



REPORT ON ECOWAS PARLIAMENT ACTIVITIES

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament, a key institution within the ECOWAS framework, has recently concluded its transition to the Sixth Legislature. This transition, marked by the inauguration of the new parliamentarians and the election of the Bureau, signifies a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to promote regional integration, democracy, and development within the West African region. In this comprehensive report, we delve into the key events and developments surrounding the inauguration of the Sixth Legislature, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing the ECOWAS Parliament.

Inauguration of the Sixth Legislature

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Election of Bureau for the Sixth Legislature

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INAUGURATION OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATURE



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria

The inauguration of the Sixth Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament took place on Thursday, April 4, 2024, following the conclusion of the Fifth Legislature. The event was presided over by the Chairman of The Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria. The session saw the swearing-in of 97 Members of the new legislature at the Parliament's seat in Abuja, Nigeria. President Tinubu, in his opening speech, expressed his support for enhancing the powers of the Community Parliament and the establishment of direct universal suffrage processes for the election of its members.

During the inaugural session, Rt. Hon Sidie Mohammed Tunis, Speaker of the just concluded Fifth Legislature, delivered his farewell address, emphasizing continued commitment to advancing regional democracy and development. Notable attendees included dignitaries such as H.E. Senator Godswill Obot Akapabio, President of Nigeria's Senate, and H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission.



Rt. Hon Sidie Mohammed Tunis

ELECTION OF BUREAU FOR THE SIXTH LEGISLATURE



RT. HON. JIBRIN BARAU
FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER 



**HON. ADJARATOU
TRAORE COULIBALY**
SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER 



**HON. ALEXANDER
AFENYO-MARKIN** 
THIRD DEPUTY SPEAKER



HON. BILLAY TUNKARA
FOURTH DEPUTY SPEAKER 



The position of substantive speaker of the Parliament allocated to the Republic of Togo, remains vacant as all Members of the Togolese delegation to the Community Parliament were absent at the inaugural session.

UNKNOWN 
SPEAKER FOR THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Following the inauguration, Members of the ECOWAS Parliament elected the Bureau to govern the affairs of the Sixth Legislature. The elected Bureau members include:

- First Deputy Speaker: Rt. Hon. Jibrin Barau (Nigeria)
- Second Deputy Speaker: Hon. Adjaratou Traore Coulibaly (Cote d'Ivoire)
- Third Deputy Speaker: Hon. Alexander Afenyo-Markin (Ghana)
- Fourth Deputy Speaker: Hon. Billay Tunkara (Gambia)

Rt. Hon. Barau Jibrin, leader of the Nigerian delegation, is expected to serve as Acting Speaker pending the election of a substantive Speaker from the Republic of Togo, in accordance with the rotational system established by the Supplementary Act of the Parliament.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



The transition to the Sixth Legislature was not without its challenges. The absence of the Togolese delegation at the inaugural session led to the postponement of the election of the Speaker, highlighting potential issues regarding adherence to established protocols and rotational systems.

Additionally, concerns were raised about the absence of representation from Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, indicating the need for careful navigation to ensure their return to the sub-regional bloc.





The inauguration of the Sixth Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament marks a significant step in the ongoing journey towards regional integration and democratic consolidation in West Africa. Despite challenges, including issues of representation and leadership, the Parliament remains committed to advancing the interests of the West African community. Moving forward, it is imperative for stakeholders to address these challenges collaboratively and seize opportunities to strengthen the Parliament's role as a catalyst for peace, prosperity, and development in the region.