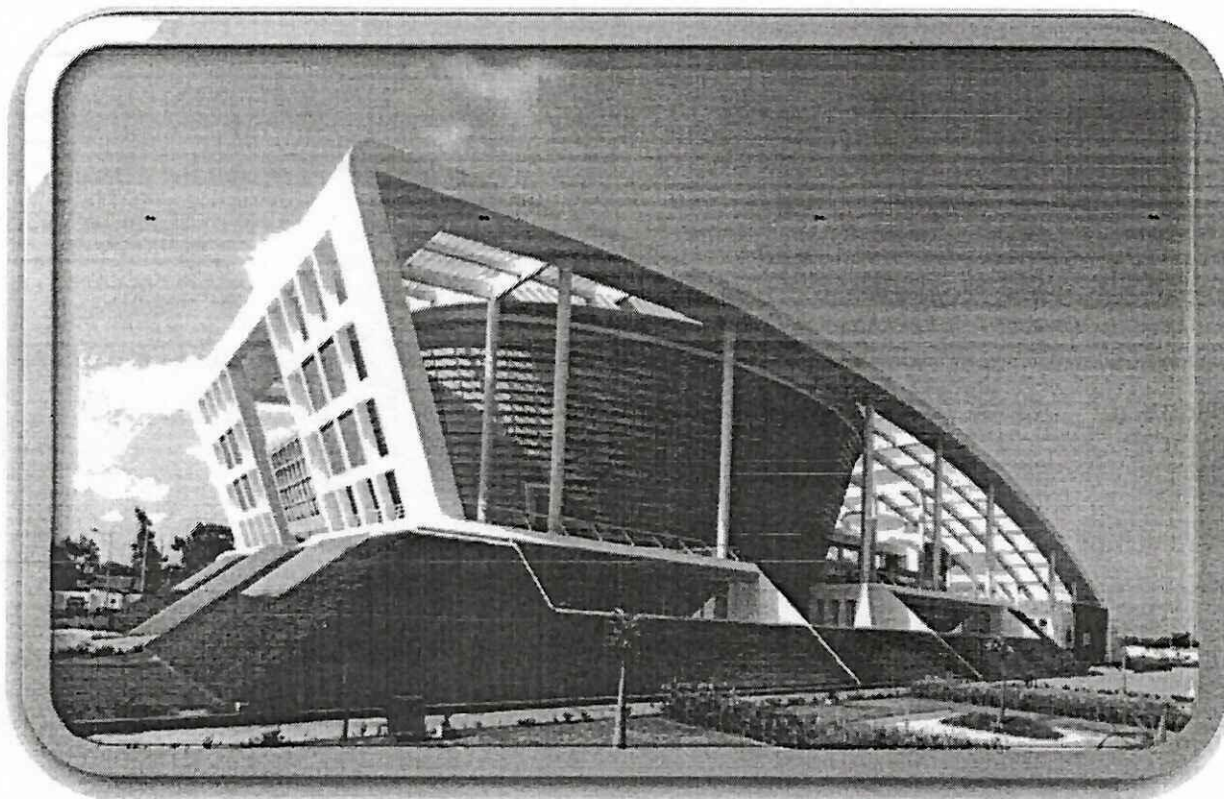




**National Assembly, New Assembly Building, Reverend Pyne
Lane, Banjul, The Gambia**

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

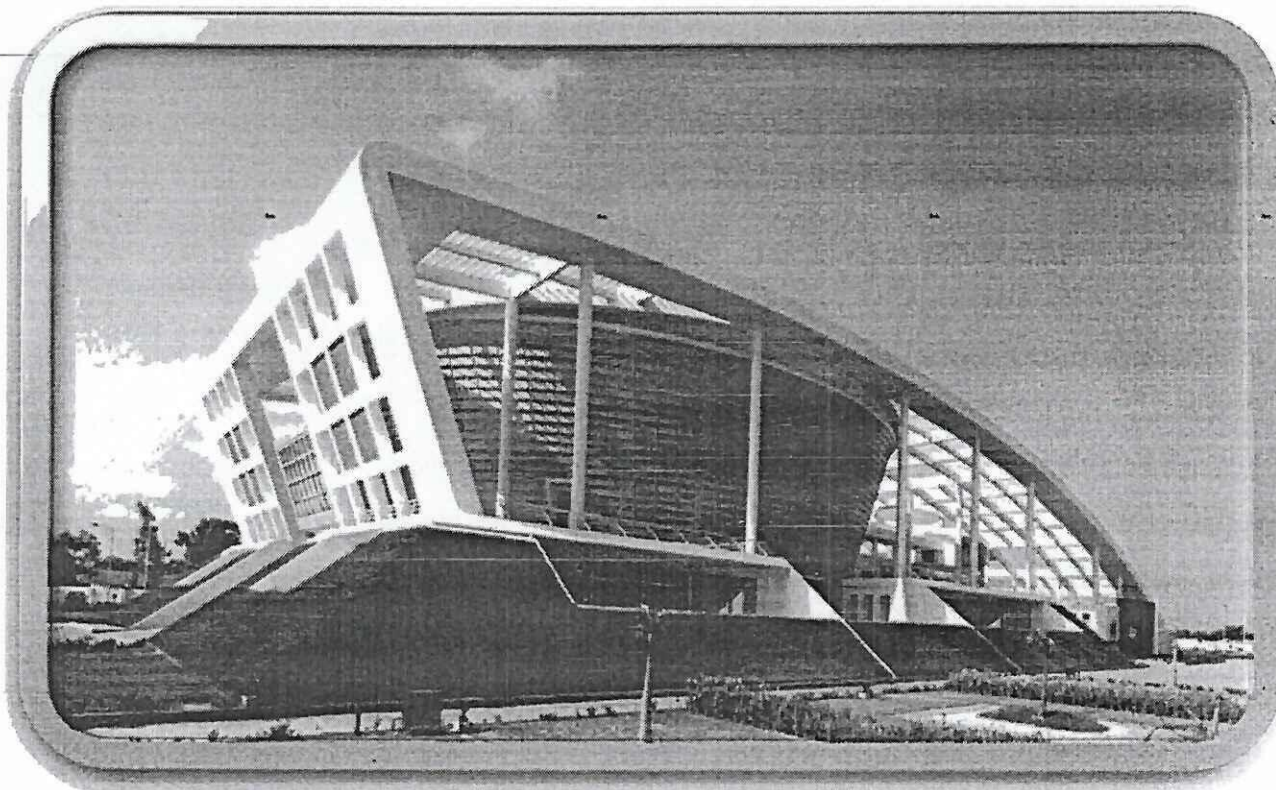
[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

FIRST SESSION – SECOND MEETING

MONDAY 10th JUNE, 2019

SESSION – 2019



**National Assembly, New Assembly Building, Reverend Pye Lane,
Banjul, The Gambia**

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: 2

NUMBER: 1

First Meeting of the Second Session of the Fifth Assembly
Of the Second Republic of The Gambia.

Proceedings of the Sitting of Monday 10th June of the House,
2019.

Content:

1. PRAYERS

2. Communication from the Chair

**3. Record of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sittings of
Tuesday 02nd April, 2019**

4. LAYING OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

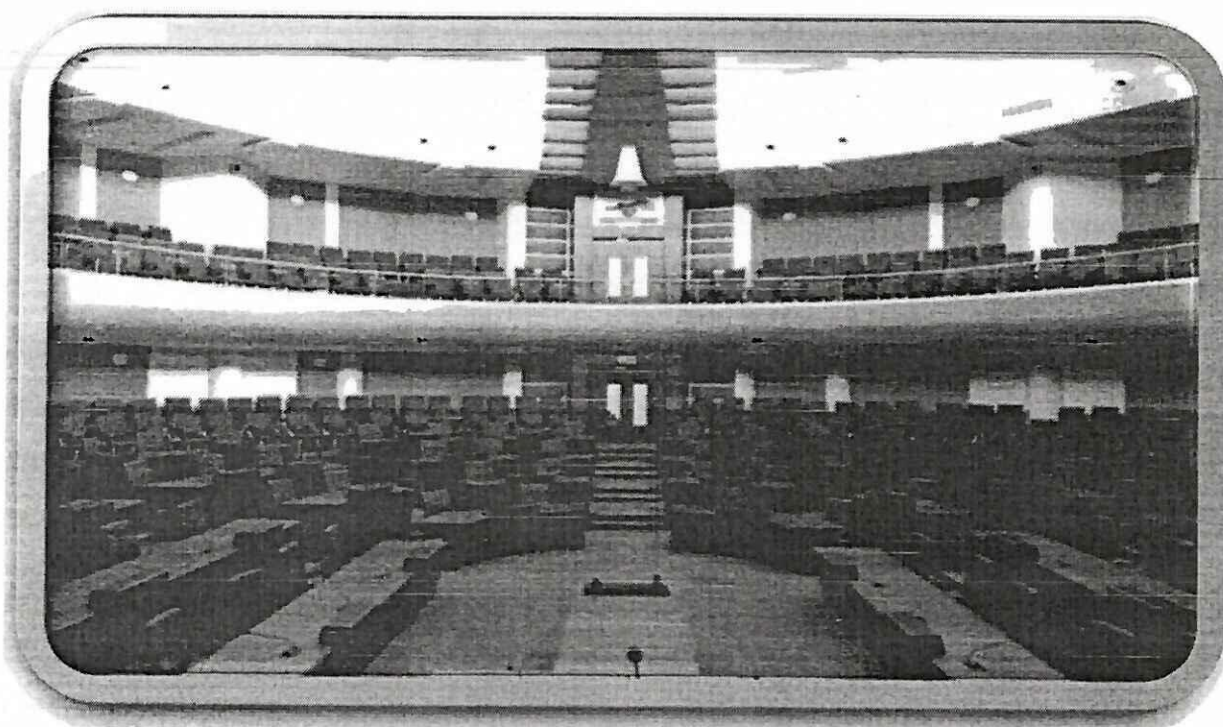
- i. Report of the Auditor General on the audited Financial Statement of the Central Government of The Gambia for the year ended 31st December, 2016.[By: Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs]**

5. MOTION

Be it resolved that this august Assembly do consider and ratify the:

- i. Loan Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank regarding Small Ruminant production Enhancement Project [step 1] [By: Hon Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs]**
- ii. Loan Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank concerning Small Ruminant Production Enhancement Project [step 2] [By: Hon Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs]**
- iii. Framework Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank on Small Ruminant Production Enhancement Project [By: Hon Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs]**

- iv. Agency Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank on Small Ruminant Production Enhancement Project [By: Hon Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs].**



THE CHAMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

FIRST SESSION – SECOND MEETING OF THE FIFTH ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

MONDAY 10th JUNE, 2019

[The Speaker, Hon. Mariam Jack Denton, Read the Prayers].

*[The House met at 10:00 a.m. in New Assembly Building, Reverend Pye Lane,
Banjul].*

[The Speaker, Hon. Mariam Jack Denton, in the Chair].

The House was called to Order

2. Communication from the chair

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as published in the Order paper today, the Honourable Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs will officially table the report of the Auditor General on the Audited Financial Statement of Central Government of The Gambia for the year ended 31st December 2016 before this august Assembly. Before the Honourable Minister takes the podium at the appropriate time, let me remind this august Assembly that as a convention, once the Auditor General's report is tabled, a Honourable member will move a motion to commit the report to the relevant committee of the National Assembly and in this instance, is the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (F-PAC) for detail scrutiny of this important report on behalf of the Assembly.

May I also remind Honourable members that we are required to abide by the Standing Orders of the National Assembly as far as the business of this Assembly is concerned in all our actions and deliberations? I therefore appeal to all Honourable Members to peruse through the various provisions of the Standing Orders and observe them accordingly at all times. On that note I thank you all.

3. Correction of Record of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sittings of Thursday 02nd April, 2019.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Records of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sittings of Tuesday 02nd April 2019 is before us for consideration and adoption. Can someone please move that the Record of Votes and proceedings of the National Assembly sitting of Tuesday 02nd April 2019 be considered and adopted?

HON. SAIKOUBA JARJU [BUSUMBALA]: I so moved, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. SALIFU JAWO [JOKADU]: I so seconded Madam Speaker

THE SPEAKER:

[Question proposed]

Any issues, observations, amendments of the Records from Honourable Members?

HON. SAINÉY TOURAY [JARRA EAST]: page 4, second paragraph where you have Honourable Speaker “Urged on” urge is an active verb and the on should not be there. Thank you.

HON. ALHAGIE DARBOE [LOWER FULLADU WEST]: Page 4, third to last paragraph, on this note, the Honourable Speaker called on the Honourable Majority Leader and member for Kombo South to move the Motion for the Assembly to stand “adjourned” Sine-die.

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Page 5 second paragraph and second line, the Majority Leader thanked the Honourable Speaker for the way and manner in which she steer the Affairs of the august Assembly, it should be she “steered” not steer.

HON. ALAGIE H. SOWE [JIMARA]: on the list of Names, my name is spelt as Alagie Sowe and it should be “Alagie H. Sowe”.

HON. SAINÉY TOURAY [JARRA EAST]: Page 7 second to last paragraph the Honourable Minister took the floor and respond to issues and concerns raised. It should be “responded” to issues and concerns raised. Also, Honourable Minister for Information, Communication and Infrastructure, also hold brief for the Honourable Minister of Lands and Regional Governments. It should be “held briefing” not hold brief.

HON. YAYA GASSAMA [KIANG EAST]: The paragraph dealing with the Honourable Speaker’s remark on the third line, stated that she pointed out the presence of the Honourable Ministers who were here to witness the adjournment debate is a clear testimony of the cooperation, and it continues that she emphasised which I think is referring to the Honourable Deputy Speaker who was chairing and it should be “he” instead of she.

HON. ALHAGIE DARBOE [LOWER FULLADU WEST]: On the same paragraph on the last line, she emphasised that no Arm of the state can work in isolation, thus she urged for continuation of the cooperation. I believe the “the” should be omitted out.

HON. ALAGIE H. SOWE [JIMARA]: Page 8 on the last line, those in favour say please Aye, it should be "please say Aye".

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[That the Records of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sitzings of Tuesday 02nd April 2019 be adopted with amendments].

3. LAYING OF PAPERS AND REPORT

- i. **Report of the Auditor General on the Audited Financial Statement of the Central Government of The Gambia for the year ended 31st December, 2016.**[By: Hon. Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs]

HON. MAMBURREH NJIE [MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS]: I thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I am pleased to lay before this august National Assembly the audited Financial Statement of the Republic of The Gambia for the Financial year ended 31st December 2016 in pursuance of section 17 [1] of the Finance and Audit Act. The Financial statement includes only accounts that are controlled by the Accountant General and do not include Public Enterprise, Self - Accounting Projects and Local Governments. These are audited separately by External Auditors through the office of the Auditor General.

The Financial statement comprises the following:

- The consolidated statement of the cash receipts and payments
- International public sector accounting standards
- Statements of Revenue and expenditure consolidated fund
- Detail revenue and expenditure comprising of the accounting policies and expeditionary note.

The Financial Statement also contained additional statement as required by section 63 of the Public Finance Act 2014 and part two of Cash Basis [IPSAS].

Basis of Preparation

Honourable Speaker, the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following legal and regulatory framework, 1997 constitution, public Finance Act 2014, financial regulation 2016 and the International Public Sector Accounting standards [IPSAS]. As you may be aware there is a strong drive for governments to adopt international best practices, thus the Government of the Gambia adopted IPSAS as the basis for preparing its financial statements. The adoption of the IPSAS is a necessary element in strengthening the governance framework and enhancing transparency. Thus it has enabled the setting of appropriate minimum benchmark for discharge of accountability and transparency. The provision of framework against which audits are undertaken and allow improved quality and compatibility of financial information reported by the public sector.

Issues Raised by the Auditor General and actions taken or proposed

Honourable Speaker, the main matter arising from the audit of the financial statement of the year ended 31st December of 2016 and commenced thereto by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs through the Accountant General's department is contained in the management comments sections of the management letter of the Auditor General. Additional information and further clarification has also been shared with the Auditor General, continuous improvement in the preparation and audits of Government Financial Statements.

Honourable Speaker, there has been considerable improvement in the timely preparation and audit of Government Financial Statements in the recent past. Government Financial Statements have been prepared and audited up to 2017. The preparation of the 2018 financial statements is currently on the way and this is expected to be finalised and the account be submitted for audit by end June 2019. Government is currently upgrading the IFMIS in order to make it more responsive to the change in requirement of improved Public Financial Management PFM service delivery.

The IFMIS upgrade will include:

- Web base IFMIS to expand coverage
- New standardised accounts to be adopted by all government ministries, departments and agencies, including Donor funded, and self-accounting projects.
- Rollout to all donor funded self-accounting projects
- Rollout to sub-treasuries and embassies
- New Assets management modules

The government is also implementing a treasury single Accounts through which all government bank accounts will be consolidated at the Central Bank of The Gambia. This will enable the government cash position thereby reducing domestic borrowing through Treasure Bills. This improvement will help to address the major weakness that the auditor General has raised in the government financial statements. The audit activity has also improved in the past two years with the auditor General been able to conduct the audit and expresses opinion in a more free and independent manner.

In conclusion, Honourable speaker, the Government Financial Statements are prepared from the Integrated Financial Management Information System [IFMIS] in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standard IPSAS. In addition to the IFMIS upgraded activities, Government is also in the process of enhancing its cash management tax administration, procurement, debt management and human resources pay role and assess management system as part of its overall public financial management reforms. These activities are aimed at improving the overall quality of PFM services delivery by Government.

Madam Speaker, please allow me to once again congratulate all the players in the public finance management circle including the quality oversight function that the National Assembly continues to efficiently discharge. On this note Madam Speaker I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. DEMBA SOWE [NIAMINA WEST]: I so seconded, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER:

[Question proposed]

[That the Report of the Auditor General on the Audited Financial Statement of the Central Government of The Gambia for the year ended 31st December, 2016 has been tabled and be committed to the relevant committee]

THE SPEAKER: As I indicated in my communication earlier on, the convention is to be committed to a committee for it to be considered, now can I called on somebody to move that the report that has just been tabled be committed to the relevant committee?

HON. MAHTARR M. JENG [LOWER NIUMI]: Thank you Madam Speaker, I move that we refer this Report to the relevant committee.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. SUNKARY BADJIE [FONI BREFET]: I so seconded, Madam Speaker.

[Question proposed, put and agree to]

[That the report of the Auditor General on the Audited Financial Statement of the Central Government of The Gambia for the year ended 31st December, 2016 be committed to the relevant committee FPAC for scrutiny].

THE SPEAKER: I think the Honourable Members of the FPAC are happy to hear what the Honourable Minister had just said that the 2017 and 2018 statements are being finalised. I think that is calling upon FPAC to expedite the consideration so that we would meet up before they submit 2017/2018 and also to complete consideration on the 2016 that has just been tabled so that we would not have any more backlogs. Thank you very much and we appreciate.

HON. ALHAGIE DARBOE [LOWER FULLADU WEST]: I think I agree with you, it's a combined loan agreements framework as well. Therefore I think it is very prudent to look it entirely at once.

HON. MAHTARR M. JENG [LOWER NIUMI]: Madam Speaker if we have to go by his explanation then definitely we would need time to go through the document so that we can understand it.

THE SPEAKER: The document was circulated more than two weeks ago.

HON. OMAR DARBOE [UPPER NIUMI]: My suggestion is to allow the Minister to table the agreements then we can refer them to the relevant committee.

HON. FATOUMATTA NJAI [BANJUL SOUTH]: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Once we have been given all we need in the document; the framework, the loan agreement and enough time to look at these documents because normally we are not around but we had this documents for over two weeks and we had time to look at it thoroughly. I would again commend the Minister for giving us the framework, loan and everything in one pack. At this august Assembly we have had issues with framework before and now we have been given what we have been asking for. So, I think there is no need to refer it to any committee. We could have convened a meeting with ourselves we have taken it. If we look at it thoroughly we can see that some of the dates have even lapsed. Therefore the reason of being in this Assembly is for the interest of the country then I think we should look at it and pass it to start making good use of this for our women and the people of this country. Thank you. *[Applause]*

HON. SAMBA JALLOW [NIAMINA DANKUNKU/MINORITY LEADER]: Thank you Honourable Speaker. This is an agreement been prepared between two parties even though we refer it to the relevant committee, there is no amendment we can do. I think is better that we look at it thoroughly since we had received this document for a long time. As my colleague said some of the dates and services fee that was supposed to be paid in 2018 has past. Thank you.

Motion:

- i. Loan Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank regarding Small Ruminant production Enhancement project [step 1]
- ii. Loan Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank concerning Small Ruminant production enhancement project [step 2]
- iii. Framework Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank on small Ruminant production Enhancement project
- iv. Agency Agreement between the Republic of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank on small Ruminant production Enhancement project.

[All by the Honourable Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs]

THE SPEAKER: The next item on the agenda is the tabling of some motions for ratification. I see that they are loans and framework and I am just being informed that subject to approval maybe consolidated. I don't know how that is because I was expecting that they would be tabled one by one but it appears as if all of them were connected somehow in dealing with small ruminant production enhancement with the Islamic Development Bank.

HON. MAMBURREH NJIE [MINISTER FOR FINANCE & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS]:

Madam Speaker, I rise to invite this august Assembly to ratify the loan agreement between the Government of The Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank for the financing of the Small Ruminant Production Enhancement Project step [1] and [2] Framework Agreement and Agency Agreement respectively.

Madam Speaker, the project objective is to improve small ruminant production processing, marketing and create shared wealth and generate employment access to Islamic financing, support to capacity building and development of master plan for Livestock Value Chain and Project Management.

The total project cost is \$25,170 million of which \$2.46 million, \$7.5 million, \$10 million and \$5.170 million are for the financing of step [1] and [2] Framework Agreement and Agency Agreement respectively. The project will be implemented in thirty-nine (39) districts in the Central River Region, North Bank Region, Upper River Region, Lower River Region and West Coast Region. The project will focus primarily on sheep and goat husbandry enhancement intervention targeting Rural and Peri-Urban communities and it will be through value chain approach.

Project Development Goals

The project will increase on a sustainable basis, the income for rural producers and entrepreneurs that are engaged in the production, processing and marketing of small ruminant productions. The project will also cover production management, Genetic management [this is to control access to finance], infrastructure, modernisation and human capital development. The direct beneficiaries of the project will include individuals and organizations in Rural and Peri-urban areas with special emphasis on women and youth who are smallholder producers, traders, transporters, processors, wholesales, retailers and middlemen. Also staff of the executing agencies as well as private veterinary service providers along with feed producers and sellers will benefit from the project.

It should be noted that the implementation of the project will enhance the availability of livestock across the country for general consumption.

Madam speaker, the project consists of the following components:

- a. **Improvement of small Ruminant Production Processing and Marketing:**
This component will finance construction of necessary production processing and marketing infrastructures to be established in three districts of the target regions.
- b. **Access to Islamic Finance and Support to Capacity Building:** the component will provide participatory and sharia-compatible financing USD3.00 million for the actors operating or interested in small ruminant enterprises.
- c. **Master Plan Development for Livestock Value Chain:** This will consist of conducting a study aim at taking stock of and deriving lessons from the broader

Gambian livestock sector and it will be carried by the International Livestock Research Institute [ILRI] to prepare a five to ten year investment programme in the sector.

- d. **Project Management and Coordination:** The objective of this component is to establish a Project Management Unit [PMU] and provide it with means to fulfil its role of implementation and management of project plans. The management and coordination of the project will be to ensure by the establishment of a fully dedicated team to be led by a project coordinator with extensive experience in managing multi-faceted operations for terms and conditions of the Islamic Development Bank Loan.

Service fee – IDB 1.5 percent

Service fee –ISFD 0.75 percent

Grace period – 7 years

Tenure – 18 years

The National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia is hereby humbly requested to consider and ratify this financing agreement between the Government of the Gambia and the Islamic Development Bank for the financing of the project.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder?

HON. OUSMAN SILLAH [BANJUL NORTH]: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I rise to second the Motion for this august Assembly to ratify what is before us brought by the Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs. But I want to start by saying that I did not agree with the position that we cannot amend this Motion before us. I would start with what I should end with that is I would want this loan agreement before us to be amended and I will explain the reason; not the amount or the payment made, but the content. This is a welcoming loan; by the way, I am a fan of the position of not depending on loans for our development. We must strive to ensure that our development does not depend on external support and the country has the potential and the capacity.

Notwithstanding, this is a loan that is intended to support Gambians who are in need of support in terms of engagement and earning income for their sustenance. This is a loan agreement that intends to establish a project that last for four years thus targeting women and youth. By the way I would also want it to open for any Gambian who is engaged in this type of activity as captured by the project description. The principle should be paid in eighteen years with a grace period of seven years and that it has to be paid in six monthly instalments [every six months]. There is also a service fee attached to it which is 1.5%. If you look at the loan agreement it is saying that in article [9] concerning about the report that the project should be reporting to the Donors [Islamic Development Bank]. I would recommend that the National Assembly also be copied in any report since our concern is on governance, accountability and reporting. So the National Assembly and by extension the committee on project monitoring should be in the loop. So as far as that agreement is concerned, I would recommend that we include the National Assembly to be copied in terms of the implementation of the project.

As the Minister has stated, the project is taking \$US25 million but it is common to intervene in four different areas. And may I refer this House to page 14 which gives you the components and the amounts that are required. In the table as has been indicated, this project is coming to intervene:

- a. Improvement on small ruminant production, processing and marketing
- b. Is going to provide access to Islamic micro-finance and capacity building
- c. Is going to support the development of master plan for livestock value chains
- d. Support project management and coordination

If you look at the amount you will see that (a) improvement on small ruminant production, processing and marketing is 26. 81 million and you can see 16. 58 million goes for improvement of small ruminant production and processing.

Page 17 components A- Improvement of Small Ruminant Production, Processing and Marketing: This components will finance construction of necessary production, processing and marketing infrastructure to be established in 39 districts of the

targeted regions. The facilities will include grazing plots, forage production plots, lamb feeding stations, breeding stock management lots, feed storages, slaughters slots , mini dairies, boreholes to be solar energy -powered, small ruminants market and modern meat stalls/stores. Therefore, so many issues are raised here and in fact in person I don't think dairies are appropriate for small ruminants because it is meant for cattle so this is one issue that I observed.

Like I said this project is meant to support ten thousand beneficiaries and out of this \$26million, it is only \$3million that are going to be beneficiaries directly. So I believe that this project, if we are not going to commit half of this sum to directly benefit the beneficiaries, then it is not a project that is worth supporting. Imagine out of \$26million it is only \$3million that is going to the beneficiaries. So I think Honourable members this is something I would recommend that we give the beneficiaries directly \$10million because going by this amount, if you calculate ten thousand to three million at the end of the day each of the beneficiaries will get thirteen or fourteen thousand dalasi and what will that do in terms of supporting women, youth or any other Gambian who deserved support. How many sheep or goats that thirteen thousand can buy which sometimes you can have one for five or even eight and in fact the exception is less than eighteen thousand plus for a good sheep or goat. So this is something that we need to really adjust, so I would suggest that we increase the amount to \$US10million to go to the beneficiaries. The objectives are lofty because they come in as the minister has stated to support these people who are really in need of support.

Components B- Access to Islamic Finance and Support to Capacity Building: The components will consist of providing a participatory and sharia-compatible financing US\$ 3.00 million for actors operating in this sector or are interested in this small ruminant enterprise. Activities to be financed will include purchase of animal, feeding facilities and animal health related operation. This three million is not only meant for cash to buy animals but training component is part of it and that is the reason why they initiate 4.75 so that means 1.75million if going to be for the training. Training is not only benefitting the beneficiaries but the management as well. I would advise that any training should be charged to other areas and not this area that is providing direct access to funding to the beneficiaries. I would also advise that it appears that there is

going to be a parallel agency and we are talking about projects which are so many here. By the way Honourable Speaker the Minister of Agriculture should have been here and I don't know whether the permanent secretaries are here but according to the loan agreement the Minister of Finance is in charge but when it comes to the technical aspect of it the Minister of Agriculture is in charge so he should have been here to take our concerns raised and take them on board. The Honourable Minister of Finance and his team are just here to facilitate and to represent Gambia but when it comes to the implementation aspect is the Minister of Agriculture and he should have been here so that next time when we are dealing with matter of this nature and the Minister who is tabling it is not going to be the implementer then we try to get the implementer around.

Talking about the management and the coalition of the project, I understand that there is going to be a PCU and it is good that this PCU be housed under the Department of Livestock so that the Ministry will have direct oversight over the activities rather than having independent parallel PCU. As I understand with the interaction I have with those that are managing projects, which one of the drawbacks of projects is a project that is super imposed over ministries and in fact the Permanent Secretaries are to even go and beg the project managers to support them with stationary. Directors who are supposed to be overseeing projects under links to project management. They should not be given any implementation role, this project should directly go to the beneficiaries, train them on business enterprise management and reading and multiplication techniques. I understand that ITC is involved but I have not seen NARI and I believe they should be on board since they deal with research. ITC is no longer national but regional and NARI is national and therefore should be involved in this. When I was young I saw people were very much facilitated with the small ruminants particularly during the Tobaski feast. The breeds that we used to see here are not Gambian breeds and are not indigenous, therefore, we need to engage in research and make reduction of these breeds. If this project succeeds it will not only address the local need because there are so much demand of the Ram during Eid and can even be exported to Senegal, So is a good project but it must benefit the beneficiaries. In fact, we are talking about \$3million and the project coordination is \$2.91 million, just imagine project management, vehicles, offices, air-conditions and travels

allowances when the beneficiaries are supposed to be getting three million, the discrepancies are really outrageous and We need to address this. The project coordination can be transferred to the Department of Livestock and Government can make some arrangements that they can apply but for me what I have seen is that project comes and go. There is no sustainability due to the absence of the involvement of the line ministers and departments and when the project lifespan ends it ends there. The reason for proposing that the project be housed under the Department of Livestock is for the purpose of sustainability.

Going by this, it is 11% that is going to the beneficiaries and if it is 4.7million then is 17%, therefore, this is definitely something that we should not support and I would urge the Honourable Minister to negotiate this loan so that we would achieve this part particularly the one going to the beneficiaries. There is also an issue of ownership, who are going to do the implementation? I would suggest that the beneficiaries do their own implementation, then you have farmer- based organisation, women kafos, and youth organisations. Young people in the urban area have been very industrious when it comes to Ram sales. Apart from those coming from Senegal, Mauritania and Mali, most of them are young people in The Gambia. So I do not know how they can be catered because they too need support. Therefore this is a good project as I said but I would only support it if adjusted so that at the end of the day the beneficiaries, the country and the scarcity of ram during Tobaski would be addressed and there will be meat all year round and we can be exporting to neighbouring countries. So if it's managed well and not a project management oriented but a project beneficiary oriented project, then it is something that is going to impact positively in the lives of Gambians and the economy of The Gambia.

On that note, I would urge my colleagues to support the increment regarding the allocation of the component, the access to Islamic finance and support to capacity building. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Banjul North if I got you right, you mentioned the involvement of the National Assembly in the monitoring and you referring to the Project Monitoring Committee. I was expecting that you would go a

step further and also proposed an involvement of the Agricultural Committee as well since...*[intervention]*

HON. OUSMAN SILLAH: My apology Madam Speaker, it's an oversight, you are very key in this. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER:

[Question proposed]

HON. DEMBA SOWE [NIAMINA WEST]: Thank you Honourable Minister, Indeed I am very happy today for you coming up with such a loan agreement for Small Ruminant Production in this country. This production has started since I was three years and the problem was the lack of enough support from the Government. This loan if implemented correctly, we will stop importing Rams from other countries. The main problem is how to take care of them in the provinces because there is no medical facilities in the provinces for small ruminants. Last year alone, I lost more than fifteen sheep and seven goats in my area because the Veterinary Department is not coming to our aid but I think with the project coming, it will be able to help us in sustaining our animals. Actually they have already stated it but it is in a form of exchange because you will see two women sharing one sheep which is not enough but one plus one is two, even if each woman is given one sheep, I think is a good beginning. The parties that are involved should definitely work closely with the women or whoever is part of this project because people like me if lucky to be part of this, I would definitely be able to manage more but I will still try to improve myself. I have been doing it a lot in trying to increase production. The problem of water drinking point during the dry season and some of us are still using wells. But with the coming of this project they would be able to provide us with boreholes so that the animals will not have problem of drinking water. I don't think there is the need for more trainings on this because every woman you see in the provinces has a goat or a sheep and knew how to manage it, therefore there is no need for much training on this. It is definitely a very good project and I welcome and support it and I suggest encouragement on it.

I quote from the Honourable Member for Banjul "sustainability is sometimes a problem" yes because you cannot just impose it to them and there is no medical

facilities and no water drinking point which is the main problem and would lead to the death of the ruminant. Every year, we lose lots of animals in The Gambia and this year it was the turn of the donkeys, so many donkeys died this year and nobody had come to their aid. If you go to Senegal, you will see one woman owning two to five hundred sheep and goats and she is managing it, we want the same system in the Gambia. This rural urban migration is caused by the lack of engagement in the rural area so they must come to the kombos. If they are given something that will generate income, it will encourage them to stay. If you manage at least ten sheep at the end of the year you can at least have twenty and out of that twenty every year you can save up to five or six sheep. So with this small contribution I thank you all and I support it *[applause]*.

HON. FATOUMATTA NJAI [BANJUL SOUTH]: I would like to say again that this is a very welcoming agreement that has been tabled in this Assembly today, and I think that this House is here to represent the best interest of the Gambians and Agriculture we all know is the backbone of this country and anything that is geared towards enhancing Agriculture must therefore be embraced. However, we must look at the best interest of the country like my Honourable colleague for Banjul North has mentioned. We are the Government since we are an arm of the Government, we should not be seen as competitors with the Executive or the other Arm of the Government. If there is any good or bad it should go to all the arms of the Government and we had an oversight function in executing, so we should not say that implementation is a problem then we are also part of the problem since we can be part of the solution. Therefore ratifying this loan should not be problem because we had the Agricultural committee, Project Monitoring Committee and FPAC Committee whose responsibility is to look at Government expenditure. So I think once I am very pleased to say that I am a person who speaks my mind. If I am pleased with something I will not hide it and I think nothing in this agreement that might need change but my Honourable colleague has a good point in saying that the beneficiaries should be given a bit more but again I would not say so because I think what they have been given is enough for them to manage because we are starting something and starters cannot start big for fear of mismanagement. I would rather have an implementation unit that would work with these farmers because most of them are just small and

giving them much can be used for something else because we are known for diverting. I think we should make sure that funds from this project are implemented rightly as I said all the committees mentioned here are of relevance in this project.

Madam Speaker, again I think as parliamentarians, we have the interest of the country. I personally want food in everybody's table not only on the table of the privilege. I want the best education for every Gambian child not only for the privilege child and best health for every Gambian not only for the privilege. Given the interest of this loan, I think there would be food in abundance in this country. We have all seen during the time of Tobaski and even Christmas, we depend on our Senegalese neighbours to provide rams and pigs for enjoying our feast. With proper implementation and monitoring of this project that would be history if done again properly. The problem here is not the finance or Agricultural Ministries, NARI neither ITC but our responsibility to make sure that once this is passed in the august Assembly, we receive the reports and monitor them and even take it upon us in making sure that we follow where the money goes and ensure that they are doing the right thing. Some of us when we are given a task, we go on holidays, marry more wives without putting it where it is meant to be. So I think we are also part of the problem. Let us not be pointing finger but taking ownership and responsibility and approve this before we leave this Assembly today and make sure that we start following the Minister in making sure we are doing the right thing and the funds will be channelled in the proper way by monitoring them properly. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. BILLAY G. TUNKARA [KANTORA]: Thank you very much Madam speaker for giving me the floor. I want to recognise the presence of the Auditor General and team. I want to believe that Gambians today will follow different nature about Agriculture that is not only growing of crops, it goes beyond that and deals with rearing of livestock. If members can recall that this last session I did mention here that the Gambia is using more than one hundred million dalasi to Senegal annually for the purpose of rams. That contribution is in Hansard to make the dream come true. I raised the concern last sitting and they are being addressed in the next sitting, I am very much happy for this agreement.

First of all, I want to throw my weight to support this particular agreement and I also want to thank the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs for bringing such agreements which are in line with the IMF recommendations to our country that we can go for highly considered loan looking at the nature of the debt status of this country which is a welcome move by the Executive. Interestingly to me, it does not come with an interest rate but with what is called a service fee at a percentage of 1.5%. Therefore, I also want to add my voice to call upon the engagement with the two relevant committees and all the MPs of the 39 districts should be adequately implementing this project so that they can have a first-hand information to even feed their necessary committees and MPs should take it upon themselves to challenge to pass by the sites of the project area.

The second point of my observation is the disputes or settling up of disputes, I am not surprise that the legal approval is not attached to it, it does give the country confidence of going into this Bill..... **(This is not the end of his intervention but due to technical problem the recording stops here).**

HON. BAKARY CAMARA [KIANG CENTRAL]: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, for giving me the floor, mine is going to be the shortest.

I have done an assessment concerning loans in this country starting from PIWANP NEMA FASDEP and I would engage my colleagues to do the same to see whether contracting loans for certain projects has improved the lives of Gambians, if yes there is no harm in taking loans, if no let us take our time sit back and make a comprehensive study on the loan issue in this country.

There was a project called PROGEBE not under the current dispensation but the former Government, the PROGEBE project was also intended to improved small ruminant production in the country, they still have fertilities all over the country particularly in kiang I can identify the village called Jatta-ba in Kiang West they have a structure there so, concur with the Honourable for Foni Brefet to say let use the existing structures rather than trying to build new ones.

If you look at the awarding of the execution of the project, there are strong warming they say experience and well qualify engineers to manage the project, is like the

people that we borrowing money from trying to develop are putting emphasis on data management of the project, sustainability of the loans that we contract in other to finance this project so, I would urge the Honourable Minister, the National Assembly when this project kick start we would like to have a progressive report if possible every 6months or year to tell us how far have you gone with the project, what are the success stories of this project otherwise there will be sanctions on the loan agreement to finance project in this country, if it come to the National Assembly if it need and if possible we are going to say no and I don't think we will reach to that level so, let us have a better management of project.

We don't want a situation where projects will face out and at the end of the day when you make an impact assessment it will not make any impact on the life of the Gambians and that will be the end of the project like what happen to PROGEBE. You go to my area there is Gambia Germany forestry project as soon as the Germany stop financing that was the end and now they have only one driver, one night watchman and then one project manager that's the end of the story. Thank you very much madam speaker.

HON. ALFUSAINY CEESAY [SAMI]: Thank you Madam Speaker, for giving me the floor.

Madam speaker, much have been said but I will always say that when we talk of agriculture is not only crops and when things changed we should also change, we all know that when you look at the crops, you go to the provinces you look at after the harvest how many farmers are able to have 50,000 [fifty-thousand Dalasis] from buying his/her groundnut nowadays is very rare so, it is very important for us for the Finance Minister to come up with this loan agreement, which is about to enhancing the production of small ruminants.

These small ruminants we all know that we cannot go without small ruminants in any of our programmes and it's going to help our farmers a lot, yes many people are having this doubt that loan is not bad, yes it is bad when you don't use it in the way it should be, if you say you want to build a house you take a loan for that and you divert it then you have a very bad loan, I think what is important here is that we have

to change our attitudes, that's the only thing. We should know that this country belongs to us it doesn't belong to anybody it belongs to all of us because project come and go after nothing if they are here things will go find but the moment they left zero.

During the Tobaski ram show at Abuko, the best breeds this is why one of the speakers mentioned here that Honourable Member for Banjul North stated that the executing agency is the Ministry of Agriculture, they should be here to hear some of the concerns that we are going to say here, they are the very Ministry that is going to responsible of this and the sector itself has a problem, if you go to other areas livestock assistants are very rare there, very few livestock assistant I think they should have train more livestock assistants so, that these places, the livestock assistant will help the farmers, because sometime when there is an epidemic of disease it kills all the small ruminants, what cause that it means the sector is only focusing on crops only on crops so, I think we should all support it and everybody is entitled to your opinion as a diplomat when you say your views, when it is your time you also say what you want to say yes! I think that is a good quality of a diplomat, your time will come whatever you want to say you say it nobody will say anything about that.

Madam Speaker, if you look at the loan agreement like the component, the description of the project.

Component A.

Contain so many things we all know that land is a problem and this projects cannot be done where there is no enough land because if you look at the component what it says. it has so many facilities that include grazing plots they are going to provide all those things for the animals and many things so, if you have small land it will be very difficult for this project to be possible there and if you look at it also says 39 districts will be identified.

We all know our constituencies, our districts these projects if they are going to give to the women or youth there should be no discrimination let them give it to groups which you know that the project will not fail because if I go to my constituency and I realise that it is only give to small groups, when it comes to development let us put aside politics, when we want to develop this country let us do away with politics, when

it is time for politic we do our politics but for development let us try to develop this country, give the devil its due, don't say that is my brother or we are all from the same village and give him the project and you know that they don't have enough land if that happens there will be total failure and we will come back again to blame each other.

Madam Speaker, during the Tobaski, if you look at most of all the farmers that do this sheep breeding they will all transport their sheep to Abuko, I think with this project they will think of at least creating another market for rural areas before they will be coming because sometimes most of their animals died on the way when coming to Abuko or sometimes they will bring their animals here at night you cannot spend all the night looking after a sheep you cannot do that sometimes you will be sleeping the thief will come and steal all the sheep yes! They do that.

This Sheep fattening is a very important thing for the farmers, you go and buy a sheep for D3, 000 [Three thousand Dalasis] before the Tobaski or during the Tobaski when you bring it you sell it for D10, 000 [Ten thousand Dalasis] or more, just imagine if you have 5 of that do you think farmers will kill themselves on groundnut cultivation? No, you will just do small farming just for home consumptions. So, I think this is a very good project, provided that when we all change our attitudes because we are saying new Gambia there should new attitudes, way of doing things so that what we want, we can have that.

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier on, this is a very important project and as it is stated it is going to cover 39 district I don't know what criteria are they going to use to identify those districts? It will be very important for the executing agency to be here so that they hear what we are saying because sometime you see some of the projects the way they give it to groups is not fair, they only give it to small communities which you know that they should not have it. This is why I say the Ministry responsible should be here to listen to our concerns other than that Madam Speaker I definitely support this loan concession. Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Thank you very much Madam Speaker for giving me the floor, well my intervention also is going to be short and precise.

Madam Speaker, if we want to be self-reliant in term of food there is need for us to diversify agriculture. We have to shift our old system from crop production to animal production and this problem one of those that can help us to reach to that level and therefore I give my 100% support to the project.

Madam speaker, during the Minister's presentation, at the project description and financial plan I had him saying that the project will be implemented in 39 district in the Central River Region, North Region, Upper River Region, Lower River Region and West Coast Region respectively. He said the project management unit will be based in Banjul well, I don't know what he meant by the project management unit will base in Banjul, when the regions mentioned are the places where the project is going intervene and we have our project management unit in Banjul.

It doesn't make sense our department of livestock services is not in Banjul is at Abuko which is at West Coast Region and therefore my suggestion is because this have been the norm since those are the reasons why the Minister for Agriculture put up this CPCUs [Central Project Coordinative Unit] which to me doesn't make any sense. Why are you spending more money instead of more people benefiting from those money because Central Project Coordinative Unit is just to serve as an oversight and we have Ministry of Agriculture already that can serve as an oversight, we had the National Assembly who can serve as an oversight to this project, we have different committees within the Assembly who can serve as an oversight to this projects.

Therefore, taking this project to the Central Project Coordinative Unit to me doesn't make sense and that's why the project coordinators should come from the people who are actively in service not junior to the people that are not even active in service and going to build their kingdom at somewhere else like my colleagues mentioned. So, am not in support of that idea like giving the project to somebody who is not actively in service and the guy is going to build his own kingdom somewhere else, wasting the resource, our money, fuel and all stuffs , therefore I am simply suggesting to the Minister that this project should be given to somebody who is actively in service and the project as my colleague said we should use the existing structures that are in place now instead of going to building new structures use the existing materials that we have, some of the projects are facing out now and their vehicles, offices, furniture are

all there before going to buy vehicles or furniture is better we just amend it then the project proceed and our farmers too will benefited.

So, those are my suggestions as far as that portion is concern and at the same time the other suggestion is, there are some farmers who are already established in terms of small ruminant production already so, is a matter of strengthening those people, you don't have to go and create your own people, when we strengthen the existing structures meaning that you are giving us an opportunity to move forward but somebody struggling and the guy who

has interest already to go and pick somebody who doesn't have an interest of small ruminant production what are you telling us, if the project faces out, the guy automatically go out of the system and everything collapses so, we have to look at that portion critically in order for us to move forward. Madam Speaker, with this few remarks this is what I have for the minister.

HON. HALIFA SALLAH [SERREKUNDA]: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, I don't know whether you give permission just to make an observation before getting into the issue 3 second observation just before going.

Madam Speaker, all Members should really alert there mind to standing order 36 it will solve all our problems, *it states very clearly that we shouldn't use offensive and insulting language against Members, no Members shall input in Public motive the name of the President of the Republic shall not be used to influence the Assembly etc.*

So, go back to standing order 36 and let us adhere to it, it even emphasis that every Members shall restrict his/her observation to the subject under discussion.

That is why I beg your permission to refer to it. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, we are dealing with an important element as far as our powers are concerned section 79 of the constitution empowers the executives to enter into contract dealing with international agreements but cannot conclude until we ratify the agreement signed before it goes into force, we cannot tamper with the power of the executive but the executive also cannot unilaterally enter in enforceable agreements and that is why the Minister is here to tell us what the Executive has signed we either

ratify it or send it back and they will go and negotiate with their partners again or we approve.

Madam Speaker, the agreement is before us, we are told that the other partner is ready to give the funds do we reject it? That is the fundamental issue before us. We do not ratify without knowing what we are ratifying, madam speaker, we have before us a loan agreement.

Step 1: Loan Agreement

Step 2: Framework Agreement and Agency Agreement

With Schedules indicating the project descriptions and financing plans. We are duty bound to look at the content of this 4 [four] document before which are connected to each other and that is why it was consolidated and presented to us for ratification.

Madam Speaker, what we are being asked to ratify has four components described in schedule 1 is a very clear.

That it is the intention of the executive by the called on us to ratify this agreement to come up with a project and in schedule 1 page 13.

The project is designed to promote sheep, goat husbandry enhancement, intervention and it is targeting the rural and Peri-urban communities, I don't know who defined Peri-urban communities just to talk about 39 districts but I will consider many areas in KMC as Peri-urban communities and it's definitely a misconception to believe that within this Peri-urban areas surrounding Banjul, KMC and all to every region cannot actually serve as places where such a project could be implemented so, I believe this misconception should be rectify in any future consideration for such projects.

Madam Speaker, it is emphasized that there are 4 components the first component in paragraph 3 deal with improvement of small Ruminant Production, Processing, and Marking that is the first component.

The second component is Islamic Finance and Support to Capacity Building and that components entails having a micro-financing institution been given resources in order to finance enterprise building in that particular sector and it is allocated \$3million, it's

important for the Minister to explain how those who came with the project proposal indicate that this will help 10, 000 people directly to enter into this business.

I don't know how that person came to calculation or is because is a revolving fund that it's expected that ultimately it will serve that particular proposal but how long will that take that is really an issue that the minister need to look at that when we are preparing such project document let us not just building castle in the air we must be concrete to know what is achievable.

If you put what is not achievable then this house will be in it neck, we must be guided properly to know that what we are approving will ultimately serve the purpose of it intended or otherwise ultimately 10, 0000 people will ask where is the project and of course is beyond social auditing the project will not be there for them so, we want something concrete and even if we are to pass this ultimately the design will have also recognise because I believe the components are there but we are talking about 4 components that is the second component.

The third component is to come up with a Master Plan Development for Livestock and the last component is dealing with the Project Management and Coordination.

Our duty is to examining what is before us, the cost that has been made for each of this components and look at the component themselves and see whether they will serve the purpose for which we are told.

Madam Speaker, by side comment I will look at the component four Production, Processing and Marketing.

If you look at that component madam speaker, we talking about development taking place in infrastructure, it talks about grazing plots and we have many land disputes infrastructure is very expensive. We talking about grazing plots, forage production plots, land feeding stations. So, we are talking about valley areas as the Member for Saloum was saying land is an issue, has the research been done already to know where this going to take place/are we taking and then move on to find out what is really under the ground.

There is issue of feeding storages, there is issue of slaughter slots, mini dairies, solar energy powered boreholes many projects, there is no need to go into all that but we are talking about infrastructure and money being put in that infrastructure but the ultimately objective is that the infrastructure will be utilized so that we will really have the goat and the sheep that will be marketed, processed and consumed to be able to reduce our import and even export to be able to earn foreign exchange that should be the ultimate objective.

But how do we create this interconnections between the actual facility available and the structures that will be created and the actual production, the processing and the marketing these are issues that cannot be clearly stipulated in an agreement of this nature but the Minister should bear in mind especially the ministry that is going to be responsible for the implementation that out of this project there will be many more designs as to how we are going to actually implement it.

Madam Speaker, my end point of emphasis we have remember FASDEP, GCAV over 4billion but where is the radiation of poverty? Where is food self-sufficiency and food safety? The Minister must go back to the books and see what actually happened in order to know what went wrong.

And everybody is dreaming to be a rich person all this will become issue **Audio Not Clear**

What does that mean, are there those institution existing or would they have to be created? What would that mean in terms of real sustainability? Do we have to create a mechanism where we do choosing or selections based on particular religious believe or its really going to serve a micro-finance institution that has the competence to be able to deliver all these are going to be issues when it comes to implementation.

Madam Speaker, if we look at the sum 1.4 billion if we put it in our own Dalasis which I will recommend that in the introductory remarks explanatory memorandum of the Minister it's always important to change all the figures into our Dalasis so, that we at least know exactly what we are talking about. It will not feature in the agreement but it can feature in the explanatory memorandum that accompanies the submission of the motion.

Madam Speaker, That said ,Members have clearly indicated the importance attached to how the sum is allocated we are given 16.58million will actually go into production, processing and marketing and as I have emphasised many infrastructural development are attached to that including even artificial insemination can continue in order to foster breeding of weeks or pure breeds of goats of sheep so, we are talking about experimentation, building facilities like ITC before and they talk about Yero Beri Kunda facilities these are going to be new place established so that experimentation can continue and it even talks about village improvement of breeds and this should be accompanied by production of goats and sheep.

How much the number would be is the really the question, what is the real plan? It's just creating experiment clinics station and has this breeds for people to ultimately buy or isn't linking this individual and group production of sheep and goats to these developments of infrastructure and therefore the 16million actually expanding to actually serve real people that is not quite explain that why some Members feel that what is going to go the people is going to be the 3million that is identified for entrepreneurship is that really how matters stand?. And I believe that this is where the government should come in and look at this concrete figure and the project and see how it will actually address the issue of increasing production of the sheep and goats or what the plan I think that is important is really.

It may also be true that the Government has already identified the number of goats and sheep we have and what we need is infrastructural development so that we will facilitate their marketing and even processing export so what is really the plan? If the plan is not there I would say that maybe that is the intention of the master plan that is supposed to be worked out.

My concern is that the master plan that is mention in schedule one is what is going to be carried out by an institution that is already selected and I was asking a question why selecting institution, why is not done through competitive bidding to really know after the project start or wasn't an absolute necessity in the agreement itself before the partner would accept to finance it.

Because we are talking about an International Agricultural Research Group that will be carrying out this particular component and why we wait until the agreement is signed before taking that initiative and in order to know exactly what the situation is so that the project that will approve will actually be implementable as we plan.

Madam speaker, I will conclude by looking at the technicalities of the agreement itself.

Madam Speaker, under the loan agreement we have seen under article 2, step1, that the sum is highlighted 2,460,000.00 (united state Dollars Two million, four hundred and sixty thousand). That under

Article 4: It mentions Declaration of Effectiveness

It said that this agreement and the obligation of the bank here after shall not be effective until and unless the recipient provides documents to the satisfaction of the bank relating to the following:

And A is really dealing with ratification so, unless this document is ratified and give to the bank then the loan cannot become effective. But my concern here Madam Speaker, is what is indicated in **Article 5:** Stated that: this agreement and all obligations of the parties, in accordance with Article **2.2** shall automatically be terminated in the event that:

I) The Agreement has not been declared effective within 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the date of this agreement; so, this is emphasized there.

And 2.2, is actually emphasizing the need that obligation of the Bank the loan available under this agreement is conditional open the effectiveness of this agreement been achieve within 180 days so, am wondering because I look at the date of signing the agreement, in the front page 3 of step 1, is put there 15th April, 2018 in all the others I do not see date being put so, would we then accept that is the date when it was actually signed by the partners and If that is the case how does this issue stand in terms of the current situation the Minster should guide this assembly on that technicality.

And there is this issue of transparency, accountability and the host other things but dearly we are already given the guidance that there is what you called sanctionable

practices and sanctionable practices include corrupt practices, coercive practices, collusive practice, and fraudulent practice obstructive practice so, all these cover what members may consider to be obstacles to the implementation of projects. So, essentially those of us who are now in this National Assembly with the powers we have clearly if anything escapes our grip to control then you have no one to blame but ourselves. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Thank you very much Madam Speaker for giving me the floor.

It is said that if you speak last you tend to repeat what others have already said but I want to say that if this project comes into being and failed this means that we should not enter into any similar agreement and we are all to be blame. Because if you go through this document, really you will see all the safe guards are there, how they can prevent corruption like the recent speaker has just said the sanctionable practices, we should -- project on our own individual capacities as well as the Agriculture Committee and the FPAC.

Madam Speaker, I want some clarification when it comes to 2 [3] and that is;

Except as the Bank shall otherwise agree, Goods and services to be financed from the proceeds of the loan shall be procured in accordance with the Procurement Guidelines of the Islamic Bank I believe. In this regard, the recipient shall abide by the regulations of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation concerning boycott of Israel.

So, I believe that there is a regulation related to that particular issue which we have not seen and my question is what is the policy of the Gambia Government concerning Israel when it come to this type of issues? I am interested to know that.

Madam Speaker, when you go to 3.3 of **Article 3; stated**

The amount of the service fee referred to in section 3.2 is an estimation based on the assumption of the implementation period and the period of disbursement of the loan amount as herein envisaged. The actual amount of the service fee shall be calculated after the implementation of the project, provide that the amount shall not exceed

1.5% of the loan amount when calculated on annual basis. So, which mean it will be interested to know in this particular type of calculation is done we compare that to the amount that was mentioned as service fee.

Madam Speaker, I will concur 100% with what the Honourable Member for Serrekunda said regarding a master plan as it is mentioned there, that is very important because sometimes these projects are overlapping, you have what they called the FASDEP project and you also have other projects so sometimes the projects overlap but when you have the master plan you will know exactly where you have operated before, where you should operate this time because we are talking about millions of farmers and we will having that millions farmers, maybe we are talking about like 300,000 women and so on but with a master plan we will able calculate all that and come to know exactly where this project should function and where it shouldn't function maybe a similar project is functioning somewhere else.

They called this one enhancement project but I know there is a FASDEP project in somewhere in different places and I think it is in all regions except in Serrekunda and Banjul. So, with a master plan that will really help us.

I believe that Madam Speaker, this project is an intricacy management system because if you look at it having a value change system where you have animals and people buying the animals and selling them so, it takes that value change system which I think is the one that we.....[**Bad Recording**] project. We are told the agriculture department is the executing agency but the finance ministry is key in terms of disbursement of funds and if you read through you will see that is emphasis that fund must be disburse on time.

My experience in following this project is that they always complain about the disbursement of funds when you go to them, they will say we are following Finance Ministry for the funds but then is very difficult for us to get this funds. So, that is very important. But funds are disburse on time and utilize on time so that nothing is delay. I have an experience there is this sheep FASDEP project where women **Kafo** has been involved in Wuli East and then they talked about feeding of the animals. They are always complaining, we are waiting for this feeding but it has not arrive and that is

something that we need to look at. And when you go to the Ministry agriculture they will always be complaining about the disbursement of funds to them.

Madam Speaker, this project is one of the best project for the rural people because during the dry season they are engage in crop production but in the dry season it looks like when the women are just sitting and waiting for the rains to come but with this, they will not only be involve in garden but they will also be involved in something that will create some revenue for them so, in that case we have to do it holistically in the essence that when the, for example the purchasing these animals I believe the beneficiaries should have a representation there even though they should have technical support but they should be involve in the purchasing of animals because sometimes our farmers are very observing when it comes to the type of breed that they need to do, they know the differences and therefore when they are involve they will show you their choice of the breed that they need and then at the end no one will have to blame anybody if they choose a particular breed but if you just buy it for them and just give it to them in the end they will say this and that.

And also the environment Madam Speaker, where these animals are kept is very important so, that's why I like this method because it is interesting that the environment were they are kept will be link to the continuous health check of the animals so, that when diseases outbreak comes immediately they will able to solve the situation. And the notable expect of it, I see them with the sheep FASDEP project they just give animals to the women and then they keep it in their homes.

So, like the Honourable Member for Bundungka Kunda is saying security has not been guaranty when the time people come and just pick these animals and take them and leaving the women empty handed so, we need to put all that in place they have an environment where they are kept, that the place is fence, a building is put there may be a watch person is put there to safe guide the animals and so on which will include also the watering and the feeding, if all that is in converse together I think we will realise something from the project.

Also Madam Speaker, am concern about the obligation of the beneficiary, we are very focus on what others should do but we are not very much focus on what the

beneficiaries should do we can give these animals to people for rearing and so on but the sustainability if they don't have any obligation anytime they feel that they have a naming ceremony they can sell their animals well the sustainability? And we cannot keep giving them animals to rear. So, I believe that the executing agency should put some obligations on the beneficiary so that if the person misuses the opportunity then that person shouldn't be consider in the next phase because if you give me I sell then you come again and give me I will sell so, where is the sustainability and you want that person to continue the production that's how we can eventually maintain the sustainability.

Madam Speaker, apart from that I can only lend my support to motion and I will urge my Members to continue to monitor these projects because my experience if you follow them you always see the loopholes and they will fall back to the executing agency and say this is what my people are complaining, even before the committee goes there, is 39 districts, each of us will able to take a stand and follow this and make sure that the project succeed because if it fails with all these safeguards that are here yet still the project failed it means that if any other project comes here there is no need to support that project. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: Thank you very much Madam Speaker, for giving me the floor. Well my intervention will be very short because many people have spoken before me and I don't want to repeat what my Honourable colleague have already said.

I already stand here and talk without going through this agreement and know exactly what is in it. I have gone through it and then to me in my own view it is an agreement which you know that is going to support the agricultural sector and am part of those Honourable Members and also am from a constituency that is predominately practicing agriculture been it animal rearing and crop production that is the only thing we know and that is the only thing we have. So, a project of this nature definitely will do greatly in my constituency that is Nianija and I hope it will and also in other constituencies as well as it is mentioned in 39 districts and so on.

The fundamental thing that we should all put in the back of our mind, is that definitely there have been lot of government agricultural projects in this country one will question those project what impact have they in the livelihood of Gambians specially the farmers and the poor people down there the electorate? And then been it positive or negative how have it change the life of people and then I think on a fair note others will say some have failed but to me I think lot achievement have been done in many projects though there are lot of question that can be ask here and there because if you look at it, for us we have never benefited from single road or whatsoever but thanks to some of these agricultural projects we have some of the small roads constructed in my constituency and is even access and the like likewise I can remember those days there was this project I forgot the name that they will go and purchase bulls, cows.....[bad recording] good breed there still now we are enjoying those ones so, I think if anything is brought before this parliament let us just look at it critically and look in details what benefits have it for us and our people not actually talking about loans.

I don't know who put this notion at the back of our minds that loans will never develop a country but to me I totally disagree with it, definitely I totally disagree with it, it depend on how we use it, nobody can't stay independently, there is no nation in this world that haven't taken a loans somewhere or sometime because if you look at it even the world economic super powers they sometimes take loans, there are countries with trillion of dollars of loans and the like so, let us not go with that mind-set, let us just look at the importance, what can we do, what can generate from this then we see what we can do with it but not like loans I totally disagree with that Honourable colleagues.

Madam Speaker, like I said I will be very brief and then I don't want to repeat what others have said these are my few observations but others said the loan so and so this is the grazing period, I think that is common knowledge that we all read and understand it so, am just emphasising for us to very much conscious when things of this nature come here.

And Honourable Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs like I had some information I don't how true it is, that is the government is working on freezing some of these

debt repayments which you know it will be freeze for a while whereas we will concentrate on maybe the taxes we are generating will concentrate on other areas rather than repaying debts so, I just want to you help us in that, If there is any on that because it will help definitely in this. On that Madam Speaker, I thank you very much.

HON. KEBBA K. BARROW [KOMBO SOUTH & MAJORITY LEADER]: Thank you Madam Speaker, I want to join my colleagues to welcome all Honourable Members back to the House after the Ramadan I think we all have good time during the Eid. Am also going to join my colleagues to support this project but I have some few observations and clarifications that I want the Minister to tell us and some of the key observations that I have here is, some of the reports we need to have statistical data to enable us to support the activities and programmes and follow them when it is time for implementation.

So, if you talk about the 39 districts in the country, we should have some statistical data to know how many small ruminants do we have in each of this districts so, that the department of livestock services will be able to work on these things and help the farmers to be able to do the purchasing and also the supply of the animals to the farmers and I think that is very key.

And the implementing Agency is not clear to us here so, we want the Minister to tell us who are going to be the implementing agency, for me the department of livestock service should be the vocal point and they should be the implementer of this project to maximize the production and also the availability and also working on the vaccination and taking care of the animals.

When you look at the project description you have talk a lot about the project document but I think it's important that the Agricultural Committee and FPAC and also the project committee be supply with the project appraisal document because that's where all the talk starts and that's where all the arrangement are done.

If these committees do not serve that project appraisal document is going to be very difficult because some of those issues that are discussed at the initiation of the project that's where they are written so, I think it is important that the Ministry of Finance to

provide these 3 committees with the project appraisal document that will enable them to better understand and do the follow ups and to ensure that all the articles that are enshrined in the agreement are followed up. If you look at the component for the improvement of small ruminants and the production and also the marketing, a lot of issues are boiled around the production, the provision of land, purchasing of equipment, solar and all these things. Honourable Colleagues have mentioned the issue of land. How are the lands that are going to be used for this further and also these cactus, how are they going to be obtained? We cannot continue to be taking land from the farmers and at the end of the day they are not compensated and they forfeit for life. That is their active production and their source of income and living. So I think it is important that we put that into consideration if we are going to take any portion of the land from any villages. The farmers need to be adequately compensated so that they are also able to generate more income and livelihood for their people to come in the years to come.

My other program is the issue of involving the microfinance institutions and I think it is important that we work with these institutions and know what their areas of operations are and how they operate. They all have different ways of dealing with their beneficiaries so you cannot choose a microfinance institution to deal with another microfinance institution who have different modus operandi in their operations and how they deal with beneficiaries. This is going to bring a lot of role conflicts and conflicts of interest and at the end of the day the beneficiaries will not be serviced well. And I think it is important that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs work with the microfinance unit of the Central Bank of the Republic of The Gambia. They will be able to give you data on all the microfinance institutions that are in the country. That will help to ensure that these things are taken up well. There will be coordination and no duplication. They will serve better and the farmers and beneficiaries will have the best out of these things.

I think it is also important Honourable Minister, for us to look at some of the projects that have been established in this country and that have already wound-up and they are in the country. A mentioned was made about PROGEBE project. PROGEBE is a

French acronym which I have forgotten so maybe if the Department of Livestock Services are here they should be able to tell us what PROGEBE is. But I know that the project had some dairy farms in CRR, Upper Saloum and they also have one in Sankandi and they also have one in Kudang. They were mainly involved in livestock production and ensuring that dairy productions are enhanced and they have all these dairies that are being setup in these places. So maybe Honourable Mbowe will be able to lead the department and also tell them that place because I know is in Sankuya, Sey Kunda something, somewhere around that end, Njau Sey Kunda. So you have one there and that is in existence because the PROGEBE project ended in 2014. So that is not a very long period of time and I think there should be something that can be done to help enable these farmers to work on these things.

And my other problem is the issue of the Project Coordinating Unit of this project. As highlighted by Honourable Member from Kiang Central. We should employ or we should recruit current serving employees of the Government of The Gambia to continue with these projects. My experience with these projects is that when the projects are given to outsiders who are not within the department, even after when they leave and you want the Livestock Assistants to continue supporting the farmers they will say "We have not been involved in this thing". So they cannot do anything about it because they see the amount of money that was being paid to the Project Assistants, Project Officers and the Project Coordinators that runs into millions, as some people have just alluded to. Within two years you can see somebody putting up a five-storey building. Where are they getting the money from? They should be civil servants and paid for the extra work that they do for the projects for its coordination and implementation. I think the issue of looking for or creating a new Project Coordinating Unit should be seriously looked at. Look at competent personnel from the livestock department and also use the regional offices because all the regional offices have livestock offices in Kerewan, Mansankonko, Basse and Janjanbureh so those people can be used as Coordinators of this thing and be paid extra money rather than appointing somebody for four years and at the end of the program they are gone, there is no follow-up.

In the project document I have not seen and that is why it is important to have the project appraisal, a proper monitoring framework for the project. If there is no proper monitoring framework for the project, it is going to be very difficult for us to see where we start and where we end and those things are very important. Audit fees can be embedded because they want to make sure that the money is properly used so that there is no corruption or fraudulent activities and properly monitoring the project and program of the activities are also very key because procurement is involved in these things and a lot of money goes into procurement. Those are issues that we need to look at and I think the Ministry should be able to clear those things to us. And also the issue of the number of the 10,000 people, beneficiaries that are going to be done. We need to be able to have data that can support and see how we get to that figure. That will help us in the implementation of the program. I think there is a need to spread out, to properly list and see some of the figures that are going to go into the 16.5; how much money is going to be used in the production or procurement activities of those programs that are going to be used in this and where we end with the 3,000. On that note Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for coming up with this project, thank you.

HON. SULAYMAN SAHO [CENTRAL BADDIBU]: Thank you Madam Speaker. By looking at the agreement, I think it speaks for itself. Many a times such documents come before us, the language is very clear but the question is: is it realistic, is it achievable? I think this is what we should look at. Madam Speaker, by making reference to history or projects that existed in this country or that happened before us, there were lots of threats and most of the projects did not go well, they fail for one reason or the other. I think today before we agree or ratify this we have to assess and see whether it is going to benefit the citizens or not. By looking at it, the writings or the wording are very clear. That it is there to empower women and youths, it is there to empower the citizens to be economically strong, to promote food production and the like but is the environment conducive for this project to take place?

Madam Speaker, with the feed stuff or food, this area has been a challenge for our animals since time immemorial. Coming with such a project, if you look at the

component where it states improvement of small ruminant production, processing and marketing, it is stated that there will be grazing plots for these animals. These grazing plots, are they going to be sustainable? That is the question. Will they be able to meet the demand of the feed stuff for the animals that we intent to rear? We have seen projects in the provinces that came in this form, FASDEP, they have the same. As I am speaking to you, go to Central Baddibu, there is a project on ruminants. At the onset of the project, women farmers were informed that they are going to build houses for them, they are going to provide food for them. Within next month, they came and said they were going to construct their own houses for themselves. So, what we have on the document and what is happening on the ground is quite different. We are not rejecting loans or we are not saying that we don't need loans but do the loans benefit us and what is our loan status now as a country? Approving this loan, what will it cost to our economy now. I think these are some of the things that we should put into consideration. We cannot be paying loans and at the end of the day they take it as it is government projects, don't worry go to them.

And the other thing that I want to emphasize too, health is paramount in animal rights. Animals have right to good health. Are we in the position, our veterinary services well equipped? Do they have the personnel to be able to address such a demand in terms of diseases? Honourable Member of Niamina West made mentioned of donkeys. Our farmers depend on donkeys for their farm labour. How many donkeys died, of recent in The Gambia, across the board? Nothing has been done by the livestock department? Cow diseases are rampant, how many farmers lost their cattle and nothing has been done? I think it is high time we think about these things, not to be just approving or ratifying loans in the name of development whether it will happen or not we don't care at the end of the day.

The other thing is about the timing, four years' period. Is it possible for these farmers to be supported with these animals to be able to do something within four years? That is my doubt too. And the nutrition, I have to emphasize this. Nutrition is expensive as far farm or animal management is concerned. I believe, in the document, instead of saying that we are going to support women or youths on animal husbandry in the

document, I think it has to be a mix farming system alongside crop production so that the residues of the crops produced at the end of the day could be used as a foodstuff for these animals to make it sustainable. Farmers who are also cultivating groundnut, beans or other crops they should also be supported alongside so that those who are rearing the small ruminants can turn around and get food stuff from these people rather than those people selling their feed stuffs at a poor price to outsiders. And we always say this is happening in Senegal. I think we need to get our figure right and our source. It is not that all the sheep that we buy in the Gambia during Tobaski are coming from Senegal. Some of them are coming from Mali or beyond the border, Chad.

Senegal is a kind of centre, is a meeting point. I wish you can visit Senegal during the feast season, you will see sheep coming from other countries to Senegal. The traders will also go and get it from there. But are we ready to say that we will minimize the rate of sheep import into the Gambia during Tobaski, is the ground level for that? Now the other thing is about what Honourable Member of Banjul North made mentioned of, the gap between the beneficiaries and the implementers is too wide so most of the projects that are coming into the country benefit individuals rather than groups or rather than the citizens. We have been witnessing that since time immemorial and our farmers are sick and tired of it. We cannot approve this loan, we will be paying it and at the end of the day it is the Project Coordinators and Alkalos or VDC Chairmen who are going to benefit from the project. The masses, they are at mercy. So, we must be ready to change their attitudes to ensure that the funds benefit the right people.

Madam Speaker this is my doubt, this is my challenge. Before we approve it, are we ready as a country, are our institutions ready to shoulder this great task that we have ahead of us? I believe we have a series of leakages. Are the leakages now seen? If they are not seen, there is no need to approve it because it will go to the wrong pockets. Therefore, institutional reform is very important and is highly needed at this material time.

Madam Speaker, we talk about source of breeds. These small ruminants that are coming, where are we going to get them from? Are they going to be adaptable to our environment or are we going to use the local breeds to support them? It is not clear too. I think we need to be very careful because we have seen it. You might go to Senegal and bring a breed that might not work well, that might not be used to our environment. At the end of the day, they are going to die because our climate condition might be different from where they are coming from.

With the local breeds that we have, that is why somebody made mentioned of assessment to see how many ruminants we have in every region. The ruminants we have, is it possible to get from farmers or to buy from the local farmers to support this project, is that realistic? In the document also it has been clearly stated that there is going to be a market for livestock products. We do have out local markets "lumoos" in our villages. If you go there and see meat production, how meat is taken care of, you can all witness that the type of meat they sell to us is very horrible. It is not in fact hygienic for consumption and nothing is done. Now with the coming of this market, I think a proper study needs to take place to see to it that the markets that they are going to create are monitored well so that wrong food will not be sold to innocent people.

Madam Speaker my concern is also that the project talks about 1,000 women and youth. I believe a lot has been raised in the name of women, a lot has been raised in the name of youth but at the end of the day are those people able to champion it? Somebody mentioned that men can order rams, sell it and get "Manyos". No, these ones are given to them. At the end of the day, during their "Ngentehts" and "Manyo Bitos", they use these animals. I think farmers need to be really sensitized, they really need to be educated. Education is very important in this. Somebody was saying that he does not think the education is important in this but it is really important. It is really important that we discuss this document, we need to look at it so that we know the pros and the cons. At the end of the day it is the women themselves who will sell these animals and buy expensive clothes for their ceremonies. This is not the first time it happens.

Madam Speaker, I am not against the agreement or loan but my concern is I hope the ground is safe for it to be implemented? That is my concern, we need to make a stop to embezzlement of funds or projects being mismanaged at the end of the day you see the coordinators or partners they are going freely as somebody said. The money that we are all going to contribute to pay, you see it in individual hands. Or, NAMs can politicize to use it as politics. They will say I bring this project in our area or these women group will be supported because they are my women group, they adopted me as father. I think care needs to be taken, let us not use it for politics to gain votes. Let us make sure that everybody is benefitting when it comes. Thank you, that's my contribution.

HON. SIDIA S. JATTA [WULI WEST]: Surprises and paradoxes that characterizes development enterprise in this country. Some Members said this is timely and is maybe too late to come. You are forgetting that you are living in The Gambia. You are forgetting that when you were a child we were looking after livestock, you were looking after cows. I spent all my childhood looking after animals. Madam if you go to my homeland Wuli, maybe you can go and buy your livestock there in my compound. You are telling me this is long overdue. You put yourself out of the context of the Gambia to say that. This is the problem, we don't know our priorities, we don't know what development is and so we are grappling blindly as it were for 50 something years. Somebody said here, this is the core of our life, it is the core of the life of the economics of this country. Animal husbandry is not strange. I live my life in it up to the time I went to college I was looking after animals during holidays and I take pleasure in it.

Projects are treated with experimentalism. You said it here, you said project so and so have failed. This can never fail because this is the life blood of our people. This, what we are talking about, what we are considering to be a project is the life blood of our people. We who are here, over 95% of all are from the farming world. You know this, almost every woman has something either goat or sheep and they were huge numbers in this country before independence and post-independence. Under the first

republic, there was a project Madam for creation of graze land for animals in this country. It failed, money was spent on it but it failed. The object was to create graze land for cattle.

So we are just ignoring it or from the first republic to date we have been ignoring what is crucial to the economic development of this country. If you read this paragraph 2, 3 and 4 many things are there. This is what we should have addressed as a priority and independence. When we took ourselves out of the colonial situation, we should have changed the colonial mode of production in this country for us to become what we call independent. The whole agricultural systems were directed to serve the fundamental needs of the colonial industry. When we liberated ourselves we should have changed from that mode to the mode that suits our independence but we did not do it. We are still in the same colonial pattern of production and so we are still producers of raw materials; cheap we sell them and expensive we buy them when they are transformed. This is what is responsible for the backward economic situation in this country and will continue as long as we have not changed from the colonial mode of production to what we call an independent mode that suits our lives.

There are basically two ways of taking loans, one you take loan to be stuck with taking loans. That is debilitating, it destroys you, kills your initiative and makes you dependent. But there is a second way of taking loans, you take loan and do away with taking loans. The agreement before us seems to be like that, take a loan to do away with taking loans because the loan before us is meant to propel us into production. It is meant to empower us to become producers of our fundamental needs. That is why it is different from the first one. This one if you use it like the Members for Berefet and many others, if it is properly managed it will help us to become what we should have been since 1970, to be self-reliant in producing meat, to be self-reliant in producing milk because we have all that is required as the basis in the country. Currently, like he said, we improved upon what we have. How do we improve upon what we have? The animals in this country, the problem they have is they have no watering places, they have no graze land, there is no feed, and there is no water. If you go now into Niamina all the animals in URR are all grazing in Niamina because of

water. So, when we are talking about this you have to bear that in mind, water and feed.

And somebody also talked about safety, security. This year alone they stole about forty horses in my constituency the cheapest horse is D25, 000. Forty horses were stolen not in the bush but in the homes so the same thing applies to livestock so that also has to be borne in mind, security. Where are we going to do this? Those who are going to be engaged in this enterprise where and which structures, what safety valves are you going to create for these little animals? We don't want this project to turn into a liability this project is meant to take us out of that liability situation into a situation where we will be independent, we will stand on our feet and have animals in good numbers and they keep on growing but we can't do that unless we create the right conditions for that to happen. There must be feed, there must be water, there must be a place where they can be kept in safety. That is what is necessary.

I am not against the loan, this particular one. You see when I read some of these things where they are saying, what is the explanation there? All these people are going to benefit from, it is like something you are going to give to these people to be benefitting from. All this is mentioned: the private veterinary services, feed producers and sellers, all these people are going to benefit from the project. How are they going to benefit from the project? I don't like the way it is expressed because these are vampires. These are the people who destroyed our projects. You bring a project, you create monumental offices, and giant vehicles, giant furniture, everything is expensive and the project dies before it was even born.

This is the situation: why do we have to create new offices and new coordinating institutions when we have them and they are suffering in terrible inertia for want of doing work. Engage them and make them work. You do not need to create anything new, the human resources are there but they are suffering from inertia for want of work. Engage them, it is better to use a person who is already working in agriculture. Give him or her an allowance to do this extra work than to create a new office with new big fat allowances, allowances that are even more than somebody's salary per month and you call that development. How can you develop without sacrifices? People

don't want to sacrifice. You want huge allowance, you want a beautiful car. Where do you go with all these things? You don't have means. Beggars, and we behave as if you are the slims of Mexico. That is what we must do away with. I am not in for creating all these things that you are talking about here because these are what destroy all out projects, they die before even they come into being.

There is a project in Sare Ngai, huge garden for women, little fence here and there. Everything is useless and it collapsed. The project is finished, the money is finished before even the project was born. There is no money, if you deny me go there. This country is everywhere characterized by such things. We don't want this to be like that. For the first time in our lives, we must use this project as a mean of freeing ourselves from taking loans. We don't need a loan, there is nothing experimental about breeding livestock, there is nothing experimental about it. I can teach you from now up to next year you will not finish my knowledge about this, I know everything about it. I have lived my life with this, goats, sheep, animals, and cows particularly. Why do we have to have new structures for all these things? No, let us use like the previous speaker said and many people said it if you don't say it then you are not honest. We have spent too much on creating offices for projects which die even before they were born. There is no project in this country which has succeeded. If any project was to succeed, Jahally must have been one. Billions have gone into it, where is it today? It was meant to make us self-reliant in rice production, today we are more dependent on rice from outside than ever before.

So what is the essence of having created Jahally Pacharr, tell me. With all the billions that have gone into it, we are still paying the loans that went into that project and we are still not learning. I am are fed-up and everybody should be fed-up because the ordinary person up there is fed-up. They are fed-up with living the life that they have. We fought for independence to stop living like that. We fought for independence to live in dignity as human beings not as beggars going round the world with baskets asking for this or that when we have everything here. We have I said we have everything that we need. All that we need is to manage to become confident, have

trust in our capacity as human being to create the means for our sustenance. That is what we need, not all this.

Fifty something years we are still to tell with development. Fifty something, this country should have transformed into heaven on earth. Wallaahi, it could have been transform into heaven on earth. But, we are not committed to what we have fought for. This time round, somebody said there is going to be a second revolution. In this time, all that are on the way fit them into this portion. For people to have a way to live, there must be another revolution. A revolution for us to be born again as dignified human beings who can stand on their feet in the world with necks high. How can we go with this all the time anything you want to do you have to take a loan: borehole loan, borehole grant, well grant, school grant or loan? What about the money we are generating here? Tell me, you are laughing. What about the money that we are generating in this country where does it go? I have never seen anything in this country which they say this was done by the money of the Gambian people which was not a loan or grant. What is wrong with us, this rich country? Gambia is not poor we who call it poor are the ones who are poor because we refuse to use our heads. Gambia is not poor, it is very rich. Even if it is only agriculture alone, it is rich. And a country with that beautiful river, there is no country in the world like that. We can produce food here twelve months round the clock. Go along coastal road, that farm there each time I pass it I cry. Every three months there is something new there, flourishing. There is no rainfall in there. You know what I am talking about, that farm. Go there now, the maize is up there now. Few months, few weeks' time it will disappear, something new will come there. We can replicate that throughout this country, twelve months of the year but we are not doing that.

Madam, Honourable Minister, I would like you to explain certain things. When you say meat and milk handling, what milk: milk from sheep or goat or milk from cows? The amount of meat he is talking about here is gone beyond these small ruminants, it must be big ruminants. And then you talk about, and I am surprised that's why I say these are the ones I call vampires. You talk about private veterinary service providers when you have livestock development department? These private veterinary service

providers are what I call vampires to projects. Their services are not going to be free and they are going to be expensive. What about the institutions that we own? Those must be involved agriculture and veterinary service and must be primarily the ones to handle this, you can't do without them. Private veterinary service providers, where are they? Do you know that every cattle owner in this country now is a veterinarian by himself, do you know that Mr Minister? I am telling you that they are because the veterinary department have not been fulfilling their responsibility. Every farmer who owns a cow has learnt to inoculate his or her cattle. Wallaahi, that is the practice because veterinary is not doing that anymore.

When I was young, our animals were inoculated every year once by the veterinary department. When the former President, the first President of this country, was head of the veterinary services he was going to inoculate our cattle that is no longer. Therefore, because of grinder pests farmers have learnt in a very difficult way. Some go all the way to Mali to buy drugs, some go to Senegal to buy drugs to come and inoculate their cow themselves. That is the current practice in this country. We are not addressing that and you are talking about producing animals. We have a lot of work to do. Farmers have learnt many things in a very hard way. And it seems also, if you read paragraph 4, of page 16 of 22, there are other funds which are going to be made available for the provision of processing equipment and inputs.

If you read the last sentence of that paragraph 4 of page 16 of 22 you say "Funds will also be provided for the financing of processing equipment and inputs for dairy production including solar panels and coolers, etc. It means there are more funds beyond the funds that are mentioned in the agreement because that is what the sentence is saying. I want an explanation and then of course this, one genetic improvement of sheep and goat. What does that amount to, genetic improvement of sheep and goat? I would like you to explain that. This is huge you know, you know what is here is huge. A lot of things are here but we have to reorganize, reorient ourselves, and recommit ourselves for this type of thing to succeed. And I agree with the mathematics of my colleague, Banjul North. The sum to be given to an individual, okay even if you say fifteen thousand to an individual, a sheep (good one) today costs

more than five thousand and if you are to buy one sheep you are left with ten thousand. For two sheep, you are left with five thousand but the feed and the security?

I think we have to look at this very seriously. Somebody talked about, the Majority Leader, this coordinating thing it is fundamental. We here we have Project Monitoring Committee. We are going to pay particular attention to this project when it comes into being. Thank you very much Madam.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members, it about 2:30 p.m. I don't know whether you want us to take a break for lunch, prayers and come back. We have about 10 more interventions and we may not be able to complete it now and against break time, so what do you suggest? Pardon, we go for prayers and come back, okay very well. So we come back at 3:30 p.m., it is 2:30 is that the consensus? We take a break, suspend the session and come back at 3:30 p.m. for continuation. Thank you

[The House stands suspended until 3:30 p.m.]

[There was no recording after the House resumes due to technical problem]