

INTRODUCTION

The National Assembly of The Gambia has resumed sittings after a month recess. Before resuming to the lawmaking house, Parliamentarians were on an oversight tour to meet and visit different state Institutions, Departments and Agencies in their respective Committees .

The session covers from the 12th September – 29th September. Changes were received on the Agenda of the Third ordinary Session for the month of September, only few agendas were covered.

HIGHLIGHTS AND KEY OBSERVATIONS

Below are some highlights of what happened in Parliament within the past four (4) Sittings.

Bills and Papers

##	Title	Date presented	Stage of Bill/Paper	Committee Responsible
1	Animal Health Bill, 2020	27/09/2022	2 nd Reading	Agriculture and Rural Development Projects
2	The Gambia Public Buildings and Facilities Authority Bill, 2022	9/03/2022	2 nd Reading	Monitoring the Implementation of Government Projects

Papers

- Auditor General's Report on the Financial Statements of The Gambia for the Year ended 31st December, 2019
- Consolidated Report of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC) for the period 2019-2021
- Report of the Gambia's Delegation to the 4th Ordinary Session of the 5th Pan African Parliament held from the period 27th June to 2nd July, in South Africa

MPs Statements

- Hon. Member for Nianija made a Matter of The Day statement, speaking on the high rate of Road traffic Accidents in The Gambia calling on the attention of The President and relevant authorities to mitigate the issue.
- Hon. Member for Busumbala made a statement on the issue of selecting the Speaker and Deputy Speaker from the Nominated Members as Elected Members campaign for votes while nominated do not.
- Hon. Member for Kiang West made a statement on the poor state of hospital facilities and lack of proper monitoring of Government buildings.
- Hon. Member for Latri Kunda Sabijie made a statement on the Banjul Roads rehabilitation Project. As Chairperson for the Monitoring of Government Projects and Implementation Committee, will consider opening public hearing in regards to this project.

- The Hon. Member for Old Yundum and Chairperson for the Standing Order Committee, Abdoulie Ceesay made a statement that the Assembly is confronted with procedural issues and called on the Speaker to guide the Assembly on the consequences for unfinished Parliamentary Businesses.
- Hon. Member for Upper Saloum made a statement on speaking and respecting the dignity of the Parliament.
- Hon. for Sannimentereg made a statement on lack of employment and compensation of those whose lands were taken in order to attain peace in her constituency.
- Hon. for Lower Fulladu West made a statement that oversight should start in the Parliament

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- The Honorable Speaker seems to limit deliberations made by Parliamentarians on certain issues especially when it comes to questioning Ministers or procedures.
- In many cases, the actual person in charge was represented by another person due to many events happening within the same time. The Vice President stepped in for the President, the Minister for Justice and Attorney General stepped in for the Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Transport, Works and Infrastructure. Other Parliamentarians were absent as well. A lot of agendas were been removed from the schedule.
- There has been a high rate of Point of Observations and Order called on each other. The Speaker has advised Parliamentarians on many occasions to stay within the scope of discussions and not go out of topic when members tend to use other references.
- The issue of Parliamentarians inheriting unfinished work of former Legislature was raised. Several bills were introduced by the Fifth Legislature which are left pending. It has been made clear that a Parliament cannot bind its successor Parliament, hence all Bills not assented to by the President before the current Legislature cannot be carried over. The Speaker has ruled that incomplete bills may be reintroduced subject to a motion by the person in charge of the bill, requesting for a carry over.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The President delivered the State of The Nation Address on 15th September and the Parliamentarians debated on it.
- Be it resolved that National Assembly of The Gambia has ratified Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation 1986
- Be it resolved that The National Assembly of The Gambia has considered and ratified the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage, Paris, 2001
- The Animal Health Bill, 2020 and The Gambia Public Buildings and Facilities Authority, 2022 has been moved and seconded to be read a second time. The Bill has been referred to the Assembly Business Committee for a committal either to a Committee or a Committee of the Whole House. The Assembly Business Committee have referred the Bills to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of Government Project respectively.
- The National Assembly Members have been given Assistants to help them with research and other duties they need help with.
- The current session ends on 30th September, 2022. Committee Sitting is expected to start the week after

- PNAfrica will continue monitoring and bring up-to-date information of what is happening in Parliament. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [twitter](#).