

National Assembly, New Assembly Building, Reginald Pye Lane, Banjul, The Gambia

[OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT]

14TH SITTING OF THE 2ND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE 6TH LEGISLATURE

National Assembly Proceedings of

Wednesday, 1st July 2026

MOTIONS:

Matter of the Day & Adjournment Debate

NUMBER: 2

VOLUME: 14

2026 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

Table of Contents

Table of Contents..... 2

1. **Prayers**..... 3

2. **Communication from the Chair** 3

3. **Corrections and Approval of the Record of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sitting of Tuesday, 30th June 2026** 5

4. **Motion in accordance with Order 51:** 12

   i. Matter of the Day on the Protection of the Gambian Dalasi *[By Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, Member for Old Yundum & Deputy Majority Leader]* 12

5. **Motion in accordance with Oder 54[1]:** 34

   i. Motion for Debate on the Adjournment of the August Assembly Sine die *[By Hon. Member for Kantora & Majority Leader]*..... 34

6. **Adjournment**..... 45

1. **Prayers**

[The Assembly met at 10:30 a.m. in the New National Assembly Building, Reginald Pye Lane, Banjul.]

[The Speaker, Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta, read the Prayers.]

[The Speaker in the Chair]

The Assembly was called to Order.

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, you may continue.

2. **Communication from the Chair**

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today's sitting marks the end of the Second Ordinary Session of the National Assembly in the 2026 Legislative Year. This was precisely a four-week Ordinary Session with a lot of businesses prominent among which were the consideration of critical bills, including other important motions and reports.

Honourable Members, as always been said, the business of the Plenary can never be exhausted. Today, we will, therefore, start the motion on adjournment debate to adjourn this Ordinary Session sine die.

Honourable Members, on your behalf, let me welcome the Honourable Minister of Agriculture here present. We are hopeful that some other Honourable Ministers will join us later, including the Vice President. This is a unique sitting of the Assembly at the end of each Ordinary Session allowing Honourable Members the opportunity to discuss and debate on

cross-cutting issues which of course requires the attention of the Executive. At the appropriate time of the debate, I will invite His Excellency the Vice President and Honourable Ministers to also participate in the debate and respond to issues raised regarding their portfolios.

Honourable Members, our National Assembly journey over the course of this Session manifests our collective commitment to the betterment of our society. We have grappled with complex issues and made decisions that will impact the lives of our constituents for years to come.

Honourable Members, as we adjourn this Session, I encourage each of us to reflect on the work we have accomplished during this Session and the work that lies ahead. Let us continue to engage with our constituents, seek their feedback and work collaboratively across party lines for the greater good of our nation.

Finally, Honourable Members, I want to express my deep appreciation for your commitment, passion and dedication to the service of our country. As we adjourn, let us carry forward the lessons learnt, the bonds forged, and the spirit of cooperation that defines our democratic institution. Together, we can build a brighter future for all of us. I thank you.

Clerk, may we proceed?

3. Corrections and Approval of the Record of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sitting of Tuesday, 30th June 2026

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the Record of Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 30th June 2026, is before us for corrections and approval. Can any Honourable Member please move a motion for the corrections and approval of the said Record of Votes and Proceedings? Yes, Honourable Member for Jimara.

HON ESSA CONTEH [JIMARA]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I so move the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for Jimara. Any seconder, Honourable Members? Yes, Honourable Nominated Member, Maimuna Ceesay.

HON MAIMUNA CEESAY [NOMINATED]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I so second the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Nominated Member, Maimuna Ceesay.

[Question Proposed]

[That the Record of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sitting of Tuesday, 30th June 2026, be corrected and approved.]

Honourable Members, we all have copies of the said Record of Votes and Proceedings. As usual, we will look through it page by page

beginning with Page 1 to be followed by your comments and observations.

Yes, Honourable Member for Jarra Central.

HON KEBBA JALLOW [JARRA CENTRAL]: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, on Page 1 Roman numeral two [ii]: *'[By the Honourable Majority Leader and Member… Kantora.]'* We should insert the word *"for"* between *'Member'* and *'Kantora'* so that it can read as: *[By the Honourable Majority Leader and Member "for" Kantora.]*

THE SPEAKER: Noted.

HON KEBBA JALLOW [JARRA CENTRAL]: Okay.

THE SPEAKER: Any more on Page 1? Yes, Honourable Member for Wuli East.

HON SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Just the same correction like yesterday. On Roman figure three [iii] and four [iv], the name of the Committee is Public Enterprises. We have many enterprises; it is not just one public enterprise. So, we need to put an *"s"* on that *Enterprise*. Have you seen it? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, that is Roman figure three [iii]: *'Public Enterprise Committee'*, the word 'Enterprise' is taking *"s"*. Any more on Page 1?

Honourable Members, we now move to Page 2. I think the Member for Wuli East talked about four [iv], is it not? Roman figure four [iv] is the

same, *"s"* to be added to *Enterprise*. Any more on Page 2? We move to Page 3. Page 4. Yes, Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal.

HON ALHAGIE BABOU CEESAY [SABACH SANJAL]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Number 3, *"Laying of Papers and Reports"*, if you read that sentence underneath the article 'the' before Gambia should be capitalised and wherever it appears as in *"The Gambia"*.

THE SPEAKER: On the first line of Number 3[i] *'Government of the Gambia'*, the *'t'* in *'the'* should be capitalised. Thank you, Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal. Any more on Page 4?

And I just remember he said, wherever you see 'the Gambia', the 't' in 'the' should be capitalised. Okay. We move to *Pages 5 and 6*. Yes, Honourable Member for Nianija.

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. The first item on Page 6: *'[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to] The Assembly unanimously agreed to adopt the report with amendments.'*

THE SPEAKER: Page?

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: The first item on *Page 6*.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: *'The Assembly unanimously agreed to adopt the report with amendments.'* I could recall that I made a proposal for some Members to replace other Members but the one I proposed was declined. Essentially, that proposal failed. Basically, to say

the report was adopted with amendments was not effected because the proposal was declined. I think it should be *"without amendments"*. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Are you saying that the report had no amendments?

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: The proposal I made was declined.

THE SPEAKER: Are you the only one who made a proposal? So, when you talk about proposals, yours may be rejected, but others may be inserted. So, let us move.

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: There was no other proposal, to my knowledge.

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, Honourable Members. Honourable Majority and Minority Leaders, can you come please?

Honourable Members, let me apologise. I was trying to do some consultations to get the facts of what had happened on the floor of the National Assembly yesterday. I received briefings from the Table Office, and call the two leaders to consult with them on what actually transpired.

From my information, there were proposed changes when one Member withdrew his nomination in favour of another person. The second person is the Honourable Nominated Member who rejected the proposal, but after numerous appeals she was told to accept the proposal. There was silence at the end of the day. The final list was read out which includes

her name. And on the basis of that, it was approved. So, that means, there was amendment.

Now, what we are trying to do… because we are still not sure if she is accepting or rejecting but that is what has transpired yesterday. If any of the Members declares that he/she wants to resign or go out of the Committee, he/she can reach out to the leaders and tell them. Then, he/she will be substituted and proposal will be made for him/her to be replaced.

As we stand now, the list was amended, and the final list was read and put before you. You are the ones on record. I just want to make that clear. So, there were amendments.

Yes, Honourable Member for Nianija.

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: This is an Assembly of records as anything said here is based on records. When I made that proposal, she stood here and used her mic to decline it until I was doing my hands like this. Honestly, if anything happened after that whatever they are telling you here and there, this is what I have to tell you as the proposal came from me.

THE SPEAKER: I was informed but what happened was that the proposal came from you and she rejected but appeals were made. After all those things, the list of the names was read out to you people.

Yes, Honourable Member for Jarra Central.

HON KEBBA JALLOW [JARRA CENTRAL]: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. Exactly, what you have been informed by the two leaders together with the Table Office was what had transpired here.

Initially, she declined, but the Deputy Speaker, who was presiding over the proceedings yesterday, appealed to her and there was silence. Wherever there is silence, there is conscience. *… [Desk thumping]*

THE SPEAKER: I was made to understand the final list was read out, which includes her name. So, Honourable Members, it is still open. If Member A feels he wants to leave the Committee, he can reach out to his leaders, and they will meet to see what can be done for his replacement. All right.

Yes, Honourable Member for Lower Fulladu West.

HON GIBBI MBALLOW [LOWER FULLADU WEST]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think there were proposals not only that. So, for me, my stand is that if one of those Members wanted to withdraw and other proposals were made, we have to consider all that.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, we are not debating on yesterday's proceedings. We are looking at the minutes whether they are accurately reflecting what happened but not renewing a debate.

Honourable Members, so the Assembly unanimously agreed to adopt the report with amendments. So, we continue on with Page 6. We now move to Page 7. Honourable Members, we will now move to the last, Page 8. Honourable Members, *… [Interrupted]*

HON SAINEY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: Honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Who is talking?

HON SAINEY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: Member for Lower Saloum.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for Lower Saloum, what is it?

HON SAINEY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: Honourable Speaker, on the last page: *"Honourable Sainey Jawara moves…"* Yes, the same paragraph where it states: *"the motion was seconded by Honourable Tamsir Cham, Member for…"*. I think it was "Member for Banjul South" who seconded the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Are you sure it was Banjul South?

HON SAINEY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: I am sure.

THE SPEAKER: You are sure. Where is Banjul South? Honourable Tamsir, Member for Lower Niumi, did you second the motion?

HON TAMSIR CHAM [LOWER NIUMI]: Can he remind me, please? *… [Laughter]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, when Lower Saloum moved to adjourn the debate on the motion, it was seconded by somebody. According to the records, we have Member for Lower Niumi. So, Member for Lower Niumi, did you second it?

HON TAMSIR CHAM [LOWER NIUMI]: Yes. He is right. I get it now. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: He said what?

HON SAINEY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: No, Honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Banjul South? The Table Office also agrees and believes it was Banjul South. Yes, Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal.

HON ALHAGIE BABOU CEESAY [SABACH SANJAL]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think it is just an error. He seconded the motion the day before yesterday, not yesterday. Sorry. He was not around. He left before we*… [Interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for Janjanbureh.

HON OMAR JAMMEH [JANJANBUREH]: I think Banjul South is here, but just to confirm, it was Banjul South who seconded the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you very much.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

[That the Record of Votes and Proceedings of the National Assembly Sitting of Tuesday, 30th June 2026, be approved with amendments.]

Clerk, may we proceed?

4. **Motion in accordance with Order 51:**

i. **Matter of the Day on the Protection of the Gambian Dalasi**
[By Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, Member for Old Yundum & Deputy Majority Leader]

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, my office is in receipt of the request made by the Honourable Member for Old Yundum seeking permission*… [Interrupted] …* Just raise your tags, Honourable Members. I know she is not blind. *… [Laughter]*

Honourable Members, my office is in receipt of the request made by the Honourable Member for Old Yundum seeking permission under Order 51[1 & 2] of our Standing Orders to make a statement to the Assembly on the issue of the protection of the Gambian Dalasi.

Honourable Members, having considered the request of the Honourable Member under the provisions of Standing Order 51[3a, b, c, d] & 51[5] and noting that the request has satisfied the Standing Orders provisions, I now grant the Honourable Member leave to make his statement to the Assembly.

However, I wish to draw the attention of Honourable Members to Order 51[8] of the Standing Orders, which reads and I quote: "*No individual statement on a Matter of the Day shall exceed three minutes, and the time allowed for a Matter of the Day shall not exceed 30 minutes in total*."

Therefore, I urge Honourable Members to observe Order 51[9] of the Standing Orders for guidance. I now call on the Honourable Member for Old Yundum and Deputy Majority Leader to make his statement to the Assembly. Yes, Honourable Member.

HON ABDOULIE CEESAY [OLD YUNDUM & DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER]: Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to draw the attention of this Assembly and indeed the

nation to a matter of public concern; that is, the protection of the Gambian legal tender, our Dalasi.

The Dalasi is far more than a medium of exchange; it is a symbol of our sovereignty, the backbone of our economy, and the daily lifeline of our citizens, yet a troubling practice has taken root as businesses and individuals demand payments in foreign currencies for domestic transactions. This is not only unlawful, but it undermines the Dalasi, weakens financial stability and erodes public trust in our institutions.

The Central Bank of The Gambia Act, 2018 clearly establishes the Dalasi as the sole legal tender for domestic payments. No law permits the use of foreign currency in our markets, except for international trade and transactions which are explicitly exempted. When hotels, landlords or traders demand Dollar, Euro or CFA, they are not only breaking the law but the faith with Gambian people.

This Assembly must treat this matter with seriousness. Strengthening the Central Bank's regulatory and monitoring role is essential. Enforcement must be rigorous and violation must be met with swift justice.

Equally, this is a call to the people. Every Gambian must be guided of our currency. If any citizen encounters a demand for foreign currency in local transactions, let it be reported immediately to the nearest Police. Such violations must be treated as economic offenses, prosecuted without delay and punished according to law.

Honourable Members, this is not merely about economy or economics but about sovereignty, dignity and fairness. The Dalasi must remain the

heartbeat of our nation. To allow foreign currencies to dominate our domestic markets is to surrender our independence piece by piece.

We must, therefore, unite in this course and strengthen the Central Bank, empower our citizens, and protect the Dalasi. In doing so, we are safeguarding our economy, upholding the law, and honouring the trust of the Gambian people.

Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. *… [Desk thumping]*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for Old Yundum. The floor is now open for Honourable Members who wish to contribute.

Hah! I have a list. 'Subhana'Allah'! Hey, hey, this list, I know we cannot exhaust it. Almost everybody's name is here, and you know we have only 30 minutes for the whole thing. I do not know, but even with two minutes, not everybody will be able to participate. So, we just go by order. So, at the time we closing off*… [Paused]*

Honourable Member for Wuli East, I did not give you the 3 or 2 minutes. If you want to make amendments, you have to move your own motion to propose something different, and Members may accept or not for me to make that determination. Is it Nianija?

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: I am raising my tag to second the motion and to participate.

THE SPEAKER: I have a list.

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: Okay. Let me second it, please.

THE SPEAKER: There is no seconding.

HON AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: I want to second. I … *[Interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: It is a statement.

HON SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Honourable Speaker, I move that we allow each Member to be limited to 2 minutes.

THE SPEAKER: Wuli East, are you moving a motion?

HON SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Yes. May we hear it?

HON SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: I move the motion that each Member be limited to 2 minutes so that more people can speak. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Any seconder to the motion? Yes, Honourable Member for Foni Bintang Karanai.

HON BAKERY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: I so second the motion.

THE SPEAKER: The motion has been moved and seconded, so I put the question.

[Question Proposed, Put and Not Agreed to]

[That each speaker limits him/herself to a maximum of 2 minutes.]

THE SPEAKER: So, we stick to the 3 minutes. I now invite the Honourable Member for Central Baddibu.

HON SULAYMAN SAHO [CENTRAL BADDIBU & MINORITY CHIEF WHIP]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to thank the Honourable Member for Old Yundum for bringing this important matter, protection of Gambian Dalasi, to our attention.

So, we all know that protection of Gambian Dalasi cannot be done without sound economic policies. *… [Interrupted] …* They want to regulate the system not me. So, the protection of Dalasi cannot be done without sound economic*… [Interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: Sorry, Honourable Member.

HON SULAYMAN SAHO [CENTRAL BADDIBU & MINORITY CHIEF WHIP]: Some minutes are taken? All right. Thank you. Honourable Speaker, I said this Matter of the Day is very important as it talks about protection of the Dalasi. Protection of the Dalasi cannot be done without having sound policies and measures taken to maintain the value, its stability and public confidence.

So, Central Bank being the bankers Bank and the Government of The Gambia failed in its responsibility. It is good that you brought it as a member of the Government. The Government has a role to play to make sure that there is financial discipline in this country. The policies we have are weak and promote inflation in this country. Our foreign exchange reserves are not well managed. There are numerous factors contributing to the weakening of the Dalasi.

In addition, inflation is rising and even the ordinary man in Baddibu knows that the Dalasi is not stable. Now, we cannot protect the Dalasi when there is counterfeit money all over the country. The money exchange bureaus are not controlled in this country. Every nook and cranny you visit, there is a corner exchanging money.

Moreover, sometimes you see the President displaying or giving people foreign currency. *… [Desk thumping] …* So, where is the respect for the foreign currency or Dalasi? So, if you want the Dalasi to be protected, it has to start with the leadership and the Government. No. Do not observe me. 'Sulu' and 'sang', wait for your turn. *… [Laughter] …* There is no control over our financial institutions to promote confidence in the financial system in this country.

Therefore, in conclusion, protecting the Dalasi requires concerted actions by the Central Bank of The Gambia and the financial institutions as well as the business community.

So, Deputy Majority Leader, thank you for bringing this, and we advise the President and Central Bank to take actions. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for Central Baddibu. I now call on the Honourable Member for Foni Bintang Karanai.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. For me, if there is anything that the politicians should be worried about, it is the way our Dalasi is managed as it is depreciating day in, day out. And this is something that matters to every individual because the Dalasi is us and we are the Dalasi.

Now, there were moments when I even asked the Ministers why we are allowing that. When the Senegalese are crossing the Senegambia Bridge, they pay in CFA. They said so that we can have foreign currency. For me, that is a no-go area. And you see, sometimes that is where we started from and most of the Members were in support of that.

Like you said, people pay their rents in Dollar in this Gambia. Some schools are charging in foreign currencies. And we are reliably informed that sometimes even the President, when giving out money, hands it over in foreign currency which becomes credit to other people and become impressive. Those are sensitive and very important.

HON FATOU K. JAWARA [NOMINATED]: Honourable Speaker, point of clarification.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Honourable Speaker, Standing Order 17[f] *"While a Member is speaking all other Members shall be silent and shall not make unseemly interruption."* That is sensitive. *… [Laughter].* Okay.

HON FATOU K. JAWARA [NOMINATED]: It is a point of clarification, Honourable Speaker, to draw your attention. Honourable Speaker, point of order. *… [Laughter]*

[Point of Order]

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Foni Bintang Karanai, you may set records. You know that your time is going.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Yes. I am, on a point of order, Honourable Speaker. I rise on Order 17[f]: *"While a*

Member is speaking all other Members shall be silent and shall not make unseemly interruption." While I am speaking, the Nominated Member is making unseemly interruption by putting her mic on and saying point of… I do not know what… observation… point of observation. That is unseemly interruption.

HON FATOU K. JAWARA [NOMINATED]: I said clarification.

THE SPEAKER: So, Honourable Member for Foni Bintang Karanai, your time is gone.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Honourable Speaker, my time is not gone.

THE SPEAKER: Your time is gone.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Honourable Speaker, I rise on a point of order, and you have to make a ruling.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Foni Bintang Karanai, your time is gone.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: I agree that my time is done, but you have to make a ruling.

THE SPEAKER: You know, you are doing something very unusual. It is normal here that when Members… even when he was speaking, there were people talking. Telling him no and doing one or two things.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: But people were not talking.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please do not argue. Please, take your seat for the time being. So, you are allotted time, and your time is on. If Members are disturbing and there is no point of order, just ask the Honourable Speaker to ask Members to give you chance.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: No, Honourable Member, just hold on. At the time you were talking about the point of order, somebody said 'point of clarification' and somebody also said on the ground 'point of order'. I listened to all of them, but I kept quiet because some of them are murmuring to themselves.

All right. I am saying that you are allotted time, so make use of that time. It is very parliamentary that a Member will be talking, parliamentarians will be giggling here and there to distract him. That is normal. It is for the Chair to put them to order to enable one to speak.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: Honourable Speaker, the only problem while I was speaking was that one cannot switch on his/her mic. One can say 'point of observation' and whatever, but he/she cannot switch on his/her mic while I am speaking. That interrupts what I am saying. That is my point. That is what she did, honestly speaking. She switched on her mic and she was continuously doing that. Honourable Speaker, that is not parliamentary.

THE SPEAKER: All of you, 99% of parliamentarians do that. Honourable Member, please do not argue. Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal, sorry. Member for Sabach Sanjal just hold on. We have a

technical issue. Is it back? Okay. We had a technical problem. Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal, you can go ahead.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: My time was not finished, Honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You started talking. I said "do not talk!" Continue this thing… You insisted that you are going to make it; you made it. Your time is gone; it is gone. I am not giving you back, please.

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: *… [Inaudible] …* that mention the time. Honourable Speaker, it reflects there, and that is why we are seeing it.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, *… [Inaudible]*

HON BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG KARANAI]: But we have *… [Inaudible] …* who use to see it from the back there.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal.

HON ALHAGIE BABOU CEESAY [SABACH SANJAL]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I never knew that the Honourable Member for Central Baddibu do go to State House to look for foreign money, but today he has confirmed to the National Assembly that he normally goes to State House to look for foreign money. *… [Desk thumping]*

Honourable Speaker, with regard to the topic, I want to first thank the mover of the motion, Honourable Member for Old Yundum. Honourable Speaker, it is indeed a national interest, and the currency is not only a subject of exchange…

THE SPEAKER: We are timing you here. Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal, do not waste your time.

HON ALHAGIE BABOU CEESAY [SABACH SANJAL]: Oh! Thank you. Honourable Speaker, I want to say that the currency is not only a medium of exchange but also what we refer to as a symbol of our sovereignty, and it needs to be respected.

Therefore, I will call on all citizens of this country to also report cases of domestic transactions done in foreign exchange. It is something that we need to be reporting so that the authorities responsible can take it as a matter of seriousness. I think this thing is very important.

However, it is also important to note that there are regulations that regulates or tells us when it is permitted for foreign currencies to be used in our domestic transactions as established by the Central Bank Act, 2018. But we must thank Central Bank of The Gambia, for they are doing a lot to strengthen our currency. So, we cannot be at the Chamber to discourage the work that Central Bank of The Gambia is doing.

Honourable Speaker, collective responsibility is very important as far as the issue of using foreign currency in our domestic transactions is concerned. We need to report cases so as to help authorities responsible to take charge of situations in which it arises.

I definitely thank the mover of the motion for bringing this important issue.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member for Sabach Sanjal. I now invite the Honourable Member for Upper Saloum.

HON ALHAGIE MBOW [UPPER SALOUM]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. And I thank the Deputy Majority Leader for bringing such an important topic as matters of the day.

Honourable Speaker, I think The Gambia is one of the few countries that somebody can just walk into any commercial bank and open a foreign currency account very easily just like opening a Dalasi account. The Gambia is also one of the countries that you can actually deposit cash and at the end of the week or month, they would do cash shipment to your customers outside The Gambia in a very simple and fast manner.

I think there is something that needs to be done to ensure that we control that because those cash are deposited by people in the banks. One can relate it to something. We need to be very careful because I am assuming money laundering and drug money are very simple to do in the commercial banks because I was working there as well.

Honourable Speaker, we also need to be cognizant of two things: the Dalasi being used by ***3 million people***, and let us say the CFA is being used by over ***150 million people***, so you want to compare to ensure that the Dalasi is stronger than the CFA. Something needs to be done to prevent our people from using the CFA in importation. As long as our imports are increasing, we are bound to use CFA or other foreign currency.

So, the net effect is that we need to be able to produce within to reduce that importation. *… [Desk thumping] …* When you reduce importation,

really you do not need foreign currency to buy. But what happens is we are importing too much even across our border to Senegal, Mali, Niger, whatever. *… [Desk thumping]*

So, what happen is we need to build our own economy and that is the domestic economy. And to do that, we must be able to support our people, the farmers. You know, when you go to Farafenni, for example, you go to Kaur, Casamance and import carrots, onions, I mean, think about that; why should we import carrots or cabbage? You know what I am saying.

So, we must be very careful and support our local industries, farmers and other… where we do not need to go and you know, these are international markets. Of course, somebody can go to Mali, whatever. But let us also develop our own. As long as we are not developing our own, we are going to go across the border and to go across the border Dalasi is not going anywhere. *… [Desk thumping] …* And that is one of the reasons the Dalasi finds it very difficult.

Now, the other aspect also… Let me look at my time. It is about the Fintech companies. The Fintech companies actually are making cross-border money transfer simple, but people are saying that they are the cause. Yes, they are the cause, but think about this even if they do not come, we go to the black market. Even if the Fintech companies are not available to do this online transfer, then you have to go. The other option you have is to go to the black market buy CFA or any other, and then you go.

But the most important thing I want to say to conclude, Honourable Speaker, is that we must develop our local markets to ensure that what

we are importing from across the borders is actually reduced. Unless and until we do that, the issue of the Dalasi against a currency that is used by hundreds and millions of people is going to continue. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for Upper Saloum. I now invite Honourable Nominated Member Kebba Lang Fofana.

HON KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, before speaking on the motion, I just want to make a clarification regarding the statement made by the Member for Central Baddibu.

The Member for Central Baddibu needs to contextualise issues, and I will refer you to the second paragraph of the Matter of the Day, where it says that businesses and individuals demanding payments in foreign currency for domestic transactions. Unless and until he can prove to this honourable Assembly that he did demand payments from the President in Dollars or Euros, his statement does not hold water. He cannot stand in this hallowed Chamber talking about individuals giving out money when we are talking about business transactions. *… [Desk thumping]*

Maybe, the Member for Central Baddibu can enlighten this august Assembly where he had a business transaction, and then he was charged in CFA, Dollars or Euros. Other than that, I think the xenophobia is real and that was a mere political statement.

Having said that, Honourable Speaker, I stand to firmly condemn the rise of using CFA and other foreign currencies in charging transactions that occur within the borders of The Gambia. The Governor of the

Central Bank has said this over and over without ambiguity that the only legal tender in The Gambia is the Dalasi, and using foreign currencies to charge for rental payments and other business transactions has severe consequences on our Dalasi. It really induces an artificial domestic demand on it; thereby, increasing inflation which in effect increases the cost of goods and services on our citizens.

The call to action is to every Gambian instead of politicising it. What we need to say is that we are the people who pay rent, go out there to buy goods and services. As representatives of our people, we need to tell them unequivocally that say 'mbang', 'ma banyi', 'duma ko deff' to anybody who charges you in CFA. Anybody who charges you in Euros, say no, the only currency I would use is Dalasi. But to stop Kebba Lang Fofana from giving Dollar to the Member for Central Baddibu is just a political statement, and that should be what we are done.

Honourable Speaker, I thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Nominated Member Kebba Lang Fofana. I now invite the Honourable Member for Wuli East.

HON SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Yes. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, the fate of our currency is not a moral issue; it is an economic matter. And right from the beginning of his statement, he said "this is not merely about economics", but everything about the currency is economics. If you neglect the economy, you are neglecting the currency. They are intertwined or one and one. In fact, the currency is number one.

So, Honourable Speaker, we need to develop the economy first. The granite used to be the number one state exchange for foreign currency*… [Inaudible] …* then we went to tourism which was doing very well. But when Covid 19 came, it died almost. We are trying to resuscitate it.

Now, it is the remittances that we are depending on, but that one too if we do not take good care of it, it will escape us. So, we need to come up with measures that will ensure that our sectors of the economy… Even these three sectors, if we have taken good care of, manage and implement them well, we will be able to sustain the Dalasi the way we want.

But under the conditions, Honourable Speaker, just like the Upper Saloum Member has said, we must be able to add value to our products to be able to attract more foreign exchange. The more foreign exchange you have, the stronger your Dalasi becomes, but if the economy is in tatters, our currency cannot be in good order.

So, what I want to say is that we put in concerted effort and ensure that the groundnut, agriculture and tourism sectors are not be neglected. We must help our people outside sending foreign currencies to ensure that they would make good use of their foreign currencies to be able to get into our businesses and invest into the productive sectors and then have value and so on.

Then the Central Bank will come up with its measures to control the Dalasi and the management of foreign currencies in the country. Then, everything will follow the way it should follow. Unless we do that, we

will continue to have the Dalasi depreciating and the economy will go in tatters.

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. *… [Desk thumping]*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for Wuli East. I now invite the Honourable Nominated Member Maimuna Ceesay.

HON MAIMUNA CEESAY [NOMINATED]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the floor. I would like to add my voice to thank the mover of the Matter of the Day.

I think this Matter of the Day speaks for me today because being a domestic business woman, I am currently on a standoff with my landlord for three months requesting the rent to be paid in Dollars, which I insisted. I am not going to do it unless and until The Gambia has changed the currency to a foreign currency instead of Dalasi. *… [Desk thumping] …* If it is changed to Dollars, I will pay in Dollars; if it is to Euros, I will pay it in Euros.

It is just on the 15th of the month my girl called me that, you know, she thinks right now they are willing to take the Dalasi. I said, "I am not paying until end of month". And today is the 1st, and I am yet to pay, and I am also trying to see that if he can take any legal action against me. *… [Desk thumping]*

On that note, Honourable Speaker, the nationalism we need to practice first is to love our own country. The Gambians need to have a sense of nationality in us. When you are committed to your country, you cannot

accept such an unlawful practice by your fellow Gambians, thereby giving foreigners the power to do the same to your own people.

My landlord is not a foreigner. To my surprise, the only complaint he is using is that he normally uses foreign currency to do his export and import in The Gambia. Do I care about that? I care less about it because it does not concern me. That is his business. We know that international businesses require foreign currency, but here we are talking about local or domestic businesses in the country.

How can he allow me to pay in Dollars simply to gain business profit on my flesh? I am not going to accept that. Had it not been for each and every one of those tenants who are required to pay in Dollars or any other foreign currency denied payment, we would not have reached this point today. *… [Desk thumping]*

Honourable Speaker, the Central Bank also need to enforce the existing monetary forces. They have the laws to continue monitoring some of these transactions. The Gambian Government also need to pay some attention to the Farafenni Bridge, where they are receiving foreign currency the CFA from the Senegalese which is very wrong. When you are from The Gambia, the only place you can lastly use Gambian Dalasi is Amdalai.

After Amdalai, even in Karang Dalasi is not valuable. Whatever business or transaction you have, has to be in CFA or you will be stuck in Senegal. *… [Desk thumping] …* So, how come the Gambians themselves would like to punish their own citizens because of their own selfishness?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Nominated Member Maimuna Ceesay.

Honourable Members, we have come to the end but to strike a compromise, we still have a lot of names and included in those names are the leaders of the two sides. So, to close it up, I just want to call the Minority Leader to be followed by the Majority Leader, and we proceed. *… [Desk thumping]*

HON ALHAGIE S. DARBO [BRIKAMA NORTH & MINORITY LEADER]: Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, whenever Matter of the Day is brought before the National Assembly, it is a public concern and the Assembly wants to express that to the Executive in order to be duly informed that the issue is a matter of public concern. And protection of the Gambian Dalasi is a matter of public concern.

Now that we have the Government Assurance Committee, the Committee should take up the issues of this Matter of the Day, and communicate that the National Assembly is concerned about the manner in which foreign currencies are transacted by individuals and businesses.

The Gambian Dalasi is not merely a means of payment as alluded by the mover but a symbol of our sovereignty. Then, the economic independence allowing the foreign currencies to replace the Dalasi in our domestic transactions, undermines the national pride as well as confidence in our national currency's sovereignty as expressed earlier.

Therefore, Central Bank of The Gambia under the Central Bank Act 2018 and the relevant regulatory agencies should act to make sure monitoring measures and regulations are fully enforced. The Central Bank Act, 2018

recognises only the Gambian Dalasi as the sole legal tender for domestic transactions, except where the law provides otherwise.

But it is rather unfortunate that if you go to certain places especially, in the border towns, foreign currency especially the CFA is dominating the Dalasi in the business, which is affecting and threatening our national sovereignty. But very soon, those areas may no longer be regarded as part of The Gambia. They may instead be regarded as part of Senegal. If our currency is not accepted by businesses, it is of no use to say these areas are part of the Gambian territory; but let us surrender them to the Republic of Senegal. *… [Desk thumping] …* Okay. Having*… [Interrupted]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Member, ah, ha-ha! … Honourable Minority Leader, time is up. I now call on the Honourable Member for Kantora and Majority Leader.

HON BILLAY G. TUNKARA [KANTORA & MAJORITY LEADER]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the floor.

Let me equally thank my Deputy, who is the mover of the motion for bringing the Matter of the Day that concern the public. He is not really speaking for himself. He is speaking for the ordinary Gambians who are finding it difficult in terms of transacting foreign currency.

Also, entrusting, ensuring, instilling trust and confidence to the citizenry that when anybody requests them to pay your rents for shops or any other facilities in a foreign currency, they have right to say no to that. So, I thank him very much for reassuring the Gambian populace that Gambian Dalasi remains our legal tender, and it shall ever remain our legal tender.

We have to draw lessons from Liberia. Those who are privy to travel to Liberia would know that they are trading in both currencies in the country. They are using both American and Liberian Dollars at a time. Even if you go to a hotel, they will reject the Liberian Dollars, and ask you to pay in USD. That is the danger about to face us, and it is very apt for him to raise this concern. *… [Desk thumping] …* It is a pity now even ordinary Liberians are rejecting their own currency. In fact, now they are paying government civil servants in USD.

So, this serves not only a money transaction but a symbol of pride. Our symbol of sovereignty is what he is trying to remind us about. We understand that for us to protect the Gambian Dalasi, many layers have to be put in place to strengthen it.

One is to make sure that we reduce our heavy dependence on imported goods. Five years ago, if we continued to grow rice here, we would have spent ***D800 million*** annually to import rice in this country, but now it is ***D2 Billion***. Right?

Basically, if we should reduce our dependency on foreign goods and invest, we should make sure we attract foreign-direct investment. Our diasporans should not only give us remittance to feed our families but also find tangible reasons to invest in this country. But if you look at the remittances coming in this country, it is just for our consumption. The trajectory has to be changed now.

Member for Central Baddibu made mention of a very important matter that is the infiltration of counterfeit notes in the market, which we have to seriously fight. There is combat of illicit financial flows within this

country, which is also another step to strengthen the Gambian Dalasi. Not only that, we must also restore confidence.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member for Old Yundum and Deputy Majority Leader for bringing this Matter of the Day. I also thank all Honourable Members who took part in the debate as well as those who wished to take part but could not do so because of the time limit. Thank you very much, Honourable Members.

Let me also acknowledge the presence of the Ministers of Fisheries, Trade, Public Service and Basic Education in our midst; I already recognised Minister of Agriculture earlier. You are most welcome with your technical backups. *[Desk thumping]*

Clerk, can we proceed?

5. **Motion in accordance with Oder 54[1]:**

i. **Motion for Debate on the Adjournment of the August Assembly Sine die** *[By Hon. Member for Kantora & Majority Leader]*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. In accordance with provisions of Orders 13[5] and 54[1] of the Standing Orders, I will now allow the Member for Kantora and Majority Leader to move the motion for the Assembly to adjourn sine die.

Before doing so, I wish to draw the attention of the Assembly to Order 54[3] of our Standing Orders, which reads and I quote:

> *"During the debate on the motion on the adjournment of a session, no Member shall speak for more than fifteen minutes*

except that the Speaker may at his or her discretion allow the mover of the motion extra time for his or her reply".

I will, therefore, appeal to Honourable Members to take note of the said provision of the Standing Orders regarding the adjournment debate.

May I now invite the Honourable Member for Kantora and Majority Leader to move the motion for this Assembly to adjourn sine die. Yes, Honourable Majority Leader.

HON BILLAY G. TUNKARA [KANTORA & MAJORITY LEADER]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I move, I want to equally join you to recognise Honourable Cabinet Ministers here present: Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Honourable Minister of Trade, Honourable Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, and Honourable Minister of Public Service Commission.

Honourable Speaker, I beg to move the motion for the adjournment of the Assembly sine die pursuant to Section 98[1b] of the 1997 Constitution and in accordance with Orders 13[5] and 54[1] of the Standing Orders, 2019 as revised.

Honourable Speaker, noting that this Honourable Assembly commenced its sitting for the Second Ordinary Session of the Sixth Legislature on the 8th June 2026, and today 1st July 2026 concludes its scheduled business as detailed in the revised approved agenda.

I have the honour and privilege to highlight the work undertaken by this Assembly during this Session. In so doing, Honourable Speaker, and in appreciating that this august Assembly had during this Session dealt

with substantially all businesses scheduled in the agenda, I invite support for this timely motion.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the National Assembly, through the deliberations of this Assembly during the Second Ordinary Session, the Assembly considered and adopted Record of Votes and Proceedings of the daily sittings as required by Standing Order 35[2].

Honourable Speaker, pursuant to Orders 48, 49 and 94 of our Standing Orders, this Assembly received an Oral Ministerial Statement on the implementation and monitoring of the annual budget from the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs. These statements provided important oversight context at the commencement of the Session and demonstrated the Assembly's commitment to fiscal accountability.

Honourable Speaker, the Assembly administered oral questions and answers with Honourable Ministers concerning the respective portfolios, departments and agencies. According to the Standing Order 41, the Honourable Minister appeared before this Honourable Assembly to answer oral questions asked by Honourable Members of the National Assembly, which they were duly notified.

Honourable Speaker, I note and commend the appearance of the following Members of Cabinet:

1. Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs;
2. Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports;
3. Honourable Minister of Interior;
4. Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Energy;

5. Honourable Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources;
6. Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment;
7. Honourable Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure; and finally,
8. Honourable Minister of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services.

Honourable Speaker, this august Assembly witnessed the tabling for considerations and adoptions of the following motions:

1. Pursuant to Orders 48 and 94 of the Standing Orders, Motion for an Oral Ministerial Statement on Implementation and Monitoring of the Annual Budget *[By the Hon. Minister of Finance & Economic Affairs]*;
2. Motion to Consider and Ratify the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls [CEVAWG], pursuant to Standing Order 61[2] *[By the Hon. Minister of Gender, Children & Social Welfare]*;
3. Motion to Establish a Standing Committee on Government Assurances, pursuant to Standing Order 61[2] *[By the Hon. Member for Kantora & Majority Leader]*;
4. Motion for Ratification of the 1961 Apostle Convention to the Hage, pursuant to Standing Order 61[2] *[By the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & Gambians Abroad]*; and
5. Today, Honourable Speaker, this present one is the Motion on Adjournment Debate for this august Assembly to stand adjourned sine die, pursuant to Standing Order 54[1].

Honourable Speaker, in terms of Bills, this Assembly considered or passed the following bills during this Session:

1. First Reading of 'The Gambia Immigration Bill, 2026' *[By the Hon. Minister of Interior]*;
2. First Reading of the 'Urban Markets Bill, 2026' *[By our own Hon. Member Musa Cham, Member for Serekunda]*;
3. First Reading of the 'Labour [Amendment] Bill, 2026' *[By the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration & Employment]*;
4. First Reading of the 'Criminal Procedure [Amendment] Bill, 2026' *[By the Hon. Attorney General & Minister of Justice]*;
5. Second Reading of 'The Gambia Immigration Bill, 2026' *[By the Hon. Minister of Interior]*;
6. Second Reading of the 'Labour [Amendment] Bill, 2026' *[By the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration & Employment]*;
7. Second Reading of the 'Urban Markets Bill, 2026' *[By Hon. Musa Cham, Member for Serekunda]*; and
8. Consideration Stage of the 'Labour [Amendment] Bill, 2026' *[By the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration & Employment]*.

Honourable Speaker, the following reports of the undermentioned National Assembly Committees were considered and adopted:

1. Report of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee's Study Tour to Kenya *[By the Chairperson of the Committee]*;
2. Report of the National Assembly Select Committee on Trade & Regional Integration on GAIPA [Amendment] Bill, 2025 *[By the Chairperson of the Committee]*;
3. FPAC Report on Auditor General's 2021-2024 Report on the Financial Statements, Management Letters and Activity Reports by

the Public Institutions and Agencies, 2022 to 2024 *[By the Chairperson of the Committee]*;

4. Public Enterprises Committee's Consolidated Report on NAWEC, GTRMP, ECOREAP, and GEAP Projects; Social Security and Housing Finance Corporation Special Audit; and the GPA Follow-up Performance Audit Report on Cargo Handling *[By the Chairperson of the Committee]*;
5. Public Enterprises Committee's Report on Activity Report and Audited Financial Statement of the State-Owned Enterprises for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 *[By the Chairperson of the Committee*];
6. Public Enterprises Committee's Benchmarking Visits Report on the Parliament of Senegal and SONACOS *[By the Chairperson of the Committee]*; and
7. Report of the Committee of Selection on the Nomination of Members of the Committee on Government Assurances *[By the Hon. Member for Kantora & Majority Leader]*.

Honourable Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 100, the following Honourable Ministers presented replies to the National Assembly reports:

1. The Minister replied on the Report of the Select Committee on Regional Government, Lands Ombudsman and IEC on the Performance Audit Report by the National Audit Office on the Management of Land Registration and Documentation *[By the Hon. Minister of Lands, Regional Government & Religious Affairs]*;
2. The Honourable Ministers replied to the Report of Standing Committee on Defence and Security's oversight visit to Police Stations, Military Barracks and Custom Units, Prisons, and Drug Law Enforcement Agency *[By the Hon. Ministers of Interior and Defence]*;

3. The Minister replied on the Report of the Select Committee on Gender, Children and Social Welfare's Countrywide Tour to Selected Orphanages, Rehabilitation Centres and Juvenile Prisons from the 5th to the 10th May 2025 *[By the Hon. Minister of Gender, Children & Social Welfare and Hon. Minister of Health]*; and
4. The Minister replied to the Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs' oversight Visit to the Gambian Mission in Bissau, April 2024 *[By the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & Gambians Abroad]*.

Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the National Assembly, a notable institutional development in this Session was the establishment of the Standing Committee on Government Assurances upon my motion. This new committee shall ensure greater accountability and follow up through commitment made to this National Assembly by the Executive with a view to strengthening the Assembly's oversight function and reinforcing the principle of responsible government.

Honourable Speaker, this Session also witnessed the Assembly taking significant steps in fulfilling The Gambia's international obligation. Ratification of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls [CEVAWG] is a testament to this Assembly's commitment to protection of the rights and dignity of women and girls in the Republic.

Similarly, the ratification of the 1961 Convention on Hague will also enhance The Gambia's participation in international legal and commercial framework, facilitating the authentication of public documents across the signatory states.

Honourable Speaker, I have never concluded moving the motion without reminding ourselves that, notwithstanding the diverse and sometimes cumbersome engagements Honourable Members of National Assembly are faced with, we cannot negate our core function, especially as it relates to attendance of sittings. The inability of the Assembly to sit on the 15th June, 2026 due to lack of quorum is a manner that must be taken seriously.

I, therefore, once again call for a renewed commitment by all of us to the service to our beloved Republic. It does not speak well of us, this Assembly and its repute to lack quorum at any stage of its sittings. We must continue to reflect on our duties and execute them with highest diligence.

Honourable Speaker, finally, on behalf of both sides of the Assembly, I wish to reassure the citizens of our beloved nation of our unwavering commitment to this august Assembly to serve the supreme interests of this country with dignity without fear or favour, affection or ill will or of any kind.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to equally use this opportunity to call on all citizens to remain law abiding as we move to observe our Presidential Election Calendar. Even as I call on the citizens to remain law abiding, I challenge all of us stakeholders, political party heads or leaders to caution and be responsible in our utterances and avoid hate speech in its forms. We must all remain guided as we speak to build this country and strengthen our democratic experience.

That said, Honourable Speaker, I call on the Honourable Minority Leader and the entire opposition to prepare to congratulate His Excellency the

President, Adama Barrow, as victory is certain come December 2026. *… [Desk thumping & Laughter]*

Honourable Speaker, I thank you for the manner in which you have continued to handle the affairs of this Assembly competently and professionally. I pray that Almighty Allah grant you the strength and wisdom to continue steering the affairs of this Assembly. I extend the same appreciation to your deputy for the competently deputising you during this Session.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, to thank the Clerk, his Deputies and the Staff of Assembly for the unwavering support throughout this Session. I thank you so much for your kind attention.

I, therefore, beg to move. *… [Desk thumping]*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member for Kantora and Majority Leader. Honourable Members, any seconder? Yes, Honourable Nominated Member Kebba Lang Fofana.

HON KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED]: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to second the motion and with your permission, Honourable Speaker, I wish to move a motion in accordance with Order 53[k & c].

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Nominated Member, you have a motion to move, am I right?

HON KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED]: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, go ahead.

HON KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Just a foundation to my Member, we can all recall that this particular Session started on the 8th of June to the 30th of June. Between the 8th and the 30th, Members have been able to debate substantively through various committee reports from FPAC and PEC that we have presented and series of matters of the day.

So, as such, Honourable Speaker, I wish to move that this Assembly do adjourn without debate. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any seconder to that motion? Yes, Honourable Member for Upper Niumi.

HON OMAR DARBOE [UPPER NIUMI & MAJORITY CHIEF WHIP]: Honourable Speaker, I humbly rise to second the motion.

THE SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded, so I put the question.

[Question Proposed]

[That the Second Ordinary Session Adjournment Debate be adjourned without debate.]

[Division!]

HON ALHAMEH GIBBA [FONI KANSALA]: Division, Honourable Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: You know why? I know the others use the microphone to make it looks louder. Let us do it again. No microphone, your just voices. I just want to hear your voices.

Those in favour, please say 'Aye'; those not in favour, please say 'No'. Ha-ha-ha! At the end of the day, I know we have to vote. I know that.

So, I just want to say that those in favour raise your tags. We are not going to waste time. Those in favour of the motion, that is no debate, raise your tags.

Honourable Member, I think you are one of the people who need to inculcate discipline. When campaigning this time, you inculcate discipline.

That is your number one role. Those in favour, your tags up. Honourable Members, those not in favour, your tags up. Honourable Members, if you are abstaining, raise your tags.

Honourable Members, Honourable Member for Basse, please be patient a little bit. You are not secured. Who is saying that? In the National Assembly, if you do not have the majority, you must be very strong. Otherwise, you will be distracted because they will always be on you.

Honourable Members, now the results of the vote are *'Ayes'=21*, *'Nos'=12*, and *'Abstentions'=1*. So, the 'Ayes' have it. *[Desk thumping]*

Honourable Members, we have agreed not to have the debate. It means that the motion for us to debate, moved by the Majority Leader and seconded by the Honourable Nominated Member, was put to rest by a

subsequent motion that agreed not to debate on the issue. So, it means we can adjourn sine die.

6. **Adjournment**

On that note, I want to acknowledge the presence of the Judiciary Security Unit in our midst at the back there. *… [Desk thumping] …* They are also here on study tour with the National Assembly Security Unit. You are most welcome.

Honourable Members, let me thank all of you and, of course, thank the Honourable Majority Leader, the mover of the motion.

Before I put the question for this Assembly to adjourn sin die, I wish on behalf of both sides of the Assembly to register our appreciations to the Honourable Ministers here present. We thank you for your time and cooperation during this Session, and your presence here with us signifies a lot to the Honourable Members. Your presence to witness the adjournment debate also affirms the relationship between the Organs of State. Honourable Ministers, thank you very much.

I also wish to extend thanks and appreciation to the media fraternity, our friends, as they are the medium through which the work of this Assembly and its committees reaches our people. Your cooperation and partnership are always cherished, and we hope it will continue.

Honourable Members, once again, we remain indebted and grateful to the Clerk of the National Assembly and Staff, in particular the Table office and the Legal Department for their continued and invaluable services to us all. Thank you very much.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agree to]

[That this august Assembly do stand adjourned sine die.]

This Assembly now stands adjourned sine die.

[The Speaker slammed the Gavel against the Sound Block signalling the adjournment of the proceedings of the Second Ordinary Session of the National Assembly sine die.]

THE END