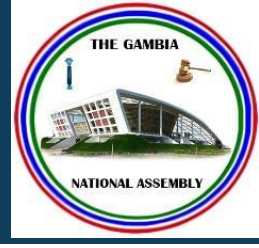




THE GAMBIA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE AND SECURITY
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO SECURITY INSTALLATIONS
AND FACILITIES**

16th – 22nd May 2026

OCTOBER, 2026

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Chairperson's Foreword

National security is not measured solely by the absence of conflict; it is equally reflected in the capacity of security institutions to prevent threats, respond effectively to emergencies, protect citizens, uphold the rule of law and safeguard the territorial integrity of the State. It is against this understanding that the Standing Committee on Defence and Security undertook an extensive oversight tour of selected security institutions, operational formations, border posts, training facilities and correctional institutions.

The tour provided the Committee with an opportunity to move beyond reports and briefings and observe, first-hand, the realities confronting personnel in the execution of their duties. The engagements revealed the dedication and professionalism of security personnel, many of whom continue to serve under challenging conditions. At the same time, the Committee identified recurring constraints affecting operational effectiveness, including inadequate vehicles and fuel, insufficient office and communication equipment, poor or ageing infrastructure, accommodation challenges, limited access to training and welfare services, shortages of essential operational resources, and gaps in institutional capacity.

Particular attention was given to border management and the protection of the country's territorial integrity. The Committee observed that porous borders, irregular movements, smuggling, drug trafficking and other transnational security concerns require stronger surveillance, improved mobility, adequate border infrastructure and effective coordination among security agencies. The engagements also highlighted the importance of clear procedures and sustained cooperation between agencies operating at border posts and other strategic locations.

The Committee further observed that the effectiveness of the security sector depends not only on personnel and equipment, but also on the welfare and working conditions of those entrusted with protecting the public. Issues relating to accommodation, health care, allowances, uniforms, protective equipment, training and other welfare provisions were raised across several institutions. These concerns merit continued attention, as the capacity of personnel to perform effectively is closely linked to the conditions under which they serve.

The tour also demonstrated the interconnected nature of national security. The challenges identified by the Police, Immigration, Drug Law Enforcement, Intelligence, Armed Forces, Fire and Rescue Services and other institutions cannot be addressed in isolation. Stronger inter-agency coordination, adequate resources, appropriate legislative and policy frameworks, and timely institutional support are essential to building a more responsive and resilient security sector.

This report therefore presents the Committee’s observations and findings from the field, together with recommendations aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, improving operational readiness, enhancing border and internal security, and supporting the welfare of security personnel. It is the Committee’s expectation that the findings contained herein will contribute to evidence-based decision-making and sustained parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

The Committee acknowledges the commitment and sacrifices of the men and women who serve across the country, often under difficult circumstances. Their work remains fundamental to the peace, stability and development of the nation.

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Hon. Seedy SK Njie
Chairperson, Select Committee on Defence and Security

Acknowledgement

The Standing Committee on Defence and Security extends its sincere appreciation to the various security institutions, formations, border personnel and other stakeholders who received the Committee during the oversight tour and openly shared their experiences, challenges and recommendations.

The Committee is particularly grateful to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the administrative, logistical and technical support provided throughout the planning and execution of the tour. The Committee also acknowledges the support of the Committee Secretariat and other staff whose coordination, documentation and assistance contributed to the successful conduct of the exercise.

The Committee further appreciates the cooperation of local authorities and all personnel who facilitated access to the various facilities visited and made themselves available for engagements with Members.

Finally, the Committee commends the men and women of the security services for their continued dedication and commitment to safeguarding the peace, security and territorial integrity of The Gambia, often under challenging circumstances.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Defence and Security of the National Assembly is mandated to exercise parliamentary oversight over matters relating to defence, national security and the institutions responsible for maintaining public safety and security.

In fulfilment of this mandate, the Committee undertook an extensive oversight tour of selected security institutions, operational formations, border posts, training facilities and correctional institutions across the country. The exercise was designed to provide Members with first-hand information on the operational environment within which security institutions discharge their respective mandates.

The tour covered a broad range of institutions and locations, including police stations and headquarters, border security complexes, Immigration and DLEAG posts, military facilities, the Police Intervention Unit, prisons, Fire and Rescue Services and training institutions. At several locations, the Committee engaged multiple security agencies operating within the same area, thereby allowing Members to examine the level of inter-agency coordination and identify common challenges affecting security service delivery.

The engagements revealed that security institutions continue to operate under demanding conditions while confronting both traditional and emerging threats. These include porous borders, drug trafficking, smuggling, irregular migration, cross-border criminal activities, emergency response challenges and evolving security risks arising from instability within the wider sub-region.

The Committee also examined institutional issues affecting operational effectiveness, including mobility, fuel, infrastructure, staffing, accommodation, equipment, training, welfare and budgetary constraints. In addition, attention was given to the conditions of detainees and inmates, the administration of justice, juvenile detention, rehabilitation and access to essential services within correctional institutions. The situation at Mile II, for instance, highlighted concerns relating to prolonged remand detention, overcrowding, sanitation, feeding, healthcare and delays in court proceedings.

The report presents the Committee's observations, findings and recommendations arising from the exercise. It also captures responses and clarifications provided by institutional management where these were sought by the Committee. The objective is to support evidence-based parliamentary oversight and contribute to improvements in institutional capacity, accountability, staff welfare and national security.

Objectives of the Tour

The tour was undertaken to:

- Assess the operational readiness and effectiveness of security institutions and formations visited.
- Examine the adequacy of infrastructure, equipment, mobility, staffing and other operational resources.
- Assess the welfare, working conditions and training needs of security personnel.
- Examine border management arrangements and emerging transnational security threats.
- Assess inter-agency coordination and collaboration in addressing security challenges.
- Engage directly with security personnel and management to identify challenges and practical solutions.
- Gather first-hand information to inform the Committee's oversight work and formulate appropriate recommendations.

Methodology

The Committee adopted a field-based oversight approach, combining direct observation, institutional engagements and consultations with personnel. The methodology included:

- **Direct consultations:** Engagement with officers and personnel to obtain first-hand accounts of operational challenges and working conditions.
- **Physical inspections:** Visits to facilities, operational areas, border posts, accommodation, detention facilities and training installations.
- **Assessment of resources:** Examination of the availability and adequacy of vehicles, equipment, infrastructure, communication facilities and other operational resources.
- **Questions and responses:** Interactive sessions during which Members sought clarification and further information on issues identified.
- **Observation and documentation:** Recording of key findings, concerns and observations from each site to inform the Committee's assessment and recommendations.
- **Institutional engagements:** Meetings and discussions with heads and representatives of security institutions and formations visited.
- The information gathered through these engagements and observations forms the basis of the findings and recommendations contained in this report.

Sites Visited

The tour covered the following institutions and locations, as identified in the original report:

1. Essau Model Police Station
2. Amdallai Border Security Complex
3. Kerewan Police Post
4. Farafenni Police Station
5. Farafenni Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DLEAG) Post
6. Kaur Police Station
7. Kaur DLEAG Post
8. Janjanbureh Prison
9. Janjanbureh Police Station
10. YBK Police Intervention Unit (PIU) Camp
11. Bansang Police Station
12. Bansang DLEAG Post
13. Bansang Gambia Immigration Department (GID) Office
14. Sare Ngai Police Station
15. Basse Police Station
16. Brikamaba Police Station
17. Mansakonko Police Station
18. Kiang Kwinella PIU Base
19. Kalagi Police Station
20. Kanilai Fire and Rescue Station
21. Sibanor Police Station
22. Brikama Fire and Rescue Station
23. Brikama Police Station
24. Banjulinding Police Headquarters
25. Brusubi Police Station
26. Serrekunda Police Station
27. Gambia Immigration Department Training School
28. Drug Law Enforcement Agency, The Gambia (DLEAG) Headquarters
29. Police Intervention Unit (PIU) Headquarters and Training School
30. Gambia Immigration Department Headquarters
31. The Gambia Police Force Headquarters
32. The Gambia Fire and Rescue Services Headquarters
33. Mile II Central Prison

Findings

1. Essau Model Police Station

The Committee inspected the station's general facilities, office accommodation and detention areas. The visit highlighted challenges relating to essential operational resources, office equipment and reliable water supply.

The Committee also observed positive aspects of the station's general cleanliness and the organisation of its facilities.

Recommendations

- Provide adequate office equipment and stationery.
- Improve water supply and storage facilities.
- Ensure appropriate provision for detainee welfare.
- Maintain the station's general cleanliness and improve the facilities where necessary.

2. Amdallai Border Security Complex

The Committee engaged the security agencies operating at Amdallai on border management, infrastructure, logistics and inter-agency cooperation.

The engagements highlighted the importance of maintaining effective coordination among the agencies, improving working facilities and ensuring that personnel have the resources necessary to discharge their responsibilities.

The Committee noted ongoing infrastructure development intended to improve the working environment for the relevant agencies.

Recommendations

- Support the completion and effective use of the border facility.
- Provide appropriate office accommodation and essential equipment for the agencies operating there.
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination among relevant institutions.
- Improve staff welfare, operational logistics and general working conditions.
- Continue engagement with relevant authorities on border management matters.

3. Kerewan Police Post

The Committee inspected the police post and engaged officers on their operational and administrative needs.

The principal concerns related to inadequate office equipment, the condition of detention facilities and limited mobility. The Committee noted the importance of

providing facilities that support effective policing and appropriate treatment of persons in custody.

Recommendations

- Improve detention facilities and ensure appropriate conditions.
- Provide computers, printers, stationery and other office equipment.
- Strengthen operational mobility.
- Improve the general condition of the facilities.

4. Farafenni Police Station

The Committee inspected the ongoing construction of a new police station. The visit highlighted the importance of completing infrastructure projects intended to strengthen policing and administrative services.

Recommendations

- Expedite the completion of the new police station.
- Ensure that the facility is properly equipped before it becomes operational.
- Improve communication and coordination concerning parliamentary oversight engagements.
- Establish appropriate arrangements for maintenance and long-term use of the facility.

5. Farafenni DLEAG Post

The Committee engaged the officers on operational, administrative and welfare challenges affecting the post.

The general issues identified included inadequate office equipment, limited accommodation and logistical constraints. The Committee recognised the importance of ensuring that specialised law enforcement agencies have appropriate facilities and resources.

Recommendations

- Replace obsolete or non-functional office equipment.
- Improve office accommodation.
- Review operational resource requirements.
- Address staffing and staff accommodation needs.
- Strengthen support for the agency's administrative and enforcement responsibilities.

6. Kaur Police Station

The Committee inspected the station and discussed infrastructure, operational mobility, detention arrangements and staff welfare.

The visit highlighted the need for improved office equipment, adequate operational resources, appropriate detention facilities and better accommodation support for personnel.

Recommendations

- Provide essential computers, printers and office equipment.
- Improve operational mobility and fuel support.
- Upgrade detention facilities and ensure appropriate arrangements for persons in custody.
- Review staff accommodation and welfare needs.
- Ensure regular provision of uniforms and other essential work-related items.

7. Kaur DLEAG Post

The Committee engaged DLEAG personnel on their general operational and administrative challenges.

The engagement highlighted the importance of adequate office accommodation, appropriate equipment, staff welfare and effective cooperation between institutions responsible for law enforcement.

Recommendations

- Improve office accommodation and provide the necessary equipment.
- Strengthen operational capacity and logistical support.
- Improve staff accommodation arrangements.
- Enhance cooperation among relevant law enforcement agencies.

8. Janjanbureh Prison

The Committee inspected accommodation, sanitation, kitchen and administrative facilities at Janjanbureh Prison.

The visit identified concerns relating to water supply, the condition of buildings, sanitation, maintenance and the adequacy of some essential facilities. The Committee also noted positive aspects of the institution's operations, including the availability of some transport and medical support arrangements.

Recommendations

- Improve the reliability of water supply.

- Renovate deteriorating buildings and accommodation facilities.
- Improve sanitation, sewage and drainage systems.
- Rehabilitate kitchen facilities.
- Strengthen routine maintenance arrangements.
- Address outstanding operational and staff welfare needs.

9. Janjanbureh Police Station

The Committee inspected administrative offices, accommodation and detention facilities.

The visit highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, sanitation, office furniture, staffing and operational resources. The Committee noted that these needs should be addressed to support effective policing and improve the working environment for personnel.

Recommendations

- Renovate office and accommodation facilities.
- Improve sanitation and essential services.
- Provide adequate office furniture and equipment.
- Review staffing requirements.
- Strengthen operational mobility and electricity backup arrangements.

10. YBK Police Intervention Unit Camp

The Committee engaged PIU management and personnel on accommodation, sanitation, logistical support and general working conditions.

The visit highlighted the need for improved accommodation, appropriate welfare facilities, better sanitation, adequate operational support and sustained attention to the condition of the camp.

Recommendations

- Improve accommodation and welfare facilities.
- Upgrade sanitation and other essential services.
- Provide appropriate office and operational facilities.
- Review fuel and logistical allocations.
- Improve the provision of uniforms and other essential personnel requirements.
- Strengthen maintenance and development planning for the camp.

11. Bansang Police Station

The Committee engaged police personnel on the general challenges affecting service delivery in the area.

The concerns raised included resource constraints, office equipment, mobility, staffing and the condition of facilities. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring that police stations serving communities have the necessary resources to carry out their responsibilities.

Recommendations

- Improve access to office equipment and essential supplies.
- Strengthen operational mobility and logistical support.
- Review staffing requirements.
- Improve station infrastructure and staff welfare.
- Support professional development and effective service delivery.

12. Bansang DLEAG Post

The Committee engaged DLEAG personnel on operational and administrative needs.

The discussion highlighted the importance of appropriate office accommodation, equipment, staffing and operational support for effective law enforcement.

Recommendations

- Provide suitable office accommodation and equipment.
- Strengthen staffing and professional capacity where necessary.
- Improve operational logistics and mobility.
- Ensure adequate support for the agency's assigned responsibilities.

13. Bansang Gambia Immigration Department Office

The Committee engaged immigration personnel on service delivery, administrative capacity and operational requirements.

The issues raised highlighted the need for appropriate equipment, improved working facilities, adequate mobility and support for immigration-related services.

Recommendations

- Improve office accommodation and ICT facilities.
- Strengthen operational and administrative support.
- Provide appropriate mobility and logistical resources.
- Support professional development and improved service delivery.

14. Sare Ngai Police Station

The Committee engaged police and other relevant personnel on infrastructure, staffing, operational resources and general border-area service delivery.

The visit highlighted the importance of adequate mobility, appropriate working facilities, staff support and effective cooperation among institutions operating in the area.

Recommendations

- Strengthen operational resources and mobility.
- Improve infrastructure and essential facilities.
- Review staffing and welfare needs.
- Improve working arrangements for agencies operating in the area.
- Strengthen institutional coordination within the applicable legal frameworks.

15. Basse Police Station

The Committee inspected the station and engaged available personnel on infrastructure, equipment, mobility and staff welfare.

The general findings highlighted the need for adequate office equipment, operational resources, appropriate accommodation and improved support for personnel.

Recommendations

- Provide essential computers, printers and office equipment.
- Strengthen operational mobility.
- Improve staff accommodation arrangements.
- Address detainee welfare and other essential service needs.
- Ensure adequate support for the station's administrative and operational responsibilities.

16. Brikamaba Police Station

The Committee engaged the Police and relevant specialised units on operational capacity, staffing, infrastructure and equipment.

The visit highlighted the need for improved mobility, appropriate office facilities, adequate equipment and sustained support for specialised policing and enforcement responsibilities.

Recommendations

- Strengthen operational mobility and logistical support.
- Provide appropriate office accommodation and equipment.

- Review staffing and professional development needs.
- Improve support for specialised units.
- Maintain effective coordination among the relevant agencies.

17. Mansakonko Police Station

The Committee engaged the Police, Immigration, DLEAG, SIS and Fire and Rescue Services on institutional capacity, infrastructure, staffing, mobility and general service delivery.

The discussions highlighted the importance of adequate operational resources, appropriate facilities, staff welfare and coordination among agencies serving the area.

Recommendations

- Improve operational vehicles and logistical support.
- Renovate and maintain staff accommodation.
- Ensure regular provision of uniforms and essential equipment.
- Strengthen training and professional development.
- Improve infrastructure and office accommodation.
- Support effective coordination among relevant institutions.

18. Kiang Kwinella PIU Base

The Committee visited the PIU base and engaged personnel on accommodation, staffing, mobility, infrastructure and general working conditions.

The findings highlighted the need for improved facilities, appropriate operational support and better provision for personnel welfare.

Recommendations

- Improve accommodation and sanitation facilities.
- Strengthen operational mobility and fuel support.
- Provide adequate office space, furniture and equipment.
- Review staffing and personnel welfare requirements.
- Ensure that infrastructure improvements are supported by appropriate maintenance arrangements.

19. Kalagi Police Station

The Committee inspected the station and received information on infrastructure, staffing, mobility, accommodation and administrative needs.

The visit highlighted challenges relating to the pace of infrastructure development, limited operational resources, the condition of existing facilities and accommodation for personnel.

Recommendations

- Expedite ongoing infrastructure improvements.
- Provide appropriate operational vehicles and equipment.
- Improve office accommodation and furniture.
- Upgrade sanitation and essential public facilities.
- Address staff accommodation and welfare needs.
- Review staffing and logistical requirements.

20. Kanilai Fire and Rescue Station

The Committee engaged Fire and Rescue personnel on emergency response capacity, equipment, water supply, accommodation and staff welfare.

The visit highlighted the need for adequate firefighting resources, reliable access to water, appropriate protective equipment and improved working conditions.

Recommendations

- Strengthen firefighting and emergency response capacity.
- Improve access to water for firefighting operations.
- Provide appropriate operational support vehicles and equipment.
- Improve staff accommodation and sanitation.
- Ensure regular provision of uniforms and protective equipment.
- Support the development of adequate emergency response infrastructure.

21. Sibanor Police Station

The Committee engaged personnel on the general operational demands of the area, including mobility, staffing, infrastructure and community service delivery.

The visit highlighted the need for adequate vehicles, fuel, personnel and essential working facilities to support effective policing across the station's area of responsibility.

Recommendations

- Review vehicle and fuel allocations.
- Strengthen staffing and operational capacity.
- Improve office facilities and essential equipment.
- Address staff welfare and accommodation needs.

- Support effective community policing and public safety initiatives.

22. Brikama Fire and Rescue Station

The Committee visited Brikama Fire and Rescue Station and received briefings on its role in emergency response and the challenges affecting service delivery.

The general findings highlighted the need for improved emergency response resources, reliable vehicles, adequate water infrastructure, appropriate protective equipment and better station facilities. The Committee also noted the importance of public awareness and coordination with relevant authorities on fire prevention and safety.

Recommendations

- Expand and improve fire service infrastructure.
- Strengthen emergency response capacity and equipment.
- Improve water supply and firefighting infrastructure.
- Provide operational support vehicles and protective gear.
- Improve staff welfare and accommodation.
- Strengthen public fire-safety awareness and cooperation with relevant authorities.

23. Brikama Police Station

The Committee conducted a visit to Brikama Police Station and observed ongoing construction intended to strengthen regional police administration and operations.

The Committee recognised the importance of completing the project and ensuring that the new facility is properly equipped to meet its intended purpose.

Recommendations

- Ensure timely completion of the new police headquarters.
- Provide appropriate equipment and facilities before the building becomes operational.
- Establish a sustainable maintenance plan.
- Ensure that the investment contributes to improved policing and administrative services.

24. Banjulinding Police Headquarters

The Committee engaged personnel on the operational and administrative needs of the regional command.

The visit highlighted resource constraints affecting mobility, staffing, office equipment, communication and the delivery of services. The Committee noted the importance of

ensuring that regional commands and their subordinate stations have adequate logistical and administrative support.

Recommendations

- Strengthen operational mobility and fuel support.
- Provide appropriate office equipment and communication facilities.
- Review staffing requirements.
- Improve administrative support and service delivery arrangements.
- Address essential welfare and operational needs across the command.

25. Brusubi Police Station

The Committee visited Brusubi Police Station and received information on staffing, mobility, infrastructure, office equipment, utilities and administrative service delivery.

The findings highlighted the importance of adequate operational resources, improved record management, reliable essential services and better facilities for personnel and the public.

Recommendations

- Strengthen operational mobility and staffing.
- Improve station infrastructure and essential utilities.
- Provide appropriate office equipment and digital record-management facilities.
- Improve staff accommodation and welfare.
- Strengthen arrangements for the safe management and preservation of official records.
- Review the resources required to support prosecution and other administrative responsibilities.

26. Serrekunda Police Station

The Committee engaged personnel on institutional capacity, infrastructure, staffing, operational resources and public service delivery.

The general concerns related to the adequacy of resources and facilities required for effective policing in a busy urban area.

Recommendations

- Review operational and staffing requirements.
- Improve office facilities and equipment.
- Strengthen mobility and logistical support.
- Improve record management and administrative capacity.

- Address staff welfare and infrastructure needs.

27. Gambia Immigration Department Training School

The Committee visited the Gambia Immigration Department Training School and considered the general training and institutional development needs of the Department.

The Committee recognises the importance of professional training in strengthening immigration administration, improving service delivery and ensuring that personnel are equipped to perform their duties in accordance with the law.

Recommendations

- Strengthen training facilities and learning resources.
- Support continuous professional development.
- Ensure adequate equipment and accommodation for training activities.
- Promote appropriate training standards and institutional capacity-building.
- Provide the resources necessary to sustain effective training programmes

28. Drug Law Enforcement Agency, The Gambia Headquarters

The Committee engaged the Agency's leadership and personnel on institutional capacity, operational resources, staffing, infrastructure and professional development.

The general findings highlighted the importance of adequate equipment, mobility, suitable facilities and effective coordination with other relevant institutions.

Recommendations

- Review the Agency's operational and logistical requirements.
- Improve office accommodation and equipment.
- Strengthen staffing and professional development.
- Support appropriate infrastructure and maintenance.
- Enhance lawful cooperation and coordination with relevant agencies.

29. Police Intervention Unit Headquarters and Training School

The Committee engaged the PIU on its institutional responsibilities, training requirements, personnel welfare and general operational support.

The visit highlighted the importance of maintaining suitable training facilities, providing appropriate equipment and ensuring that personnel have the resources and welfare support necessary to carry out their duties professionally.

Recommendations

- Improve training facilities and learning resources.
- Strengthen equipment and logistical support.
- Address accommodation and personnel welfare needs.
- Support continuous professional development.
- Maintain appropriate infrastructure and equipment.

30. Gambia Immigration Department Headquarters

The Committee engaged the Department's management on institutional capacity, infrastructure, mobility, administrative services and the challenges affecting immigration management.

The general findings highlighted the need for reliable equipment, adequate office facilities, improved administrative systems and sufficient operational support.

Recommendations

- Strengthen administrative and operational capacity.
- Improve ICT infrastructure and office equipment.
- Provide appropriate mobility and logistical resources.
- Improve staff accommodation and welfare arrangements.
- Support professional development and efficient service delivery.

31. The Gambia Police Force Headquarters

The Committee engaged police leadership on institutional performance, operational requirements, personnel welfare and challenges affecting service delivery across the Police Force.

The discussions highlighted the need for sustained investment in infrastructure, equipment, staffing, training and staff welfare. The Committee recognises the important role of the Police Force in maintaining public order, preventing crime and protecting communities.

Recommendations

- Review resource requirements across police formations.
- Strengthen operational and administrative capacity.
- Improve infrastructure, equipment and record-management systems.
- Support staff training and professional development.
- Address personnel welfare and accommodation needs.

- Continue reviewing relevant institutional and legal frameworks in accordance with established procedures.

32. The Gambia Fire and Rescue Services Headquarters

The Committee met with the leadership and management of the Fire and Rescue Services to discuss institutional needs and challenges affecting emergency response across the country.

The general findings highlighted the need for expanded fire service coverage, improved firefighting equipment, adequate water infrastructure, reliable operational vehicles and better staff welfare.

The Committee also noted the importance of integrating fire safety considerations into relevant planning and building approval processes and improving public awareness of fire prevention.

Recommendations

- Expand fire service infrastructure and improve regional coverage.
- Strengthen the availability and maintenance of firefighting equipment and vehicles.
- Improve fire hydrants and other water supply arrangements.
- Support appropriate protective equipment and staff welfare.
- Strengthen public fire-safety awareness.
- Promote cooperation with local authorities and relevant institutions on fire prevention and building safety.

34. Mile II Central Prison

The Committee visited Mile II Central Prison and engaged the management of the Gambia Prison Services. Members inspected selected sections of the facility, including the remand wing, prison clinic, convicted inmates' wing and female wing.

The visit focused on the general conditions of custody, sanitation, healthcare, infrastructure, staff welfare and the administration of justice.

The Committee identified concerns relating to the condition of some facilities, access to essential services and the need for sustained maintenance and improvement of correctional infrastructure. The visit also underscored the importance of adequate healthcare, sanitation, humane treatment and effective coordination between correctional and justice-sector institutions.

The Committee noted that delays in the administration of justice and the management of remand cases require continued attention by the relevant authorities. Individual cases and personal details are excluded from this public version.

Recommendations

- Improve sanitation, water supply and essential services within correctional facilities.
- Maintain and rehabilitate buildings and accommodation.
- Strengthen access to healthcare and other essential services.
- Improve case management and coordination with relevant justice-sector institutions.
- Address avoidable delays in court proceedings through appropriate institutional measures.
- Strengthen access to legal assistance and relevant support services.
- Improve staff welfare and operational support.
- Continue efforts to promote rehabilitation and reintegration in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

Cross-Cutting Findings

Across the institutions visited, the Committee identified several recurring issues requiring the attention of the relevant authorities.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

Some institutions require rehabilitation, improved office accommodation, better sanitation and reliable access to essential services. The Committee noted the importance of maintaining existing facilities while completing ongoing infrastructure projects.

Operational Resources and Equipment

The availability of appropriate vehicles, fuel, office equipment, communication resources and specialised tools remains important to effective service delivery. Resource requirements differ between institutions and should be assessed according to their respective mandates and operational needs.

Human Resources and Training

Staffing levels, professional development and access to appropriate training affect institutional effectiveness. The Committee considers continued investment in human resources essential to building a capable and professional security sector.

Staff Welfare and Accommodation

The Committee noted the importance of suitable accommodation, uniforms, protective equipment and other welfare provisions for personnel. These needs should be considered as part of institutional planning and budgeting.

Border Management and Inter-Agency Cooperation

The institutions engaged during the tour highlighted the importance of cooperation and coordination in border management, immigration administration and law enforcement. Continued engagement among relevant agencies is necessary to improve service delivery within their respective legal mandates.

Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety

Fire and Rescue Services require appropriate infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, protective gear and water supply arrangements to respond effectively to emergencies. Public awareness and cooperation with relevant authorities are also important in preventing incidents and reducing risks.

Correctional Conditions and Access to Justice

Correctional facilities require sustained attention to infrastructure, sanitation, healthcare and the welfare of inmates and personnel. Coordination among correctional institutions, courts and other justice-sector stakeholders is also important in addressing avoidable delays and improving the administration of justice.

Institutional Planning and Accountability

The Committee considers effective planning, budgeting, procurement, maintenance and monitoring important to ensuring that public resources are used efficiently and institutional needs are addressed in a timely manner.

General Recommendations

Based on the general findings of the oversight tour, the Committee recommends the following measures for consideration by the relevant ministries, departments, agencies and other authorities.

Improve Budgetary and Operational Support

The relevant authorities should review institutional resource requirements and ensure that budget proposals adequately reflect essential operational responsibilities, maintenance needs and service delivery priorities.

Upgrade Infrastructure and Facilities

Priority should be given to rehabilitating inadequate facilities, completing ongoing construction projects, improving sanitation and water supply, and providing appropriate office accommodation.

Strengthen Equipment and Mobility

The relevant institutions should be provided with suitable vehicles, fuel, office equipment, communication resources and other essential tools in accordance with assessed needs and available resources.

Invest in Human Resources

Institutions should review staffing requirements, strengthen professional training and development, and improve access to appropriate technical and specialised capacity-building opportunities.

Improve Staff Welfare

The relevant authorities should give sustained attention to staff accommodation, uniforms, protective equipment, healthcare and other essential welfare provisions.

Strengthen Border and Inter-Agency Coordination

Relevant agencies should continue to improve cooperation, information sharing and joint planning within their respective statutory mandates and applicable legal frameworks.

Improve Fire and Emergency Response Capacity

The Fire and Rescue Services should receive appropriate support to improve emergency response, including equipment, vehicles, water infrastructure, protective gear and public fire-safety education.

Improve Correctional Conditions and Access to Justice

Relevant authorities should take practical steps to improve correctional infrastructure, sanitation, healthcare and welfare, while strengthening coordination and case management across the justice sector.

Strengthen Maintenance and Institutional Planning

Institutions should establish and implement appropriate maintenance plans, monitor infrastructure projects and ensure that newly completed facilities are adequately equipped and sustained.

Conclusion

The oversight tour provided the Standing Committee on Defence and Security with a valuable opportunity to assess, first-hand, the operational realities of institutions responsible for safeguarding the peace, security and territorial integrity of The Gambia. The engagements and site visits demonstrated the commitment, professionalism and resilience of security personnel across the country, while also revealing significant challenges that continue to affect their ability to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

A recurring concern across the institutions visited was the inadequacy of essential operational resources, particularly vehicles, fuel, communication equipment, office facilities and protective equipment. These constraints are further compounded by deteriorating infrastructure, inadequate accommodation, limited training opportunities and welfare concerns, including insufficient access to health services and insurance. In several instances, personnel have had to personally contribute towards basic operational and welfare needs, a situation that warrants serious attention.

The Committee also observed significant challenges relating to border management, porous crossing points, irregular migration, drug trafficking, smuggling and other transnational security threats. These challenges underscore the need for stronger border surveillance, improved mobility and infrastructure, and enhanced coordination among the various security institutions operating at strategic locations.

The tour further highlighted the importance of strengthening emergency response capacity, particularly within the Fire and Rescue Service, as well as improving the operational capacity of specialised institutions such as the Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Immigration Department, Intelligence services and the Police. The effectiveness of the security sector depends on the ability of these institutions to work together, supported by adequate resources, appropriate legislation and effective institutional arrangements.

The Committee was particularly concerned by the conditions observed within correctional facilities, including severe overcrowding, prolonged remand detention, delays in court proceedings, inadequate healthcare, poor sleeping conditions and challenges affecting access to justice. These issues have implications for the rights and dignity of persons in custody and require urgent and sustained attention.

Overall, the tour reaffirmed that national security is a shared institutional responsibility that requires adequate investment, effective coordination, capable personnel and appropriate legal and policy frameworks. The Committee therefore considers the findings and recommendations contained in this report essential to strengthening the capacity, effectiveness and resilience of the security sector.

The Committee further emphasises that addressing these challenges should not be viewed solely as an expenditure, but as an investment in national stability, public safety, institutional effectiveness and sustainable development. The Committee remains committed to exercising its constitutional oversight mandate and to following up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report.

Composition of the Delegation

Hon. Samba Jallow — Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Almamy Gibba — Member

Hon. Sankung Dampha — Member

Hon. Musa Badjie — Member

Hon. Abdou Sowe — Member

Hon. Fatou K. Jawara — Member

Hon. Muhamed Kante — Member

Ms. Rassiatou H. Jallow — Committee Clerk

Mr. Alhajie Omar Cham — Communications Officer

Ms. Fatoumata Jandi — Intern

Mr Edirisa Badjie — Driver