



FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMITTEE SESSIONS



JANUARY – MARCH
2026

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FOREWORD



This maiden edition of the Committee Session Highlights marks an important step in strengthening transparency, accountability, and public access to the work of the National Assembly Committees.

The period January to March 2026 reflects a dynamic and productive phase of committee engagements across key sectors of national development. Through oversight, legislative scrutiny, and stakeholder consultations, Committees of the Assembly have continued to play a central role in examining government performance, reviewing critical Bills, and ensuring that public institutions remain responsive to the needs of the people.

This publication provides a concise yet informative account of the work undertaken by various Standing and Select Committees during the first quarter of the year. It captures key activities, engagements, and outcomes, offering citizens and stakeholders a clearer understanding of parliamentary processes beyond the plenary.

As a maiden initiative, this highlights report represents the beginning of a sustained effort to institutionalise periodic reporting on committee work. Going forward, these updates will serve as a regular feature, providing timely insights into the Assembly's oversight and legislative functions.

The National Assembly remains committed to openness and continuous improvement in the discharge of its constitutional mandate. It is our expectation that this publication will enhance public awareness, promote engagement, and reinforce confidence in parliamentary processes.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (FPAC)

During the first session, the Committee examined reports from the following entities:

1. Auditor-General's Reports on the Government Accounts (2021–2024)
2. National Environment Agency (NEA) (2021–2024)
3. Office of the Ombudsman (2019–2024)
4. Gambia Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) (2022–2024)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (PEC)

The Standing Committee on Public Enterprises focused on the financial health and operational efficiency of state-owned entities. Its work included:

- Review of Financial Performance and Accountability: Examining annual financial statements and audit reports.
- Monitoring Revenue and Expenditure: Tracking financial patterns to identify inefficiencies.
- Identifying Losses and Mismanagement: Investigating leakages and instances of financial impropriety.



REPORTS

The Committee considered the performance and reports of the following:

1. Special Audit Report of the Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation (SSHFC) for the period 1st January 2022 to 1st June 2022.
2. Follow-Up Report on Cargo Handling at the Gambia Ports Authority (GPA).
3. Reports on NAWEC Projects for the Year 2023:

- Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP)
- ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECOREAP)
- Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)

4. 2022 Annual Reports of:

Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA)

- Gambia Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA)
- Gambia National Petroleum Company (GNPC)
- Gambia Telecommunications Company / Gambia Cellular Company (GAMTEL/GAMCEL)
- Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS)
- Gambia Ports Authority / Gambia Ferry Services Corporation (GPA/GFSC)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRADE, AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

During the session, the Trade Committee conducted formal meetings and strategic engagements with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), GIEPA, and the Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (GCCPC).

These discussions provided a forum to deliberate on key trade and regulatory issues, strengthen institutional collaboration, and advance matters of mutual interest for economic growth.



SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, LANDS , OMBUDSMAN AND ICE

The Committee on Regional Government and Lands addressed a wide range of issues concerning local governance and infrastructure.

- Review and Validation of Draft Report: The Committee reviewed and validated its draft report on the official visit to the Republic of Senegal.
- Engagement on Hajj Operations (2025 & 2026): A meeting was held with the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs, Gambia International Airlines (GIA), and the Hajj Commission to receive updates on the 2025 Hajj and preparations for the 2026 Hajj.
- Electoral Preparedness Briefing: The Committee met with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to assess the level of preparedness for the upcoming national elections.
- Review of Ombudsman's Activities: The Committee engaged the Office of the Ombudsman to review its activities for 2025 and discuss its proposed Activity Plan for 2026.
- Update on Renovation of the RDI Complex: A meeting was held with the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government and Religious Affairs (MoLRG), the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure (MoTWI), Community Development stakeholders, and contractors to receive updates on the renovation works at the RDI Complex.



SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT , AND NGO AFFAIRS

The committee on Environment held consultation meetings with stakeholders on four that were referred to the Committee by plenary, the bills include:

- The National Climate Change Bill, 2025
- The National Environment Management Agency Bill, 2025
- The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill, 2025
- The National Waste Management Bill, 2025

The various stakeholders presented position papers on the bills with a clause-by-clause review with the committee.

The position papers will form part of the recommendations of the report of the committee which will be laid in plenary for adoption and guidance through the consideration stage of the Bills.

The Committee is scheduled to report to plenary on its recommendations and amendments during the coming session in March 2026.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

During the Committee Session under review, the National Assembly Business Committee (ABC) conducted a strategic study tour to Malawi, aimed at strengthening legislative cooperation and enhancing parliamentary procedures through the exchange of best practices.



Led by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta, and accompanied by the Clerk, the delegation arrived in Lilongwe on a series of high-level engagements with the Parliament of Malawi.

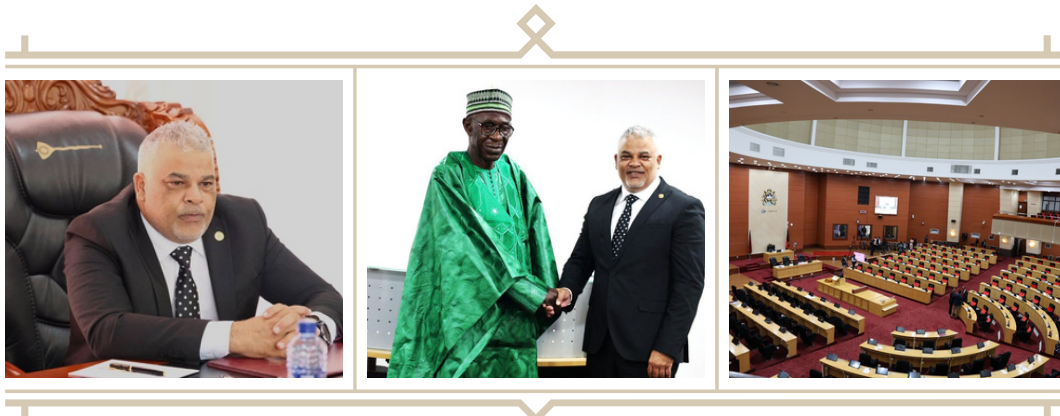
The visit officially began on Monday, 16 February 2026, with a courtesy call on the Speaker of the Malawian Parliament, Hon. Sameer Suleman.

During the tour, the delegation held technical discussions with key parliamentary officials, including the Deputy Speaker and Clerk of the Malawian Parliament, focusing on the operational “nuts and bolts” of legislative governance.

A major highlight of the visit was the historic address delivered by Speaker Jatta to the Malawian Parliament on Thursday, 19 February 2026 - the first time a Gambian Speaker has addressed the House. In his remarks, he called for strengthened legislative sovereignty and deeper pan-African cooperation.

“The Africa we want will not be built in foreign capitals,” Speaker Jatta declared. “It will be built in African chambers like this one, through African laws, African oversight, African unity, and African determination.”

Speaker Jatta also proposed concrete areas for bilateral cooperation, including the establishment of parliamentary friendship groups, enhanced collaboration between Clerks’ offices, and joint engagement on international parliamentary platforms.



THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SALE AND DISPOSAL OF ASSETS IDENTIFIED BY THE JANNEH COMMISSION

The report was laid before Plenary on Tuesday 10th March 2026 and set off a parliamentary debate that led to its adoption.

The Committee presented 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 adopted the Report and further tasks the committee to issue resolutions on key recommendations and periodically report to plenary on the implementation of the Resolutions.



JOINT COMMITTEE OF MONITORING THE GOV'T PROJECTS AND TOURISM, ARTS ,CULTURE , YOUTH AND , SPORT

The newly formed Joint Committee on Monitoring and Tourism held its inaugural session.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, alongside project officials, appeared before the Committee to make a comprehensive presentation on the Independence Stadium Renovation Project, marking the beginning of its oversight work in this critical area.

REPORTS AND INSTITUTIONS REVIEWED:

During its first session, the Committee examined reports from the following entities:

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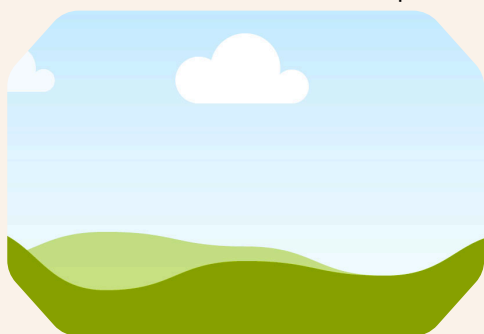


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SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Committee on Agriculture held several key engagements with the Ministry of Agriculture and its associated departments to address pressing issues in the sector.

Farm Inputs for Groundnut Farmers: The Committee met with the Ministry to consider the follow-up performance audit report on the provision of farm inputs to groundnut farmers.

Groundnut Season Update: A joint meeting was convened with the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Food Security Processing and Marketing Corporation (NFSPMC) to review the progress of the ongoing groundnut season.

Project Implementation Review: The Committee met with the Central Project Coordination Unit (CPCU) and project officials to assess the implementation status of the soil fertility mapping, small ruminant, and roots and tubers projects.

Agricultural Mechanization Programme: The Committee engaged the Ministry on the Government's Agricultural Mechanization Programme, with a particular focus on the tractor distribution initiative.



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The National Environment Management Agency Bill

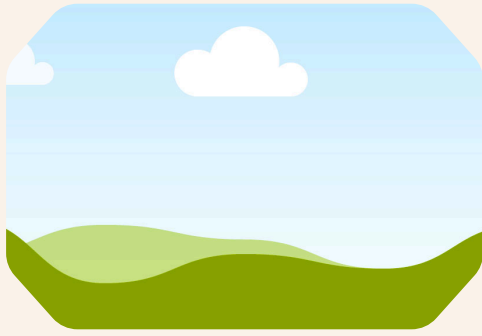
The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill

The National Waste Management Bill

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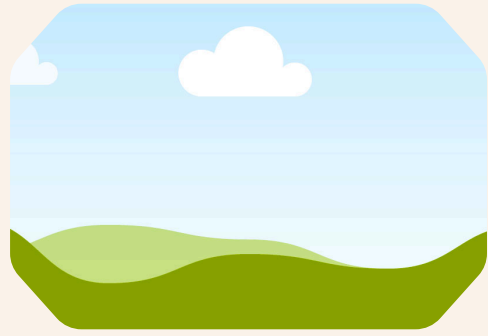
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ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

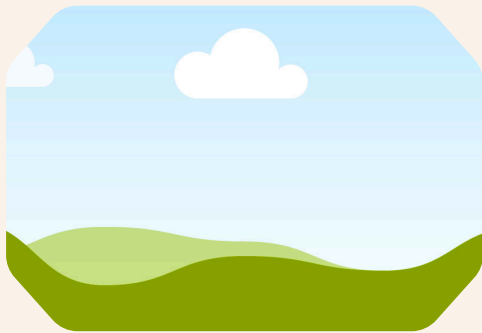
The Assembly Business Committee conducted a study tour to the Parliament of Malawi aimed at deepening the understanding of best parliamentary procedures, management of Assembly businesses, and committee operations.



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