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PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP)



POLICY POSITIONS

TESITO
(Self-Reliance)

ONE GAMBIA, ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION

**Guided by our Motto: “THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS THE
VOICE OF GOD.”**

***People-Centered Governance • Strong Institutions • Affordability.
National Development***

PARTY LEADER’S STATEMENT ON THE PPP POLICY POSITION

Fellow Gambians,

The People’s Progressive Party (PPP) is more than a political party; it is a national movement for transformation, hope, and progress for every Gambian. Our history, values, and vision are rooted in the firm belief that the strength of a nation does not lie in its leaders alone, but in the dignity, opportunity, and full potential of its people. That is why the PPP places citizens at the very heart of governance, builds strong and accountable institutions, and promotes national development that leaves no one behind.

The PPP stands for a people-centered government, a government that listens, serves, and acts in the best interest of its citizens. Development, to us, is not measured by speeches or statistics alone, but by its real impact on the lives of ordinary people: farmers, workers, women, youth, elders, and the most vulnerable among us. Governance must improve daily living conditions, protect rights, and expand opportunities for all.

At the core of our policy position is the commitment to strong, independent, and credible institutions. Nations do not succeed on personalities or excessive centralization of power; they succeed when institutions are respected, professional, and allowed to function independently. The PPP historically built institutions to promote discipline, accountability, economic stability, and good governance. Since 1994, many of these institutions have been weakened, undermined, or politicized, eroding public trust and slowing national progress.

Today, excessive concentration of power in the Office of the President has weakened institutions and made accountability more difficult. This centralization undermines democratic checks and balances and limits the ability of institutions to serve the people effectively. The PPP believes power must return to the people, exercised through strong institutions that operate independently and in the national interest.

Our party motto, “The voice of the people is the voice of God,” is not just a slogan; it is a guiding principle. It means restoring sovereignty to the people, strengthening democratic participation, and ensuring that government exists to serve citizens, not control them.

The PPP also believes deeply in national unity, peace, and social cohesion. The Gambia belongs to all Gambians regardless of tribe, religion, gender, region, or political belief. We reject division, intolerance, and exclusion in all forms. Our policies promote dialogue, mutual respect, justice, and peaceful coexistence, because only a united nation can achieve lasting stability and sustainable development.

We are firmly committed to affordability and economic justice. Government must reduce hardship, not increase it. The PPP will work to lower the cost of living and ensure access to affordable and quality education, reliable healthcare, food security, clean water, electricity, transportation, and

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housing. Economic growth must be inclusive and fair, rewarding hard work, supporting entrepreneurship, empowering women and youth, and protecting the vulnerable.

National development under the PPP will be people-driven, balanced, and sustainable. We will invest in infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, technology, and innovation while protecting the environment for future generations. Development must reach every region, village, town, and city, closing inequality gaps and creating opportunities nationwide.

Above all, the PPP stands for good governance that is transparent, accountable, participatory, and ethical. Public resources must be managed responsibly, corruption must be confronted decisively, and leadership must be based on service, integrity, and humility.

The PPP envisions a Gambia of unity, opportunity, and dignity, a nation where strong institutions safeguard democracy, innovation fuels development, and no citizen is left behind. This policy position reflects our determination to turn vision into action, promise into progress, and potential into shared prosperity for every Gambian.

To be part of this movement for national renewal, visit: www.pppgambia.com.

Register as a member, participate actively, and support the party through your contributions. Your involvement and support are vital to strengthening our democracy and advancing the people's agenda.

Together, we can build a government that truly belongs to the people.

May God bless our people and our country.

Ousman Madikay Faal (Pa Alhagi)
Secretary General and Party Leader

VISION STATEMENT

“TESITO” – A Self-Reliant Nation Driven by The People

Rooted in the beliefs of our founding members and our first President, **Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara**, the vision of this policy position is a reflection of how they built a nation using Tesito (self-reliance), tolerance, and inclusive participation, ensuring that every Gambian could take ownership of government projects and see themselves as partners in national development.

The People’s Progressive Party (PPP) envisions a Gambia built on **“Tesito”**, where empowered citizens, strong institutions, and accountable leadership work together to drive sustainable national development. Our vision is of a nation that believes in its own people, harnesses its own resources, and shapes its own future with confidence and dignity, placing the people at the center of governance, restoring power to citizens, and enabling communities to take ownership of their development. It is a commitment to reducing dependency by strengthening local production, supporting entrepreneurship, investing in skills and innovation, and building an economy that creates opportunities for all.

Under this vision, strong and independent institutions safeguard democracy, uphold the rule of law, and ensure transparency, efficiency, and accountability. Governance is decentralized, inclusive, and responsive, allowing every Gambian, regardless of region, gender, or background, to participate meaningfully in national decision-making.

Tesito also reflects our belief in national unity and shared responsibility. A self-reliant nation is one where diversity is a strength, solidarity is a valued principle, and development is a collective endeavor. Through unity, discipline, and mutual respect, we build resilience and social cohesion.

The PPP’s vision of Tesito is not isolation from the world; it is partnership with purpose, engaging globally from a position of strength while prioritizing national interests. It is development that is affordable, inclusive, environmentally responsible, and focused on improving the daily lives of the people.

Guided by our founding principle, **“The Voice of the People Is the Voice of God,”** the PPP commits to translating Tesito from vision into action, building a Gambia of dignity, opportunity, and shared prosperity, where no citizen is left behind, and the future is shaped by the people themselves.

1. Democratic Mandate, Term Limits, and Credible Elections

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) firmly believes that all political authority flows from the people. Democracy is not merely about holding elections; it is about protecting the sanctity of the ballot, respecting term limits, and ensuring that only leaders chosen by the people exercise power. For democracy to endure, leadership must always remain accountable, limited, and legitimately earned.

Importantly, the PPP's commitment to term limits is not rhetorical; it is institutionalized within the PPP Constitution itself, where leadership term limits are clearly provided. This reflects the party's long-standing belief that renewal, accountability, and internal democracy must begin within the party before being demanded of the state.

The PPP will:

1. Defend and enforce presidential term limits, consistent with both national democratic principles and the PPP Constitution, to prevent the concentration of power and safeguard democratic renewal. No individual should rule indefinitely or manipulate the system to remain in office.
2. Guarantee voting rights for Gambians in the diaspora, recognizing that citizenship does not end at national borders. Gambians abroad play a vital role in national development and must have a direct voice in electing their leaders.
3. We will abolish the president's power to nominate five members to the national assembly
4. Ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections by strengthening the independence of the Electoral Commission, protecting voters from intimidation, and enforcing strict penalties against electoral fraud and abuse.
5. Require that the Vice President be nominated and appointed from among elected Members of the National Assembly, ensuring that no one assumes executive authority without first receiving a direct mandate from the people.
6. Require that the Speaker of the National Assembly be chosen from among elected Members, safeguarding the legitimacy, independence, and representative character of Parliament.
7. Prevent unelected individuals from completing or inheriting presidential terms, closing constitutional loopholes that allow power to shift without the consent of the electorate.
8. Ensure that Presidential and National Assembly elections are held on the same day, reducing political polarization, increasing voter participation, strengthening national unity, and saving public resources that can be redirected toward development priorities.

What this means for the people:

Your vote will truly count. Only leaders elected by the people will govern, power will be limited and accountable, and democracy will be protected both in law and in practice. With the PPP, term limits are not just promised—they are practiced, ensuring a future built on legitimacy, fairness, and respect for the sovereign will of the Gambian people.

2. Power to Communities and Strengthened Local Government (Bottom-Top Approach)

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) firmly believes that real and sustainable development begins at the community level. When decisions are made closest to the people, governance becomes more responsive, inclusive, and accountable. A strong nation is built from empowered villages, wards, and councils, not from excessive central control.

The PPP is committed review the local government act to return the country to the proven system of governance that existed under past PPP governments, where local government administration was genuinely autonomous, effective, and respected as a pillar of national development.

The PPP Will:

1. **Restore and Strengthen Autonomous Local Government Administration:** The PPP will restore the model of local government that existed under PPP administration, where councils operated with clear legal authority, professional independence, and accountability to local communities. Decentralization will not be symbolic but practical, functional, and enforceable.
2. **Guarantee Full Administrative and Operational Autonomy:** Local councils will have the authority to appoint, manage, and discipline their own staff, ensuring efficiency, professionalism, and freedom from political interference. This will allow councils to plan and implement development programs that reflect local realities.
3. **Provide Adequate Resources and Legal Authority:** The PPP will ensure that decentralization is backed by adequate funding, predictable subventions, and enhanced revenue-raising powers. Councils will be legally empowered to deliver essential services such as local roads, markets, sanitation, environmental management, and community infrastructure.
4. **Promote Community-Driven Development:** The PPP will institutionalize participatory development planning, ensuring that communities themselves define priorities and monitor implementation. Women, youth, farmers, and vulnerable groups will have a meaningful voice in local decision-making.
5. **Restore the Customary Role of Traditional Leaders:** Alkalos and Chiefs will be recognized strictly as customary, traditional, and cultural leaders, not political appointees. The PPP will remove the power of their appointment from central government ministries and return it to local communities in line with tradition and customary law, restoring legitimacy and public trust.
6. **Strengthen Village Development Committees (VDCs):** Local government authorities will be required to subsidize, support, and empower Village Development Committees as grassroots development institutions. VDCs will receive financial and technical support from councils, while councils will exercise oversight to ensure transparency, accountability, and results.

What This Means for the People:

- Communities regain control over their development priorities.
- Local councils function independently and efficiently, as they did under PPP governments.

- Traditional leadership is respected, depoliticized, and community-driven.
- Development decisions are made closer to the people, improving service delivery and trust in governance.

Under a PPP government, power will once again flow from the grassroots upward, restoring the autonomy of local government administration and strengthening democracy through community-led development.

3. Jobs, Fair Wages, and a Stable Economy

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) believes that the true measure of a nation's progress is the dignity of its people. Dignity begins with decent work, fair wages, and an economy that allows families to live, plan, and prosper. No Gambian who works hard should remain poor, and no economy can be stable when wages are unfair, jobs are scarce, and the cost of living continues to rise.

A strong economy is not built by an oversized and wasteful government, but by a focused, efficient state that empowers workers, rewards productivity, and supports local enterprise. The PPP is committed to restoring economic discipline, fairness, and opportunity for all.

The PPP will:

1. **Establish a Living Minimum Wage:** PPP will introduce and enforce a living minimum wage that reflects the real cost of food, housing, transportation, healthcare, and education. Wages must enable workers to support their families with dignity, reduce their dependence on debt, and enhance overall productivity and morale in both the public and private sectors.
2. **Reform Government Payrolls for Fairness and Efficiency:** PPP recognizes that an excessively bloated public sector weakens service delivery and depresses wages. We will rationalize government payrolls to eliminate duplication, ghost workers, and inefficiencies. The savings will be used to improve pay, working conditions, and training for essential public servants such as teachers, nurses, and security personnel.
3. **Address Poverty Wages as a Root Cause of Corruption:** PPP understands that corruption often thrives where wages are too low to sustain a basic livelihood. By ensuring fair compensation and enforcing strong accountability systems, PPP will tackle corruption at its roots, restoring integrity, efficiency, professionalism, and public trust in government institutions.
4. **Reduce the Size and Cost of Government:** PPP will reduce the number of ministries and cut unnecessary foreign missions and overseas expenditures that drain public resources without delivering value. Government must be lean, purposeful, and results-driven. Public funds saved will be redirected toward job creation, social services, and economic recovery.
5. **Implement Economic Stabilization Programs:** PPP will pursue sound fiscal and monetary policies to stabilize prices, strengthen the national currency, and restore investor confidence. Our economic stabilization programs will prioritize productive sectors such as

agriculture, fisheries, tourism, manufacturing, food security, and other essential services, creating sustainable jobs rather than short-term political employment.

6. Support Gambian Businesses, Traders, and Workers: PPP will protect and promote local businesses through access to affordable credit, fair taxation, skills development, entrepreneurship, and supportive regulations. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of the economy, and when Gambian businesses grow, jobs are created and income rises.

What this means for the people:

- More decent and secure jobs for young people and families
- Fair wages that match the cost of living
- Reduced corruption and waste in government
- Lower pressure on prices and a more stable economy
- A government that works for workers, not against them

Under a PPP government, economic growth will be people-centered, wages will be fair, and hard work will once again lead to a decent and dignified life.

4. Affordability, Cost of Living, and Economic Relief

The PPP believes that economic growth must translate into affordable living for all Gambians. No family should struggle to afford food, housing, or necessities while a few benefit from unchecked price increases.

The PPP will take decisive and practical measures to protect citizens from rising costs and economic hardship.

The PPP will:

1. Fight inflation through responsible economic management, price monitoring, and targeted government intervention.
2. Establish a Government Trading Corporation to import, store, and sell essential food commodities such as rice, sugar, oil, and flour—directly to the people at affordable and stable prices.
3. Use strategic food reserves to prevent artificial shortages, hoarding, and price manipulation.
4. Strengthen market regulation to protect consumers from unfair pricing and exploitative practices.
5. Address the high cost of rent by regulating rental increases and ensuring that rent adjustments are fair, transparent, and aligned with the economic realities of the Gambian people.
6. Promote affordable housing through public-private partnerships and community-based housing initiatives.
7. Protect low-income families, workers, and vulnerable groups from sudden and unreasonable increases in living costs.

What this means for the people:

- Affordable food and basic necessities.
- Fair and reasonable housing costs.
- Greater economic stability and dignity for families.
- A government that actively stands with the people against hardship.

5. Your Rights, Your Vote, Your Freedom

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) firmly believes that The Gambia belongs to its people—not to presidents, parties, or powerful individuals. True democracy is not defined by slogans or periodic elections alone; it is defined by freedom, accountability, strong institutions, and respect for the rule of law. Every Gambian must be able to speak freely, organize peacefully, criticize those in power, and participate in elections without fear, intimidation, or discrimination.

The PPP believes that when laws are applied selectively, democracy collapses. When institutions are weak, citizens lose confidence in the state. That is why the PPP is committed to rebuilding a democratic system where no one is above the law, and everyone is equal before it.

The PPP will:

1. Significantly reduce nomination fees for elected positions to ensure that public office is accessible to all citizens, regardless of economic status. Democracy must not be for sale. The voice of the people in elections should be determined by vision, service, character, and popular support—not by money, privilege, or financial influence. This will allow ordinary citizens, youth, women, and marginalized groups to participate fully in shaping the nation's future.
2. Guarantee the full independence of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC): Protect the IEC from executive control, political pressure, and manipulation, ensuring it operates strictly in accordance with the Constitution and the law.
3. Empower the IEC to verify national identity documents: Grant the IEC clear legal authority to authenticate national identity documents, even when they are government-issued, where there are reasonable concerns about legitimacy or accuracy.
4. Allow professional vetting during voter registration: Permit registration officers to interview applicants where reasonable doubt exists, using standards similar to immigration and citizenship vetting, such as requesting evidence to protect the integrity of the voters' roll.
5. Protect the credibility of the voters' register: Deny voter registration where evidence is insufficient or fraudulent, while guaranteeing every applicant the right to appeal such decisions in the courts, ensuring fairness and due process.
6. Ensure democratic oversight of the IEC: Require National Assembly approval for the appointment of all senior IEC officials, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and public confidence in electoral management.

What this means for the people:

- You can vote freely, knowing your vote counts.

- You can trust elections to be fair, transparent, and credible.
- You can have confidence that laws protect you, not the powerful.

Under a PPP government, democracy will not be symbolic—it will be lived, protected, and defended, because only a free people, governed by just laws and strong institutions, can build a stable, prosperous, and united The Gambia.

6. Strong Institutions and an End to One-Man Rule

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) believes that no nation can prosper when power is concentrated in the hands of one individual. History has shown that one-man rule weakens accountability, encourages abuse of authority, and undermines national stability. True and lasting democracy is built on strong, professional, independent, and accountable institutions that serve the people, not individuals.

The PPP is firmly committed to restoring constitutional balance, separation of powers, and institutional independence, ensuring that governance is predictable, transparent, and rooted in the rule of law.

The PPP will:

1. Strengthen key national institutions, including the civil service, judiciary, security services, and local governments, by guaranteeing their independence, professionalism, and protection from political interference.
2. End unilateral presidential appointments by requiring National Assembly approval for critical public offices, including but not limited to:
 - Inspector General of Police
 - Chief of Defence Staff
 - Director General of Immigration
 - Director General of the State Intelligence Services
 - Director General of the Drug Law Enforcement Agency
 - Accountant General
 - Governor of the Central Bank
 - Auditor General
 - Other key security and regulatory institutions: This ensures that no individual controls the security apparatus of the state without democratic oversight.
3. Empower the National Assembly to impeach senior government officials through a clear and enforceable Act of the National Assembly, reinforcing accountability and deterring abuse of office.
4. Preserve executive leadership while strengthening checks and balances by allowing the President to nominate ministers, subject to confirmation by the National Assembly before appointment.
5. Grant the National Assembly the authority to impeach ministers who violate the law, abuse public trust, or act contrary to national interest.

6. Protect judicial independence by allowing the President to nominate judges, subject to National Assembly approval, ensuring that the judiciary remains impartial, competent, and free from executive domination

What this means for the people:

- Power will no longer rest with one person, but with institutions accountable to the people.
- Government will function effectively regardless of who occupies the presidency.
- Abuse of power will be prevented through lawful oversight and democratic safeguards.
- Citizens will regain confidence in state institutions as protectors of rights, justice, and national stability.

Under the PPP, no leader is above the law, institutions will be stronger than individuals, and democracy will be safeguarded for current and future generations.

7. Legal Advisory Capacity Across Government

The PPP believes that effective governance requires timely, independent, and specialized legal advice within every ministry.

To achieve this, the PPP will:

1. Employ qualified legal experts within all ministries to provide direct legal advice on policy formulation, legislation, contracts, and administrative decisions.
2. Ensure that legal considerations are integrated at the earliest stages of policy development, reducing costly errors, delays, and legal disputes.
3. Promote specialized legal expertise tailored to each sector, such as finance, energy, infrastructure, health, education, environment, international agreements, etc.
4. Strengthen accountability and compliance with the Constitution, laws, and international obligations through in-house legal review.
5. Reduce over-centralization of legal work by ensuring ministries do not rely exclusively on a single legal authority for routine legal guidance.

At the same time, the PPP will redefine and strengthen the core mandate of the Ministry of Justice by:

1. Allowing the Ministry of Justice to focus on its primary responsibilities, including:
2. Drafting and reviewing national legislation
3. Representing the state in major legal proceedings
4. Providing constitutional and public-interest legal oversight
5. Leading law reform and justice sector coordination
6. Improving efficiency, professionalism, and independence within the justice system.

What this means for the people:

- Faster and more effective government decision-making
- Fewer legal disputes and policy reversals
- Stronger rule of law and institutional accountability
- A more efficient and responsive public service

8. Honest, Transparent, and Accountable Leadership

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) believes that leadership is a sacred trust, not an opportunity for personal enrichment. Public office exists to serve the people, protect national resources, and advance development—not to create wealth for a few at the expense of the many. A PPP government will therefore place honesty, transparency, and accountability at the heart of governance.

Corruption weakens institutions, drains national resources, and steals opportunities from future generations. The PPP is committed to building a state where no one is above the law and where public officials are held to the highest ethical standards.

The PPP will:

9. Treat audit reports as binding accountability instruments, not mere advisory documents. Findings from the National Audit Office will trigger mandatory corrective actions and enforcement measures.
10. Automatically refer serious audit findings for police and prosecutorial investigation, ensuring that financial misconduct is treated as a criminal matter, not a political issue.
11. Place public officials on administrative leave where a prima facie case exists, to protect evidence, prevent interference with investigations, and uphold the integrity of public institutions.
12. Strengthen the prosecution of corruption cases by empowering investigators and prosecutors to act independently, professionally, and without political interference.
13. Recover stolen public assets through the full use of the Asset Management and Recovery Cooperation (AMRC) framework, ensuring that misappropriated funds and properties are returned to the state and reinvested in national development.
14. Publish outcomes of corruption cases and recovered assets, reinforcing transparency and restoring public confidence in government.

What this means for the people:

- Your taxes will work for you, funding quality schools, modern hospitals, good roads, clean water, and reliable public services—rather than financing private luxuries.
- Public officials will serve with discipline and integrity, knowing that misuse of public funds carries real and unavoidable consequences.
- National resources will be protected, allowing the government to invest more in jobs, youth opportunities, women's empowerment, and rural development.
- Trust between the people and the state will be restored, creating a culture where honesty is rewarded and corruption is rejected.

Under a PPP government, accountability will not be selective, justice will not be delayed, and public service will once again mean service to the people.

9. Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Security

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) believes that agriculture is not just an economic activity; it is the backbone of The Gambia, a vital source of livelihoods for the majority of our people, and the foundation of national food security. A thriving agricultural and fisheries sector ensures affordable food for all, reduces dependence on imports, and strengthens rural communities.

The PPP will:

1. Re-establish cooperative societies and agricultural banks to empower farmers with collective bargaining power, reduce exploitation by middlemen, and provide easier access to credit and shared resources.
2. Create dedicated credit facilities and microfinance programs for farmers, tailored to both smallholder and commercial operators, ensuring that financing is accessible, fair, and sustainable.
3. Encourage commercial farming and agribusiness ventures, promoting innovations, value addition, and employment opportunities, while linking farmers directly to local and regional, and international markets.
4. Provide essential inputs such as fertilizers, improved seedlings, and equipment at affordable prices, ensuring that no farmer is denied the resources needed for productive agriculture.
5. Established agro-industrial zones in all the regions, and to rejuvenate strategic agricultural industries, including the Jahally-Pacharr rice project, Kuntaur Rice Mill, Sarro Oil Mill, Basse Cotton industry, restoring them as engines of economic growth and employment.
6. Modernize fisheries infrastructure, including landing sites, cold storage, and processing facilities, to enhance productivity, reduce waste, and provide sustainable livelihoods for fishing communities.
7. Protect national resources from unfair foreign exploitation, renegotiating or revoking licenses where necessary to ensure that Gambian citizens benefit first from our natural wealth.
8. Promote
9. Empower women in agriculture, especially in horticulture and gardening, through training, resources, and access to farm land and markets, recognizing their central role in feeding families and communities.
10. Require hotels, resorts, and tourism establishments to prioritize sourcing of local produce, thereby creating reliable demand, stimulating rural economies, and promoting Gambian culinary and agricultural heritage.

What this means for the people:

- Lower food prices, as local production reduces dependence on expensive imports.
- Stronger rural economies, with farmers earning fair incomes and communities benefiting from local industries.
- Increased employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women, through agribusiness and fisheries development.
- A resilient and self-reliant food system that safeguards the nation against external shocks.

By revitalizing agriculture and fisheries, the PPP will ensure that every Gambian has access to affordable livestock and nutritious food, while transforming the sector into a sustainable engine of national prosperity.

11. Education for Skills, Values, and National Development

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) believes that education is more than just a pathway to certificates; it is the foundation of opportunity, the engine of national development, and the moral compass of our society. Every Gambian child deserves an education that equips them with the skills to thrive, the values to lead, and the knowledge to contribute meaningfully to our nation's future.

The PPP will:

1. Modernize the national curriculum to meet the demands of the 21st century, incorporating technology, innovation, critical thinking, and practical skills that prepare students for real-world challenges and opportunities.
2. Focus education in Gambian culture and values, ensuring that children learn the history, traditions, and civic responsibilities that make us proud to be Gambian, while fostering unity, integrity, and national pride.
3. Regulate private schools to ensure fair fees and high-quality teaching, guaranteeing that all Gambian families have access to excellent education without exploitation.
4. Strengthen public schools by rigorously evaluating teachers, ensuring that every classroom is led by skilled, qualified, and dedicated educators committed to excellence.
5. Lead by example by requiring ministers and senior government officials to enroll their children in public schools, demonstrating trust, accountability, and a commitment to building confidence in our national education system.

What this means for the people:

- Children will gain practical skills, creativity, and critical thinking, ready to succeed in work, business, and life.
- Students will grow with strong values, understanding their duties to family, community, and nation.
- Families can trust that public education is excellent and equitable, creating real opportunity for all, not just the privileged few.
- The nation will benefit from an educated, skilled, and responsible generation, driving innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development for decades to come.

Under a PPP government, education will become the great equalizer, the engine of opportunity, and the builder of our nation's future. We will ensure that every Gambian child is prepared not just to survive, but to thrive—and to help The Gambia thrive along with them.

12. Accessible and Quality Health Care for All

The PPP believes that health care is not a privilege; it is a fundamental human right. Every Gambian, regardless of where they live or their economic situation, deserves timely, affordable, and quality health services. Good health is the foundation of a productive life, strong families, and a thriving nation.

The PPP will prioritize:

1. **Community-Based Health Workforce:** Deploy trained Village Health Workers (VHWs) and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in every village, empowering them to provide basic care, health education, and emergency support. This ensures health care reaches even the most remote communities and fosters trust between health providers and citizens.
2. **Capacity Building for Health Professionals:** Invest in continuous training for doctors, nurses, midwives, and health technicians to maintain high standards of care across the country. Encourage local training programs and partnerships with international health institutions.
3. **Strengthening Primary Health Care:** Expand and modernize community health centers to serve as the first point of contact for all Gambians. Ensure they are staffed with trained professionals and equipped to provide preventive, curative, and emergency services.
4. **Maternal and Child Health:** Implement comprehensive programs to reduce maternal and infant mortality, including antenatal care, safe delivery services, postnatal follow-up, and vaccination campaigns. Provide free essential maternal and child health services to guarantee every child a healthy start in life.
5. **Disease Prevention and Health Education:** Launch nationwide awareness campaigns and vaccination drives against preventable diseases. Focus on nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, and lifestyle diseases. Strengthen epidemiological monitoring to respond swiftly to outbreaks.
6. **Modern, Well-Equipped Hospitals, treatment centers, and Clinics Nationwide:** Upgrade existing health facilities and build new facilities where needed, ensuring access in all regions.
7. **Ensure a consistent supply of essential medicines, medical equipment, and diagnostic tools** by decentralizing the national pharmaceutical store so that no Gambian is turned away due to lack of resources.

What this means for the people:

- Affordable, quality health care close to home, reducing the need for long and costly travel to access medical services.
- Every region will have a regional pharmaceutical store
- Safer pregnancies and healthier children, giving families peace of mind and security.
- Stronger prevention of diseases, leading to longer, healthier lives and reduced medical costs.
- Empowered communities with trained health workers ensuring immediate care, early detection of illnesses, and improved overall well-being.

The PPP's health vision ensures that no Gambian is left behind health care will be a right realized, not a luxury.

13. Youth Empowerment, Skills, and Employment

The PPP believes that young people are not just the future, they are the present driving force of The Gambia's development. Their energy, creativity, and talent are key to building a prosperous,

stable, and self-reliant nation. The PPP is committed to equipping young Gambians with the tools, opportunities, and support they need to thrive.

The PPP will:

1. Expand vocational and technical training: Establish well-equipped training centers across the country to provide youth with practical skills in fields such as carpentry, building, metal work, handicraft, electronics, IT, healthcare, and hospitality. Curriculum will be tailored to meet labor market demands and national development priorities.
2. Support youth entrepreneurship: Create funding programs, micro-credit facilities, and mentorship networks to help young people launch businesses and social enterprises, turning ideas into sustainable livelihoods.
3. Promote youth participation in key sectors: Actively involve youth in agriculture, technology, innovation, and other growth sectors, recognizing their potential to modernize traditional industries and drive creative solutions to national challenges.
4. Promote sports and build facilities: Develop sports programs and construct modern sports facilities in all regions, decentralizing access so that every community has the opportunity to nurture talent, promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage teamwork and discipline among youth.
5. Protect youth from exploitation: Reject the use of young people for political violence, manipulation, or hollow rhetoric. Ensure their voices are heard in policy-making and leadership opportunities, fostering a generation that is engaged, responsible, and empowered.

What this means for the people:

Young Gambians will grow into hopeful, productive, and self-reliant citizens, contributing to national prosperity rather than being sidelined or exploited. Families will see real opportunities for their children to earn a dignified living, innovate, excel in sports, and lead the country forward. Communities will benefit from decentralized sports and recreational facilities, fostering talent and healthy lifestyles across all regions. The nation will gain a skilled, motivated, and ethically grounded youth cohort ready to shape a brighter future for all.

14. Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

PPP believes that women are not only the backbone of families but also a driving force of national development. A society that invests in women's potential is a society that accelerates progress, stability, and prosperity for all.

The PPP will ensure:

1. Equal Access to Education: Guarantee that girls and women have the same opportunities as boys to attend school at all levels, from primary to tertiary, including vocational and technical training. We will actively reduce barriers such as early marriage, high school dropout rates, and cultural biases that limit educational attainment.
2. Equal Employment Opportunities: Promote workplace policies that ensure fair hiring, promotion, and pay for women. Encourage private and public sector programs to create women-friendly workplaces, maternity protections, and career mentorship programs.

3. Access to Land and Credit: Implement policies that make land ownership and financial services accessible to women, including agricultural land, business loans, and start-up funding, empowering women to build wealth, invest, and create jobs.
4. Leadership and Decision-Making: Actively increase women's representation in politics, civil service, and traditional leadership structures. Establish quotas and leadership training programs to ensure women's voices shape policies and national priorities.
5. Protection from Discrimination and Abuse: Strengthen laws and enforcement mechanisms to protect women from gender-based violence, workplace harassment, and all forms of discrimination. Establish support systems, including shelters, counselling services, and legal aid, for the victims.
6. Promotion of Women in Trade, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship: Create targeted programs that support women entrepreneurs and innovators through training, incubation centers, and access to national and international markets.

What this means for the people:

When women are empowered, families are stronger, communities are more resilient, and national progress accelerates. Empowered women educate the next generation, drive economic growth, and participate actively in shaping fair and inclusive policies. Gender equality is not just a moral imperative—it is a strategic national investment that benefits everyone.

15. Disability Inclusion and Equal Opportunity

The PPP believes that persons with disabilities are full and equal citizens whose rights, dignity, and potential must be protected and promoted by the state.

The PPP will ensure:

1. Full inclusion of persons with disabilities in national development, governance, education, employment, and public life.
2. Strict enforcement of disability rights laws and international conventions, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
3. Accessible public buildings, transport systems, schools, hospitals, polling stations, and government services, through universal design standards.
4. Equal access to quality education for children and youth with disabilities, including:
 - Inclusive education
 - Trained special-needs teachers
 - Assistive learning materials and technologies
5. Employment opportunities and workplace inclusion, by: Reserving positions for persons with disabilities in the public service
6. Providing reasonable workplace accommodations
7. Access to health care, rehabilitation, and assistive devices, including: Physiotherapy and mental health services
8. Mobility aids, hearing aids, and visual assistance tools
9. Social protection and income support for persons with severe disabilities and vulnerable households.
10. Participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making, policy design, and local governance structures through representation and consultation.

The PPP will also:

- Establish or strengthen a National Disability Authority with adequate funding and enforcement powers.
- Ensure disability-disaggregated data collection to inform planning, budgeting, and service delivery.
- Promote public awareness campaigns to eliminate stigma, discrimination, and exclusion.

What this means for the people:

- Dignity, independence, and equal opportunity for persons with disabilities
- Stronger families and inclusive communities
- A fairer society where no one is left behind

16. Reliable Infrastructure and Essential Public Services

The PPP believes that true development is measured not just in grand plans but in tangible improvements in the daily lives of Gambians. Reliable infrastructure and essential public services are the foundation upon which families thrive, businesses grow, and communities prosper.

The PPP will ensure:

1. **Reliable Electricity:** Expand generation capacity, modernize the national grid, and promote renewable energy solutions to provide continuous, affordable electricity to homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses.
2. **Clean and Safe Water:** Develop sustainable water supply systems, protect water sources, and ensure equitable access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities across all regions, including rural communities.
3. **Good Roads and Transport Networks:** Upgrade and maintain national and rural road networks to improve connectivity, reduce travel time, and lower transport costs for goods and people.
4. **Effective Communication Services:** Expand telecommunications coverage, improve internet accessibility, and invest in digital infrastructure to connect every citizen to vital information, services, and economic opportunities.
5. **Efficient and Affordable Public Transportation:** Establish a reliable public transportation system that is safe, timely, and affordable, enabling citizens to commute easily for work, education, and daily activities.

What this means for the people:

With these essential services in place, Gambians will enjoy better living conditions, reduced daily hardships, and a more conducive environment for economic activity. Families will have consistent access to electricity and water, businesses will operate more efficiently, and communities will be connected like never before. Reliable infrastructure will empower citizens, attract investment, and accelerate national development, ensuring that no Gambian is left behind in the journey toward a modern and prosperous nation.

17. National Security, Public Safety, and Sovereignty

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) believes that national security exists to protect the people, the Constitution, and the sovereignty of The Gambia—not to protect regimes or intimidate citizens. A secure nation is one where citizens feel safe in their homes, communities, borders, and public spaces, and where security forces serve the Republic with professionalism and loyalty to the Constitution.

PPP rejects the politicization of security institutions and the use of force against civilians. Security must be people-centered, lawful, accountable, and intelligence-driven.

The PPP will:

1. Professionalize the Armed Forces, Police, Immigration, Intelligence, and Drug Law Enforcement Agency through merit-based recruitment, training, and promotion.
2. Enforce non-partisanship in all security services and prohibit political interference.
3. Require National Assembly approval for the appointment of all heads of security institutions to guarantee transparency and public confidence.
4. Strengthen parliamentary oversight of the security sector, including budgets, operations, and conduct.
5. Modernize border security to combat: (Illegal migration and trafficking, Drug smuggling, Arms proliferation, Terrorism, and transnational crime, and improve intelligence coordination while strictly respecting human rights and civil liberties).
6. Establish clear rules of engagement consistent with the Constitution and international law.
7. Protect citizens from police brutality and abuse of power, with independent investigation mechanisms.
8. Strengthen community policing and intelligence-led crime prevention.
9. Improve welfare, housing, healthcare, and working conditions for security personnel to promote discipline and professionalism.
10. Secure maritime and coastal zones for protection
11. Ensure that national security policy prioritizes early warning, prevention, and resilience, not reaction.

What this means for the people:

A secure country where citizens are protected—not intimidated—and where security forces serve the nation, not political interests.

18. Environmental Protection and Climate Responsibility

The PPP believes that a healthy environment is the foundation of a thriving nation and a legacy we owe to future generations. Guided by the Banjul Declaration, we are committed to ensuring that The Gambia grows without destroying the very resources that sustain us.

Our Commitments:

1. Protect Our Natural Heritage: Forests, wetlands, rivers, wildlife, and coastal areas will be safeguarded. No more unchecked deforestation or pollution threatening our future.
2. Climate-Smart Development for All: We will champion renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and resilient infrastructure so that development does not cost the environment.

3. **Restore and Revive:** Reforestation, mangrove restoration, and wetland rehabilitation programs will bring back degraded lands, prevent flooding, and secure livelihoods.
4. **Strong Laws, Strong Enforcement:** Environmental regulations will be strengthened and enforced, holding polluters accountable.
5. **Empower Citizens and Youth:** Every Gambian will have a role in protecting the environment—from schools to local communities, we will build a nation of environmental stewards.
6. **Balance Growth with Sustainability:** Economic development will go hand-in-hand with environmental responsibility, ensuring today's progress doesn't compromise tomorrow's opportunities.

What This Means for You:

- **Safer, Healthier Communities:** Clean air, clean water, and thriving ecosystems for all.
- **Stronger Livelihoods:** Farmers, fishers, and coastal communities will be shielded from climate shocks and environmental risks.
- **A Brighter, Sustainable Future:** By protecting our environment, we open the door to green jobs, tourism, and lasting economic growth.
- **Your Voice Matters:** Every citizen becomes a guardian of The Gambia, building a country where nature and people thrive together.

19. Culture, Heritage, and Creative Expression Policy

PPP believes that Gambian culture is a cornerstone of national identity, unity, and development. Our music, arts, traditions, and cultural expressions are treasures that belong to all citizens and must be preserved, celebrated, and shared.

The PPP will ensure:

1. **Promotion and Preservation of Traditional Culture**
 - Support and protect indigenous languages, customs, and traditional knowledge.
 - Encourage intergenerational transmission of cultural practices, including storytelling, dance, music, and craftsmanship.
 - Establish cultural heritage centers in each region to showcase and document local history and traditions.
2. **Support for Music, Arts, and Creative Industries**
 - By establishing a national school for music and creative and performing arts
 - Promote Gambian music, theatre, and visual arts as tools for education, social cohesion, and tourism.
 - Fund programs for musicians, painters, writers, and other creatives, including scholarships, grants, and training programs.
 - Organize national festivals that celebrate Gambian music, dance, and artistic innovation, providing platforms for emerging talent.
3. **Integration of Culture in Education and Development**
 - Include cultural education in school curricula to teach students about Gambian history, arts, and values.

- Partner with local communities to create cultural workshops, mentorships, and apprenticeships for youth.
- Encourage research and documentation of traditional practices to ensure they are recognized and preserved for future generations.
- 4. Cultural Tourism and National Pride
 - Develop cultural tourism programs that showcase local arts, music, food, and heritage sites while benefiting communities.
 - Promote Gambian culture internationally to strengthen national identity and global recognition.
 - Recognize and honor cultural ambassadors who contribute significantly to preserving and promoting Gambian culture.
- 5. Inclusivity and Social Cohesion Through Culture
 - Celebrate cultural diversity and foster respect between ethnic groups, religions, and regions.
 - Use cultural events and programs to promote dialogue, tolerance, and unity.
 - Ensure that all Gambians, regardless of background, can access and participate in cultural initiatives.
 - Re-establish the national troop
 - Establish a national theatre

What this means for the people:

- A nation proud of its identity, traditions, and creative talent.
- Opportunities for young artists, musicians, and cultural practitioners to thrive.
- Strengthened national unity through shared appreciation of culture.
- A vibrant cultural economy that contributes to jobs, tourism, and social cohesion.

20. Foreign Relations That Serve Gambian Interests

The PPP believes that The Gambia's foreign policy must always prioritize the well-being, prosperity, and dignity of its people. Our approach is grounded in the principle that international relationships should directly translate into tangible benefits for Gambians' jobs, skills, investment, and sustainable development.

The PPP will ensure:

1. Non-Aligned, Principled Diplomacy: We will maintain a non-aligned foreign policy that avoids entanglement in conflicts or agendas that do not serve Gambian interests. This ensures The Gambia's sovereignty, independence, and decision-making remain fully under our control.
2. Strategic Partnerships for Development: We will actively pursue international partnerships that create meaningful employment, transfer skills, attract investment, and promote technological and industrial growth. Every international engagement will be evaluated against the standard of "how does this benefit the Gambian people?"
3. Protection of National Sovereignty and Dignity: The PPP will defend our nation's independence in all international dealings. We will resist foreign pressure that undermines

our laws, our economy, or our people's rights, and we will assert The Gambia's voice and values in global forums.

4. Promotion of Regional Integration: While remaining non-aligned, we will strengthen ties with our West African neighbors to enhance trade, security, and collective development initiatives that directly improve the livelihoods of Gambians.
5. Responsible Global Engagement: The PPP will ensure that The Gambia engages internationally not just as a participant, but as a nation with clear priorities protecting our environment, promoting human rights, and advancing education, healthcare, and infrastructure through mutually beneficial agreements.

What this means for the people:

Every handshake, treaty, and international agreement will be a tool to empower Gambians. Citizens will gain new opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, education, and innovation, while our nation retains its independence, pride, and influence in the world. The PPP's foreign policy will transform diplomacy from abstract negotiations into real, measurable improvements in the lives of every Gambian family.

21. National Unity, Peace, and Social Cohesion

The PPP is a party that belongs to every Gambian regardless of tribe, religion, or region. We believe that our diversity is our greatest strength, and our shared future depends on unity, respect, and solidarity. This was since independence, we have promoted a slogan: **One Gambian, One People, One Nation**

The PPP will work tirelessly to ensure:

1. Every Gambian Feels Included: No one will be left behind. Every child, woman, man, and elder will have a voice in building our nation, access to opportunities, and the chance to contribute to national progress.
2. Dialogue Replaces Division: We will create spaces for honest conversations across communities, faiths, and regions, turning differences into understanding and conflict into cooperation.
3. Peaceful and Safe Communities: Through education, awareness, and fair governance, we will eliminate tribalism, discrimination, and hate, ensuring that every Gambian can live in safety, dignity, and mutual respect.

What this means for the people:

- Families can live without fear of tension or violence, and children can grow up in communities that value respect and solidarity.
- Citizens can pursue their dreams, invest in their businesses, and build their futures in a nation where fairness and justice guide every action.
- Together, we will build a The Gambia that is not only peaceful and united but also strong, prosperous, and resilient, a country where every Gambian can thrive.

Unity is not just a principle; it is our path to a brighter future. The PPP will ensure that every Gambian feels seen, valued, and proud to call this nation home.

CONCLUSION: A RENEWED PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) stands ready to serve not as a party of rhetoric, but as a movement of responsibility, experience, and renewed purpose. Our policy positions are grounded in the simple but powerful truth that government exists to serve the people, and that national progress is only meaningful when it uplifts every Gambian.

The PPP brings with it a proud legacy of nation-building, institutional discipline, and inclusive development, combined with a clear-eyed understanding of today's challenges. We do not deny the difficulties our country faces; we confront them with honesty, unity, and practical solutions. Our commitment is to restore confidence in governance by reforming and strengthening institutions, decentralizing power, safeguarding democracy, and ensuring that leadership is accountable to the people.

We reaffirm our belief that the voice of the people is the voice of God. This principle guides our resolve to return power to citizens, promote meaningful participation, and ensure that no community is ignored and no Gambian is left behind. From rural villages to urban centers, from youth to elders, from women to workers, the PPP is committed to creating opportunity, dignity, and hope for all.

Our vision for The Gambia is one of national unity, affordability, and shared prosperity, a country where public resources are protected, the cost of living is reduced, essential services are accessible, and development reaches every region. We believe in an economy that rewards hard work, empowers innovation, and protects the vulnerable, while laying a strong foundation for future generations.

The PPP offers leadership anchored in integrity, experience, and service. We reject politics of division and empty promises, and we champion a politics of inclusion, peace, and progress. This is not merely a political agenda; it is a national commitment to rebuild trust, restore institutions, and renew the social contract between government and the people.

We call on all Gambians at home and abroad to join this journey of renewal and transformation. Together, let us build a nation governed by justice, strengthened by unity, driven by development, and guided always by the will of the people.

To be part of this movement for national renewal, visit: www.pppgambia.com.

Register as a member, participate actively, and support the party through your contributions. Your involvement and support are vital to strengthening our democracy and advancing the people's agenda.

The future belongs to the people, and the PPP stands with the people.