



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

National Assembly, New Assembly Building, Rev . Pye Lane
Banjul, The Gambia

National Assembly of The Gambia

Sixth Legislature

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE HON. SPEAKER
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA.**

HON. FABA KARY T. JATTA

**AT THE OPENING OF THE FIRST ORDINARY
SESSION OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE YEAR OF THE
ECOWAS PARLIAMENT**

Abuja, Nigeria

9th June 2022

- ✚ Hon. Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament
- ✚ The President of the ECOWAS Commission
- ✚ His Lordship the President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice
- ✚ Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- ✚ Hon. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal
- ✚ Hon. Members of the ECOWAS Parliament
- ✚ Secretary General and Staff of the ECOWAS Parliament
- ✚ Distinguished Invited Guests
- ✚ Members of the Press.

I bring to you all warm felicitations from the Government and People of The Gambia. I am deeply humbled and delighted to grace this auspicious occasion of our community Parliament that I once served as a Member.

Indeed, after many years, it is great to be back home.

Mr. Speaker

When our forebears delivered us independence and freedom from colonial rule, they cautioned that the sustainability of the freedom, liberty, dignity, and

prosperity of our people rest in our unity. The Organization of African Unity now the African Union was created to deliver that unity of purpose and development to our people. Regional Blocs like our very ECOWAS and other regional blocs were established to serve as the building blocks for African Unity.

At a time when the world faces great uncertainty, with insecurity, economic recession, climate change and violent extremism threatening the collective future of humanity, that unity of purpose for a stable, peaceful, and progressive world order is more inevitable and compelling now than ever before.

Mr. Speaker

Aware of the collective ideals on which the ECOWAS was established, I have no doubt that no institution is better situated and strategically positioned to deliver unity, peace, security, and prosperity to our subregion than the ECOWAS Parliament.

Mr. Speaker

In your strive to achieve these goals, be rest assured that the National Assembly of The Gambia will be a reliable partner.

The ECOWAS Parliament is the embodiment of the collective desires of a people committed to the ideals of good governance, peace, and prosperity. Accordingly, they demand their leaders to be resolute, committed, reliable and willing to surmount all challenges to deliver on these noble ideals.

This is the Parliament that can engender the agenda of ECOWAS of the People. But for this Parliament to deliver this reality to the ECOWAS Community, it must have the powers necessary to become an effective community institution.

Mr. Speaker

For this Parliament to assume Legislative functions and perform effective oversight on ECOWAS Institutions and hold them accountable; its membership must be elected through universal adult suffrage by citizens of Member States

I therefore urge that much effort be directed into making this a reality.

Mr. Speaker

I wish to seize this opportunity to report that in the last six years, The Gambia has conducted two Presidential and two Parliamentary elections, all of which were peaceful, free, and fair. The outcome of those elections not only reflected the will of The Gambian people, but also clearly demonstrates that sovereign power of nations resides in the people and democracy must be the principle on which the art of statecraft is anchored.

In this regard, the Government, and People of The Gambia condemn in the strongest terms the unconstitutional seizure of political power through coup de tats which is threatening the very fabric of our society. This also includes those leaders who rely on support in Parliament to amend their constitutions to accord themselves extended term limits against the will of their people.

If we want to sustain economic prosperity, peace, and stability in our sub region, we must take note that governance must be based on the pillars of justice, accountability, and probity and most importantly, the expressed will of the people must be sought and respected.

Mr. Speaker

On the issue of violent extremism, all hands should be on deck to address this menace as it is destroying lives and livelihoods in our subregion. This calls for closer collaboration among Member states and sharing of critical information to put this ugly menace into the dustbin of history.

Mr. Speaker

May I once again sincerely thank you Hon. Speaker for the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Abuja and given the privilege to address this great and noble institution.

With these few remarks, I wish you Hon. Speaker and all Hon. Members of the ECOWAS Parliament, a very fruitful and successful First Ordinary Session of the 2022 Legislative Year.

Thank you.

Merci

Obregado

Suk'ran