demonstrate disciplined fiscal management while fulfilling its legislative, oversight, and administrative responsibilities.

An unutilised balance of GMD 12 million was recorded, indicating that the institution operated within its approved budget and maintained a modest reserve of unspent funds.



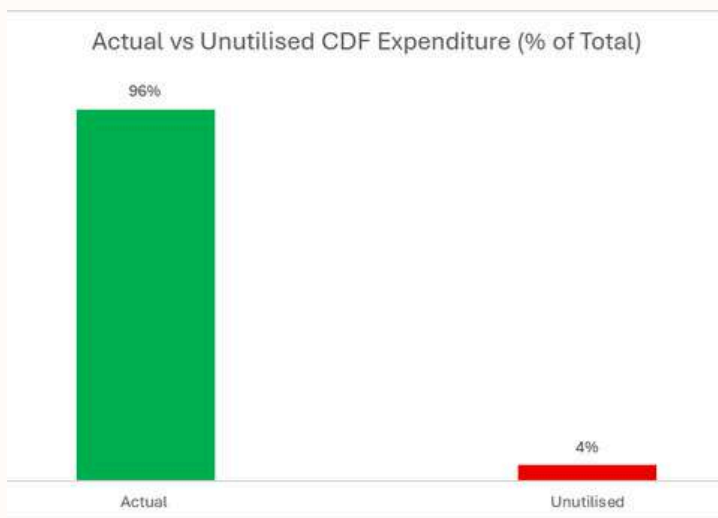
Constituency Development Fund (CDF)

The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) is an annual appropriation within the national budget made available to National Assembly Members to support the implementation of small-scale projects within their constituencies.

Unlike large national development projects, CDF-financed initiatives are community-driven, aimed at bringing essential services closer to the people and improving socio-economic conditions, particularly through poverty reduction.

Projects supported under the CDF commonly include the provision of milling machines, borehole drilling, and the fencing of women's vegetable gardens, among others.

In 2025, a total of GMD 27.8 million of the GMD 29 million approved for the CDF was effectively utilised across the country, enabling Honourable Members to address immediate grassroots needs and support development initiatives with direct constituency impact.



Breakdown of Legislative Expenditure (With and Without Personal Emoluments)

To provide deeper insight into the Assembly's operational costs, these figures reflect the necessary investment required to sustain a functional, accessible, and effective democratic institution. Expenditure categories range from essential staff remuneration (Personal Emoluments) to funding for intensive committee oversight and the maintenance of parliamentary infrastructure.

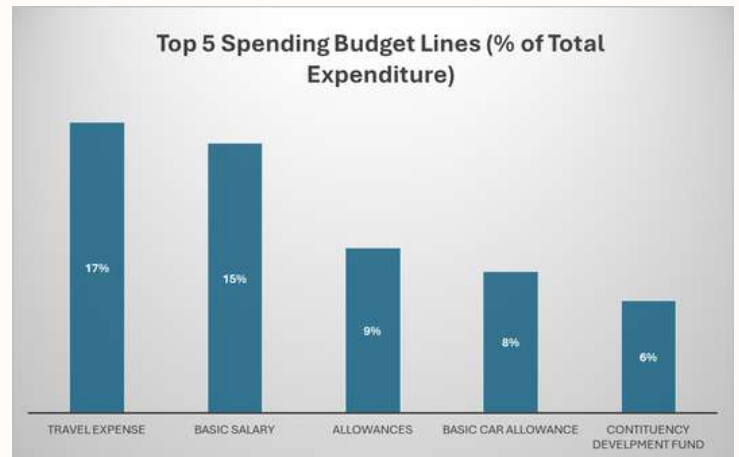
Key Spending Budget Lines (Including Personal Emoluments)

This category highlights the principal drivers of expenditure when Personal Emoluments (PEs) such as salaries and allowances are included:

Travel expenses (GMD 71.8 million) emerged as the single largest expenditure line, exceeding basic salary costs. Combined personnel-related costs, including Basic Salaries (GMD 66.5 million), Allowances (GMD 40.7 million), and Basic Car Allowances (GMD 35 million), accounted for a substantial share of total expenditure.

Key Spending Budget lines A) Including PES

Travel expense	71.8 million
Basic Salary	66.5 million
Allowances	40.7 million
Basic Car Allowance	35 million
Contituency Development Fund	27 million



Key Spending Budget Lines (Excluding Personal Emoluments)

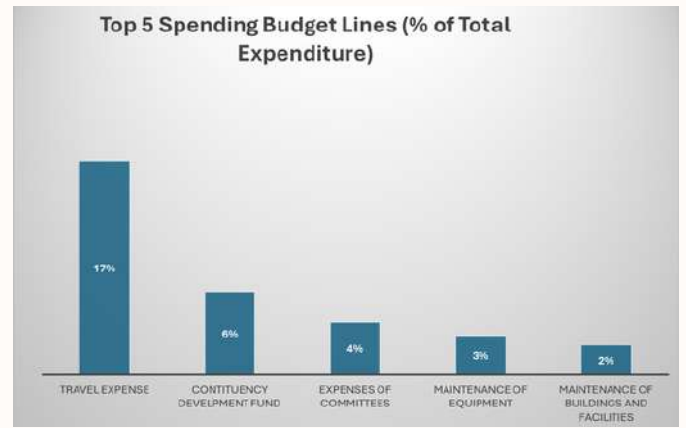
This analysis isolates operational and capital-related expenditure by excluding salary-related costs, providing a clearer picture of non-personnel activities:

Travel expenses (GMD 71.8 million) and the Constituency Development Fund (GMD 27 million) remained the two largest expenditure items.

Significant allocations were also made to the expenses of Committees (GMD 17.8 million), maintenance of equipment (GMD 13 million), and maintenance of buildings and facilities (GMD 10 million).

b) Without PES

Travel expense	71.8 million
Contituency Development Fund	27 million
Expenses of Committees	17.8 million
Maintenance of Equipment	13 million
Maintenance of Buildings and Facilities	10 million



The National Assembly Newsletter



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS IN CHINA IN 2025

Throughout 2025, the National Assembly of The Gambia deepened its international engagement through a series of high-level capacity-building programmes in the People's Republic of China.

These engagements, spread across several provinces and cities, reflected a deliberate strategy to strengthen legislative effectiveness, governance systems, sustainable development planning and international cooperation in line with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The year's engagements commenced in April 2025, when the National Assembly participated in an International Seminar on Digital Government Capacity Building held in Shanghai from 21 April to 4 May.

Hosted by the CIFAL Shanghai International Training Centre, the programme brought together public sector officials from across the world to examine modern approaches to digital governance.



The Gambian delegation comprised Hon. Kemo Gassama, a member of the Education, Training and ICT Committee, and Mr Ebrima Bah, Principal Communications Officer. The programme focused on e-government policy development, legislative transparency, cybersecurity frameworks for public institutions, and the use of digital tools to improve citizen engagement and service delivery.

The training directly supported the National Assembly Strategic Plan (2025–2029), particularly its pillars on digital transformation, accountability and transparency, and provided practical insights for advancing e-parliament initiatives.

In May 2025, the Assembly's international engagement expanded further with participation in two key programmes addressing development and poverty reduction. From 19 to 26 May, a delegation led by Hon. Sainey Jawara attended a Ministerial Workshop on Advancing the Global Development Initiative in Beijing, organised by the Centre for International Knowledge on Development under the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

The delegation included Hon. Saikou Bah, Hon. Omar Jobe, Hon. Tamsir Cham and Hon. Lamin Ceesay, accompanied by Mr Abubakarr Siddique Kabbah, Director of Legal Affairs.

The workshop explored South-South cooperation, poverty reduction and rural development, digital development, and climate change and green growth. Study visits to Hangzhou and Huzhou in Zhejiang Province enabled participants to observe China's development experience at subnational level, offering lessons relevant to The Gambia's own development context.



Later in May 2025, another delegation of the National Assembly attended an Advanced Seminar on Anti-Poverty Issues in Developing Countries at Zhejiang University, organised by the China Academy for Rural Development. The delegation was led by Hon. Modou Lamin B. Bah, with Hon. Nfamara Sabally and Hon. Bakary Kora, and was supported by Mr Daniel Cardos, Deputy Clerk for Legislative Business and Programmes.

The seminar brought together policymakers, development experts and civil society actors to examine sustainable and inclusive strategies for poverty reduction across the Global South, reinforcing the Assembly's legislative oversight role in development planning.



In June 2025, the Assembly continued its engagement with China through participation in a Global Green and Sustainable Development Seminar held in Fuzhou, Fujian Province. The delegation, led by Hon. Kebba Lang Fofana, included Hon. Abdou Sowe, Hon. Omar Jammeh, and Mr Marabi S. Hydera, Director of Committees. The seminar convened participants from countries including Tanzania, South Africa, Uzbekistan and Romania, fostering dialogue on sustainable urban development, renewable energy and environmental cooperation.

During plenary sessions, the Gambian delegation shared national experiences and aspirations on green transformation, while guided visits to cultural heritage sites and modern ICT and infrastructure projects in Fuzhou and Guiyang provided practical exposure to China's approach to sustainable development. The delegation expressed appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its support, facilitated through the Chinese Embassy in The Gambia.

The Assembly's China engagements culminated in June and July 2025 with participation in a three-week Seminar on Governance Capacity Building for Belt and Road Countries, held in Beijing from 12 June to 3 July. Sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and organised by the University of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the programme aimed to exchange governance experiences, address shared development challenges, and strengthen cooperation among Belt and Road partner countries.

The Gambian delegation was led by Hon. Sankung Damhpa, Member for Illiassa, and included Hon. Almameh Gibba, Hon. Muhmed Kanteh, and Ms Isatou Kassama, Director of Hansard. Addressing the opening ceremony, Hon. Damhpa commended China's leadership in fostering cooperation among Belt and Road countries and highlighted the long-standing partnership between China and The Gambia in infrastructure, education, health and technical cooperation.

Collectively, these engagements present the National Assembly's commitment in 2025 to learning from global best practices, strengthening institutional capacity and positioning Parliament as a proactive actor in national development. Through sustained international cooperation, particularly with China, the Assembly continues to enhance its legislative, oversight and representative functions in support of The Gambia's development agenda.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE – THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STAFF AWARDS



In a historic move to institutionalise a culture of meritocracy and professional pride, the National Assembly Service hosted its first-ever Staff Awards and Recognition Ceremony at the Bakadaji Hotel. The gala event brought together the Honourable Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the National Assembly, and the Clerk to honour the administrative and support staff whose dedication forms the backbone of the legislature.

The Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr Kalipha MM Mbye, described the evening as a strategic milestone, stressing that the credibility of legislative work depends entirely on the professionalism of staff at all levels. This sentiment was echoed by the Honourable Speaker, Fabakary Tombong Jatta, who presided over the ceremony as Chairperson of the National Assembly Authority.

In a poignant keynote address, the Speaker described the staff as the "institutional memory" of the House. "Politicians come and go," he remarked, "but you remain. There can be no effective legislature without a professional and motivated Service."



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The evening's most prestigious accolade, the Employee of the Year Award, was conferred upon **Mr. Lamin Bojang**. His journey is a masterclass in professional growth, having joined the Service in 2006 as a Messenger and rising through the ranks to his current position as Assistant Records Officer.

As the head of the Records Unit, Mr. Bojang has revolutionised the institution's information management systems through innovation and an iron-clad discipline. Widely respected for his teamwork and reliability, he has become a dependable pillar of the Service.

The category also featured two other distinguished nominees whose contributions were equally lauded. **Mr. Alhagie M. Dumbuya, the Director of Library and Research**, was recognised for his exemplary leadership and legislative support, having served with distinction as Assistant Secretary to the National Assembly Authority.

Joining him was **Mr. Musa S. Ceesay, an ICT Officer** whose evolution from an Electrical Technician to a multi-talented digital professional, proficient in AI, broadcasting technology, photography and videography, exemplifies the modern, versatile spirit of the National Assembly Service.



PUNCTUALITY AND HARD WORK

The Most Punctual Staff Award was presented to **Mr. Bakary Sarjo, a Driver in the Administration Department**. Joining in 2015, Mr. Sarjo earned the absolute confidence of the institution through his steadfast discipline, particularly during late-night committee sittings where he ensured the safe return of staff across the Greater Banjul Area.

He was nominated alongside **Mr. Lamin Bojang** and **Mr. Lamin A.J. Sanneh**, both of whom were commended for their consistent time-consciousness and professional conduct.



MOST HARDWORKING STAFF

The Most Hardworking Staff Award was awarded to **Mr. Lamin A.J. Sanneh. Currently an Assistant Reporter II** in the Hansard Department, Mr. Sanneh's transition from the Fire Service to parliamentary reporting has been defined by a tireless work ethic and meticulous attention to detail.

The category also celebrated the innovative contributions of **Mr. Ebrima Bah, Principal Communications Officer**, who was instrumental in establishing the National Assembly Broadcasting Services and strengthening the institution's media relations.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE – THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STAFF AWARDS



DEPARTMENTAL AND SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS

In a move to recognise collective excellence, the Table Office was named the Functional Department of the Year. As the procedural heart of the legislative process, the Table Office was commended by the Clerk for its "exceptional professionalism and quiet resilience," serving as the fundamental link in the House's daily functionality.

Special Personal Award, A Special Personal Award was also presented by the Clerk to Counsel Aji Sainey Kah, a UNDP Legal Fellow. She was recognised for her extraordinary professional excellence and profound personal commitment during her support of the recent Special Select Committee of Inquiry, marking her as a distinguished contributor to the Assembly's legal framework.



RETIREMENT CERTIFICATES

The evening concluded with a solemn tribute to the veterans of the National Assembly Service. Seven long-serving staff members were presented with Retirement Certificates, marking the end of decades of faithful service to the Gambian state:

- **Mr. Lonkan Saine:** A Senior Driver who concluded an exceptional career spanning over three decades (1993–2025), respected for his unwavering loyalty.
- **Mrs. Jainaba Trawally:** A Senior Private Secretary with over 25 years of service (1998–2023), remembered for her vast institutional memory and secretarial excellence.
- **Mr. Alasana Trawally:** A dedicated Driver who supported logistical operations from 2005 to 2023 with consistent discipline.
- **Mr. Alieu Demba:** A Facility Supervisor (2011–2025) who provided vital leadership in infrastructure maintenance.
- **Mr. Momodou Camara:** An Assistant Fire Officer (2015–2025) commended for his vigilance in ensuring staff safety.
- **Mr. Ismaila Kujabi and Mr. Landing Jatta:** Both recognised for their technical and administrative support in the Maintenance and Finance departments, respectively.

This inaugural ceremony has firmly established a new tradition of excellence, ensuring that the dedication of the National Assembly Service is not only seen but celebrated as the primary driver of parliamentary success.



PICTORIAL



Staff Achievements

CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND SELF-DIRECTED GROWTH

The strength of any legislature lies not only in its constitutional powers but in the intellectual calibre of the men and women who serve within its administrative engine.

In 2025, the National Assembly Service witnessed an inspiring surge in capacity building, a movement driven largely by the personal initiative and academic ambition of our staff.

While institutional training remains a priority, this year we celebrate a cohort of officers who have laboured to attain higher academic honours.

From the technical complexities of Information Systems to the nuanced world of International Relations, these achievements reflect a workforce that is proactively preparing itself for the challenges of a modern, twenty-first-century parliament.

Master's Degrees We extend our warmest congratulations to our senior officers who have successfully navigated the rigours of postgraduate study. Their new qualifications bring a wealth of advanced knowledge to our core departments.



Mr. Modika Bah (Research Officer):
Has successfully attained an **MA in Sustainable Development** from Högskolan Väst (University West), Trollhättan, Sweden. His research expertise will be invaluable as the Assembly increasingly engages with global frameworks for environmental and social governance.



Mrs. Fatou Marega (Principal ICT Officer):
Has been awarded an **MSc in Information Systems** from Kampala International University. Her expertise will be vital as we continue to digitise our legislative processes.



Mrs. Rabiadou Jallow (Principal HR Officer):
Successfully attained an **MSc in Human Resources Management** from Kampala International University, strengthening our capacity to manage our most valuable asset, our people.



Mr. Abubacarr Fadera (Security Officer I):
Has earned an **MSc in International Relations** from the China Foreign Affairs University, providing a sophisticated global perspective to our security and diplomatic protocols.



Mrs. Amie Barrow, Senior Research Officer, attained a **Master of Business Administration (MBA)** from Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune University in India, strengthening her technical and administrative expertise.

The National Assembly Service salutes these individuals. Their pursuit of knowledge, often undertaken through personal sacrifice, ensures that our institution remains a centre of excellence. They have proved that while we work for the nation today, we must never stop learning for the nation of tomorrow.

Staff Achievements

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

The following officers have demonstrated remarkable perseverance, balancing the demanding schedule of the National Assembly with the intensive requirements of undergraduate study.



Mr. Ebrima Ceesay (Senior ICT Officer):
Awarded a **BSc in Information and Communication Technology** from the International Open University (IOU).



Ms. Musukuta Faal (Communications Officer):
Graduated with a **BSc (Hons) in Journalism and Digital Media** from the University of The Gambia.



Mr. Salifu Dampha (Protocol Officer):
Earned his BSc in **Business Management and Administration** from Groupe Sup Deco Dakar.



Mr. Lamarana Bah (Accountant):
Successfully completed his **BSc in Accountancy** at the University of The Gambia, further bolstering the precision and integrity of our financial reporting.

TECHNICAL MASTERY

Professional growth is celebrated at every level of the Service, reflecting a culture where every role is seen as a theatre for improvement.



Mr. Amadou Bamba Jaiteh (Security Guard):
Successfully attained a **Certificate in Information Technology** from the Gambia Telecommunications and Multimedia Institute (GTMI).

Production Team



Mr. Gibairou Janneh
Director of Communications
and ICT



Mr. Ebrima Bah
Principal Communications
Officer



Ms. Musukuta Faal
Communications Officer



Mr. Musa S. Ceesay
ICT Officer



Ms. Ramatoulie Jawo
Asst: Communications Officer

The National Assembly Newsletter



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