



COMPENDIUM OF ELECTION MONITORING REPORTS 2021



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FOREWORD

The right to vote and be voted for, which is guaranteed by both the 1997 Constitution and the Election Act, can be more effectively enjoyed when other rights such as freedoms of assembly, association, opinion and expression, right to access information and the rights to equality and non-discrimination are promoted and protected.

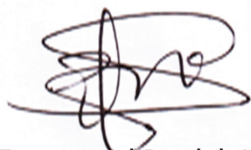
As the State organ charged with the responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including civil and political rights, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has an important role to play in the monitoring of the election cycle, to ensure its compliance with national and international human rights standards and best practice.

It was in recognition of this role that the NHRC monitored the voter registration exercise, nomination of presidential candidates, political campaigns and polling day. NHRC observers monitored sixty-seven (67) voter registration centres, the nomination of twenty-two (22) presidential candidates, up to eighteen (18) political campaigns and one hundred and forty-six (146) voting centres across the country. A checklist was developed for each monitoring exercise, to guide the monitors in their data collection, interviews, and observation.

This compendium consolidates the reports of our monitoring exercises of the election cycle, observations, findings and recommendations. It is intended to provide reference for the Independent Elections Commission, Government, civil society organisations and national and international election observers bodies to strengthen our electoral system and processes, and enhance participatory democracy.

The National Human Rights Commission's vision is a 'Gambia where everyone enjoys their fundamental human rights and freedoms'. In this drive, it strives to create a culture of respect for human rights, strengthen human rights and the rule of law within institutions and support the Government State in its efforts to build a more democratic, accountable, transparent and inclusive society.

It is our fervent hope that this comprehensive document will drive efforts to strengthen our electoral processes and enhance the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms as they relate to elections.



Emmanuel Daniel Joof
Chairperson

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The monitoring of the first phase of our electoral cycle, the presidential elections, was possible because of the support, collaboration and encouragement of many of our partners. We would wish to convey special appreciation to the Independent Electoral Commission for its partnership and granting the requests of the Commission to monitor the various phases of the Presidential elections.

We are grateful to the Government of The Gambia for its support to the work of the Commission, and for providing the funds for effective monitoring of human rights in the context of elections.

The publication of this compendium has been made possible by the generous financial support of Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. We also acknowledge its financial support to the Commission's monitoring of the presidential polls throughout the country.

We recognize the support of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for their partnership in building the capacity of staff and the Civil Society to monitor human rights in the context of elections.

We acknowledge the tremendous efforts and commitment of our staff and Commissioners who travelled countrywide and worked beyond regular hours to monitor the voter registration, nominations, campaigns and the polls.

INTRODUCTION

Periodic election ensures citizen participation in the governance of a country and a government's accountability to its citizens. Since popular mandate is legitimately gained only through elections and people are governed based on their consent, elections are a fundamental pillar of democracy. Enabling citizens to participate in this process is thus a duty imposed on the State.

Section 26 of the 1997 Constitution guarantees every citizen of The Gambia, who is of full age and capacity, the right, without unreasonable restrictions, to vote and stand for elections for public office at genuine periods as determined by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), as well as access to public service. Other rights guaranteed by the 1997 Constitution, which are relevant to ensuring democracy and fairness in the electoral process, include the right to non-discrimination, freedom of expression of the media, freedom of association and/or assembly.

The 2021-2023 election cycle of The Gambia, as stipulated by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), started off with the registration of potential voters during a designated voter registration period. This was followed by the submission of nominations by the presidential aspirants, the campaign period and, subsequently, the polling/voting which lasted for one (1) day.

RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE MONITORING EXERCISES

Rationale

The Commission, pursuant to its mandate to promote and protect human rights, acquired IEC accreditation to monitor the electoral cycle. In fulfilment of this obligation, the Commission monitored the activities around the 2021 Presidential election cycle, mainly the voter registration, nomination, campaign and polling day, to ensure respect and protection of human rights, as well as compliance of the electoral process with national laws and international obligations of the State. Through its monitoring exercises, the NHRC can timely identify human rights concerns that may negatively affect the electoral process and issue corrective actions and/or recommendations to address them swiftly and effectively.

This compendium presents the findings and recommendations of the NHRC's monitoring of the Presidential election in the following areas:

- Voter Registration
- Nomination of Presidential Aspirants
- Campaign
- Election Day

Objectives

The overall objective of the monitoring exercises was to assess the processes of the presidential election, from registration to voting, and their compliance with human rights standards and norms. Specific objectives were to:

- a. enhance transparency in the electoral process;
- b. detect and investigate any malpractices during the various stages of the presidential election and recommend corrective actions to relevant authorities;
- c. Monitor how rights to freedom of assembly, association, expression and nondiscrimination, among other rights, are respected during the period.
- d. Assess the conduct of political parties and/or presidential candidates and their supporters during.
- e. Assess the conduct of security agents; and
- f. Detect and investigate violations of the Election Act, IEC Code of Conduct, Peace Pledge and other electoral rules and regulations in place.

Monitoring Methodology

The following methodologies or approaches were adopted for the various monitoring exercises;

- a) Desk review of voter registration process
- b) Discussions with and collection of required information from the electoral officers
- c) Design of a standard monitoring checklist for each monitoring exercise,
- d) Interviews of party supporters, party agents and voters at polling stations
- e) Formation of NHRC teams assigned to monitor the processes.
- f) Observations of voter registration, nomination, campaign and polling exercises (field visits) in cycle.
- g) Documentation and reporting of findings.

DESK REVIEW OF THE GAMBIA 2021 VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS

Introduction

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), established by the 1997 Constitution,¹ is the body responsible for the registration of voters for elections and matters relating thereto.² Voter registration is an important part of the fulfilment of the right to participate in the government of the country either directly or through duly elected representatives. Section 39 of the Constitution, as well as Article 13 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights guarantee the right to participate in elections. Thus, the failure to register voters or give eligible voters reasonable opportunities to be registered is an infringement of the right to vote, hence the significance of voter registration.

In line with the constitutional provision on the right to be registered,³ the IEC embarked on a nationwide voter registration preceding the December 2021 presidential elections and subsequent parliamentary and local government elections. This practice is in line with the obligation of States to conduct regular free and fair elections scheduled within reasonable intervals.⁴ In accordance with section 14 of the Elections Act, the registration opened on the 29th May 2021 and closed on 11th July 2021.

This section looks at the voter registration exercise with the aim of providing objective assessment of the process, and pinpointing shortcomings. It also explains the legal and constitutional procedures and modalities that are put in place for registration and draws attention to the right to vote as protected under international human rights law.

¹See section 42(1) of the 1997 Constitution.

²Section 43 of the 1997 Constitution and section 8 of the Elections Act, Cap 3:01 vol. 3 Laws of The Gambia.

³Section 39 of the 1997 Constitution.

⁴See article 3 of the African Charter on Democracy and Good Governance.



Monitoring team accompanied by the Chairperson in Upper River Region.

The Voter Registration Procedure and the Law

Since voter registration is inextricably linked to the right to vote, 'the right to vote is violated if the legal framework makes it unreasonably difficult for a person to register to vote, as a person who is not registered can generally not vote.'⁵ The right to vote is also violated if the State fails to ensure that voter registers are comprehensive, inclusive, accurate and up to date, and the registration process and voter register fully transparent.

Pursuant to section 12 of the Elections Act,⁶ a person is entitled to register in a constituency if he or she is a citizen of The Gambia, has attained or will attain the age of 18 years at the time the election will be held and is resident or was born in that constituency. This registration can be done on the production of a birth certificate, a Gambian Passport, a national Identity Card, or a document certified by the District Seyfo or an Alkalo of the village which states that the applicant was born in the district or village. Under section 12 (3) of the Elections Act, the IEC is prohibited from rejecting for the purpose of registration a valid document described above.

Unless a person is disqualified under any of the exceptions specified in section 13 of the Election Act, fulfilling the above mentioned criteria guarantees a person to be registered upon presentation of any of the valid documents at a registration center.

⁵IDEA 'International obligations for elections' p 179.

⁶Cap 3:01 vol 1 Laws of The Gambia 2009.

Registration of voters is done at registration centers identified and designated as such by the IEC under section 15 of the Act. Pursuant to these provisions, the IEC embarked on the registration of voters from 29th May 2021 to 11th July 2021 for the purposes of the upcoming 2021 December Presidential Elections and subsequent Parliamentary and Local Government elections.

The Right to be Registered and to Vote Under International Human Rights Law

The right to be registered and vote in elections for persons who meet the requirements is guaranteed under The Gambian domestic laws. This is in line with the requirements and State obligations that are provided for in many international treaties The Gambia is party to. Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides for the right to take part in public affairs either directly or through freely chosen representatives and that the will of the people shall be the basis of government. Similarly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects the right to vote and be voted for during genuine periodic, free and fair elections.

At the regional level, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in article 13 provides for the right of persons to take part in the government of their countries either directly or through freely chosen representatives in accordance with the law. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa under article 9 also protects the right of women to take part in elections equally with men and for States to take affirmative action to ensure their participation. The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (article 7), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 29) and other international human rights instruments provide for the right to take part in elections and put obligations on States Parties to ensure that both legal and other measures are devised to fulfil these rights. These requirements are largely reflected in the 1997 Constitution and other domestic legal frameworks.

The Impact of Violence, Intimidation, and Uncertainty on the Registration Process

As a result of the need to provide reasonable opportunities to the electorate to register, the IEC is under obligation to put in place modalities that will ensure a credible registration process. The credibility of the process requires not only operationalization of registration centers but also ensuring a conducive climate at these centers which will encourage eligible individuals to register. The reported cases of intimidation have the possible effect of scaring away individuals who would otherwise be eligible to vote. Further, violence in the registration centers had the tendency of delaying the process and resulting in lower figures in the days that violence erupted.

PART 1:

MONITORING OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE

Introduction

The Commission visited a total sixty-seven (67) centres across the country. A list of communities monitored are in the annexes.

A: KEY FINDINGS, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Findings

i. Registration Centre Operating Hours

All registration centres monitored were fully operational daily, from 8:00 to 17:00, Mondays to Sundays. During working hours, Officials are allocated an hour break, from 13:30 to 14:30 every day. However, due to large tournouts, most centres did not observe breaks and some worked overtime to ensure that every eligible applicant was registered and issued a voter's card. Officials at Registration Centres such as Gambisara and Latrikunda Picadilly (Agriculture Centre), among others, indicated that they could not observe their daily breaks regularly due to the presence of large numbers of applicants.



Monitoring team accompanied by the Chairperson in Upper River Region.

ii. Closure of Registration Centres

None of the Centres visited was closed, either temporarily or permanently, due to violence or lack of requisite equipment . However, there were some disruptions in the voting processes at some centers due to lack of ribbons for the printers and technical issues with the printers, which are said to be very 'dust sensitive', UPS devices, laptops and camera lenses.

iii. Malfunctioning of Registration Equipment, including Printers

There were disruptions in the printing of voters' cards in some registration centers, such as those located at Latrikunda Picadilly, Banjul City Council, Baati Njol, Latrikunda Picadilly and Wassu, due to the malfunctioning of the printers. Consequently, registered applicants were requested to collect their voter cards at later dates. At Wassu and few other Registration Centres, it was reported that due to the malfunctioning of the printers, voters' cards could not be printed for about 3 days. At Batti Njol, the delay in the issuance of voter's cards led to protest from the villagers.

iv. Quality of Printing of Voter's Cards

Concerns were raised about the quality of some of the printed cards. Some cards that were shown to the monitors at Latrikunda Picadilly (Agriculture Camp) registration center had white lines across the photos of the card owners as shown in Image 1 below. The Monitors were informed by the Center Supervisor that these lines started appearing on the cards a week prior to the NHRC visit. As of Friday, 25th June 2021, this issue relating to the cards was not resolved.



Image 1



Image 2

The Commission embarked on a follow up visit to the Centre on the 8th of July 2021, to monitor progress since the previous visit on Friday 25th June 2021. The Supervisor informed the Team that the printer was replaced with a new one on the 7th July 2021, a day before the follow-up visit. However, the printing was still faulty as shown in the Image below.

Similarly, supervisors at Model Bantaba Sukoto in Busumbala, WCR, and Fass Njagga Choi registration centres in Nuimi, NBR also reported the appearance of the white lines on the voter's cards.

v. Compliance with Voter Registration Procedures

There was compliance with the laid down voter registration procedures regarding eligibility for registration and as stipulated in the 1997 Constitution and the Election Act. The registration center supervisors were very much acquainted with the laws and the procedures which they strictly followed. This was confirmed by the political party representatives in all the centres visited. It was observed that the entire registration process takes, on average, about 5 minutes.



The Chairperson as part of the monitoring team in Upper River Region

vi. Alleged Attempts by Minors to Register

There were reported cases of minors who attempted to register, sometimes accompanied by adults. In accordance with the guidelines, applicants who appear underaged and did not present any of the requisite documents to entitle one a voter's card are rejected. This was observed in Sare Jawbeh Voter Registration Centre in URR, where applicants who appeared underage were rejected as they did not present any national document to prove their age. It was found out that at the aforementioned village, some minors obtained attestations from their Alkalos but were denied registration by the Registration Officials.

vii. Rejection of old National Identity Cards (those that are not 'ECOWAS Identity Card')

At Sotokoi in Central River Region and Methodist Primary School (Wesley Annex) in Banjul Registration centres for instance, the Commission observed that people who came with their old National Identity Cards to register were told that they could not be registered with such a document. In both cases, the IEC officials issued them attestation forms for endorsement by either the Alkalo or Mayor respectively before they could be registered.

viii. Issuance of Attestation Forms

There were reports of numerous requests for attestation forms at the Centres visited, by applicants without proper national documents. For instance, as of 8th July 2021, the Supervisor at Picadilly registration center had issued about one thousand (1,000) attestation forms although it was difficult to know how many of these forms were filled, signed by the Alkalo(s) and returned.

The power of the Alkalo to issue attestations was a subject of public outcry. Supporters of various political parties accused each other of using influence to coerce the Alkalos to register unqualified individuals to boost their party support base.

One of the most worrying reports during the registration process, and presumably precipitated by the powers given to Alkalos to issue attestation, was the Manduar incident.⁷ The village consists of two sides, the old settlement of Manduar Mandinka on the one side and Manduar Touba on the other. In accordance with section 12 (2) (c) of the Elections Act, the Alkalo of Manduar Touba sought to issue attestation to persons who wanted to register. The Alkalo of Manduar Mandinka, and some of his villagers, argued that the Alkalo of Manduar Touba did not have the authority to issue attestation and therefore should not do so.⁸ This resulted in violent clashes between youths of the two settlements which disrupted the registration process. The Gambia Police Force deployed officers to the scene who used tear gas to disperse the protesters. Five people were subsequently arrested in connection with the incident.

The authority of the Mayoress of Banjul to issue attestation for the purpose of voter registration was challenged at the High Court by Gambia Participates, the Center for Research and Policy Development (both Civil Society Organisations) and Abdou Aziz Gaye (Councilor of Box Bar Road in Banjul).⁹ The Applicants, among other things, contended that the Mayoress, unlike the Alkalos and the District Chiefs, did not have the authority to issue attestations and her action contravenes section 12 of the Elections Act. They sought the following from the Court: to declare the conduct of the IEC in conferring the Mayor the power to give attestation *ultra vires the Constitution*, to quash the decision of the IEC granting the Mayor such powers and to cancel the attestations given by the Mayor and the voters cards issued pursuant to these attestation forms.¹⁰

⁷Kombo South, West Coast Region.

⁸Manduar Mandinka alkalo says Manduar Touba should be told the truth as he speaks amid clashes' *The Fatu Network* <https://fatunetwork.net/manduar-mandinka-alkalo-says-manduar-touba-should-be-told-the-truth-as-he-speaks-amid-clashes/> accessed 12th July 2021.

⁹Unreported judgment of the High Court *Gambia Participates and Ors. v The Mayor of Banjul and ors* Misc. App. No. HC 380/21/MF/122/F1 delivered on 13th July 2021.

¹⁰As above; 'Mayor Lacks Power to Give Attestation' Submits Lawyer Abdoulie Fatty' *Foroyaa* 7 July 2021 <https://foroyaa.net/mayor-lacks-power-to-give-attestation-submits-lawyer-abdoulie-fatty/> accessed 12 July 2021.

The Court held that the Mayor acted in contravention of section 12 of the Elections Act and that the decision of the IEC to grant the Mayor power to issue attestation was *ultra vires*.

However, the Court declined to annul the voters' cards already issued by IEC pursuant to attestations given by the Mayoress. It reasoned that this action could be done by an Elections Revising Court established for that purpose.

At a meeting with some monitors of the Commission, the Mayor of Banjul confirmed that she had received and endorsed about two thousand five hundred attestation requests and rejected about one hundred and forty-five. However, it was also reported that there were instances where Alkalos and the Mayor Banjul refused to sign attestation forms because they could not attest the applicants' nationality.

ix. Definition of Youth by IEC

In some centres visited, the Supervisors were going by the IEC definition of 'youth' for the purpose of the voter registration, which is 'any person between 18 and 20 years'. However, this definition excludes a large number of youths who were registered and could result in gross underreporting of the actual number of registered youth voters. The National Youth Policy 2019-2028 defines 'youth' as all young males and females aged between 15–35 years of age who are citizens of The Republic of The Gambia, or anyone within this age range and resides in The Gambia. Thus, the IEC definition of youth excludes voters who are between 21 and 35 years.



©NHRC/Monitoring team in the North of Central River Region.

x. Registration and treatment of Vulnerable Groups

By and larger, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant and lactating women who went to register were treated with respect by the officials at the registration centers visited. They were given priority consideration and did not stand or wait in the queues. Those who needed assistance were accordingly provided by the officials.

xi. Absence of Sign Language Interpreters and information in braille form

There were no sign language interpreters present at all the centres visited. The IEC documents on the voter registration and on elections generally were not in braille form for the visually impaired.

xii. Denial of Registration due to submission of improper or invalid documents

Reports were received at various registration centers visited of applicants who were denied registration because they failed to fulfil one or more of the eligibility criteria for registration. These applicants were said to have been rejected on the following grounds: submission of improper or invalid documentation, being underaged even by the date of the election or failure to get their attestation endorsed by a the Alkalo or Chief. It was indicated that rejected applicants seldom attempt to get a second registration. However, where this detected by the system, the person is automatically rejected and denied registration.

xiii. Residency, Birth or Employment as a prerequisite to be registered (an anomaly)

At nearly all the centres visited in GBA, applicants were allowed to register at any Centre of their choice upon submission of a valid document. However, this was not the case in BCC and Gambia High School registration centres where only applicants who are resident, born or working in the aforementioned areas were permitted to register. Only security and health officials were exempted from this residency criterion.

xiv. Interference or Intimidation in Voter Registration

No form of interference, intimidation, or coercion of potential voters by political party representatives or any other third party were witnessed or reported in all the centers visited. However the following complaints were received from the IEC officials: an attempt by a party representative to interfere with the operations of the registration center located at Tallinding Primary School registration; improper comments directed at applicants who were at Methodist Primary School (Wesley Annex) in Banjul, to persuade them to register at specific locations; and intimidation of IEC officials at Latrikunda Picadilly registration center by applicants who were denied registration

xv. Presence of Party Representatives or Agents

Party agents, especially those of PDOIS, UDP, APRC, NPP and GMC, were found in most of the centers visited where they were observing the registration process.

None of them was found in his or her party clothes. There was no report of conflict or incident of violence between or amongst the party agents. They expressed satisfaction in both the registration process and with the conduct of their fellow party agents.

However, an incident that caught the attention of the media was the Kanilai attack on United Democratic Party observers. It was reported that the UDP observer team was attacked by some villagers who tried to prevent the team from observing the registration process in Kanilai. The vehicles suffered some damages and the team members sustained injuries when an angry crowd threw stones and other objects at them. The attack was condemned on social media, both within and outside of The Gambia. The United Democratic Party also called on the IEC to close down the registration center until such a time as Kanilai complies with the rules of registration.

xvi. Adherence to Covid-19 Guidelines

Compliance with Covid-19 guidelines was extremely poor. While hand sanitizers and temperature scanners were found in some centres, their usage was not strictly enforced. IEC provided facemasks for the registration officers only, not for the applicants. Some centres had ran out of their facemask and hand sanitizer supplies but were not replenished at the time of visits, Social distancing was generally not observed in all the centres visited.

xvii. Complaints related to Registration

IEC officials had not received any official complaints regarding the voter registration process at the time of the monitoring visits. However, there were reports of dissatisfaction expressed by those whose request for registration were denied because of ineligibility or non-endorsement of their attestation forms. There were misunderstandings between political party agents and IEC officials regarding the procedures for attestation although the monitors that these were amicably resolved.

xviii. Location and Accessibility of Centres

While most of the centers in all the regions were located at 'Bantabas' or in open spaces, some, such as those at Talinding Bantaba, Latrikunda Picaddily, Brufut Father's School, and Barra Bantaba, were not disability-friendly as they were set up in buildings which were inaccessible to persons with physical disabilities and the elderly. The Center at Fass Njaga Choi was located inside the village market which was crowded and noisy at the time of the visit.

The locations of some centres were found to be inconvenient for applicants due to distance. Most of the registration centers visited in LRR and CRR covered a minimum of three other villages or communities, some of which were far from the main registration center. For instance, residents of Touba Tafsir, a village in URR, had to travel about 4 kilometers to be able to register at the Baniko Kekoro registration center.



Monitoring Team led by Vice Chairperson at Odeon Square (Cinema), Banjul

General Recommendations

Despite the progress made, the 2021 voter registration exercise offers valuable lessons for future voter registration efforts. Based on the information received and observations made during the monitoring exercise, the Commission makes the following recommendations to ensure that future voter registration exercises are human-rights friendly and compliant.

Recommendations to IEC

1. Regularly visit and inspect voter registration centres to ensure issues relating to electricity and faulty equipment/machines are addressed to avoid disruption in the registration process.
2. Make voter registration centres more accessible to the citizens so that they do not have to travel long distances to register.
3. Ensure consistency in the definition of 'youth' as per current national Youth Policy.
4. Ensure Registration Centres are located at places which are accessible to persons with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant and lactating women.
5. Assign, where feasible, Sign language interpreters to registrations to assist officers in their communication with persons who are hard of hearing.
6. Make key election documents in braille form for the visually impaired.
7. It may be necessary to limit the use of attestation to exceptional circumstances to prevent its overuse and potential abuse. For instance, where a person presents an expired national document, s/he should not be issued attestation but rather be encouraged to renew her/his documents.

8. Strictly apply Covid-19 or any other health guidelines at all centres and ensure adequate supplies of hand sanitisers and facemasks which are regularly replenished.
9. Supply, in the future, durable and quality printers and cartridges to avoid the printing of poor quality voters cards.
10. Enhance the training of voter registration staff to ensure they adequately understand the voter registration procedures, rules and regulations including the role of observers in the process
11. Enhance collaboration with relevant stakeholders to conduct widespread voter information campaigns sufficiently ahead of the voter registration process to ensure that citizens are aware of the process and how to actively participate in it.
12. Locate registration centres in sheltered spaces with toilet facilities.
13. Enhance partnership with institutions that are interested in election processes to sensitize law enforcement officials and CSOs on their roles before, during and after elections.

Recommendations to Government

14. Enhance access to immigration services for citizens to acquire their required national documents.
15. Make the issuance of birth certificate automatic upon birth at all health centres.
16. Make the costs charged for acquiring national documents such as Identity Cards and passports affordable for citizenships.
17. Provide adequate and continuous education and sensitization on the age for voter registration and citizenship requirements across the country, particularly in rural areas.
18. Facilitate the process of naturalization for those who meet the criteria of naturalization and want to naturalize and acquire Gambian nationality.

Recommendation to Political Parties

19. Give comprehensive training to party representatives deployed in voter registration centres on the registration procedures, Code of Conduct for observers and the laws on citizenship.



PART II: MONITORING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

INTRODUCTION

Twenty-four (24) out of the twenty-six (26) Presidential aspirants, as per the nomination schedule released by IEC, participated in the nomination process. The only two presidential aspirants who did not participate in the process were Mr. Bakary Bunja Darboe, leader of Gambia For All (GFA) party, and Dr. Bai Biran Jagne, leader of the All Peoples' Party (APP). According to the IEC, these aspirants cancelled their nominations.

KEY FINDINGS/OBSERVATIONS

The monitoring of the nomination process from was guided by a checklist, developed by the NHRC. The checklist was utilised throughout the nomination process by the various NHRC teams. Below are the main findings of the exercise.

1. Compliance with nomination schedule

The nomination schedule was generally adhered to by the IEC and the presidential aspirants. However, the nomination process for H.E. Adama Barrow, the incumbent, and Mrs. Marie Sock Jobarteh, did not start on the specific time allotted due to their late arrival at the IEC Headquarters. The nomination of Independent Candidate Mr. Matar Nyang was delayed because supporters of Mr. Adama Barrow had at the time of his nomination, breached security barricades. Apart from these incidents, there was no other time overlap during the nomination period.



Independent Presidential Aspirant, Ms. Marie Sock Jobarteh (Photo credit ©STATE OF MIC)

2. Compatibility of nomination requirements with the Election Act

Part IV of the Election Act covers all aspects of the requirements for the nomination of Presidential aspirants. A thorough review of the IEC nomination requirements showed they were generally compatible with the Election Act.

3. Compliance with IEC Nomination Criteria

Section 39(2) of the Election Act indicates that a person who desires to be nominated as a candidate for the presidency shall, before the acceptance of his or her nomination papers, satisfy the qualifications stipulated for the office of the president in the Constitution, the Act, and any other law.

The qualification/criteria for nomination set out by the IEC were assessed during the monitoring exercise. The following were noted.

- i. At the time of nomination, all Presidential aspirants submitted evidence of nationality as part of their nomination papers.
- ii. All Presidential aspirants were above thirty (30) years of age and have completed senior secondary school education.
- iii. All presidential aspirants met the requirement of being ordinarily resident in the country five (5) years immediately preceding the election.
- iv. Not all presidential aspirants complied with the requirement to present the names of at least five thousand registered voters who endorsed their nominations, with at least two hundred registered voters being drawn from each Administrative Area.
- v. Not all presidential aspirants declared their assets to the IEC or sworn to the declaration of assets by the IEC.
- vi. Whilst some presidential aspirants presented their tax clearance certificates, others did not. For instance, Mr. Mathew Gomez, Independent, informed the IEC at the time of his nomination that he could not obtain tax clearance from GRA. However, he did not indicate any specific reason why he could not obtain the tax clearance.
- vii. At the time of the nomination, not all Presidential aspirants deposited the stipulated amount of ten thousand Dalasis (GMD10,000) as required under section 43(1)(a) of the amended Election Act 2017.
- viii. Not all Presidential aspirants presented their party symbols and/or colours, as well as their photographs.
- ix. Not all Presidential aspirants, at the time of their submission of nomination papers, signed or submitted the code on election campaign ethics.
- x. Not all Presidential aspirants submitted their manifestoes.

4. Compliance with nomination procedures and rules

There was no report of a major violation of the IEC laid down procedures and rules regarding the submission of nomination papers during the nomination period. However, some incidences were observed which breached the security arrangements put in place by the IEC.

Supporters of the presidential candidates of UDP, NPP and GDC breached the layers of security which were mounted outside Election House (IEC Headquarters) when their candidates arrived for the submission of nomination papers and other credentials. They were also seen forcing their way through the security cordon to be able to enter the IEC premises.

Children in NPP t-shirts or colours were among Mr. Barrow's entourage. It is worthy to note that the day of the nomination of the H.E. President Barrow fell on a school day with no school/public holiday declared.



(photo sourced from ©Social Media)

5. Disruption(s) in the process of nomination

No disruption was observed during the monitoring of submission of nomination proceedings of all the presidential aspirants. However, the events on the outskirts of the Elections House between security officers and supporters of NPP and UDP during the nominations of their respective party leaders breached the security arrangements which were put in place and thus made it extremely difficult for the security personnel to control the crowds.

6. Compliance with the number of people allowed to accompany an Aspirant inside the Election House

As per the rules governing the procedure of nomination, Presidential aspirants should not be accompanied by more than fifty (50) people inside Election House. Except the leader of the NPP, H.E. Adama Barrow, all the other presidential aspirants complied with this rule. The number of NPP supporters granted entry inside Election House was more than 50, with some of Mr. Barrow's supporters sitting in areas reserved for observers while others stood during his nomination. Some supporters of the NPP were also present during the nomination proceedings of Mr. Essa Mbye Faal.

a. Representation of females in the entourage that accompanied aspirants for the submission of their nomination papers

Most of the presidential aspirants who submitted their nomination papers to the IEC during the nomination period were accompanied by females. While some aspirants came with few or no females, mostly independent aspirants, others came with over 40% percent female representation.



Honorable Halipha Sallah, Presidential Candidate for People's Democratic Organisation for Independence and Socialism (PDOIS) with his party officials including women. (photo credit ©STATE OF MIC)

b. Representation of Persons with Disabilities(PWDs)

The leaders of the UDP, GDC, and Mr. Essa Mbye Faal, Independent Candidate, were accompanied by one or two persons with disabilities when they presented their nomination papers.

7. Non-acceptance of incomplete nomination documents

Nomination documents of all the presidential aspirants were accepted by the IEC even though some did not submit all the required documents at once. Mrs. Marie Sock-Jobarteh, and Messrs. Alhagie Mamadi Kurang, Matarr Nyang, and Joseph H. Joof did not submit all the required documents to the IEC at the time of their nominations. Notwithstanding, their nomination papers were received, subject to submission of the missing documents by 5th November 2021. Similarly, Mr. Essa Mbye Faal, whose nomination documents were also received, was advised by the IEC to notarise his declaration of asset form by 5th November 2021.

8. Compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines

During the entire submission of nominations, personnel of The Gambia Red Cross Society were present to ensure that COVID-19 protocols were adhered to. They distributed face masks, provided hand sanitisers to people upon entering the premises of the IEC, and ensured face masks were worn by all. However, social distancing was generally not observed, and it was observed that despite the best efforts of the Red Cross some individuals removed their face masks upon entry.



Independent Presidential Candidate, Essa Mbaye Faal (Photo credit ©STATE OF MIC)

9. Conduct of Groups (supporters and security forces)

The conduct of supporters of presidential aspirants and security forces was monitored during the nomination period.

a. Conduct of Supporters of Presidential Candidates

No violence or intimidation between supporters of various parties, and between party supporters and the security personnel, was witnessed during the submission of nominations at the IEC headquarters.

b. Conduct of Security Forces

No major violence and/or intimidation against party supporters or the media by the security forces stationed at the IEC headquarters was witnessed during the entire period of nomination.

10. Discrimination

The monitoring of the nomination also looked at evidence of any discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and age, among others. However, no form of discrimination towards any individual(s), including PWDs and the only female aspirant, or group(s) was observed or reported.

PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF FILED NOMINATION DOCUMENTS OF CANDIDATES

Following the submission of nomination papers by Presidential aspirants, the IEC, on Saturday 6th November 2021 from 08:00 to 12:00hrs, presented all submission files for public scrutiny. To this end, members of the public and media practitioners were allowed to scrutinise and submit objections to any of the nomination papers.

Regarding the procedure, the public scrutiny session started at about 9:00 am at the Election House, where all nomination files were arranged in a room to allow the public to scrutinise the papers. However, only eligible voters, i.e., persons with voter registration cards, were allowed entry into the room to scrutinise these documents. Members of the public were required to write down their names and voter registration card numbers before they were allowed into the room. Upon entry, people were given 5 minutes each to scrutinise all the nominations and present their objection(s), if any.

Among the people who scrutinised the nomination papers was a hard of hearing person. The individual was accorded the same rights as other members of the public who were present to scrutinize the nomination.

Some of the people who scrutinised the nomination papers, especially the media practitioners, expressed dissatisfaction with the 5 Minutes allotted by IEC for the exercise. A journalist who wanted to spend more time in the room was forced out by the IEC officials present. Some of members of the public who came to scrutinized the documents but weren't allowed into the room complained that they were not aware of the entry requirements imposed by the IEC.

The 22 nomination files seen in the room were submitted by the independent candidates and the presidential aspirants of the following parties:

1. National Unity Party (NUP)	12. Gambia Alliance for National Unity (GANU)
2. Papa Faal – Independent	13. National People’s Party (NPP)
3. Democratic Party (DP)	14. United Democratic Party (UDP)
4. Sheikh Matarr Nyang – Independent	15. People’s Democratic Organisation for Independence and Socialism (PDOIS)
5. Gambia Action Party (GAP)	16. Gambia Moral Congress (GMC)
6. Mamadou Bah – Independent	17. Gambia Democratic Congress (GDC)
7. Citizens Alliance	18. Essa Mbye Faal – Independent
8. Mamadi S Camara – Independent	19. Momodou Bah – Independent
9. Alliance for National Re-orientation and Development (ANRD)	20. Alhagie Mamadi Kurang - Independent
10. Bankole Yao Jojo Ahadzi – Independent	21. Marie Sock Jobarteh – Independent
11. Ebrima Tabora Manneh – Independent	22. Joseph H Joof - Independent

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOMINATION RESULTS

Following the end of the public scrutiny session, the IEC held a press conference to announce the names of aspirants who fulfilled or did not fulfil the requirements to contest the presidential elections. Present at this session were members of the media, CSOs, election observers, and other stakeholders. The outcome of the nominations process announced by the IEC Chairman Mr. Alieu Momar Njie was as follows.

Name	Outcome
Mathew Gomez – Independent	Canceled
Gambia For All Party	
APP	
Tamisir Jassej – Independent	
Mamadou Bah – Independent	Disqualified
Joseph Henry Gomez – Independent	
Marie Sock – Independent	
Alhagie Mamadi Kurang – Independent	
Ebrima Tabora Manneh - Independent	
Momodou Bah – Independent	
Bankole Yao Jojo Ahadzie – Independent	
GMC – Mai Ahmed Fatty	
Mamadi K.S Camara -Independent	
ANRD – Lamin Satou Bojang	
Citizen’s Alliance – Ismaila Ceesay	
GANU – Sheikh Tijan Hydara	
Gambia Action Party – Alieu Sowe	
Sheikh Matarr Nyang – Independent	
Papa Faal – Independent	
Yusupha A Dumbuya – Independent	Qualified
UDP – ANM Ousainou Darboe	
GDC – Mama Kandeh	
PDOIS – Halifa Baboucarr Sallah	
NPP – Adama Barrow	
Essa Mbye Faal – Independent	
NUP – Abdoulie Ebrima Jammeh	

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

Overall, the nomination process was reasonably peaceful with no major incidence of violence observed and/or reported during the period. Based on the observations made during the process, the NHRC proposes the following recommendations to ensure that future submission of nominations, among other electoral activities, are more human-rights friendly and inclusive.

Recommendations to IEC

1. Consider enhancing surveillance and screening of party supporters before they are granted entry to attend nomination proceedings, and, if possible, request from Presidential aspirants, a list of persons to accompany them a day or two before the nomination which is to be strictly followed.
2. Allocate adequate time to allow members of the public thoroughly scrutinise the nomination papers submitted to enable them to come up with objections, where necessary. It may be necessary to allocate a whole day for this exercise than few hours.
3. Reiterate to Presidential aspirants and political parties to refrain from including children in their campaigns and other election activities.
4. Ensure proper sitting arrangements for all including observers to enable them follow proceedings in subsequent nominations.
5. Enforce the nomination schedule by ensuring candidates strictly adhere to the time allocated to them.

Recommendations to Political Parties and Independent Candidates

6. Encourage the active participation and representation of vulnerable groups, particularly Persons With Disabilities and women, in political party structures and activities.
7. Ensure children are not recruited to participate in their campaigns.
8. Ensure supporters who accompany them to future nomination events respect the security cordons or arrangements which are put in place by the IEC.

Recommendations to Government

9. IGP to enhance security in subsequent nominations to minimize public access to Election House and ensure public safety.



PART III:

MONITORING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

INTRODUCTION

NHRC monitored the presidential campaign for eighteen (18) days, from Monday 15th November to 2nd December 2021. Like the voter registration and nomination monitoring, the purpose of the campaign monitoring was to assess compliance with respect to human rights norms and standards, as well as the IEC rules of procedure governing the campaign for election. Six (6) Teams, comprising staff were each assigned to monitor the campaign of one (1) presidential candidate.

Summary of Key Findings

During the campaign monitoring, several observations were made. While these observations are highlighted in detail below, here is a summary of the key findings:

- i. The rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression were generally respected during the period of the monitoring.
- ii. There were more male speakers than female speakers at the various campaign events monitored.
- iii. PWDs were not amongst the speakers at the campaign events of all six (6) presidential candidates monitored.
- iv. Venues of campaign events were generally accessible to all as they were held in open spaces and at ground level.
- v. None of the campaign events had sign language interpretation.
- vi. None of the written campaign materials and documents of the presidential candidates were in braille form.
- vii. There were students in school uniforms or party T-shirts, at the rallies of some of the political parties/and or presidential candidates.
- viii. No political rally or campaign was disrupted as a result of conflict or violence.
- ix. COVID-19 protocols were not observed in the campaign events. Notwithstanding, some presidential candidates and members of their campaign team or entourage consistently wore their face masks.
- x. Police Intervention Unit (PIU) Officers assigned to cover the campaign of presidential candidates, were present at all campaign events monitored. Other private security outfits were also seen providing protection to some presidential candidates/political parties.
- xi. The security officers maintained a high level of professionalism at the campaign events monitored.
- xii. The PIU Officers attached to political parties and/or presidential candidates were not adequate given the gatherings/crowd sizes at some campaign events.
- xiii. There was no form of discrimination based on religion or ethnicity observed during the entire period of monitoring. Access to various campaign events was not restricted by any means.

- xiv. Overall, political parties and/or presidential candidates did not strictly adhere to the IEC approved campaign itinerary especially with regards to allotted time and locations of their events.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS ON THE CAMPAIGN OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE MONITORED

Below are the main findings for each political party and/or presidential candidate whose campaigns were monitored.

I. People’s Democratic Organisation for Independence and Socialism (PDOIS)

1. Summary

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	Hon. Halifa Ababacarr Sallah
NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MONITORED	23
TYPES OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	Meetings and Rallies
REGION(S)	NBR, CRR, LRR, WCR and KMC

2. Participation/Representation of Vulnerable groups

Most of the speakers at the campaigns were male except for the meetings held at Barkang, Jokadu District, NBR, and Senegambia Craft market gate, where women were among the speakers. At the Sinchu Alagie meeting, a young lady who introduced herself as a sixteen-year-old was given the platform to speak at the meeting. None of the speakers, were a PWD.

3. Disruption of the events or meetings

There was no significant disruption to the campaigns (meetings and caravan) as a result of violence or intimidation from either community members, supporters of other political parties or the security. No person reported that he or she was coerced to attend a rally or be in the caravan.

4. Main Themes of speeches

Most of the speakers at the rallies dwelled on the PDOIS Transformative Agenda. The main themes discussed included the establishment of community-owned cooperatives, mechanisation of the agricultural sector, high costs of living, infrastructural development, creation of vocational skills training centres, restructuring of the education system, investments in health, etc. Issues of particular interest to women and other vulnerable groups also featured prominently in these campaign meetings and rallies.

5. Use of Inflammatory language

Speakers at the various political events did not make disparaging comments or messages against their political opponents. There was also no use of language that was likely to incite or promote violence against other parties, presidential candidates, supporters, or any other group.

6. Enforcement of Covid-19 regulations by organizers of the rally

While the PDOIS Presidential candidate, Hon. Halifa Sallah, and his delegation always wore facemasks at their rallies and caravans, qCOVID-19 protocols were generally not observed by supporters and attendees.

7. Accessibility of meeting venue

The venues of the meetings were accessible to all, including PWDs. They were held in open places and venues at ground level.

8. Conduct of Attendees/Supporters

The supporters/attendees at all the rallies and caravans monitored were orderly, conducted themselves well and kept the peace.

9. Presence and Conduct of Security

A platoon of PIU Officers accompanied the PDOIS entourage, and provided security to the party leader and presidential candidate and his campaign team. No complaint was received against the security officers.

10. Discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, or any other background

No report of discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, or age was received against or from any member of the campaign team or their supporters.

Other Observation(s):

The presence of the Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS) was noticed throughout the campaign events of PDOIS monitored by the NHRC.

II. National People's Party (NPP)

1. Summary

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	H.E. Adama Barrow
PERIOD COVERED	15 th November – 2 nd December 2021
NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MONITORED	9
TYPES OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	Rallies and meetings
REGION(S)	BCC, KMC, WCR, URR and LRR

2. Participation/Representation of Vulnerable groups

Large numbers of women attended the various rallies monitored. Persons with Disabilities were also seen in rallies held in Sare Ngai and Kulari, both in URR. Several children in NPP T-shirts and colours were present at all the NPP campaign activities monitored, many of whom were said to be part of clubs or youth groups. Students of Boro Kandeh Kasseh Lower Basic School, in their school uniforms, attended a rally held in Kulari, URR, on Monday 15th November 2021. It was claimed that their presence was to welcome the NPP leader, H.E. Adama Barrow, who arrived at the rally at approximately 21:13hrs.

There were fewer female speakers compared to male speakers at the rallies, and none was a person with disabilities. A student gave a speech at the Kulari rally.

Sign language interpretation was not provided at any of the rallies and meetings monitored.

3. Disruption of the events or meetings

There was no disruption of the rallies, meetings or caravans of NPP that were monitored. No report was received from any person alleging coercion to attend the campaigns.

4. Main Themes of speeches

The main themes of the speeches delivered centered around the accomplishments of H.E. President Barrow since 2017 and plans for the next 5 years if re-elected to office. Provision of better health care services was a high priority theme, with emphasis on the recently passed Health Insurance Act 2021 to provide affordable quality medical services. Issues of particular interest to women and other vulnerable groups, including the provision of quality maternal health services and introduction of economic empowerment programs were also highlighted by President Barrow and various other speakers.

5. Use of Inflammatory language

H.E. Adama Barrow and some NPP Executive and Coalition members, among other speakers, made provocative remarks and accusations against other presidential candidates, particularly Hon. Ousainou A.N.M. Darboe, leader of the UDP, and Mr. Essa Mbye Faal, Independent candidate. At rallies in Koina, Baja Kunda, Sare Ngai, Kwinella and Giboro, they were disparaged and called names, while the UDP leader was accused of corruption and tribalism. Those who particularly engaged in these outbursts were H.E. Adama Barrow, Mr. Musa Yalli Batchily, Dr. Demba Sabally and Mr. Dasaikou Kujabi.

6. Enforcement of Covid-19 regulations by organizers of the rally

COVID-19 protocols, such as the wearing of facemasks, was observed by H.E. Adama Barrow and some members of his campaign entourage. Additionally, microphones and podium were sanitised before H.E. Adama Barrow delivered his statements at all the locations monitored. In contrast, however, attendees of NPP campaign events did not wear facemasks nor were hand sanitisers provided. Social distancing was also not observed.

7. Accessibility of meeting venue

Venues of NPP campaign events were generally accessible to all. However, there was no sign language interpreter or designated area for PWDs at any of the campaign events monitored.

8. Conduct of Attendees/Supporters

At all the rallies monitored, attendees were generally peaceful. There was no violent conduct by attendees that could provoke violence.

9. Presence and Conduct of Security Forces

There were high security presence at the NPP campaign events. Several security outfits within the Gambia Police Force, including General Duty, PIU and plain cloth officers, State Guards (in uniform and plain cloth), ECOMIG forces and private security personnel belonging to the NPP were seen at all campaign events monitored. No report was received regarding intimidation or harassment by any member of these security units.

10. Discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age or any other background

There was no report of any form of discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, or age from the candidate or their supporters during the monitoring exercise.

III. United Democratic Party (UDP)

1. Summary

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	Hon. Ousainou A.N.M. Darboe
PERIOD COVERED	15 th November – 2 nd December 2021
NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MONITORED	9
TYPES OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	Rallies and caravans
REGION(S)	BCC, KMC, WCR, LRR, CRR and URR

2. Participation/Representation of Vulnerable groups

Women and children were present at all the UDP rallies and caravans monitored. Similarly, PWDs were seen in UDP campaign events, including at communities such as Fatoto, Kaiaf, Kiang Manduar, Sotuma Sirreh and Banjul.

Speakers at the various UDP rallies monitored included both men and women. However, the number of male speakers significantly outnumbered that of female speakers. Additionally, none of the speakers at any of the rallies and meetings of UDP monitored were PWDs. Sign language interpretation was not provided at the rallies.

3. Disruption of the events or meetings

UDP Executives, campaign management committee and their supporters conveyed their messages without interference from anyone or group. Similarly, there was no report of any form of coercion or intimidation to attend the rallies and/or caravans.

Issues of particular concern to women, minorities and PWDs were also highlighted in the speeches of the various speakers. These included women and youth empowerment, maternal mortality, skills enhancement programmes for women, youths and PWDs, provision of social protection and welfare services for all including the elderly, and under-representation of women in key government offices/position.

Speakers at some rallies made allegations of electoral fraud against the incumbent.

4. Use of Inflammatory language

In the nine (9) UDP campaign activities monitored, none of the speakers uttered inflammatory remarks.

5. Enforcement of COVID-19 regulations by organizers of the rally

COVID-19 protocols were partially respected at the rallies and caravans monitored. Hon. Ousainou A.N.M. Darboe and some UDP Executive members were seen wearing face masks and observing social distancing. However, most of those who attended the campaign activities did not wear face masks, observe social distancing or use hand sanitisers.

6. Accessibility of meeting venue

All UDP rallies monitored were held in open places, thus accessible to all. However, there was no designated area for PWDs and sign language interpretation at any of the venues monitored..

7. Conduct of Attendees/Supporters

No inappropriate conduct or violence from supporters or attendees at the UDP campaign events was reported or observed during the period of the monitoring.

8. Conduct of Security Forces

PIU Officers were present at all the UDP campaign events monitored. Furthermore, a private security outfit, supposedly owned by the Party and dressed in their party colours, was observed at all the UDP campaign events monitored.

On the conduct of the security officers, the NHRC did not observed any form of intimidation or harassment by the PIU Officers. They maintained high level of professionalism throughout the period of the campaign monitoring.

9. Discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, or any other background

There was no report of any form of discrimination against the presidential candidate or the supporters at the UDP rallies monitored.

Other Observations:

- The national television, GRTS and other media houses were present at all the events monitored.

IV. Gambia Democratic Congress (GDC)

1. Summary

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	Hon. Mama Kandeh
PERIOD COVERED	15 th November – 2 nd December 2021
NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MONITORED	7
TYPES OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	Rallies and caravans
REGION(S)	BCC, KMC, KMC, WCR and CRR

2. Participation/Representation of Vulnerable groups

Women formed the majority of those present at the GDC campaign events monitored even though there were few women speakers compared to men. Furthermore, while some children were seen with their mothers or guardians at the rallies, many of the children present were unaccompanied or not seen under the guard of an adult. Also present at some events were PWDs; however, none was invited to speak at any of the campaign events monitored. Sign language interpretation was also not provided.

3. Disruption of Campaign Events

There were no disruption of any of the meetings monitored. Similarly, there was no report of coercion to attend the meetings.

The main topics/themes discussed during the GDC rallies monitored focused on current development challenges such as no or limited access to portable water, condition of health facilities, insecurity, limited energy supply, poor governance, corruption. Issues of particular concern to women such as the recent spike in the maternal mortality rate in the country, limited access to markets for women to sell their horticultural produce, lack of farm implements and equipment were also highlighted in the speeches of various speakers, including Hon. Mama Kandeh.

Speakers at some of the campaign events, such as those held at Kotu Quarry and Ebo-Town, raised allegations of election fraud against the Incumbent. Similarly, Hon. Kandeh and other speakers, including GDC party Executive members and Executive members of the No-to-NPP/APRC-Alliance movement, addressed issues regarding the former President's involvement in national politics. Hon. Kandeh, in particular, mentioned in several campaign events monitored that former President Jammeh would be invited to speak virtually at his rallies.

4. Use of Inflammatory language

The utterances of speakers at some of the rallies were not in line with the spirit of the Inter Party Committee's Code of Conduct for political parties and the Janjanbureh Accord. In a phone call made by former President Yahya Jammeh at the Kotu Quarry rally, he could be heard calling H.E. Adama Barrow a 'liar' and a 'betrayer'. He also directed other threatening and demeaning words at the President.

5. Enforcement of Covid-19 regulations by organizers of the rally

Most of the party officials or supporters did not observe the COVID-19 prevention guidelines and protocols.

6. Accessibility of meeting venue

Campaign activities of GDC were all held at open places in communities. Thus, the venues were accessible to all, including PWDs within the communities where rallies were held. However, no special arrangement to cater for PDWs, such as sign language interpretation or designated safe place, was made at any of the rallies/meetings monitored.

7. Conduct of Attendees/Supporters

No inappropriate conduct that could have provoked violence was observed or reported any supporter of the GDC in the rallies monitored.



©NHRC/GDC supporters at a rally.

8. Conduct of Security Forces

About a platoon of PIU officers (30 officers) was observed to have been assigned to provide protection to Hon. Kandeh and his entourage, as well to maintain the peace at GDC rallies. Another security outfit (private) was seen at the various GDC campaign events. There were no reports of intimidation or harassment by the security officers present.

9. Discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, or any other background

No form of discrimination was observed during the monitoring of any of the rallies or meetings of the GDC. Access to various GDC rallies was not restricted by any means as they were held in open places.

V. National Unity Party (NUP)

1. Summary

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	Abdoulie Ebrima Jammeh
PERIOD COVERED	15 th November – 2 nd December 2021
NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MONITORED	10
TYPES OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	Rallies and caravans
REGION(S)	BCC, KMC, LRR, WCR and URR

2. Participation/Representation of Vulnerable groups

As in campaign events of other presidential candidates, women were also present at NUP meetings. There were several women speakers at some of the campaign events, including at Kuli Kunda, Brikamanding, Jammaar, Basori. At Tujereng for instance, there were five (5) female speakers out of a total of nine (9) speakers. A person with disability was part of the group that welcomed the NUP entourage at Tabanding, URR Children were also seen at NUP campaign events. Several children were seen at the Garawol rally even though the meeting was held on a school day and ended at approximately 00:22hrs.

3. Disruption of the events or meetings

There were no disruptions in the NUP campaign events monitored. No report or evidence of coercion was also received regarding supporters.

The themes at the NUP campaign events monitored centered on health, tourism, agriculture and food self-sufficiency, migration, water resources and poverty alleviation. Other cross-cutting issues the campaign focused on included women and youth empowerment, boosting production of horticultural products and creation of appropriate marketing avenues for women, skills enhancement programmes such as TVET and entrepreneurship for youths.

4. Use of Inflammatory language

None of the speakers at NUP meetings monitored used language which incited violence or promoted the use of violence against other parties, candidates, or supporters. All the speakers focused their discussions on the agenda of the party.

5. Enforcement of Covid-19 regulations by organizers of the rally

The presidential candidate and members of his entourage wore facemasks throughout the campaign period monitored. Attendees at the meetings, however, did not observe any of the Covid-19 prevention guidelines.

6. Accessibility of meeting venue

All NUP political events were held at open places such as village 'bantabas' and thus accessible to all community members including PWDs. However, there was no sign language interpreter to assist those who are hard of hearing should they be in the gatherings.

7. Conduct of Attendees/Supporters

Supporters and attendees at all NUP meetings monitored, were law abiding and peaceful.

8. Conduct of Security Forces

PIU Officers assigned to NUP were present in all the campaigns monitored. They were professional in their work. Nothing was observed to suggest that an individual or group was harassed or intimidated by the PIU officers.

9. Discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, or any other background

No form of discrimination was observed during the monitoring of the campaign events of NUP.

Other Observation(s):

- Media coverage by GRTS was provided at some of the NUP meetings monitored. Gambia Talents Promotion TV was also spotted at some of the meetings.

VI. Essa Mbye Faal, Independent

1. Summary

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE	Essa Mbye Faal
PERIOD COVERED	15 th November – 2 nd December 2021
NUMBER OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES MONITORED	6
TYPES OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES	Rallies and caravans
REGION(S)	KMC, WCR, LRR and CRR

2. Participation/Representation of Vulnerable groups

At all the campaign events of Mr. Essa Mbye Faal monitored, the following were observed: majority of the attendees were women; female speakers addressed most of the rallies and meetings and children attended the rallies some of which were held at night and during weekdays. For instance, over 20 children were seen at Mr. Faal's meeting in Pinai.

No person with disability was a speaker or seen at any of the various campaign events.

3. Disruption of the events or meetings

There were no major disruptions observed during the monitoring of Mr. Faal's campaign. Nothing was also observed to suggest that people were forced to attend the events.

4. Main Themes of speeches

The key themes in the statements at the rallies included improving the quality of health delivery, better allocation of public resources, youth empowerment, civil service and security sector reforms, education including better remuneration for teachers, and reducing inflation and the cost of essential commodities. Issues of particular interest to women included provision of quality maternal health care to reduce the maternal mortality rate, and women empowerment with focus on the creation of start-ups for women led businesses. Implementation of the TRRC recommendations, including the provision of support services to victims of human rights violations, was also highlighted at several meetings and rallies.

5. Use of Inflammatory language

None of the speakers at the various rallies made any statement that could have incited violence or promoted the use of violence against other parties, candidates or supporters. They all, instead, called for peace during the campaign and beyond. However, at a rally in Wellingara, held on 26th November 2021, a speaker commented on the presence of ECOMIG in The Gambia and accused the peacekeepers of making Gambian girls pregnant.

6. Enforcement of Covid-19 regulations by organizers of the rally

COVID-19 protocols were generally not respected or observed at the various campaign events. However, it was observed that Mr. Faal and members of his campaign team wore their facemasks at all times.

7. Accessibility of meeting venue

All venues of Mr. Faal's campaign events were accessible. However, sign language interpretation was not available for PWDs at any of these campaign events.

8. Conduct of Attendees/Supporters

Attendees at Mr. Faal's meetings and rallies conducted themselves well. Thus, the security had no cause to deal with any violence.

9. Conduct of Security Forces

The NHRC observed the presence of a platoon of PIU officers, who were attached to Mr. Faal to provide security for him and his entourage during the campaign period. No report of intimidation or harassment was received against the police officers.

10. Discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, or any other background

No form of discrimination was observed during the monitoring of any of the rallies or meetings of Mr. Faal. There were no restrictions to attending the campaign events.

Other observations

The presence of GRTS camera crews were noticed at some of the events monitored.

I. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

Despite some heated political exchanges between some presidential candidates, the campaign period was generally very peaceful with no major incidence of violence observed and/or reported during the monitoring period.

Recommendations

Based on the observations made monitoring the campaign events of all six presidential candidates, the NHRC proposes the following recommendations to enhance human rights compliance in future elections, specifically during the campaign period.

a. Recommendations to IEC

1. Reiterate to presidential candidates and/or political parties to refrain from including children in their campaigns and other election activities.
2. Consider extending the campaign period to enable presidential candidates better prepare for the elections. This could ensure that presidential candidates strictly follow the approved campaign itinerary.
3. Effectively implement and enforce the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and other pledges signed.
4. Urge independent candidates and political parties to increase the number of women speakers at their campaign activities.
5. Enforce adherence to the Covid-19 prevention guidelines.

b. Recommendations to Government

6. Sensitise parents, prior to and during the electoral cycle, on child protection and why they should prevent their children from attending political events.

c. Recommendations to Political Parties and/or Presidential candidates

7. Provide sign language interpretation during campaign events.
8. Allocate designated areas for PWDs to enhance their access to campaign venues, particularly in highly populated areas.
9. Provide women and PWDs the platform to actively participate in campaign events and other political activities.
10. Enforce adherence to COVID-19 guidelines or any other issued public health guidelines before and during campaign.
11. Refrain from using inflammatory remarks or attacking the character of political opponents or other individuals.
12. Adhere to adopted Codes of Conduct to ensure peaceful elections.

PART IV:

MONITORING OF POLLING DAY

INTRODUCTION

A total of one hundred and forty-six (146) polling stations across the country were monitored on polling day. A team, comprising staff members and a Commissioner, was dispatched to each Region where they observed the opening of polls, voting, closing of polls and counting of votes. A checklist was developed to guide the observation of the voting processes.

Summary of Key Findings

During the monitoring exercise, several observations were made. While the observations are highlighted in detail in Part B of this report, below is a summary of key findings of the monitoring mission.

1. As stipulated by IEC, polling started at 08:00 at nearly all the polling stations visited. However, due to some logistic issues, voting commenced late at the following polling stations: as, Kotu Layout, Kaur Wharf Town Station 3, and Njau polling stations.
2. Voting procedures were generally complied with as per IEC voting guidelines at all the polling stations visited.
3. No election malpractice was observed in any of the polling stations visited.
4. Some polling stations were not disability friendly as polling booths were stationed on high ground with no ramps to ease access for wheelchair users, and accessibility was challenging for vulnerable persons such as the elderly and pregnant women.
5. With the exception of few polling stations, priority voting was generally accorded to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers, and the sick.
6. There was no sign language interpreter for the hard of hearing persons at any of the polling stations visited.
7. No form of discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, or other statuses was observed in the polling stations monitored.
8. At some polling stations marbles were too big for the ballot box holes, resulting in some disruption in the voting process.
9. Party agents at the polling stations visited did not interfere with the voting processes, intimidate or harass voters or the electoral officers.
10. Election violence was not observed during the entire period of the election, except for the Njau and Sukuta Cinema Hall polling stations, where voters could not be controlled given the high voter turnout at the stations.
11. Security Officers were present in all the polling stations visited and they performed their duties with a high level of professionalism.
12. The Gambia Red Cross Society volunteers were seen in many of the polling stations visited providing first aid services and other support to voters.

At Basse Duniya Cinema, URR, for instance, the monitors witnessed the collapse of a voter who was provided first aid assistance by the Red Cross volunteers before being rushed to the health facility.

13. Generally, COVID-19 guidelines were not respected in all the polling stations monitored, including by the polling staff and security officers.
14. At some polling stations, the IEC list of registered voters did not have information of some of the registered voters.
15. Party agents were present at all the polling stations visited.
16. No party agent at the polling stations visited reported interference or election dispute to the monitors.

OBSERVATIONS

The monitoring of the polls was guided by a checklist which drew inspiration from national legislation, international human rights instruments and best practices. It assessed compliance with human rights standards and IEC voting procedures and code of conduct. Below are the main observations on voting day.

Logistics Arrangements

a. Opening of Polls

Nearly all the polling stations opened at 08:00. Only Kotu Layout Football field, Kaur Wharf Town Station 3, and Njau polling stations did not open at 08:00 due to logistical issues

The procedure for the inspection of the ballot boxes before the start of the voting, including the sealing of the boxes with the IEC tags and the reading of the serial number of each tag, were performed in the presence of the party agents and observers, and done in accordance with laid down rules of the IEC.

b. Materials and/or Equipment

At the various polling stations visited, the materials and/or equipment needed for the smooth conduct of voting, such as the ballot boxes, indelible ink containers and marble, were supplied in sufficient quantity and delivered to the stations on time. All the party agents and/or representatives of presidential candidates present were also given copies of the list of eligible voters for that polling station.

However, there were complaints at some polling stations of marbles being bigger than the holes of some of the ballot boxes. This disrupted voting in these stations before the marbles were changed.



c. Disruption or Closure of Polling Stations

No major disruption in the voting process or at the closing of polls due to violence or intimidation was reported or observed at any of the polling stations monitored. However, voting was temporarily disrupted in some polling stations as the marbles could not fit in the holes of the ballot boxes. There were also long queues at some of the polling stations which proved somewhat unmanageable or uncontrollable for the election officers.

d. Secrecy of the Ballot

Secrecy of the ballot was ensured at all polling stations visited. Even where polling stations were set up on the streets, as in Amdalai and Kerr Jatta, Lower Nuimi Constituency, NBR, voting booths were covered to accord voters secrecy to cast their votes.

e. Voting Area/Environment

There was peace and orderliness at nearly all the polling stations visit. Proper queues were maintained by the voters. Most of the polling stations were set up in open places and thus spacious enough to accommodate many polling booths. However, few stations were set up in very tight spaces. This was the case at Sukuta Cinema Hall polling station which had 7 polling booths. Given the number of voters present to cast their votes at this station, there were long queues at its main entrance. Consequently, some voters tried to force their way into the station, while others climbed over the gate to leave the station after voting.

Queues at some polling stations were not properly coordinated even though they were supposed to be arranged in alphabetic order. Many voters joined the wrong queues and had to be redirected to the right booths or queues. This caused small commotion in some stations as the voters who were asked to move to their actual queues were reluctant to do so or wanted to jump their new queues. At Njau Polling Station in particular, the poor management of the queues and inadequate coordination among the polling officers led to chaos which temporarily disrupted voting and necessitated the sending of PIU officers in riot gears to control the situation. Some of the voters alleged that the PIU officers used excessive force against them although this could not be independently verified.

11. Accessibility of Polling Stations

a) Accessibility of the locations: The locations of the polling stations monitored were accessible to all voters, including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the elderly, and pregnant and lactating mothers. Polling stations were mainly put up at public places such as community centres, school grounds and places of worship. There was a report regarding the relocation of the polling station in Tranquil, from the main community mosque to Holly Cross Nursery School, which caused serious inconvenience to voters who were not aware of this relocation.

b) Accessibility of Polling Stations: While some polling stations had ramps that eased access for wheelchair users, as in Kuntair Bantaba polling station, many polling stations were not disability-friendly as they were placed at high grounds. These included polling stations at Essau (NBR), Nyorro Jattaba (LRR), Brufut Father School, Brusubi Phase II, and Police Barracks, Methodist Primary School, Wesley Primary School, Lasso Wharf and McCarthy Square, all in Banjul. At Kotu West polling station, the NHRC observers were present when a lady with a disability and an elderly woman could not easily access the voting booth due to its location and had to be assisted by the IEC Officials to access the voting booth.

12. Compliance with Voting Procedures

a. The Voting Procedures

Voting procedures as laid down by the IEC, from the opening of polls to the counting of results, were generally followed by the IEC officers at the various polling stations visited. In addition, no voter was allowed to enter the booth with his or her phone(s) or other personal belongings.

However, at Sami Madina (CRR North), it was observed that the polling officers at polling station coded 611141 and polling station 611142 (both situated with the village primary health facility) verified the names of the voters on their master voter list differently. One focused on the first names (polling station coded 611141) while the other focused on the last names (polling station 611142).

As a consequence of this approach, which made voters to move back and forth between the two stations, twelve (12) eligible voters could not cast their votes because by the time they were at their correct polling stations, the voting time had passed, and were not allowed to vote.

b. Denial of Voting

No eligible voter was denied the right to vote at the various polling stations visited. All those who were in the queue at the time of the official closing of polls, which was 17:00, were allowed to cast their votes. Any eligible voter who was not on the queue at the stipulated time for the closing of polls was not allowed to vote.

Below are few cases reported to the NHRC monitors:

- At Farafenni Library polling station, about five people who arrived after 17:00 were not allowed to vote in accordance with IEC election rules.
- At Sami Madina, which had two stations coded 611141 and 611142, an elderly man, a middle-aged woman and other eligible voters, could not vote as they were unable to locate their correct polling stations which had closed by the time they did. This was due to the different approaches the polling officers at the two stations took to call the names of voters on their master voters lists.
- An eligible voter who presented herself at Kaur Janneh Kunda Polling Station I was not allowed to vote as her voter's card had only her picture without the other vital information, namely name, serial number or name of station.
- Two voters at Panchang polling station I were allowed to vote even though the details of their voters' cards, though valid, were not found in the provided master voter list. The Presiding Officer admitted that he did not seek the advice and/or approval of the IEC Area Returning Officer before allowing these two voters to vote.
- A male voter at Farafenni Senior Secondary School polling station was barred from voting after it was detected by Polling Officers that he had registered multiple times.

Closing of Polls

Polls at most polling stations monitored, including Pipeline Mosque (KMC), Serrekunda West Mini Stadium (KMC), McCarthy Square (Banjul), Bijilo Bantaba (WCR), Kerewan Old Market, Dasilami, Farafenni Library (NBR) and Jalambereh (Jarra Central), generally closed at 17:00. However, at a few polling stations, including Farafenni Library, Kerewan Old Market and Basse Duniya Cinema polling stations, voting continued because voters were on the queues before the closing time.



c. Inducement of Voters

No inducement of voters by either party agents or other voters was observed at the various polling stations visited. However, a police officer on duty at Kenbujeh Bantaba Polling station (WCR), told the observers that he had earlier in the day sent away an unidentified man who attempted to seduce a lady with cash to influence her choice of vote.

d. Priority Voting

Priority voting was generally accorded to Persons With Disabilities, older persons, and pregnant and lactating mothers at the polling stations visited. At the Police Barracks in Banjul South, security officers were also given priority to vote. However, this privilege was abused as it was difficult to distinguish between security officers on election duty at this polling station and those who were not and dressed in mufty. This posed a challenge for the IEC Officers and thus slowed down the voting process at the station.

13. Presence of Election Officials and familiarity with Voting Procedures

There were IEC Polling staff at all the polling stations visited. On average, four (4) polling staff, comprising men and women, were assigned to each polling booth. They included Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and Assistant Polling Officers. For instance, at Bijilo Polling Station, Sanimentereng Constituency, WCR, a total of sixteen (16) IEC election officials were seen on the ground.

Polling Officials were generally familiar with the voting and counting procedures in the polling stations monitored. No voting malpractice or irregularity was observed and no adverse report was received regarding the conduct of the polling staff.

Most polling officers indicated that they were overwhelmed by the large turn out of voters at their various polling stations. Due to this pressure, the officers could not take any break.

14. Presence and Conduct of Party Agents

Agents of the presidential candidates were found at all the polling stations visited. While PDOIS, NUP and Independent Essa Mbaye Faal had representatives at several polling stations, NPP, UDP and GDC had their agents in all the polling stations visited.



Before the opening of polls, polling officers briefed party agents on the election procedures as per the IEC code of conduct for election observers. However, at some polling stations, it was reported that some party agents and/or representatives of presidential candidates arrived after the polls had already opened.

There was no report of party agents interfering in the voting process or inducing voters. Equally, there was no report of harassment by or against party agents.

15. Participation of Vulnerable Groups and Election Services provided

a. Participation

Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), older persons, and pregnant and lactating mothers, all exercised their right to vote in the presidential election. For instance, at the Amdalai Primary School polling station, five (5) PWDs cast their votes, two (2) of whom were visually impaired. PWDs also cast their votes at other polling stations including at Dasilami Basic School, Jokadu Constituency, NBR, Marche Ngelew, Serekunda Constituency, KMC, New Yundum Primary School, Siffoe Lower Basic School, Faraba Banta Manokang, WCR, etc. Older persons and pregnant and lactating mothers were also seen at several polling stations visited.

b. Assistance Provided

At almost all the polling stations visited, priority voting was accorded to PWDs, older persons, pregnant and lactating mothers, and the sick who came to vote. Polling officials or designated trustees accompanied voters with visual impairment to the booths. There were, however, instances when they were not given any special treatment. For example, a lactating mother and two pregnant women were seen on the queues at Barra Alkali House (with 4 polling streams) and BCC polling stations respectively but not accorded any priority voting. Similarly, at the time of the opening of polls at Bakoteh Lower Basic School polling station 20524 (with 3 streams), older persons were asked by a polling staff to join the queue.

c. Discrimination against vulnerable groups

No form of discrimination was observed or reported against PWDs, older persons, pregnant and lactating mothers and the sick. Except for one PWD who arrived after the closing of polls at the Bijilo Bantaba Polling station, none of the PWDs seen at the polling stations visited was denied the right to vote.

None of the IEC materials, such as posters showing voters how to cast their votes, was in braille format for visually impaired persons. There was also no sign language interpreter for persons who are hard of hearing in any of the polling stations visited.

16. The Presence and Conduct of Security Officers on Election Duty

a. Presence of Security

Security officers, drawn mainly from the Police Intervention Unit (PIU), the Gambia Fire and Rescue Service, the Gambia Immigration Department, the Prisons Department and the Drug Law Enforcement Agency, were deployed to polling stations across the country. On average, a polling stream had two (2) security officers attached. However, there was only one security officer attached to Keur Jatta polling station as the other officer who supposed to be there was listed under two polling stations. Conduct of the Security Officers on Polling Duty

The security officers on polling duty were professional in their conduct and maintained order at the various polling stations as required. Polling Officers, Party Agents or voters did not report any case of harassment or intimidation by a security officer.

17. Election Violence

No form of intimidation towards a polling officer or violence generally was observed or reported at any of the polling stations monitored. The only reported incident was commotion (amongst the voters) at Njau polling station which led to the reinforcement of PIU Officers in full riot gear to control the crowd.

18. Vote Counting

The counting of votes was witnessed at several polling stations, including at the following: Basse Dunya Cinema (URR), Kerewan Old Market (NBR), Bijilo Bantaba and Brikama Wellingara Praying Ground (WCR), Kunting, Dobo, Karantaba, Sami Madina and Methodist Primary School (CRR) and Jalambereh (LRR). The IEC protocols or procedures regarding counting of votes were observed by the polling officers. Present at the counting of votes in some of polling stations were IEC Polling Officers, observers from local NGOs, regional and international bodies, party agents, and the media.

Below are some of the key observations during the counting of votes or at the polling stations:

- In most polling centers counting of votes started immediately after the closing of polls, generally at 5pm.
- Counting of votes at Dobo and Sami Madina polling stations was done in public and with no restrictions.
- Only authorised persons with IEC observer badges were permitted to observe the vote counting at Kunting. This resulted in some heated exchanges between polling officers and village elders, who insisted that they will witness the voting counting. In the end, two elders, including the village head/Alkalo, were allowed in each of the counting rooms.
- After the counting of votes at Kerewan Old Market (NBR), Basse Duniya Cinema (URR) and Brikama Wellingara (WCR) polling stations, there was no request for a recount from the party agents who as well endorsed the results.



©NHRC/Polling booth at Sanimentereng

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

I. Conclusion

Based on the finding of the election monitoring, the NHRC did not observe any major problems on polling day, including during the opening of polls, voting, and counting of results. No major report of irregularities or malpractices in the voting process was also observed or received during the period of the monitoring.

II. Recommendations

Based on the findings and/or observations made during the monitoring of the election, the NHRC proposes the following recommendations to the IEC and political parties/presidential candidates to enhance compliance with human rights standards and norms, the 1997 Constitution and the electoral law, and other laid down procedures in future elections.

a. Recommendations to IEC

1. Assign sign language experts to polling stations that have registered voters who are hard of hearing.
2. Ensure that there are clear signs to indicate which queue voters are supposed to join or designate staff to direct people accordingly especially at polling stations that have several booths.
3. Ensure that all those who have voted leave the polling station to avoid crowds.
4. For security reasons, vehicles should not be allowed to park inside the complex of a polling station.

5. Establish polling stations at disability-friendly facilities.
6. Provide clear and consistent guidelines to polling officers on the approach to follow regarding the calling of names on the master voter register, whether to go by first names or surnames to avoid confusion.
7. Ensure that marbles are of the right sizes to avoid disruption in the voting process.
8. Ensure that voter education materials, such as posters, are of good quality, reader-friendly and accessible to all.
9. Make timely announcements of any changes such as the location of polling stations prior to the opening of polls.
10. Ensure that children are not involved at any point in the electoral process.
11. Provide adequate and effective training to polling staff to ensure standardised practice at all stations.
12. Ensure voters' list is error free as regards to the number of registered voters for each polling station.
13. Explore creating more polling stations in heavily populated areas.

b. Recommendation to Political Parties

14. Ensure that representatives or agents at polling stations are provided with the necessary documentation such as IEC observer tags.
15. Ensure that representatives or agents are at polling stations on time before the opening of polls.
16. Ensure that children under the age of eighteen (18) are not made elections observers.



ANNEXES

Annex 1. Voting Day Monitoring Checklist

Monitoring Checklist							
<u>Part A: Location of Polling Station</u>							
Region/Constituency:							
Polling Station:							
<u>Part B: Logistics</u>							
Q1: Was the Polling station open at 8am?				Yes/No			
Q2: If no, at what time did the station open and why?							
Comments:							
Q3: Are all materials/equipment in place?				Yes/No			
Q4: If yes, tick the ones that were available.							
Barrels		Ink		Computer		List of eligible voters	Marble
<u>Others:</u>							
Q5: Were there any faulty equipment ?				Yes/No			
If Yes what were they:							
Q6: Were all the barrels opened and shown to party agents and observers present?							
				Yes/No			
Q7: Were there any closures or disruptions during the voting process (due to violence or intimidation, lack of materials or non-working of equipment, etc.)? If yes, state the cause.							

Comments:									
Q8: Is secrecy of the ballot ensured?				Yes/No					
If No, please explain									
<u>Part C:</u> <u>Accessibility</u>									
Q10: Was the Polling Station accessible to persons with disability, the elderly, pregnant or lactating mothers, or other vulnerable members of society?									
				Yes/No					
If no, please describe briefly									
Q11: Were the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating mothers or sick persons given priority to vote?									
				Yes/No					
<u>Part D: Compliance with Voting Procedures</u>									
Q12: Are voting procedures generally being followed? Provide brief explanation of the process									
Comments:									
Q13: Was anyone prevented from voting by IEC officials?						Yes/No			
If yes, how many?									

Q14: If yes, why were they stopped voting?									
Comments:									
Q15: Did the polls close at 5pm?				Yes/No					
Q16: If no, at what time did polls close?									
Comments:									
Q17: Were there people in the queue waiting to vote at 5pm?				Yes/No					
Q18: If yes, were they permitted to vote after 5pm permitted?				Yes/No					
Q19: Are voters being offered any inducements to vote in a particular manner?				Yes/No					
<u>Part E: Election Officials</u>									
Q21: How many IEC officials were present at the polling station?									
Q22: Were the IEC officials familiar with the voting and counting procedures?				Yes/No					
<u>Part E: Party Agents</u>									
Q23: Were party agents present at the Polling Station?				Yes/No					
Q24: If yes, which party agents were present? (Please tick the appropriate box below)									
IND/EMF		GDC		NPP		NUP			
PDOIS		UDP							
Q25: How did these party agents conduct themselves?									

Comments:									
Q26: Did the party agents attempt to interfere in the voting process? If yes, please provide details									
Comments:									
Q27: Did any party agent(s) experience intimidation or harassment? If yes, please provide details (FOR PARTY AGENTS ONLY)									
Comments:									
<u>Part F: Vulnerable Groups</u>									
Q28: Was there any form of discrimination against persons with disabilities?									
Comments:									
Q29: During the voting, were visually impaired voters assisted?						Yes/No			
Q30: If yes, what kind of assistance was provided to the visually impaired?									
Comments:									
Q31: Overall, what kind of assistance was provided to persons with disability?									
<u>Part G: Security</u>									
Q32: Were security officers present at the polling station?						Yes/No			

Q33: If yes, which security outfit was present and how many?	
Q34: Was there any intimidation or harassment by security forces? If yes, please provide details	
Comments:	
Q35: Overall, how did the security conduct themselves?	
Comments:	
<i>Part H: Violence/Intimidation</i>	
Q36: Was there any form of violence or intimidation directed at potential voters?	Yes/No
Q37: Was there any form of violence or intimidation directed at IEC Officials?	Yes/No
Q38: Was there any form of violence or intimidation directed at security agents?	Yes/No
<i>Part I: Vote Counting (ONLY IF PRESENT AT THE VOTE COUNTING PERIOD)</i>	
Q39: Were all ballot boxes counted immediately after closure of voting?	<u>Yes/No</u>
-	
Q40: Were observers and party agents present during the counting of votes?	Yes/No
Q41: Did any party agent(s) request a recount of any of the ballot boxes?	Yes/No

Q42: Did any party agent(s) attempt to interfere with the counting process? If yes, provide details									
Q43: Were any unauthorized individuals present, and, if so, what was their role in the process?									
Comments:									
Q44: How does the number of registered voters recorded as having voted compare with the number of ballots actually cast?									
Comments:									
Q45: Are the result protocols correctly completed at the end of the count and signed by all authorized persons?									
Yes/No									
Q46: Are party agents able to obtain copies of the result protocols at the end of the count? If no, please provide details									
Comments:									
<i>Part J: Assessment</i>									
Q47: Overall, how would you describe any problems, if any, that may have occurred during the voting process?									
Minor					Major				
Q48: Overall, how would you describe the voting process in this station?									
Highly satisfied			Satisfied			Not satisfied			

II. List of Polling Stations Visited

No.	Party	Constituency/Region
1	Bijilo Bantaba	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR
2	Brufut father School	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR
3	Brufut 2	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR
4	Brusubi Phase 2	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR
5	Brusubi Sample House/Primary School	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR
6	Tranquil Mosque	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR
7	Marche Ngelew	Serekunda Constituency, KMC
8	Saint Peter's Primary School,	Busumbala Constituency, WCR
9	Gamtrade Training Centre	Busumbala Constituency, WCR
10	Lamin Health Centre	Busumbala Constituency, WCR
11	Lamin Cambodia, Busumbala Constituency	Busumbala Constituency, WCR
12	New Yundum Primary School	WCR
13	New Yundum Sadinka	
14	Busumbala Bantaba	Busumbala Constituency, WCR
15	Busumbala Model Sukoto Bantaba	Busumbala Constituency, WCR
16	Nyofelleh Bantaba	
17	Siffoe Lower Basic School	
18	Gunjur Junior and Senior Secondary School	
19	Kembujeh Bantaba	
20	Brikama Wellingara Praying Ground	
21	Methodist School	Brikama, WCR
22	Kitty Primary School	WCR
23	Faraba Banta Manokang	WCR
24	Jabang Mosque	WCR
25	Kotu Power Station	KMC

26	Holly Cross Nursery School in Tranquil	WCR
27	Kaur Janneh Kunda	
28	Kaur Wharf Town	
29	Njau	
30	Panchang	
31	Nyanga Bantang	
32	Wassu	
33	Sait Maram	
34	Jarumeh Koto	
35	Lamin Koto	
36	Kunting	
37	Dobo	
38	Sami Pachonki	
39	Sami Medina	
40	Karantaba	
41	Amdalai	NBR
42	Barra	NBR
43	Berrending	NBR
44	Dasilai	NBR
45	Essau	NBR
46	Fass	NBR
47	Kerewan	NBR
48	Keur Jatta	NBR
49	Kuntair	NBR
50	Mbollet Bah	NBR
51	Njongon	NBR
52	Bakoteh Lowe Basic School	KMC
53	Banjulinding	WCR
54	Methodist Primary School	Banjul South, BCC
55	Wesley Primary School	Banjul South, BCC
56	Lasso Wharf Markey	Banjul South, BCC
57	McCarthy Square	Banjul Central, BCC
58	Muhammadan Primary School	Banjul South, BCC
59	Banjul Mini Stadium	Banjul South, BCC
60	Banjul City Council	Banjul Central, BCC
61	Odeon Cinema	Banjul Central, BCC
62	Bethel Church	Banjul Central, BCC

63	Campama Primary School	Banjul North, BCC
64	Police Barracks	Banjul North, BCC
65	Kotu West	
66	Kololi	
67	Pakaliba	
68	Jareng	
69	Bati Njol	
70	Mamud Fana	
71	Mbayen	
72	Makka Mbayen	
73	Sotokoi	
74	Kudang	
75	Jahally	
76	Madina Mfally	
77	Brikamanding	
78	Brikamaba	
79	Darsilami	
80	Misera Njoben	
81	Boraba	
82	Bansang	
83	Janjangbureh	
84	Tallinding Bataba	
85	Nioro Jataba	
86	Sankandi	
87	Dumbutu	
88	Kwinella Sansang kono	
89	Kwinella Nya Kunda	
90	Soma Sateba	
91	Kanni Kunda	
92	Sankwia	
93	Karantaba	
94	Jalmbereh	
95	Salagi Opposite Nawec	
96	Sanchaba Sulay Jobe outside Alkalo	
97	Sukuta Arabic School	
98	Sukuta Senior School Library	

99	Sukuta Cinama Hall (held at Primary School)	
100	Sukuta Talaba koto	
101	Latrikunda Sabiji Lower Basic Cycle	
102	Pakalinding, Jarra West	
103	Jenoi, Jarra West	
104	Farafenni Lower Basic School	Illiassa Constituency
105	Farafenni Senior Secondary School	Illiassa Constituency
106	Farafenni Library	Illiassa Constituency
107	Farafenni Wharf Town	Illiassa Constituency
108	Farafenni Mauritanie Lower Basic School	Illiassa Constituency
109	Noo Kunda Bantaba 2	Illiassa Constituency
110	Conteh Kunda Niji	Illiassa Constituency
111	Illiassa Bantaba	Illiassa Constituency
112	Chamen	Illiassa Constituency
113	Yallal Tanko Jalla	Illiassa Constituency
114	Makka Farafenni	Illiassa Constituency
115	Sare Gubu Basiru	URR
116	Diabugu Batapa	URR
117	Misira	URR
118	Bantunding	URR
119	Koina	URR
120	Passamas	URR
121	Basse Dunya Cinema	URR
122	Kobo Kunda	URR
123	Basse Community Center	URR
124	Mansajang Kunda	URR
125	Allounghare	URR
126	Fatoto	URR
127	Sare Alpha	URR
128	Bakadaji	URR
129	Mankamang Kunda	URR
130	Kotu Layout football field	Serekunda West
131	Aren Betty Khan	Serekunda West
132	Latrikunda Yiriganya Mosque	Serekunda West
133	Pipeline Mosque	Serekunda West

134	Serrekunda West Mini Stadium	Serekunda West
135	Serrekunda Lower Basic School	Serrekunda
136	Plaza Cinema	Serrekunda
137	Fajikunda Mosque	Latrikunda Sabiji
138	Tallinding Dutokoto	Tallinding Kunjang
139	Tallinding Lower Basic School	Tallinding Kunjang
140	Buffer Zone	Tallinding Kunjang
141	Bundung Bantaba Street	Bundungka Kunda
142	Bundung Six Junction	Bundungka Kunda
143	Bundung Borehole	Bundungka Kunda
144	Kanifing Estate Community Centre	Jeshwang
145	Kanifing Layout	Jeshwang
146	Wuling Kama (Opp. Alkalo's Compound)	Saehmentereng Constituency, WCR

Annex 2: Checklist Nomination of Presidential Aspirants

Section 1: Bio

Name of Political Party:
Party Leader:
Party Color and Symbol:
Schedule/Time Allocated: (Date and Time)

Section 2: Criteria

2.1. Is the IEC nomination requirement compatible with International legal instruments? (For literature review)
2.2. Are candidates compliant with IEC rules? (Measure against the IEC nomination criteria)
A candidate shall be a citizen of The Gambia. Yes..... No
A candidate has attained a minimum age of thirty years. Yes..... No
A candidate has completed senior secondary school education. Yes..... No
A candidate has been ordinarily resident in The Gambia for the five years immediately preceding the election. Yes..... No
A candidate shall be nominated by not less than five thousand voters whose names appeared in the register of voters with at least two hundred voters being drawn from each Administrative Area.

Yes.....	No
Sworn Declaration of Assets.	
Yes.....	No
Tax Clearance Certificate.	
Yes.....	No
Payment of Deposit of Ten thousand Dalasis (D10, 000) as amended.	
Yes.....	No
Representative symbol, colour and photographs of a candidate.	
Yes.....	No
A person who is qualified to be registered as a voter under the Constitution and the Election Act may contest as an independent candidate in any election.	
Yes.....	No
A political party/candidate shall abide by the code on election campaign ethics which the Commission may time to time prepare.	
Yes.....	No
A submission of a manifesto encouraging the spirit of tolerance and multiculturalism.	
Yes.....	No
2.3. Are there any major violations of the IEC rules by Political Party(ies) or Independent Candidates?	
2.4. Were the procedures of nomination generally followed?	

Section 3: Procedure

3.1. Did the nomination of candidates commence on time as per IEC published schedule?
3.2. Is the time allocated for the nomination sufficient to complete the whole process of nomination?
3.3. Have there been any disruption(s) in the process of nomination?
3.4. Did the candidate abide by the IEC rules on the number of individuals allowed into the nomination room?
3.4.1 Out of those present, how many were female?
3.4.2 Out of those present, how many were PWDs?
3.5. Was the candidate denied nomination for any reason(s)? If yes, state the reason(s) why?
3.5.1. If yes, is there any recourse available for the candidate? (To be included in the main report)
3.6. Are COVID 19 guidelines being followed during nomination of candidates?
3.7. Is there any time overlap in the nomination of candidates?

Section 4: Conduct of Groups

4.1. What is the conduct of supporters who accompanied the candidates?
4.1.2 Did the supporters face any form of intimidation?
4.2. What was the conduct of security forces towards the candidate and his/her supporters?
4.3. Was there any violence? If yes, how did it happen and what was the source?
4.3.1 How did the security forces handle the violence?

Section 5: Discrimination

5.1. Did the candidate face any discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, age or any other background? (Please specify).
5.1.2. How was this addressed by IEC?

III. List of campaigns monitored (locations)

No.	Party	Location	Type	Region
1	PDOIS	Kerr Amadou		
2		Kerr Jarrga		
3		Munyagen		
4		Bakang		
5		Ngayen Sanchal		
6		Ballaghar Kerr Nderri		
7		Kaur		
8		Njorro Jattaba		LRR
9		Sintet		WCR
10		Kampasa	Caravan	WCR
11		Bwiam		WCR
12		Old Yundum	Caravan	
13		Sinchu Alagie		WCR
14		Tawto	Caravan	WCR
15		Banjul South	Caravan	BCC
16		Banjul Central	Caravan	BCC
17		Bakau	Caravan	KMC
18		kololi		WCR
19		Senegambia Craft Market		WCR
20		Bijilo		WCR
21		Mariama Kunda	Caravan	WCR
22		Yunna		WCR
23		Banyaka		WCR
24	NPP	Koina		
25		Kulari		

26		Baja Kunda		
27		Sare Ngai		
28		Niorro Jataba		
29		Kwinella		
30		Bwiam, Foni Kansala, WCR		WCR
31		Somita, Foni Berefet, WCR		WCR
32		Giboro, Kombo East, WCR		WCR
33	UDP	Yunndum/Busumbala		WCR
34		Gunjur, Kombo South		WCR
35		Banjul		BCC
36		Kaiaf, Kiang East		
37		Nema, Kiang Central		
38		Manduar, Kiang West		
39		Sotuma Sirreh		URR
40		Fatoto		URR
41		Basse Mini Stadium		URR
42	GDC	Kotu Quarreh		KMC
43		Ebo-Town		KMC
44		Giborro-Kuta		WCR
45		Marakissa		WCR
46		Brikama		WCR
47		Gengi Wollof		CRR
48		Keri Sait Maram		CRR
49	EMF/IND	Sukuta Nema		KMC
50		Gunjur, Kombo South		WCR

51		Brikama		WCR
52		Wellingara		WCR
53		Pinai		
54	NUP	Basori, Kombo East		WCR
55		Kuli Kunda		
56		Brikamanding		
57		Jammaar		
58		Tujereng		WCR
59		Gunjur Misira, Siffoe & Kartong (all caravan)		WCR
60		Tabanding		
61		Koina		URR
62		Garawol		
63		Dampha Kunda		

IV. Campaign Monitoring Checklist

SECTION 1: About the party/candidate

Name of the party/candidate holding the rally/meeting/event	
Date	
Time (start and end),	
Location of the event	

2.1. Names of the speakers and their positions, e.g., leader of party, candidate on the list, etc;
2.2. Were women, PwDs present at the rally?
2.2.1. Were children present at the rally?
2.3. Was the meeting/event disrupted and, if so, by whom?
2.4. Was any coercion used to ensure attendance?
2.5. What were the main themes of the speeches?
2.5.1. Were issues of particular concern to women, minorities, disabled persons, or other sectors of society covered by the candidates.
2.5.2. Did any of the speakers use language likely to incite violence or promote the use of violence against another party/candidate/supporters/tribe/individual

2.5.3. What was the gender of the speakers?
2.5.4. Were PWDs amongst the speakers?
2.5.5. If you consider that statement used at the campaign event might be inflammatory or provoke campaign violence, kindly record the exact words said by the speaker.
2.6. Were COVID 19 guidelines enforced by the organisers of the rally?
2.7. How accessible was the rally to PwDs?
2.8. Was security provided? If yes, which security outfit?

3. MONITORING OF GROUPS

3.1. What was the conduct of attendees at the rally?
3.2. Was there any violence? If yes, what happened, the source and outcome?
3.3. How did the security deal with the violence?

4. MONITORING THE CONDUCT OF SECURITY FORCES

4.1. Was there any intimidation or harassment of supporters and candidates by security forces?
4.2. Were there any detentions or arrests that may be related to the rally?

SECTION 5: DISCRIMINATION

5.1. Did the candidate or any of his supporters face any discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, or any other background? If yes, please specify.

5.2. How was this addressed by the authorities responsible?

6. Any other observations:

