



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**SIXTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST ORDINARY SESSION IN THE 2026**  
**LEGISLATIVE YEAR**



**PARLIAMMENTARY**  
**ROUNDUP**





## INTRODUCTION

The Parliamentary Roundup Handbook provides a comprehensive account of all the legislative business conducted during the First Ordinary Session of the Sixth Legislature in the 2026 Legislative Year of the National Assembly of The Gambia.

The handbook chronicles the bills passed, motions adopted, resolutions made, and committee reports adopted by plenary.

Notable among the legislative business were the passage of the National Security Council (Amendment) Bill 2026, the adoption of a motion seeking the restitution of Gambian artifacts, and the completion of consideration stages for several key bills including the Climate Change Bill 2025, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill 2025, and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Bill.

This handbook also highlights the scrutiny of committee reports, debates surrounding issues of national concern, including cross-border insecurity in Foni, and oral question sessions with eight Cabinet Ministers.

## FIRST ORDINARY SESSION IN THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

The First Ordinary Session of the National Assembly in the 2026 Legislative Year commenced on the 02<sup>nd</sup> March - 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2026. This session highlighted the delivery of the State of the Nation Address by H.E. President Adama Barrow, passage of bills, adoption of motions, consideration of committee reports, and oral questions with Ministers.



## STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

His Excellency, President of The Republic, Mr. Adama Barrow, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March delivered the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) before the National Assembly, outlining his administration's progress and addressing current challenges facing the country.

The annual Address is a constitutional requirement under Section 77(1) of the 1997 Constitution and is supported by Order 24(1) of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

During his speech, President Barrow highlighted advancements in infrastructure, education, healthcare, security, and the economy. He detailed strategic investments and ongoing reforms intended to improve the livelihoods of Gambians and ensure sustainable development.

The President also placed strong emphasis on the principles of good governance, accountability, and transparency, reaffirming the government's commitment to the equitable and responsible management of national resources.

## BILLS

The First Ordinary Session in the 2026 Legislative Year witnessed the completion of consideration stages, passage, and amendment of several key legislative pieces.



### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

The National Assembly, through a certificate of urgency from His Excellency, The President, completed the First, Second and Third Reading of The National Security Council (Amendment) Bill 2026, tabled by H.E. the Vice President, Muhammed B.S. Jallow.

The Amendment seeks to provide a clear and enforceable legal framework for financing the Security Sector Reform Process and operations of the National Security Sector Joint Operations Fund.



### CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS BILL 2026

The Assembly completed the Consideration Stage of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Bill with the Minister for Health, Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh. Honourable Members reviewed the bill clause-by-clause with amendments on key areas which aim to establish a comprehensive framework for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in The Gambia.



### CLIMATE CHANGE BILL 2025

The Assembly completed the Consideration Stage of the Climate Change Bill 2025. The Hon. Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources, Rohey John Manjang, and Honourable Members meticulously reviewed the bill clause-by-clause, debating provisions aimed at establishing a comprehensive legal framework to guide the country's response to climate change, including mitigation and adaptation strategies.

### INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT BILL 2025

The session highlighted the completion of the Consideration Stage of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill 2025. This bill seeks to establish a legal and institutional framework for the sustainable management of The Gambia's coastal and marine areas, addressing erosion, habitat loss, and sustainable development.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY BILL 2025

The Assembly commenced the Consideration Stage of the Intellectual Property Bill 2025. The bill had earlier passed its Second Reading during the Fourth Ordinary Session in the 2025 Legislative Year.

## COMMUNICATIONS BILL 2025

The sitting witnessed the adoption of a motion to commit the Communications Bill 2025 to the Assembly Business Committee (ABC) for further committal to the relevant sector committee for scrutiny and report to plenary.



## NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY CORPORATION BILL 2025

The Assembly considered the National Food Security Corporation Bill 2025 laid by the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security, Hon. Dr. Demba Sabally. During the session, Honourable Members scrutinized the Bill clause by clause.

## PREROGATIVE OF MERCY BILL 2025

The Assembly proceeded with the Consideration Stage of the Prerogative of Mercy Bill 2025, sponsored by Hon. Alhagie Mbow. This bill looks at the legal framework for presidential pardons, ensuring the process is clear and fair.

### OTHER BILLS

**Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (Amendment) Bill 2025:** Second Reading passed and referred to the Assembly Business Committee.

**Vetting Bill 2025:** Withdrawn by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice.



## RESTITUTION OF GAMBIAN ARTIFACTS

The National Assembly adopted a motion moved by **Hon. Sulayman Saho**, calling for the restitution of Gambian artifacts and sacred heritage items taken during colonial rule, with a particular focus on the historical treasures of Salikenni Village. Members argued that these items are more than just objects; they are the soul of the nation's heritage.





## ONE-CHINA POLICY

The Assembly adopted a motion tabled by **Hon. Sainey Jawara, Member for Lower Saloum**, on the consideration and reaffirmation of The Gambia's commitment to the One-China Policy.



## AFRICA MINERAL STRATEGY GROUP

The Assembly also adopted the motion to ratify The Gambia's membership in the Africa Mineral Strategy Group laid by the Minister for Petroleum and Energy, **Hon. Nani Juwara**.



## MATTER OF THE DAY

Cross-Border Conflict in Foni

**Hon. Almameh Gibba**, National Assembly Member for Foni Kansala, tabled a Matter of the Day on "cross border conflict, internal displacement and protection of Gambian Sovereignty in the Foni Border Communities."

Hon. Gibba highlighted the impact of the clashes between the Senegalese Armed Forces and the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Cassamance (MFDC), informing the Assembly that the conflict has led to displacement of families, disruption of livelihoods, closure of schools, and fear among residents along the border.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

A number of committee reports were tabled and adopted during this session.

The Special Select Committee of the National Assembly presented its comprehensive report on the inquiry into the sale and disposal of assets identified by the 'Janneh Commission', revealing systemic failures, institutional weaknesses, and significant financial discrepancies in the handling of former President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh's forfeited assets.

The report, submitted by Committee Chairperson Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, followed four months of public hearings involving over 70 witnesses and examination of thousands of documents.

The Assembly adopted the report and further tasked the committee to make resolutions on key recommendations and periodically report to plenary on implementation.



1. The Assembly adopted the reports of the Select Committee on Monitoring of Government projects following its oversight visits to selected project sites across the country between April and May 2025.
2. Report of the Joint Committee on Public Appointments and Human Rights on the Prerogative of Mercy Bill, 2025.
3. Report of the Select Committee on Agriculture on its findings from a study visit to SONACOS groundnut processing factories in Senegal.
4. Report of the Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands, Ombudsman, and IEC on its parliamentary engagement visit to the Republic of Senegal.
5. Select Committee on Environment, Sustainable Development & NGO Affairs: Four key legislative reports concerning:
  - The National Environment Management Bill, 2025
  - The Gambia Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill, 2025
  - The Waste Management Bill, 2025
  - The Gambia National Climate Change Bill, 2025

## MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS

### MINISTERIAL REPLY ON TOURISM BOARD PETITION

The Assembly adopted the Ministerial Reply on the Report/Resolution of the Public Petitions Committee on the petition of concerned staff of The Gambia Tourism Board. The Minister for Tourism, Arts & Culture, **Hon. Abdoulie Jobe**, presented the ministry's formal response detailing government's position and steps taken.



### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

The Minister for Finance & Economic Affairs, **Hon. Seedy K.M. Keita**, delivered an oral ministerial statement in accordance with Orders 48 and 94 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, provided a detailed update on the status of Implementation and Monitoring of the Annual Budget.

## MINISTERIAL REPLIES ON TRANSHUMANCE

The sittings witnessed Ministerial Replies by the Hon. Minister of Environment and the Hon. Minister of Interior on the report of the Joint Committee on Environment and Agriculture on its inquiry into the activities of Transhumance in The Gambia.

Fourteen (14) Honourable Ministers led by H. E the Vice President appeared before Honourable Members to respond to Oral Questions and Answers in accordance with Orders 36 and 41 of the National Assembly Standing Orders.

Honourable Ministers who appeared during the First Ordinary Session in the 2026 Legislative Year for Oral Questions and Answers:



1. His Excellency, The Vice President of the Republic
2. Attorney General and Minister of Justice
3. Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters
4. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment
5. Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Corporation and Gambians Abroad
6. Minister of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs
7. Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure
8. Minister of Basic and Secondary Education
9. Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
10. Minister of Petroleum and Energy
11. Minister of Health
12. Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture
13. Minister of Defence
14. Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs





## National Assembly commences First Ordinary Session in the 2026 Legislative Year

The National Assembly of The Gambia today commenced its First Ordinary Session in the 2026 Legislative year.

The sittings witnessed the Ministerial Replies by the Hon. Minister of Environment and the Hon. Minister of Interior on the report of the Joint Committee on Environment and Agriculture on its inquiry into the activities of Transhumance in The Gambia. The sittings highlighted the withdrawal of the Vetting Bill, 2023 by the Attorney General and Hon. Minister of Justice.

The session also highlighted the passage of the Second Reading of the Intellectual Property Bill 2025 by the Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Justice, The Communications Bill 2025 by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Digital Economy and The Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency [Amendment], Bill 2025 by the Hon. Minister of Trade, these bills were all referred to the Assembly Business Committee for further scrutiny.

The session was chaired by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Honorable Seedy SK Njie.



## The National Assembly today considered the National Food Security Corporation Bill, 2025, a key legislative piece laid by the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security, Hon. Dr. Demba Sabally.

During the session, Honorable Members scrutinized the Bill clause by clause with amendments.

An important amendment was made by the Member for Lower Saloum, Hon. Sainey Jawara. The amendment seeks to introduce a new Clause 33, establishing a mandatory off-take arrangement for specific agricultural products.

The new clause would now require private sector importers to source ten percent of their imported food products from the Corporation, specifically in instances where the Corporation produces similar commodities. The amendment also provides for the Minister to make Regulations to set out the implementation modalities for this arrangement.

The proposed legislation aims to strengthen the country's food security and agricultural sector.



## Cabinet Ministers appear before the National Assembly for Oral Questions and Answers



In today's sitting seven Honourable Ministers led by His Excellency, The Vice President of The Republic appeared before Honourable Members of the National Assembly to respond to Oral Questions and Answers.



The Question and Answer session was in accordance with order 36 and 41 of the National Assembly Standing Order.



The session, presided over by the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, provided lawmakers the opportunity to seek clarification on key government policies, development projects programmes and sectoral issues.

The Honourable Ministers addressed concerns raised by Honourable Members as part of the National Assembly's role in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.



## The National Assembly today adopted a series of committee reports and passed a motion reaffirming The Gambia's commitment to the One-China Policy.

Following the First Reading of the Civil Registration & Vital Statistics Bill, 2026 by the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, the Assembly proceeded to the laying and subsequent adoption of seven committee reports. All reports were adopted following their presentation, in accordance with Standing Order 61(2).



The Joint Committee on Public Appointments Standing Committee, and Human Rights tabled its report on the Prerogative of Mercy Bill, 2025, which was presented by Honourable Sulayman Jammeh Co-Chairperson to the Committee.

The Report of the Select Committee on Agriculture on its findings from a study visit to SONACOS groundnut processing factories in Senegal presented by Honourable Amie Colley, Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

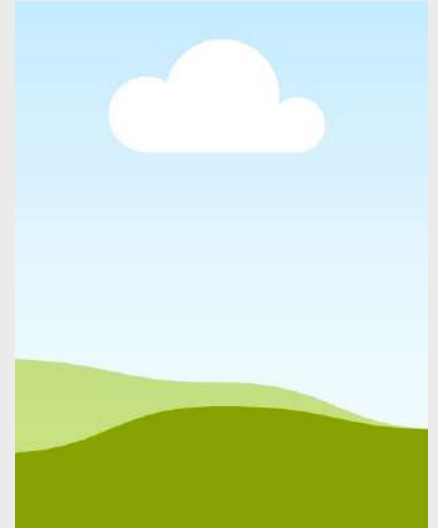
The Report of the Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands, Ombudsman, and IEC on the Committees parliamentary engagement visit to the Republic of Senegal by Honourable Sulayman Jammeh, Chairperson of the Committee.

The Vice Chairperson of Select Committee on Environment, Sustainable Development & NGO Affairs Honourable Essa Conteh also presented four key legislative reports concerning:

1. The National Environment Management Bill, 2025.
2. The Gambia Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill, 2025.
3. The Waste Management Bill, 2025.
4. The Gambia National Climate Change Bill, 2025.

The Assembly also adopted a motion tabled by Honourable Sainey Jawara, Member for Lower Saloum on the consideration and reaffirmation of the One-China Policy.

Following the tabling and adoption of these Reports and Motion the Assembly is adjourned to Monday 9th March, 2026.



### **The National Assembly today held its fifth sitting of the First Ordinary Session in the 2026 Legislative Year.**

A key highlight of today's session was an Oral Ministerial Statement delivered by the Minister for Finance & Economic Affairs, Hon. Seedy K.M. Keita. In accordance with Orders 48 and 94 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, the Hon. Minister provided a detailed update on the status of Implementation and Monitoring of the Annual Budget.

In Pursuant to Order 61(2), The Hon. Minister engaged with Honourable Members, providing clarity on the government's fiscal performance and the mechanisms in place to ensure effective budget tracking for the current financial year.

The session also highlighted the completion of Consideration Stage of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill 2025 by the Honourable Minister of Environment , Climate Change & Natural Resources, Rohey John Manjang, This bill seeks to establish a legal and institutional framework for the sustainable management of The Gambia's coastal and marine areas, addressing issues of erosion, habitat loss, and sustainable development.

Honorable Members dissolved into the committee of the whole house to review clause by clause of the bill with guidance from the Report of the Select Committee on Environment on its oversight scrutiny with stakeholders on the Bill.

The Third Reading of the Bill is set for Wednesday 01st April, 2026.



## Assembly adopts SSC Report on Jammeh assets

The Special Select Committee of the National Assembly today presented its comprehensive report on the inquiry into the sale and disposal of assets identified by the 'Janneh Commission', revealing systemic failures, institutional weaknesses, and significant financial discrepancies in the handling of former President Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh's forfeited assets.

The 324-page report, submitted by Committee Chairperson Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, follows four months of public hearings involving over 70 witnesses and examination of thousands of documents from state institutions including the Ministry of Justice, Central Bank, and various government agencies.



The Assembly adopts the Report and further tasks the committee to make resolutions on key recommendations and periodically report to plenary on the implementation of the Resolutions.

## Cabinet Ministers appear before the National Assembly for Oral Questions and Answers

In today's sitting eight Honourable Ministers appeared before Honourable Members of the National Assembly to respond to Oral Questions and Answers.

The Question and Answer session was in accordance with order 36 and 41 of the National Assembly Standing Orders.



The session, presided over by the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, provided lawmakers the opportunity to seek clarification on key government policies, development projects programmes and sectoral issues.

The Honourable Ministers addressed concerns raised by Honourable Members as part of the National Assembly's role in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

Among the Honourable the Honourable Ministers that appeared are:

1. Hon. Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure
2. Hon. Minister of Basic and Secondary Education
3. Hon. Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
4. Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Energy
5. Hon. Minister of Health
6. Hon. Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture



## National Assembly Moves to Bring Gambian Artifacts Home

The National Assembly on Thursday 12th March 2026, adopted the report of the National Assembly Monitoring Committee and approved a motion seeking the restitution of Gambian artifacts taken during colonial rule.

Members adopted a motion moved by Hon. Sulayman Saho, calling for the restitution of Gambian artifacts and sacred heritage items taken during colonial rule. With a particular focus on the historical treasures of Salikenni Village, the Assembly's approval of this motion marks a formal step toward reclaiming Gambian history from foreign museums and collections. Members argued that these items are more than just objects; they are the soul of the nation's heritage.

The Business of the day further included the second reading of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Bill, 2025, by the Minister for Health, Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh. This bill seeks to modernise how the state records is better planned for the nation's health needs. It has now been referred to the Business Committee for further review.

The Assembly also proceeded with the consideration stage of the prerogative of Mercy Bill, 2025, sponsored by Hon. Alhagie Mbow. This bill looks at the legal frameworks for presidential pardons, ensuring the process is clear and fair. Consideration of this bill will resume in the coming days.



## The National Assembly during its sitting today adopted the Ministerial Reply on the Report/ Resolution of the Public Petitions Committee on the petition of concerned staff of The Gambia Tourism Board.

The Minister for Tourism, Arts & Culture, Hon. Abdoulie Jobe, presented the ministry's formal response to the committee's findings and the Assembly's resolution on the petition. The presentation detailed the government's position and outlined the steps taken in response to the resolution and recommendations of the Public Petitions Committee of the National Assembly.

Following the adoption of the Ministerial Reply, the sitting also highlights the completion of the Consideration Stage on the Climate Change Bill 2025.

The Hon. Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources, Hon. Rohey John Manjang, Honourable Members meticulously clause-by-clause reviewed the bill, debating its provisions aimed at establishing a comprehensive legal framework to guide the country's response to climate change, including mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The completion of the Consideration Stage means the bill has been thoroughly scrutinised and amended by the Committee of the Whole House. It will now proceed to its Third Reading which is scheduled for the 01st April 2025, after which a final vote will be held for its adoption into law.



## National Security Council (Amendment) Bill 2026

The National Assembly, through a certificate of urgency from His Excellency, The President, completed the First, Second and Third Reading of The National Security Council (Amendment) Bill 2026, tabled by H.E. the Vice President, Muhammed B.S. Jallow.

The Amendment seeks to provide a clear and enforceable legal framework for financing the Security Sector Reform Process and operations of the National Security Sector Joint Operations Fund.

Honourable Members reviewed the bill clause-by-clause with amendments on key areas which aims to establish a comprehensive framework for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in The Gambia.

Following the completion of today's sitting the Assembly is adjourned until Monday 23rd March, 2026.



## In it's sitting today, 23rd March 2026

The Assembly adopted an Addendum to the Report of the Special Select Committee on the sale and disposal of assets by the 'Janneh Commission' in relation to former President Jammeh and connected matters, earlier tabled on the 10th of March 2026.

The sitting also witnessed the adoption of a motion to commit the Communications Bill 2025 to the Assembly Business Committee (ABC) for further committal to the relevant sector committee for scrutiny and report to the plenary.





## MATTER OF THE DAY

### Cross-Border Conflict in Foni

Hon. Alameh Gibba, National Assembly Member for Foni Kansala, tabled a Matter of the Day on "cross border conflict, internal displacement and protection of Gambian Sovereignty in the Foni Border Communities."

Hon. Gibba highlighted the impact of the clashes between the Senegalese Armed Forces and the Movement of the Democratic Forces of Cassamance (MFDC), informing the Assembly that the conflict has led to displacement of families, disruption of livelihoods, closure of schools, and fear among residents along the border.



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The new clause would now require private sector importers to source ten percent of their imported food products from the Corporation, specifically in instances where the Corporation produces similar commodities. The amendment also provides for the Minister to make Regulations to set out the implementation modalities for this arrangement.

The proposed legislation aims to strengthen the country's food security and agricultural sector.

# FIRST ORDINARY SESSION IN THE 2026



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