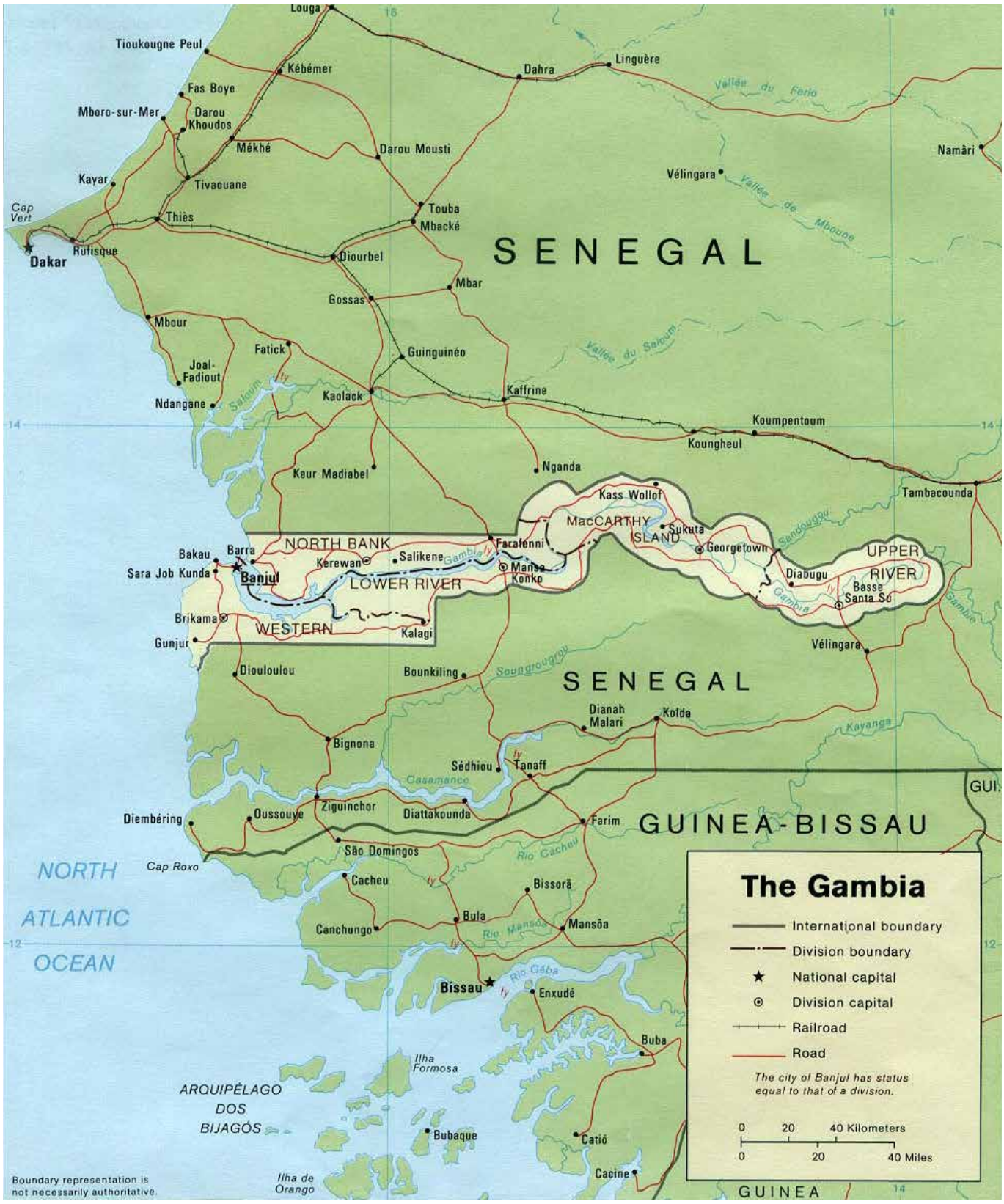
GFC/UDP-LED ALLIANCE

TOGETHER FOR A BETTER GAMBIA

The Gambia We Want


Louga
Tioukougne Peul
Kébémer
Dahra
Linguère
Vallée du Ferlo
Fas Boye
Mboro-sur-Mer
Darou Khoudos
Mékhé
Darou Mousti
Namâri
Vélingara
Kayar
Tivaouane
Vallée de Mboune
Cap Vert
Thiès
Touba
Mbacké
Rufisque
Dakar
SENEGAL
Diourbel
Mbar
Gossas
Mbour
Fatick
Guinguinéo
Vallée du Saloum
Joal-Fadiout
Saloum fy
Kaolack
Kaffrine
Ndangane
Koumpentoum
Koungheul
Keur Madiabel
Nganda
Kass Wollof
Tambacounda
MacCARTHY ISLAND
Sukuta
Georgetown
Sendougou
NORTH BANK
Bakau
Barra
Kerewan
Salikene
Gambia fy
Farafenni
Mansa Konko
UPPER RIVER
Sara Job Kunda
Banjul
LOWER RIVER
Diabugu
Basse Santa Su
Gambia fy
Brikama
WESTERN
Kalagi
Gambie
Gunjur
Vélingara
Diouloulou
Bounkiling
Soungrougrou
SENEGAL
Dianah Malari
Kolda
Bignona
Kayanga
Sédhiou
Tanaff fy
Casamance
GUI.
Diembéring
Oussouye
Ziguinchor
Diattakounda
Farim
GUINEA-BISSAU
São Domingos
Rio Cacheu
NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN
Cap Roxo
Cacheu fy
Bissorã
Bula
Canchungo
Rio Mansôa
Mansôa
Bissau
Rio Géba fy
Enxudé
Buba
Ilha Formosa
ARQUIPÉLAGO DOS BIJAGÓS
Bubaque
Catió
Cacine
Ilha de Orango
GUINEA
The Gambia
International boundary
Division boundary
National capital
Division capital
Railroad
Road
The city of Banjul has status equal to that of a division.
0 20 40 Kilometers
0 20 40 Miles
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

My Pledge

If elected president, I pledge, inter alia, to:

- serve one five-year term as President.
- cut down the budget allocation for the Office of the President.
- reintroduce the draft 2020 constitution for adoption.
- carry out security sector reforms.
- restore trust in governance.
- reduce the Debt to GDP ratio by 2031.
- take a 20% pay cut.
- achieve measurable service delivery efficiencies in the social services sectors (health, education, electricity, water, etc) and
- restructure our diplomatic missions for efficiency and economic diplomacy.
- This manifesto constitutes the social contract to transform the Gambia between the GFC/UDP led alliance and the people of the Gambia.

Vote for the GFC/UDP-led alliance to usher in a government anchored on accountability, transparency, probity, and inclusive economy growth.

A.N. M Ousainu Darboe
Presidential Candidate

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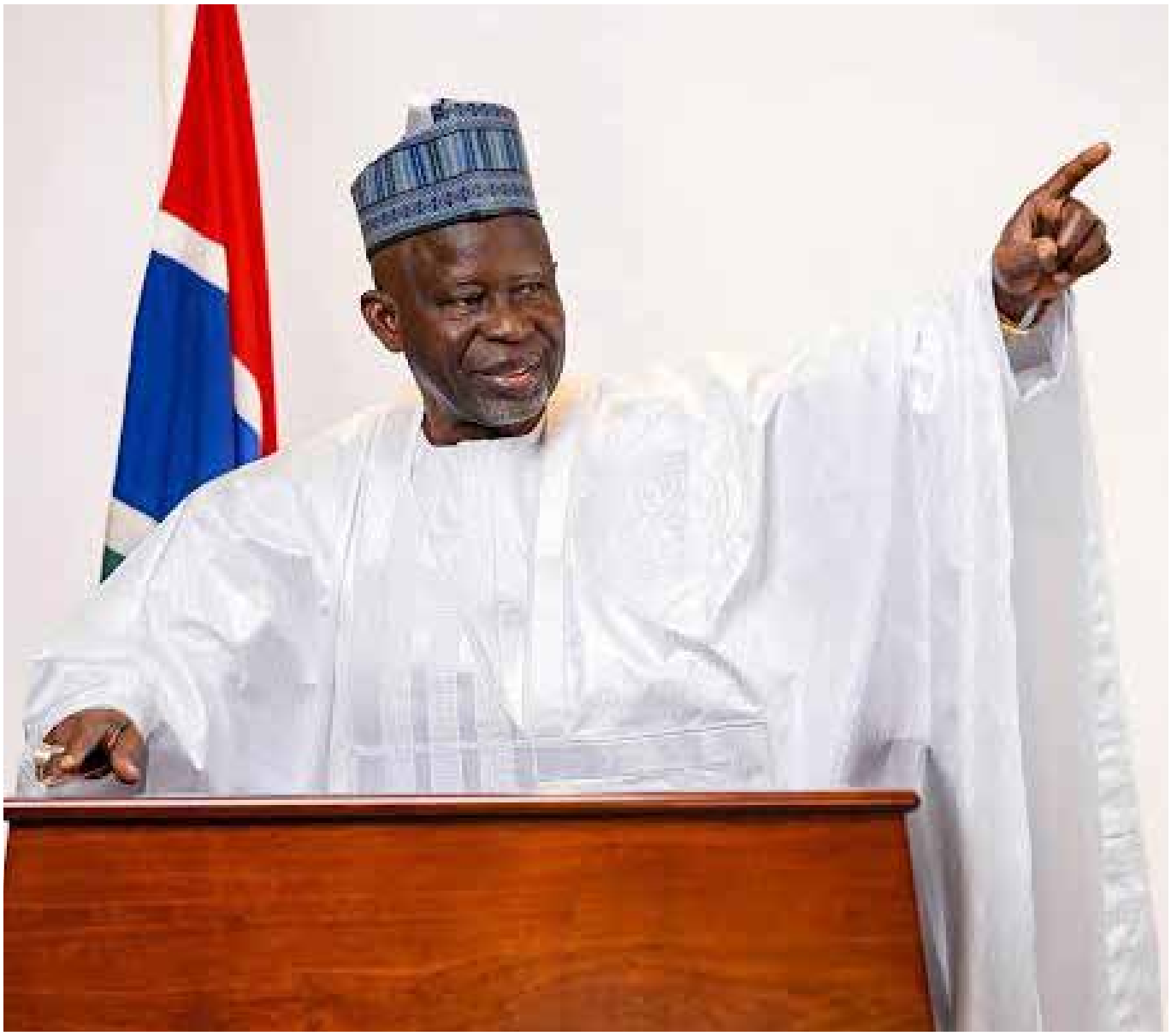
1. Foreword



The Gambia stands at a defining moment in its national journey. After years of democratic transition, economic strain, weak institutions, rising public expectations, and deep social hardships, the country requires a new direction anchored on trust, competence, accountability, and results. This manifesto is presented as the GFC /UDP-led Alliance's solemn commitment to rebuild the state, restore confidence in public institutions, and place the welfare, dignity, and aspirations of Gambians at the centre of national development.

The GFC/UDP-led alliance recognizes that The Gambia's challenges are not isolated problems. They are connected symptoms of a governance system that has too often failed to deliver services with discipline, transparency, probity, and urgency. Public debt remains a major constraint on development. Inflation and the high cost of living continues to burden families. Youth unemployment and underemployment weaken national productivity and fuel despair. Rural communities face persistent gaps in roads, water, markets, health services, schools, energy, and economic opportunity. Farmers, workers, women, entrepreneurs, students, and pensioners all deserve a government that listens, plans, implements, and is accountable.

This manifesto sets out a practical program for national renewal: restoring democratic norms, reintroducing, and adopting the 2020 Draft Constitution, strengthening the rule of law, protecting fundamental freedoms, rebuilding independent institutions, reforming public finance, deepening decentralization, and ensuring that public office is treated as a trust held on behalf of the people. A GFC/UDP-led alliance will place accountability at the heart of governance and will insist that every dalasi of public money must serve a public purpose.

The manifesto also sets out a clear governance and economic direction for the country. The Gambia must move from an economy that is overly dependent on imports, consumption, seasonal tourism, and external shocks toward one built on productivity, value addition, food security, enterprise, exports, skills, innovation, and inclusive growth. This means modernizing agriculture, supporting farmers and women producers, expanding irrigation and mechanization, strengthening agro-processing, diversifying tourism, improving fisheries and natural resource governance, investing in energy and ICT/AI, and creating practical pathways for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Human development is central to this vision. No country can prosper when its people lack access to quality health care, affordable education, relevant skills, safe communities, and fair opportunities. This manifesto commits to better equipped hospitals and health centers, maternal and child health protection, modern diagnostics, education reform, technical and vocational training, digital learning, youth enterprise, sports development, access to reliable and affordable electricity and support for vulnerable citizens. Development must not be measured only by statistics, but by whether Gambian families can live with dignity and security.

The GFC/UDP-led alliance further recognizes that the future of The Gambia must be resilient, inclusive, and outward-looking. Climate change impacts resulting coastal erosion, erratic rainfall, flooding, water stress, and environmental degradation, which threaten livelihoods and national development underscore the urgent need for comprehensive mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The Gambian diaspora remains one of the country's greatest assets through remittances, knowledge, investment, networks, and democratic participation. This manifesto, therefore, integrates climate resilience, renewable energy, responsible natural resource management, diaspora engagement, and strong foreign policy into a wider strategy for sustainable national development.

We are clear that implementation is the difference between a manifesto and meaningful change. For too long, Gambians have heard announcements without delivery, policies without measurable results, and promises without public reporting.

A GFC/UDP-led alliance will adopt a disciplined implementation framework with clear priorities, phased targets, monitoring and evaluation, transparent reporting, and accountability to citizens. The people must be able to see results that improve their living condition.

This manifesto is therefore an invitation to build The Gambia We Want: a democratic Gambia, a just Gambia, a productive Gambia, a safe and secure Gambia, and a Gambia where every citizen, in every region, has a fair chance to contribute and to thrive. It is a call to renew faith in public service, restore integrity in leadership, and unite around a national project bigger than party politics. With courage, discipline, and collective responsibility, The Gambia can move from uncertainty to confidence, from hardship to opportunity, and from broken promises to measurable progress.

The macroeconomic fundamentals of the country are in disarray with strong elements of unpredictability and inconsistency. The underperformance of the economy is largely due to economic mismanagement which is aggravated by a corrupt system. There have been several reported incidents of major concerns, ranging from the frequent discovery of large quantities of drugs to audit-revealed cases of mismanagement of public resources, flouting of procurement rules and regulations and non-retirement of imprest accounts across the government.

The Gambia, like most of the World is facing multiple existential threats from low agricultural productivity, manufacturing outputs, to global warming, climate change, sea level rise, hunger, and water shortages due to erratic rainfall patterns, droughts, to the spectre of epidemics, pandemics and it will be necessary to prepare the country for a robust response to outbreaks.

This Manifesto is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AU's Agenda 2063 both of which the Gambia has committed to implement as part of its national development agenda.

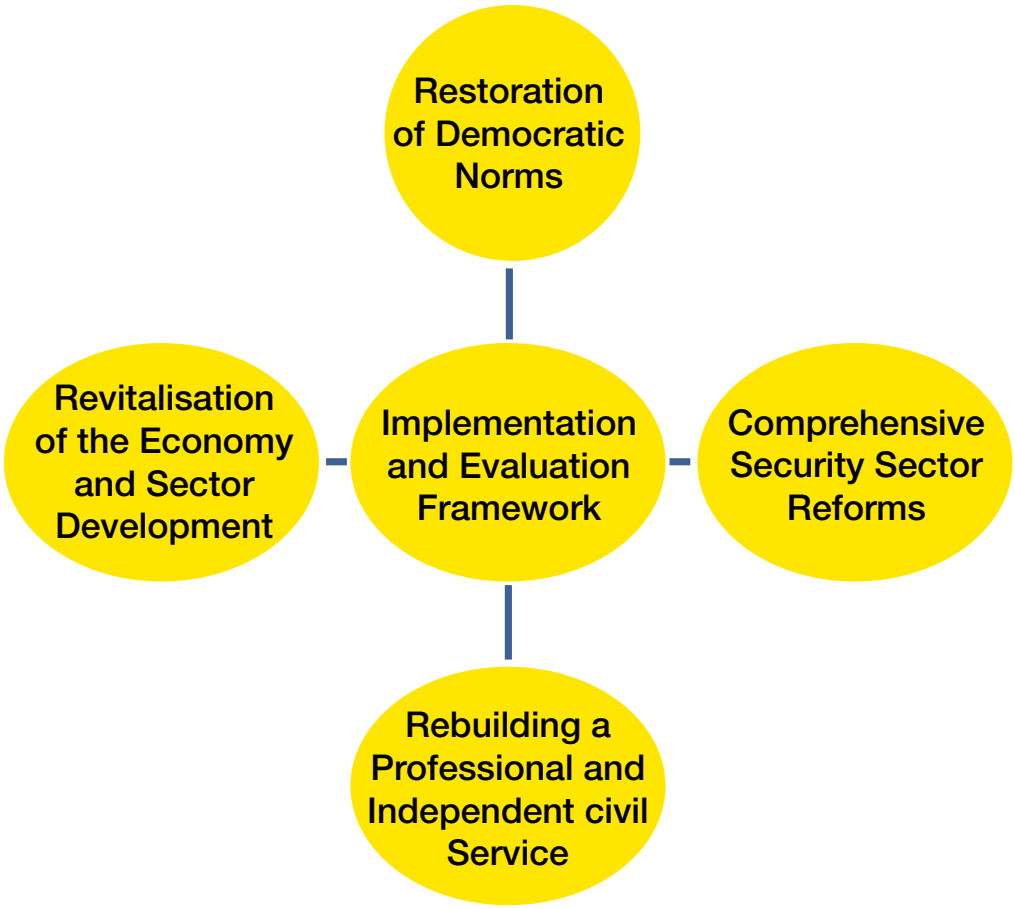
2. Statement by the GFC /UDP-Led Alliance Presidential Candidate

The GFC/UDP-led alliance presents this manifesto for the 2026 presidential elections covering the next 5 years (2027-2031). Our vision is anchored on democratic renewal, constitutionalism, economic transformation, social justice, and inclusive growth. We recognize the daily hardships households face, the frustration of young people seeking opportunities, the pressures on farmers and workers, the gaps in health and education, and the urgent need to rebuild public confidence in governance. This manifesto responds to those realities with clear priorities, measurable commitments, and a firm belief that government must serve the people with integrity, competence, and humility.

A GFC/ UDP-led alliance will pursue reforms that strengthen the rule of law, deepen decentralization, promote transparency in public finance management, expand opportunities for youth and women, modernize agriculture, improve access to quality health care and education, access reliable and affordable electricity and to build an economy that works for every region and every family. We will govern through accountability, consultation, and disciplined implementation, ensuring that public policy is guided by evidence, national interest, and the aspirations of Gambians at home and abroad.

This manifesto is therefore more than a catalogue of promises. It is a call to national renewal and collective responsibility. The GFC/UDP-led alliance invites all Gambians to join in building a peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and just Gambia, a Gambia where public office is a trust, development reaches every community, and every citizen has a fair chance to live with dignity.

Transformation Pillars



3. Key Issues to be Resolved After 10 Years of NPP Misrule

After a decade of NPP rule, The Gambia continues to face deep structural, institutional, social, and economic challenges. This manifesto is designed to confront these inherited issues directly and provide a credible path to national renewal.

Weak Governance

- Erosion of public trust in governance caused by systemic corruption, weak accountability, limited transparency, and inconsistent public decision-making.
- Weak democratic institutions delayed constitutional reform, and insufficient safeguards against executive overreach.
- Over-centralization of resources and decision-making, leaving regions, councils, and local communities dependent on central government for basic development priorities.

- Declining public confidence in state institutions
- Inflation due to food insecurity and overdependence on food imports.
- Lack of measurable delivery accountability, making it difficult for citizens to track whether government promises are being fulfilled and whether public resources are improving everyday lives.
- A weak implementation culture, where policies are announced but not properly costed, monitored, evaluated, or publicly reported.
- Limited diaspora participation in national development, despite the diaspora's strong contribution through remittances, skills, investment potential, and international networks.

Inflation, Fiscal Indiscipline, and Unemployment

- Uncontrolled public debt and debt-servicing pressure, which restrict fiscal space for investment in general, particularly in health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, youth employment, and social protection.
- Rising cost of living and household hardship, driven by weak economic management, food-price pressures, amid inadequate social-relief measures.
- Youth unemployment and weak job creation, leading to increasing youth frustration and migration.
- Lack of incentives for private-sector growth, particularly for young entrepreneurs, women, farmers, small businesses, and informal-sector workers.
- Low agricultural productivity, caused by inadequate mechanization, poor irrigation, high input costs, weak access to finance, post-harvest losses, and limited market linkages.
- Limited support for women in agriculture and enterprise, including barriers to land, credit, equipment, extension services, and market access.

Polarized Civil Service and Security Sector

- An underperforming civil service affected by politicization, weak merit-based recruitment and promotion, inadequate training, poor performance management, and limited digitization.
- Incomplete security sector reform, leaving gaps in professionalism, welfare, accountability, civilian oversight, border security, and public confidence.

Poor Infrastructure for Economic Activities

- Weak industrial and manufacturing capacity, limiting value addition, import substitution, export earnings, and quality employment creation.
- Underdeveloped tourism potential, with overdependence on seasonal coastal tourism and limited investment in eco-tourism, cultural tourism, conference tourism, and skills upgrading.
- Poor fisheries, forestry, and natural resource governance, including weak transparency, weak regulation, and limited value capture for Gambian communities.

- Inadequate energy reliability, affordability, and access, affecting households, businesses, schools, health centers, manufacturing, and digital development.
- A persistent digital divide and weak ICT infrastructure, especially in rural areas, limiting education, enterprise, public services, and modern employment opportunities.
- Limited climate-proofing of development projects.

Poor Medical Services and Quality of Education

- Maternal and child health challenges, including gaps in antenatal care, safe delivery, postnatal support, emergency care, and financial protection for pregnant women.
- Poor health system capacity, including inadequate diagnostics, equipment shortages, weak referral systems, high out-of-pocket costs, and uneven access between urban and rural communities.
- Education and skills gaps arising from inadequate school infrastructure, limited digital learning, weak technical and vocational training, and insufficient research and development funding.
- Weak higher education and innovation systems, including limited support for university research, technical training, and skills needed for a modern economy.

4. Restoration of Democratic Norms

4.1 A New Constitution

The GFC/UDP-led Alliance commits to the immediate reintroduction and adoption of the 2020 Draft Constitution, reflecting the will of the Gambian people for a modern democratic framework.

Objectives:

- Deliver a legitimate, people-centered constitutional order.
- Strengthened democratic institutions and the prevention of authoritarian relapse.
- A transparent and accountable government

Key Actions:

- Re-table the 2020 Draft Constitution within the first 100 days of a GFC/UDP Alliance-Led government.
- engage all stakeholders, including civil society, political parties, and religious leaders,
- for consensus building.
- ensure constitutional provisions provide for a clear presidential two-term limit, a strengthened separation of powers, independent oversight institutions, and the protection of fundamental human rights.

4.2 Law Reforms and Institutional Strengthening

The GFC/UDP-led alliance will undertake a comprehensive review and reforms of existing laws to align them with democratic principles and the constitution.

Objectives:

- to restore confidence in public institutions
- enhance the independence of the judiciary.
- strengthen the National Assembly's oversight role.
- empower anti-corruption agencies with independent prosecutorial authority.
- ensure the autonomy of the offices of the Auditor General, Accountant General, the Inspector General of Police and the Governor of the Central Bank are respected as provided for in the constitution.

Key Actions:

- repeal or amend repressive laws affecting freedom of speech, assembly, and media (Public Order Act, Information and Communications Act, Criminal Code)
- reform electoral laws to ensure transparency and credibility.
- strengthen anti-corruption legislation and enforcement mechanisms.
- modernize the judiciary through digital systems and capacity building.
- Invest in Judicial infrastructure, including modern courts and digital case management systems.
- strengthen legal education and professional training institutions.

- broaden the scope and enhance the efficiency of the civic education and sensitization programs for national cohesion.

4.3 Decentralisation and Local Government Reform

A GFC/ UDP-led alliance government will support decentralizing certain activities to local government authorities in line with the constitutional provisions and other relevant laws.

Objectives:

- **Provide predictable and sustainable financing** under a structured fiscal decentralization framework to enable councils plan multi-year investments with their minimum guaranteed revenue share.
- **Improve service delivery primarily through:**
    - Capacity Building
    - better waste management
    - improved local roads and infrastructure in general.

Key Actions.

- Strengthen fiscal decentralization – implement the fixed revenue sharing system as per the constitution.
- Enhance local government autonomy- guaranteeing a share of national revenue will empower councils to plan and implement development priorities.
- Improve accountability and transparency- introduce a formula-based fiscal allocation system that will force both central and local governments to operate more transparently.

- Stimulate local economic development- through predictable financing, councils will be able to invest in infrastructure, agriculture, markets, feeder roads, and local enterprises.

5. Revitalization of the Economy and Sector Development

These policies are not merely a catalogue of promises but a structured, and actionable roadmap for national renewal.

Our economic policy reforms are a commitment to transparent governance, evidence-based planning, and a development agenda that places people and communities at the centre. Through these reforms, the GFC /UDP-led Alliance sets out a vision for a more prosperous, equitable, and resilient Gambia; one where every citizen, every region, and every institution can thrive.

5.1 Fiscal Policy Reform

A GFC /UDP-led Alliance commits to a prudent fiscal management reform.

Objectives:

- Eliminate wasteful government expenditure,
- Reduce public debt to sustainable levels.
- Enhance transparency in public finance management.
- Reduce the fiscal deficit progressively.

Key Actions:

1. Review and amend the Public Finance Management Act and Public Procurement Act to reduce corruption and wasteful expenditure.
2. Improve tax collection efficiency without overburdening citizens,
3. Review current tax structure for improved compliance.
4. Review the extractive industry to improve government revenue from these natural resources.
5. Review the duty waiver regime for transparent reduction of tax expenditures.
6. Promote public-private partnerships to enhance fiscal space for other priority investments.
7. Ensure borrowed funds to are used primarily for productive investment.

5.2 Monetary Policy

A GFC /UDP-led Alliance commits to promoting a coherent and structured monetary policy that enhances macroeconomic stability and growth.

Objectives:

- Achieve a single-digit inflation rate.

- Stabilize the exchange rate for economic growth.
- Create a conducive environment to support businesses to invest and create jobs.
- Maintaining a sound and resilient financial sector for effective monetary policy implementation.

Key Actions:

1. Strengthen Central Bank governance, compliance, and independence to restore public confidence and maintain price and financial stability.
2. Maintain inflation within manageable levels,
3. Promote macro-financial inclusion through digital banking channels.
4. Review the Central Bank Monetary policy framework including liquidity management and inflation targets.
5. Adopt measures to curb and eliminate price fixing and restrictive price maintenance schemes and trade practices that unjustifiably raise food prices.
6. Improve foreign exchange earnings and job creation through promotion of the export of value-added products such as cashew, groundnut, moringa, hibiscus etc.

5.3 Seek to Grow the Economy Faster Than Debt

Debt-to-GDP falls when GDP grows faster than the debt stock. GFC/UDP-led Alliance will focus on growing sectors such as tourism, agriculture and agro processing, fisheries industry, ICT/AI, and logistic services.

5.4 Reform State-owned Enterprises

Reform the governances of the State-owned Enterprises with a view to making them accountable and profitable.

5.5 Attract Large-Scale Foreign Direct Investment

Through good governance and enhancements and a enable environment we can attract foreign direct investment, which is an essential for economic growth. This is area, which shall be prioritized by GFC/UDP-led Alliance government with focus on: Tourism zones, Port modernization, Renewable energy, low-cost housing, and Agribusiness.

5.6 Affordable Healthcare and Medical Services

Investing in affordable health care is geared towards ensuring that every Gambian, regardless of income, location, gender, or social status, can access quality health services without facing financial hardship.

Objective:

The policy aims to build a fairer, more efficient, and more accountable health system that protects families, strengthens communities, and supports national development.

Key Actions.

Reducing the Cost Burden on Gambian Families by:

- Lowering out-of-pocket payments that currently push households further into poverty.
- Operationalize a health insurance scheme to ensure that no one avoids treatment because of cost.

Expand Access to Essential Health Services by:

- Guaranteeing universal access to primary care, maternal and child health, emergency services, and chronic disease management.
- Strengthening community-level health services so that rural populations are not left behind.

Improve the Quality of Public Health Facilities by:

- Upgrading infrastructure, equipment, and diagnostic capacity.
- Ensuring consistent availability of medicines and essential supplies.
- Reducing overcrowding and long waiting times.
- Strategically and transparently mobilize donor support for medical products and equipment.
- Reduce waste, leakages, and inefficiencies in the health budget.

Strengthen the Health Workforce

- Recruit, train, and retain more doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health workers.
- Improve working conditions, incentives, and career profile and paths to reduce attrition.

Strengthen Governance, Accountability, and Transparency

- Reform procurement to ensure medicines and equipment reach facilities.
- Improve monitoring, reporting, and oversight across the health sector.
- Strive to reduce maternal and child mortality.

5.7 Human Capital Development

Human capital is one of the most important assets of a nation, as skills, knowledge and innovation drive the modern global and national economies.

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance government will prioritize investment in education, skill development, training, and mentoring.

Objectives:

- Improve the quality of life of Gambians.

- Improve the earning capacities of Gambians, which will enable them to save and build capital for investment and economic growth.
- To prepare the current and future workforce to meet the rapid changes in the job market.

Key Actions:

- Conduct a comprehensive training/skill needs assessment.
- Design a training program, calendar, and invest in inclusive programs for civil servants based on skill gaps.
- Invest in a continuous leadership development and exchange programs for government in collaboration with the private sector.
- Develop a year-round mentorship and coaching program – develop and promote mentorship mindset by encouraging the private and public sector participation in this program.
- Promote diversity and social inclusion.
- Promote equal rights and equal opportunities for all, no discrimination on tribe or gender.

5.8 Oil, Gas and Rare Earth Minerals Exploration

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance government will responsibly explore and manage the nation's offshore and onshore hydrocarbon blocks to unlock transformative revenue while strictly ensuring environmental protection.

Objectives:

To establish a robust legal and regulatory framework to enforce local content laws.

Key Actions:

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of past and ongoing activities in the offshore oil and gas sector.
- Conduct offshore geological survey modeling and mapping data acquisition.
- Accelerate the mapping, licensing, and drilling in proven maritime oil blocks via transparent bidding processes.
- Ringfence a portion of future petroleum revenues to a Sovereign Wealth Fund to be established for financing intergenerational development needs.
- Invest in onshore logistics bases, deep-water port infrastructure, downstream storage
- facilities and, enhance specialized technical education.
- Map out potential rare earth minerals in the country's outer continental shelf (exclusive economic zone)

5.9 Access to Basic and Higher Education

Objectives

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance commits to enhancing access and equity and supporting students with financing towards their tuition.

Key Actions:

- Expanded access to higher education, especially for low-income families.
- Modernization of School Infrastructure in Basic and Senior Secondary schools
- Ensuring that Faith Based schools and Non-Formal Religious Education Centers have fair access to education resources.
- Building ICT/AI Infrastructure for education establishments
- Reform the education sector to align with international standards and labour markets.

5.10 Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Natural Resources, and Food Sovereignty

As the largest contributor to GDP, the sector employs a large share of the population, especially women and rural households. A GFC/UDP-led Alliance commits to strengthening agriculture as one of the fastest ways to reduce poverty and expand economic opportunities.

Transforming agriculture into a modern, productive sector can be achieved through Mechanization, irrigation, improved seeds, and climate-smart technologies can dramatically increase yields. Investing billions signals a shift from subsistence farming to commercial, and valued agriculture.

Objectives:

- Modernise agriculture to boost productivity and job creation across the value chain.
- Expand export and foreign-exchange-earning potential.
- Strengthen national sovereignty and economic independence.
- Improve gender disparities in access to land, finance, and technology.
- Reduce the national food-import bill and improve food self-sufficiency.
- Improve access to water for farming and animal husbandry.
- Expand cultivated land area and shorten production cycles.
- Modernize the agricultural sector to shift from subsistence to commercial farming.

Key Actions:

Investment in Agricultural Infrastructure and Machinery to

- Boost productivity and reduce manual labour burdens on Gambian farmers.
- Ensure equitable access to modern farming tools across all regions, especially rural communities.
- Increase yields for farmers and reduce production costs to enable farmers to compete in regional and international markets.
- Improve efficiency in land preparation, planting, harvesting, and post-harvest handling.
- Reduce dependence on unpredictable rainfall and climate shocks through investing in irrigation systems.
- Establish cold storage facilities at regional locations.

Cereals

Objective:

Achieve food sufficiency for the Gambia through increased production of rice and other local cereals

Key Actions

- Large-scale rice irrigation projects to use abundant water resources to increase rice production
- Support small to medium sized rice mills in the rice growing areas and encourage private sector participation in processing,
- Boost local cereal production such as maize, millet, findi, and sorghum and promote their consumption, given their high nutritional value and to increase food diversity.
- Encourage entrepreneurs to process these cereals into products that will add value and variety, thereby making them more likely to be consumed locally as

well as create opportunities for exports.

- Promote/facilitate farmer access to climate-smart varieties of certified quality rice, groundnut, millet, and hybrid seeds.
- Strengthen pest control measures to control both plant and animal diseases that affect the productivity of crops and vegetables.

Horticulture

Objectives

Expand horticultural production to ensure national self-sufficiency in vegetables such as onions, peppers, tomatoes and encourage export to other markets to empower entrepreneurs, particularly youths and women, in horticultural production.

Key actions:

- Facilitate credit access to women and youth
- Provide trained agriculture extension personnel to support the adoption of appropriate methodologies to enhance horticulture.
- support to women-led village gardens to address the problems of irrigation, quality vegetable seeds, and reliable access to the markets.
- Provide cool storage facilities in all regions

Livestock

Livestock is an important source of protein for the population and an important investment, especially for people in the rural areas. The subsector's potential to contribute significantly to national development, food security and nutrition remains largely underdeveloped.

Objectives:

Increase livestock production to a level to makes the Gambia self-sufficient and possibly for export

Key Actions

- Strengthen disease control through the deployment of properly trained livestock extension staff and the provision of drugs and vaccines.
- Promote marketing of livestock and livestock products through value chain addition and encourage the establishment of linkages with the tourism industry
- Encourage private sector participation/investment in the sub-sector, e.g., agro-industry, animal feed production and distribution, supply and distribution of quality veterinary drugs and vaccines.

Poultry

Poultry is the second most important source of protein in The Gambia with a huge potential for self -employment among the women and youth private sector. The GFC-UDP led alliance government will remove obstacles, particularly those related to affordable poultry feed, for our struggling poultry businesses.

Objective:

Develop the subsector to tap its full potential for food supply and employment generation

Key Actions:

- Provide credit and other support facilities for greater participation of women and youth in the subsector
- Promote greater participation of the private sector in the subsector
- Create stronger linkage with the tourism industry which remains an important market for poultry products
- facilitate the development of the whole value chain by facilitating access to key inputs and financing for the necessary infrastructure.

Fisheries

An important source of protein in our food with significant employment opportunities in both the industrial and the artisanal subsectors and a significant potential for foreign exchange earnings.

Objective:

Develop the sector to ensure adequate local supply of fish and to promote its full potential for employment creation and source of foreign exchange.

Support greater participation of Gambian entrepreneurs in the industrial subsector.

Key Actions:

- Institute an effective resource management system that strictly monitoring illegal fishing activities in our waters, re-examine and renegotiate all existing fisheries agreements that are unfair to the nation, limit the industrial fishing licenses and protect artisanal fishing zones.
- Rehabilitate artisanal fish landing infrastructure to rebuild artisanal fisheries in the traditional fishing communities
- Actively seek and promote training and credit facilities, particularly for the women and youth in the sector,
- Promote the development of improved quality fish processing techniques and technologies to increase the value and accessibility of our fish products to the local and international markets respectively.

Aquaculture

Aquaculture presents another important subsector with potential for employment creation, especially for youth and contributing to the protein in-take of the population.

Objective:

Promote the sustainable, climate-resilient expansion of artisanal and commercial fish farming along the Gambia River to enhance rural nutrition, generate local employment, and reduce reliance on wild-capture fisheries.

Key Actions:

- Map out throughout the country the areas with the greatest potential for aquaculture potential
- Invest in the development of the aquaculture industry by providing financing and training to youth and other entrepreneurs across the country.

Forest resources

Forest resources provide a range of natural assets critical to livelihoods such as improving the land, providing important ecosystem goods and services, and acting as carbon sinks.

Objective:

To promote sustainable and inclusive forest management policies and practices that reduce the pressure on our forests and allows to provide the ecosystem goods and services required by our communities.

Key Actions:

- Promote an active policy of restoring degraded forest areas,
- Strongly promote the participation of local communities in the management of forests and wildlife parks,
- Establish fast-growth plantation and wood lots and rehabilitate forest lands to meet the requirements of both rural and urban populations.
- Reduce the illegal cutting of trees and bushfires.

5.11 Agricultural Credit for Women

Women's overwhelming presence in agriculture means any agricultural reform, subsidy, or mechanization program directly affects national food sovereignty and household welfare.

Land access, credit, and extension services remain major constraints, making gender responsive reforms essential for productivity gains.

Objectives:

To empower women farmers, who form a significant proportion of the agricultural workforce.

Key Actions:

- Provide long-term, low-interest financing tailored to agriculture and rural development.
- Create a dedicated financing window to address their needs.
- Support large-scale agricultural projects, cooperatives, and agribusiness ventures.

5.12 Environment and Climate Change

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance government recognizes climate change as major threat to national development.

Objective:

To be more prepared and responsive to the climate challenges

Key Actions:

- develop coastal protection programs,
- invest in climate-resilient agriculture, and sustainable water resource management systems.
- active promotion of clean energy, enforcement of sustainable land-use practices, and strengthened environmental regulations.

5.13 Tourism and Culture

Tourism is a critical employment and foreign exchange earner, and our objective is to focus on shifting the sector away from its seasonal dependence and to attract high-end sustainable year-round economic activity.

Objectives:

- decentralize the tourist footprint away from the traditional coastal strip by developing eco-tourism activities in the rural areas.
- preserve and aggressively promote Gambian cultural heritage sites to foster historical and roots tourism.
- implement human resource capacity upgrades across the hospitality industry via specialized training academies.

Key Actions:

- invest in eco-tourism and infrastructure including river transport systems for tourists.

- Support public-private partnerships for historical site preservation and museum development.
- develop a niche market including conference tourism (MICE) and sports/ adventure/entertainment tourism.

5.14 Energy, Communications, and Information Technology/ Artificial Intelligence

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance government commits to ensuring a sustainable, adequate, affordable, competitive, secure, and reliable supply of energy, access to the internet and use of artificial intelligence to meet national needs while protecting and conserving the environment.

Objectives:

- Utilize energy as a tool to accelerate economic empowerment for urban and rural development.
- Improve access to affordable, competitive, and reliable energy services, internet, and artificial intelligence.

Key Points:

- Develop a comprehensive, integrated, and well-informed energy sector plan and invest in energy efficiency and conservation.
- Create a conducive environment for the development and provision of affordable energy services.
- Promote diversification of energy supply sources to ensure security of supply.
- Invest in capacity building in the sector through research, development, and

training.

- Provide incentives to encourage local and international investments in the energy, ICT/AI sectors.
- Ensure that investors and operators in the energy, ICT/AI sectors comply with local content requirements.
- Improve access to data by revising the rates down.
- Invest in incubator hubs for ICT/AI capacity development.

5.15 Women and Youth Employment; and Empowerment

Youth make up most of The Gambia's population, and their productivity will determine the country's economic and social trajectory for decades to come. Investing in youth infrastructure and opportunities is not seen by the GFC/UDP-led alliance as a cost but rather an investment in the long-term national development strategy that strengthens stability, growth, and public trust. Over 60% of the population is under 25. Failure to invest in this demographic forfeits its potential future dividend.

Objectives:

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance commits to reducing frustration, strengthening democratic participation, and building trust in public institutions.

Key Actions:

- Develop youth-friendly local content policies in Agriculture, ICT/AI, Energy, Construction, Tourism and Manufacturing/Processing.
- Facilitate full participation in international and reginal youth development programs for leadership development.
- Establish and/or strengthen regional youth business and skills training centers, mentoring, and tracking programs.
- Develop and finance start-up kits for artisans to support the domestic and export markets.
- Develop a youth credit support program for young entrepreneurs to provide advisory services, grants, and loans.
- In a partnership with the Local Government Authorities, ensure economic empowerment and economic growth for youths in the rural areas.

5.16 Strategic Approach for Sports

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance government will review the sports policy and focus on the following:

- Investing in a National Sports Academy as a central institution for High-performance athlete development through:

1. Coach and referee certification
2. Sports science, physiotherapy, and injury management
3. Sports administration and governance training
4. Hosting national and regional competitions

- Invest in a new national football stadium in line with international standards.
- Upgrade the regional stadiums and facilities in partnership with the private sector.
- Invest in the development of other sports facilities.
- Ensure that all sports associations are funded in collaboration with the private sector.

5.17 Foreign Policy and Diaspora Relationship

The GFC/UDP-led Alliancecommits to preserving and maintaining the independence of The Gambia as a sovereign country, maintaining friendly relations and good neighborliness with all countries, particularly in the sub-region, fostering cooperation and respect for international law and human rights.

Objectives:

Build and sustain amicable and mutually beneficial international relationship with sister countries, international institutions, and multilateral development agencies and any another partners cooperation with whom could yield political and economic benefits for the country and promote international peace and security.

Key Actions:

- Rebuild, enhance, and project the international image of The Gambia as a beacon of peace, democracy, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- Promote and protect the interest of The Gambia in all bilateral and multilateral institutions, in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Gambian people.
- Strengthen relations with all our traditional multilateral partners such as the ECOWAS, AU, UN, the Commonwealth, EU, OIC and our bilateral partners.
- Rationalize the Foreign Service to ensure it is efficient and cost-effective.
- Support Gambian businesses and entrepreneurs to gain access to the international market.

5.17.1 Relations with Republic of Senegal

- Maintain friendly relations and good neighborliness with the Republic of Senegal, with which The Gambia has a special relationship.
- Strengthen our bilateral relations with Senegal and to foster cooperation on security and foreign policy coordination on matters of mutual interest.

3. 17.2 ECOWAS and Economic Integration, Peace & Security

A GFC /UDP-led Alliance commits to maintaining good bilateral relations with all member states of ECOWAS and seek to promote sub-regional economic integration, peace, and security in West Africa.

5.17.3 Diaspora Engagement and Participation

The GFC/UDP-led alliance recognizes the Gambian diaspora is an essential pillar of national development and cohesion. Gambians abroad contribute significantly to the country's economy, democratic governance, human capital, and global reputation. Their remittances, professional expertise, civic engagement, and international networks are indispensable assets for national progress.

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance government will adopt a comprehensive, rights-based and development driven approach to diaspora engagement.

Objective:

To transform the Gambian diaspora from a largely informal development actor into a strategic national partner with formal roles in governance, investment, knowledge transfer, and nation building.

The policy shall focus on the following areas:

- Political Rights and Democratic Participation
- Universal Diaspora Voting Rights
- Eligibility of Dual Citizens for Cabinet Positions
- Parliamentary Representation and Eligibility
- Participation in Privatization and PPPs
- Diaspora Bonds and Financial Instruments

6. Comprehensive Security Sector Reforms

A GFC/UDP-led Alliance commits to reforming the Gambia's security services sector into a well-trained and well-equipped, autonomous, and professional security service that is equidistant from all political entities.

Objectives:

To build a professional, accountable, and citizen-centered security sector anchored on respect for human rights, strict political neutrality, and unwavering institutional discipline.

Key actions:

- Institutional Reforms: review the current security reform program and restructure security institutions, strengthen civilian oversight mechanisms, and improve inter-agency field coordination.
- Capacity Building: provide continuous training in human rights, deliver modern security equipment, and execute comprehensive welfare and housing improvements for security personnel.
- Community Policing Program: develop a framework for officer recruitment based on education, competence, and professionalism.
- Civic Engagement:
- Accountability: strengthen the independent complaint and oversight bodies while enforcing strict disciplinary measures for professional misconduct.

7. Rebuilding a Professional and Independent Civil Service

A GFC /UDP-led Alliance commits to creating a professional, autonomous civil service that is equidistant from all political entities.

Objectives:

To create a merit-based, efficient, and politically neutral civil service capable of delivering public goods to all Gambians.

Key Actions:

- Implement a merit-based personnel management system.
- Enforce transparent recruitment processes alongside competitive examinations and performance-based promotions.
- Capacity Development: Implement continuous professional training programs and targeting public leadership development initiatives.
- To develop a consequence management system in the civil service
- Digital Transformation: Rapidly scale e-government service platforms and fully digitize all public records and archived systems in a comprehensive Human Resource Management Information Systems (HRMIS).
- Strengthen the operational capacity of the Public Service Commission.
- Enforce strict, transparent civil service codes of conduct, strengthen anti-corruption frameworks, and introduce a consequence management framework.

8. Implementation, Evaluation and Reporting Framework

To guarantee progress towards achieving these milestones, a GFC/UDP-led Alliance will establish a strengthened National Delivery Unit within the Office of the President. This unit will be responsible for issuing and managing performance contracts for the civil service. It will also review all mandatory performance reports in an open, transparent, and accountable manner.

Phased Approach:

- ***Short-Term (0–2 Years):*** Constitutional reform, urgent economic relief, and immediate law reforms.
- ***Medium-Term (3–5 Years):*** Institutional strengthening, ICT/AI, and economic diversification.
- ***Long-Term (5+ Years):*** Long-term sustainable development, hydrocarbon integration, and full institutional maturity.

9. Financial Strategies

To deliver the promises in this manifesto, a GFC/UDP-led Alliance government will secure funding through:

- ***Savings From Reduced Imports:*** Achieving rice self-sufficiency, expanding horticulture, and revitalising livestock and poultry and increasing fisheries exports will significantly reduce food imports and generate important revenue. The savings and the foreign exchange earnings will strengthen the dalasi and free resources for development.
- ***Increased Exports and Value additions:*** Agro-processing, light manufacturing and improved fisheries management will generate new export revenues and expand the tax base.
- ***Efficient Public Spending:*** By eliminating current wasteful expenditure, strengthen procurement systems and ensure that public funds are used for national priorities rather than political patronage.
- ***Expanded domestic revenue:*** As the economy grows and formalises, tax revenues will increase through the expansion of the tax base without raising the burden on ordinary citizens. Reforms to the GRA Act will improve compliance and fairness.
- ***Strategic Partnerships:*** with development partners, private investors, and regional institutions to mobilise financing for infrastructure, energy, and human capital, always ensuring that partnerships align with national interest.

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