## **PROGRAMME - GAMBIA ASSESSMENT VISIT**

## **01-05 May 2017**

**Background**

Rasheed Draman, Consultant, and Charlotte Egan, Proramme Manager Africa, WFD, undertook an assessment visit to The Gambia over Monday 27 to Friday 31 March 2017. The purpose of the visit, was to assess the current state of The Gambia’s parliament and produce a report which could be shared with relevant stakeholders.

As follow up to this initial visit, a joint CPA UK-WFD visit is taking place over Monday 1 May to Friday 5 May in order to meet with the new parliamentary leadership following elections on 6 April and to explore options for implementing the recommendations from the assessment visit. The delegation will be composed of: George Kunnath, Regional Director for Africa, Europe and Central Asia and Charlotte Egan, Programme Manager Africa, from WFD; Mariam El-Azm, Depuuty Head of International Outreach, from CPA UK, and Dr Farrah Bhatti, Clerk of Private Members’ Bills in the Public Bill Office at the Westminster Parliament.

*DRAFT programme (as of 28/04/2017)*

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| **Monday 1 May** |
| 18.10 Travel to Casablanca (see times below)21.35 Arrive in Casablanca00.50 Flight to Banjul from Casablanca |
| **Tuesday 2 May** |
| 03.25 Arrive in Banjul and transfer to hotel11.00  ***Meetings with Parliamentary Leadership (exact names TBC)****Arranged through Buba M.E. Jatta* *Tel: +220 9964505* *Email:* *bubamejatta@gmail.com*16.00 ***HE Colin Crorkin,* *Ambassador, British High Commission …….***………….Tel: +220 449 5133 or +220 77 62 131  (FTN 8265 – 2203)*Address:* British Embassy, 48 Atlantic Road, Fajara, (PO Box 507), The Gambia**Meeting notes:** The UK, and in particular the FCO, have taken a keen interest in the Gambia since the election and the handover to President Adama Barrow. In March 2017 CPA UK and WFD met with the Attorney General as part of an FCO coordinated visit of new government/governance figures from the Gambia and are keen to support the development of the country. It is useful to note that HE Colin Crorkin will soon be stepping down from this position and will be replaced (in July 2017) by Sharon Wardle (Sharon.Wardle@fco.gov.uk). Sharon will be in the UK during the Leadership Conference in July. From this meeting it would be useful to receive a briefing on: the recent politics in The Gambia which led to the election of Adama Barrow; the currently political situation and a briefing on the parliamentary elections, where it will be particularly interesting to know how harmonious the coalition are; the role/influence of Senegal in The Gambia; and a briefing on any FCO/DfID current or prospective projects. Should the High Commission have engaged with the National Assembly already, it would interesting to see what they think of the new Speaker and if they have identified any particularly influential or positive new politicians, following the parliamentary elections.  |
| **Wednesday 3 May**  |
| XX  ***Remi Kini, Country Manager The Gambia, World Bank*** Address: Email: rkini@worldbank.org Tel:**Meeting notes:** World Bank funding has increased significantly in The Gambia since 2015 (it jumped from USD 5 million in 2015 to USD 18 million in 2016 and USD 20 million in 2017). As such, it would be interesting to see if further funds may become available to work on democratic governance initiatives. For now, the projects implemented address the following topics: electricity provision; maternal health; public financial management; child nutrition; and education. XX ***XX, Africa in Democracy and Good Governance (ADG Africa)***  Address: Email: adg\_gam@yahoo.com; director@adg-africa.org **Meeting notes:** Africa in Democracy and Good Governance isa civil society organisation which focuses on the promotion of human rights, good governance and democracy (public participation, in particular). Their key aims include: anticorruption; women’s empowerment; children’s rights; lobbying on government reform; work in the legal and prison system; and work on health policy and practices. It is useful to note that the organisation was/is chaired by a Member or former Member of Parliament, Hon. (Mrs) Akua Sena Dansua. As such, there seems to be a direct link between this particular CSO and the National Assembly. It would be worth asking them what programmes they have delivered and what successes or challenges they have encountered.  |
| **Thursday 4 May** |
|  10.30 ***H.E.******Attila Lajos, EU Ambassador,* EU Delegation to The Gambia**  ………..Address: P.O. Box 512 Banjul, 74, Atlantic Road Fajara; T: +220 4495 146 ………...or +220 4497 846/7  *Note that Enya Braun, Political and Press Officer is not in country.***Meeting notes:** The EU delegation to The Gambia, crucially, delivered a full EOM for the recent parliamentary elections. They released a statement on the EOM on the 8 April, which can be found [here.](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/gambia/24445/statement-spokesperson-parliamentary-elections-gambia_en) Following the elections, the delegation I slooking to enhance bilateral relations with The Gambia and is, therefore, likely to be able to provide funding. For information, the current EU funded projects in The Gambia are based on the following themes:* Infrastructure
* Governance (comprising justice, media and public financial management components)
* Rural development
* Food security
* Climate change (particularly coastal zone management)
* Water and sanitation
* Technical cooperation

From this meeting it would be useful to get their opinion on the stability of politics in The Gambia and what they see as the priority in terms of democratic transition. In particular, how they see the 3 year promise from President Barrow impacting on the stability of the country and a stable political atmosphere. Would this also impact on funding opportunities? TBC  ***Bashirou Jahumpa and Emily Sarr, UNDP***Address: UN House 5 Kofi Annan Street, Cape Point, BaKau, The Gambia Email: bashirou.jahumpa@undp.org; emily.sarr@undp.org Tel: +220  449 4762-69……… *Note that Nessie Golakai-Gould, Deputy Resident Representative Programme &* *Operations is not in country.***Meeting notes:** according to UNDPs website, they have a 5 year plan for engagement with The Gambia. It is unclear from their website as to whether they have a further plan for 2017 onwards. However, it is interesting to note that the core areas of their recently concluded 5 year plan are:•       Democratic Governance•       Inclusive Growth through Poverty reduction and achieving the MDGs•       Sustainable Energy and The Environment. As such, it may be useful to discuss what activities they had carried out under their ‘Democratic Governance’ initiatives and whether this had any impact on the election results in December 2016 and in April 2017. Moreover, it would be highly useful to discuss what the team’s next steps are envisaged to be, particularly with the Government of The Gambia and, if relevant, with the National Assembly. *TBC* ***TANGO (the Association of NGOs)*****Meeting notes:** TANGO has been active since 1983 and connects around 80 national and international NGOs. The Association is looking to build ‘a strong, vibrant and independent civil society’. TANGO enables NGOs to meet and coordinate their activities and to exchange ideas in order to strengthen the work of civil society. TANGO could be a valuable partner in strengthen external expertise for the National assembly to draw on in their scrutiny work and for legislative scrutiny in particular. Their knowledge of the recent history of the Gambia and the space for public discourse will be valuable. Their advice on key areas of public concern could also help to shape the focus of the National Assembly.  |
| **Friday 5 May** |
| 13.30 Transfer to Airport03.50 Depart Banjul |

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| **Contact Points** | ***Mariam El-Azm****CPA UK* | elazmm@parliament.uk +44 (0)7917 488 611  |
| ***Dr Farrah Bhatti*** *Clerk of Private Members’ Bills in the Public Bill Office, Westminster Parliament* | bhattif@parliament.uk+44 (0)7960105555 |
| ***Charlotte Egan****Programme Officer for Africa, WFD* | Charlotte.egan@wfd.org+44(0)7966759253 |
| ***George Kunnath****Regional Director for Europe and Africa, WFD* | +44 (0)7787 291721George.kunnath@wfd.org  |
| ***Dimitri Kotsiras****Programme Assistant Africa and Europe and Central Asia* | Dimitri.kotsiras@wfd.orgT +44 (0) 20 7799 1311 (WFD London Office) |
| **Embassy** | ***British High Commission******Beulah M J O Ogoh****Receptionist* *Email:* *beulah.ogoh@fco.gov.uk**Tel: +220 449 4508 Ext: 2214 | FTN:8265 2214**Mobile: +220 7762136* | ***Address:*** British Embassy, 48 Atlantic Road, Fajara, (PO Box 507), The Gambia***Website:*** [***www.gov.uk/world/gambia***](http://www.ukingambia.fco.gov.uk/)***Emergency consular assistance :*** *00220 4495134 (24 hours)**Physically open 9-12pm* |
| **Flights**  | ***WFD Booking Agent:****Diversity Travel* | Tel: *09:00-17:30 (GMT)* *+44 (0) 161 235 5400* |
| Tel 24 Hour: *+44 (0) 7908 430253*Or: *44 (0) 1613008258*bay@diversitytravel.co.uk |
| ***Flight ticket See Annex 1******Charlotte Egan & George Kunnath****Monday 1 April 2017: London Heathrow to Banjul, the Gambia, via Casablanca*

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| ***Airline*** | ***Dep. Time*** | ***Arr. Time*** |
| Air MarocAT801 | 18.10 | 21.35 |
| Air MarocAT579 | 00.50 | 03.25 |

*Friday 5 April 2017: Banjul, the Gambia to London, via Casablanca*

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| ***Airline*** | ***Dep. Time*** | ***Arr. Time*** |
| Air Maroc AT578 | 03.50 | 08.10 |
| Air MarocAT802 | 13.30 | 16.50 |

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| **Hotel** | ***Ocean Bay Hotel******The Gambia****Kofi Annan Street, Cape Point**P.O.Box 4065, Bakau, The Gambia, West Africa**Direct Line: (220) 449 6712 Mob: (220)9983854/7203483**Momodou Jallow,**Reservation Manager**E-mail:* *modou.jallow@oceanbayhotel.com**; reservation@oceanbayhotel.com - Website:* [*www.oceanbayhotel.com*](http://www.oceanbayhotel.com/) | *Accommodation, including breakfast will be paid for in full.* *Any additional charges are the responsibility of the individual.**Reservation attached:* ***Annex 2*** |