



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

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT
FIRST SESSION – FIRST MEETING
THURSDAY 14TH APRIL, 2022**

SESSION 2022



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

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[HANSARD]

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

VOLUME: I

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First Meeting of the First Session of the Sixth Legislature
of the Republic of The Gambia.

Proceedings of the Sitting of Thursday 14th April, 2022

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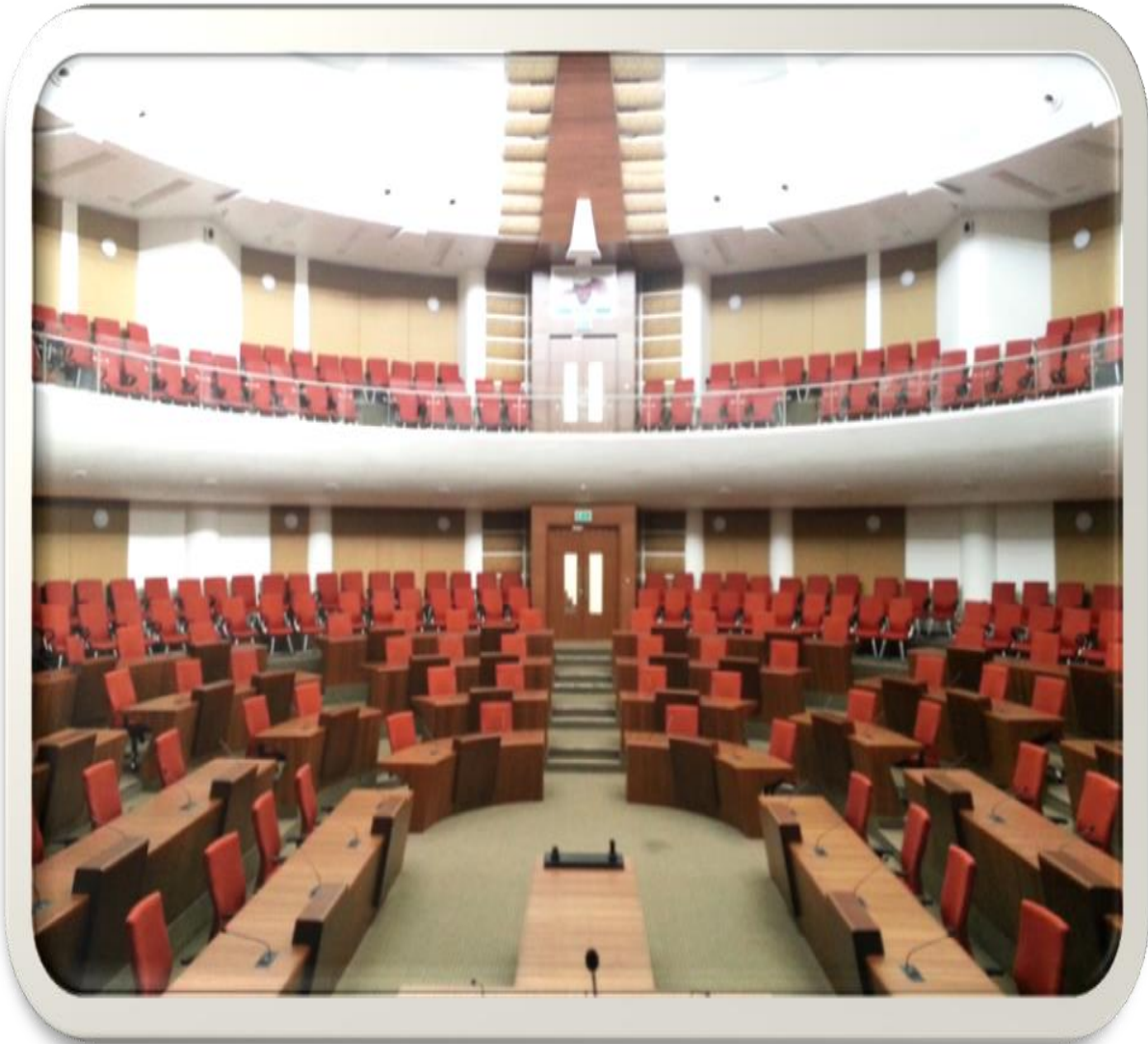
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THE CHAMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GAMBIA

**OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HOUSE**

**FIRST SESSION – FIRST MEETING
OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

THURSDAY 14th APRIL, 2022

1. Prayers

[The Chief Justice, Assan B. Jallow, in the Chair]

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

[The Chief Justice led the Prayers]

The House was called to Order

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

CHIEF JUSTICE: Honourable Members-elect & nominated Members, the outgoing Speaker of the National Assembly and Honourable Members of the previous National Assembly, Honourable Judges, Honourable Ministers, Honourable Secretary-General & Head of the Civil Service, Members of the Bar, Clerk and staff of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, the Ombudsman, Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp, Senior Government Officials herein present, distinguished invited guests, members of the press, Ladies and gentlemen, good morning to you all and welcome.

Honourable Members of this National Assembly, may I first of all congratulate you all on your elections to this noble institution. I would also like to recognise the presence of the members nominated by His Excellency the President of the Republic as per the constitutional power vested in him, under Section 88[2] of the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia.

As you may be aware, this First Session of the Sixth Assembly is convened in accordance with proclamation signed by His Excellency the President, pursuant to Section 97[1] of the Constitution which provides that the First Session after the election of Members of the National Assembly should be convened as directed by His Excellency the President. And, he has so directed today, Thursday 14th April 2022 to be the date of convening the Assembly. Pursuant to the provision of Section 93[1] of the Constitution and Standing Orders 3[2] of the National Assembly, the Chief Justice shall preside over the Election of the Speaker and also administer the prescribed oaths of the Speaker as indicated in Standing Order 5[2]. I am honoured to be able to perform that function this morning.

Section 93(1) of the Constitution states: *"The Speaker of the National Assembly and the Deputy Speaker shall be elected by the Members of the Assembly from amongst the nominated Members"*. Furthermore, Subsection [5] provides that *"...No business shall be transacted in the National Assembly other than the election of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker when either of those offices is vacant."* Those offices have been vacant currently following the end of the term of the previous House. Accordingly, I therefore ask the Clerk of the National Assembly that we proceed with the election of Speaker of the National Assembly as per the provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Orders as well as the Order Paper of today which has already been circulated to Honourable Members.

Election of the Speaker and the Administration of the Prescribed Oaths

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Honourable Members, in accordance with Section 93[1] of the Constitution and Standing Order [3] of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, I now have the honour to invite Members of the Assembly to make a proposal for a Member from amongst the nominated Members to be elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly.

[Point of observation]

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY (WULI EAST)

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: No, we do not take point of observation at this stage, as for the nomination.

HON. SAMBA JALLOW [NIAMINA DANKUNKU]: My Lord the Chief Justice, may I propose a nominated Member for the Office of the Speaker and move that Fabakary Tombong Jatta do take the Office of the Speaker.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Any seconder to the proposal?

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Thank you very much, My Lord the Chief Justice. My question is I have not seen any gazette which indicates that members are nominated. So, I have no clue as to who is nominated.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: You mean the gazette for convening the House?

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: No. The gazette stating the people who are nominated by the President. Is that list gazetted? I have not seen any gazette relating to that.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Yes, I have taken note of what you stated, but the Clerk has indicated that he has received communication from His Excellency the President of the Republic indicating the persons nominated to the National Assembly. So, the Clerk is going to read the letter to the Assembly.

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: That is not a gazette, but just a communication.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Is it a requirement?

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: It is a legal requirement that if the President nominates people, it should be gazetted.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: This is not a requirement for our Session. Clerk, can you read the letter aloud. Let us wait a little bit while they trace the letter and bring it out. This should have been here before the House starts. Then it should be circulated to all the Members of the Assembly, but notwithstanding, we will have it read out so that we can proceed with the business of the day.

Clerk: Letter reference PR/C/66/Vol. 4 [NT], 12th April 2022, from the Office of the President addressed to the Clerk of the National Assembly.

Appointment of the Nominated Members

In accordance with the powers vested in him, His Excellency Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia has nominated the following as Members of the National Assembly with effect from 12th April 2022.

1. Fabakary Tombong Jatta
2. Seedy SK. Njie
3. Maimuna Ceesay
4. Kebba Lang Fofana
5. Fatou K. Jawara

Signed by the Secretary General and Head of the Civil Service and copied to Solicitor General and Legal Secretary.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Thank you very much Clerk of the House. So, the nominated Members are Fabakary Tombong Jatta, Seedy SK Njie, Maimuna Ceesay, Kebba Lang Fofana and Fatou K. Jawara. We welcomed them to the House. We have one nomination for the Office of the Speaker, and we had asked for a seconder before the Member for Wuli East Spoke.

HON. SAINY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: Thank you, my Lord. I rise to second the Motion.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Thank you very much. Mr. Fabakary Tombong Jatta do you accept the Nomination?

HON. FABAKARY TOMBONG JATTA: Yes, I do.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Very well noted. Is there any other proposal for the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly?

HON. ALHAGIE S. DARBOE [BRIKAMA NORTH]: Lord Chief Justice, I rise to nominate Kebba Lang Fofana as the Speaker of the National Assembly of The Gambia.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Is there any seconder to the proposal?

HON. AMIE COLLEY [FONI BREFET]: Thank you, my Lord Chief Justice. I Nominate Maimuna Ceesay as the Speaker of the National Assembly.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Not yet. Can we deal with the seconder to the last proposal? We will come back to you, Madam.

HON. MADI CEESAY [SERREKUNDA WEST]: My Lord Chief Justice, I rise to second the nomination of Kebba Lang Fofana as Speaker of the National Assembly.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Mr. Kebba Lang Fofana, do you accept the nomination?

HON. KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED]: My Lord, I humbly withdraw.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: We would take note of your decline of the proposal.

HON. AMIE COLLEY [FONI BREFET]: My Lord Chief Justice, I nominate Ms. Maimuna Ceesay as the Speaker of the National Assembly for gender equality.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Any seconder to the proposal by the Member for Foni Brefet.

HON. ASSAN TOURAY [BAKAU]: Thank you, my Lord. I rise to second the nomination of Ms. Maimuna Ceesay as the Speaker of the National Assembly.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: The proposal of the Member for Foni Brefet is seconded by the Member for Bakau. Ms. Maimuna Ceesay, do you accept the proposal?

HON. MAIMUNA CEESAY [NOMINATED]: No, I humbly decline.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Any other proposal? Hence there is no other proposal, the Standing Orders indicate that there is no need for a Motion to be put, so Honourable Fabakary Tombong Jatta is the elected Speaker of the National Assembly. *[Applause]*

Order Please!

Now, I would like to congratulate the Speaker-elect on his election to this high office of the nation. In accordance with Section 93 [4] of the 1997 Constitution which provides that a person elected to the Office of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker shall, before assuming the duties of their respective offices, take the prescribed oaths. I now called on Honourable Fabakary Tombong Jatta, Speaker-elect to the podium to take the respective oaths before me. Honourable Jatta, you may please come forward.

Administration of the Prescribed Oaths for the Speaker

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Honourable Jatta will now subscribe to three [3] oaths; the Oath for the Due Execution of Office, the Oath of Allegiance, and the Oath of Secrecy.

[The Oath for the Due Execution of Office]

HON. FABAKARY TOMBONG JATTA [THE SPEAKER-ELECT]: I, Honourable Fabakary Tombong Jatta, do swear that I will execute the functions of the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

[The Oath of Allegiance]

I, Honourable Fabakary Tombong Jatta, having been nominated as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

[The Oath of Secrecy]

I, Honourable Fabakary Tombong Jatta, having been elected Speaker of the National Assembly do swear that I will not directly or indirectly reveal such matters. I will be committed to my secrecy. So, help me God.

[The House is suspended for five (5) minutes]

Maiden Speech by the Speaker of the Sixth Legislature

THE SPEAKER: Your Excellency the Vice President of the Republic, My Lord the Chief Justice of The Gambia, the outgoing Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the outgoing Majority and Minority Leaders, , Honourable Members-elect, Honourable Nominated

Members, Honourable Ministers herein present, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corp, members of the Bar and Bench, the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, the Ombudsman, the Secretary General & Head of the Civil Service, the Clerk and staff of the National Assembly Service, Senior Government Officials herein present, all Political Party Leaders present, Members of the Press, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning to you all.

Alhamdulillah Rabbil Alameen. I thank Allah [SWT] for the great favour He has reposed in me to be elected Speaker of the National Assembly of our Republic. I also wish to register my special thanks and gratitude to His Excellency, the President for nominating me as a member of this august Assembly. In the same vein, Honourable Members, I thank you all for the trust and confidence reposed in me to be the Speaker of the National Assembly. Equally, I congratulate you all on your election as Members of the National Assembly representing your various constituencies and The Gambia as a whole. I also have to thank the Clerk of the National Assembly for the priceless guidance since yesterday which will further be valued in future.

It is a great honour to be nominated and elected as Speaker of the National Assembly. I see my presence here as a homecoming albeit with a greater responsibility. I am grateful to all who reposed resounding trust in me to make this possible. I pray to Allah [SWT] that I shall successfully travel the path pursued by various Speakers before me particularly my immediate predecessor, the legal luminary, Honourable Mariam Jack Denton to make the National Assembly a more vibrant and democratic as

well as responsive to the needs and aspirations of the Gambian people. It is a unique opportunity to serve our dear nation. I, therefore, look forward to maximising the opportunities for every National Assembly Member to contribute. While I acknowledge that we are all elected or nominated from various political parties and come from various constituencies, I implore all of us at all times to be guided by the supreme interest of our beloved motherland in dealing with matters to be tabled before us. I have the trust that the experienced members will mentor the new ones. I implore all of us to endeavour and ensure that the rules of debate as enshrined in the Standing Orders of this Assembly are respected and obeyed to the letter. As the Presiding Officer, I intend to be fair to all and therefore seek your understanding in advance.

I encourage the new entrants to prepare and present statements on matters of the day and apply the Question Time well. Your brilliant contributions will affect your re-election. I will meet with the leadership on this and seek the support of the Office of the Clerk to help you deliver. A comprehensive induction process is vital for collective improved performance.

I need to remind the new Members that the highly procedural nature of the Assembly calls for high level of commitment to the rules and procedures of the institution. Therefore, serious learning must be undertaken to sharpen your competencies in order to enable all of us function effectively and efficiently.

Furthermore, both the majority and minority sides of the Assembly must be guided by the mandate given to the Government to build a vibrant society anchored on the principles of fairness and equality of opportunities. The promotion of good governance requires a parliament that can effectively perform the three core functions which is legislation, oversight, and representation. So, let each one of us represent our people with dignity, purpose, and honour. Let Parliament continue to be a living embodiment of nation building, solidarity, and unity. We must endeavour to be seen as a moral powerhouse and a beacon of hope for all Gambians. Gambians everywhere are looking up to Parliament and the Government for solutions to the problems that confront them on daily basis. Our people expect us to help fix the economy, provide jobs for the unemployed, improve access and quality of our education, advance health care, and above all give them hope. These are our mandate as a Government and as a Parliament.

This Sixth Legislature is for the people of The Gambia and Gambians want us to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs. Consequently, I ask for cooperation from all and sundry to make our stewardship a success. I thank you for your attention! *[Applause]*

Election of Deputy Speaker

HON. FABAKARY TOMBONG JATTA (SPEAKER): Honourable Members, 93 [1] of the 1997 Constitution states: "The Speaker of the National Assembly and the Deputy Speaker shall be elected by the Members of the Assembly from among the nominated Members". Furthermore, Subsection 5 of the same Section states: "No business shall

be transacted in the National Assembly other than the election of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker when either of those offices is vacant". Now that the Speaker has been elected, I have the honour and privilege in accordance with Section [4] of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to invite any member to make a proposal to nominate a member from among the nominated Members to be elected as Deputy Speaker.

HON. SHERIFF SARR [JESHWANG]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I stand to nominate Honourable Seedy S.K. Njie as the Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Seedy S.K. Njie has been nominated. Any seconder?

HON. AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to second the Motion.

THE SPEAKER: The Motion has been seconded. Honourable Member Seedy S.K. Njie, do you accept the nomination?

HON. SEEDY S.K. NJIE [NOMINATED]: Honourable Speaker, yes, I do.

THE SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that the nominated Member, Seedy S.K. Njie, be the Deputy Speaker, and he has accepted the nomination. Any further nomination or proposal from anyone?

HON. ALHAGIE S. DARBO [BRIKAMA NORTH]: I rise to nominate Kebba Lang Fofana [nominated Member] for the position of the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Kebba Lang Fofana's nomination has been proposed. Any seconder?

HON. MADI M.K. CEESAY [SERREKUNDA WEST]: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to second the nomination of Honourable Kebba Lang Fofana as Deputy Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: It has been proposed and seconded that Honourable Kebba Lang Fofana be the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. Honourable Kebba Lang Fofana, do you accept your nomination to the position of Deputy Speaker?

HON. KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED MEMBER]: Honourable Speaker, I humbly withdraw. *[Applause]*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Kebba Lang Fofana has duly declined his nomination. In the absence of any more nominations, I hereby declare Honourable Seedy S.K. Njie as the elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. I congratulate him on his election as the Deputy Speaker.

I now invite all elected and nominated members to the podium to take the prescribed Oath of Allegiance starting with the Deputy Speaker-elect then the other members shall follow in alphabetical order to be administered by the Clerk of the National Assembly. Thank you.

Administration of Oath of Allegiance for the Newly Elected and Nominated Members for the Sixth Legislature

HON. SEEDY S.K. NJIE [DEPUTY SPEAKER]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Seedy S.K. Njie, having been nominated as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of the Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of

the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SAIKOU BAH [BASSE]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Saikou Bah, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. BAKARY K. BADJIE [FONI BINTANG]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Bakary K. Badjie, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. MODOU LAMIN B. BAH [BANJUL NORTH]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Modou Lamin B. Bah, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. MUSA BADJIE [TALLINDING KUNJANG]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Musa Badjie, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. YUNUSA N. BAH [KING CENTRAL]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Yunusa N. Bah, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. KEBBA K. BARROW [KOMBO SOUTH]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Kebba K. Barrow, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. HARUNA BARRY [JARRA EAST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Haruna Barry, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law

established that I shall execute the functions of Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution or other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ALIEU BALDEH [JARRA WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Alieu Baldeh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of the Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. AMADOU CAMARA [NIANIJA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Amadou Camara, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ALFUSAINY CEESAY [SAMI]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Alfusainey Ceesay, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ESSA CONTEH [JIMARA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Essa Conteh, having been elected as Member of the National

Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. AMIE COLLEY [FONI BREFET]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Amie Colley, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. MAIMUNA CEESAY [NOMINATED]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Maimuna Ceesay, having been nominated as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. MADI M.K. CEESAY [SERREKUNDA WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Madi M.K. Ceesay, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill

will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. MUSA CHAM [SERREKUNDA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Musa Cham, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. FATOU CHAM [SANIMENTERENG]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Fatou Cham, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ALHAGIE BABOU CEESAY [SABACH SANJAL]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Alhagie Babou Ceesay, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. LAMIN CEESAY [KIANG WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Lamin Ceesay, having been elected as Member of the National

Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ABDOULIE CEESAY [OLD YUNDUM]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Abdoulie Ceesay, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. TAMSIR CHAM [LOWER NIUMI]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Tamsir Cham, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. OMAR DARBOE [UPPER NIUMI]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Omar Darboe, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ALHAGIE S. DARBO [BRIKAMA NORTH]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Alhagie S. Darbo, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SANKUNG DAMPHA [ILLIASSA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Sankung Dampha, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. KEBBA LANG FOFANA [NOMINATED]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Kebba Lang Fofana, having been nominated as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ALMAMEH GIBBA [FONI KANSALA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Almameh Gibba, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that

I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. KEMO GASSAMA [LOWER BADDIBU]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Kemo Gassama, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. YAYA GASSAMA [KIANG EAST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Yaya Gassama, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. EBRIMA JAITEH [SANDU]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Ebrima Jaiteh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SAMBA JALLOW [NIAMINA DANKUNKU]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Samba Jallow, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. FATOU K. JAWARA [NOMINATED]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Fatou K. Jawara, having been nominated as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. OMAR JOBE [NIANI]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Omar Jobe, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SULAYMAN JAMMEH [BUNDUNGKA KUNDA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Sulayman Jammeh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the

Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. OMAR JAMMEH [JANJANBUREH] Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Omar Jammeh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SAINY JAWARA [LOWER SALOUM]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Sainey Jawara, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. DAWDA JENG [NIAMINA EAST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Dawda Jeng, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SALIFU JAWO [JOKADU]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Salifu Jawo, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. KEBBA JALLOW [JARRA CENTRAL]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Kebba Jallow, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. BAKARY KORA [UPPER FULLADU WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Bakary Kora, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. NFALLY M. KORA [TUMANA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Nfally M. Kora, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the

National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. MUHAMED KANTEH [BUSUMBALA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Muhamed Kanteh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ALHAGIE MBOW [UPPER SALOUM]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Alhagie Mbow, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. GIBBI MBALLOW [UPPER FULLADU WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Gibbi Mballow, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ABDOULIE NJAI [BANJUL CENTRAL]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Abdoulie Njai, having been elected as Member of

the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. FATOUMATA NJAI [BANJUL SOUTH]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Fatoumata Njai, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SULAYMAN SAHO [BADDIBU CENTRAL]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Sulayman Saho, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. LAMIN J. SANNEH [BRIKAMA SOUTH]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Lamin J. Sanneh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The

Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. BIROM J.H. SOWE [NIAMINA WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Birom J.H. Sowe, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. YAHYA SANYANG [LATRIKUNDA SABIJI]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Yahya Sanyang, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. KEBBA T. SANNEH [FONI JARROL]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Kebba T. Sanneh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of

the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. PA DEMBO SANNEH [FONI BONDALI]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Pa Dembo Sanneh, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ABDOU SOWE [KOMBO EAST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Abdou Sowe, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SHERIFF SARR [JESHWANG]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Sheriff Sarr, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. NFAMARA SABALLY [WULI WEST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Nfamara Sabally, having been elected as Member of the

National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. SUWAIBOU TOURAY [WULI EAST]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Suwaibou Touray, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. ASSAN TOURAY [BAKAU]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Assan Touray, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

HON. BILLAY G TUNKARA [KANTORA]: Bismillahi Rahman Rahim. I, Honourable Billay G. Tunkara, having been elected as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of The Gambia as by law established that I shall execute the functions of the Member of the National Assembly without fear or favour, affection or ill will according to the Constitution and other laws of The Gambia. So, help me God.

THE SPEAKER: Let me thank and congratulate the Clerk of the National Assembly and his staff for a job well executed. I want to believe that I am speaking for and on behalf of all Members of the National Assembly that we are appreciative of your professional services since yesterday and we hope to enjoy more of it for the year ahead.

Honourable Members, on that note, I congratulate all of you for having been elected or nominated and duly sworn in as Members of the National Assembly, representing your various constituencies and The Gambia as a whole.

May I at this juncture inform the Majority caucus, the National People's Party, and the Minority caucus, the United Democratic Party, that in accordance with Standing Order 23, you are required to meet on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 11a.m. to select or elect your leadership and notify the Office of the Speaker as a matter of urgency.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, I wish to equally thank the electorates for the trust and confidence bestowed on us in this noble institution. We assure them that we will leave up to expectation as servants of the Gambian people. I would like to thank the Honourable Chief Justice and all distinguished invited guests for honouring our invitation. Finally, it is for the information of the Majority and Minority leaders that have to be selected or elected by their various caucuses that we are required to report to the National Assembly on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 11 a.m. for the meeting of the Committee of Selection.

[Question Proposed, Put and Agreed to]

["Be it Resolved that this august Assembly do stand adjourned until Monday 25th April 2022 at 10 a.m. for the Consideration of the Report of the Committee of Selection and the nomination of the membership for Committees of the National Assembly 2022 to 2027"].