



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 02nd March - 01st 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 26th 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

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Published by the Communications, ICT & Press Department
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