



**Report on the candidate nomination for
the 2023 Mayoral and Chairmanship
Election
Friday, May 19 2023**
Delivered at the Bakadaji Hotel, Kololi-Gambia

**Gambia Participates' Observation Report on the Mayoral/Chairmanship Nomination
Processes**

(April 27 – May 6, 2023)

I. Introduction and Overview

As part of Gambia Participates overall mission to enhance the transparency, accountability, and inclusivity of the Gambia's electoral processes, GP trained and deployed 7 non-partisan long-term observers to observe the Mayoral and Chairmanship candidate nominations that were conducted at the 7 Regional Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) offices, from April 27 – May 3, 2023.

On April 24, 2023, the IEC published the candidate nomination dates for the Mayoral and Chairmanship elections to be held in its respective regional offices (Banjul, Kanifing, Brikama, Kerewan, Mansakonko, Janjabureh and Basse) from 8:00 - 16:00. During these days, the IEC facilitated the nomination of candidates where aspirants submitted the required credentials for review. The IEC then reviews the applications to determine if the candidates are qualified to run in accordance with the law. This process is conducted in accordance to

The report is based on information submitted by Seven (7) Gambia Participates observers that were each stationed at the IEC's 7 regional offices during the nomination period. Gambia Participates Observers sent in reports on the nomination processes, including their assessment of the general environment, the opening and set-up of nomination centers, electoral administration by the IEC, the presence of the IEC officials and stakeholders, citizens' participation and, any instances of disruption or intimidation during the nominations process, in addition to any critical incidents that threatened the integrity of the exercise.

In total, 32 candidates were nominated by the IEC, and 3 candidates withdrew their nomination. As a result, a total of 29 candidates will be contesting for the May 20, 2023 Mayoral and Chairmanship elections. Of this total, only 2 candidates are female representing only 6% of the total candidates contesting for this election. The list of nominated and withdrawn candidates is attached as an annex to this report.

II. Detailed Findings – Candidates' Nominations

General Environment – Citizens Participation – Security:

100% of Gambia Participates observers noted that the general environment was calm and orderly. No reports of politically motivated violence around the vicinity of the nomination centers and no instances of harassment or intimidation of IEC officials or candidates, no use of derogatory language or gender stereotypes, nor any issues of accredited party agents denied access to the nomination center. *Although there were reports of attempts to disrupt the nomination process by security agents in Banjul Central, Central Baddibu, Jarra West, Basse and Brikama Constituencies, and attempts to disrupt the process in Jeshwang Constituency by supporters of the GDC.*

Accessibility of the Nomination Venues:

57% of observers reported that nomination centers were physically accessible to persons with disabilities. However, observers in Banjul Central, Jeshwang and Brikama South Constituencies reported that aspirants and their supporters have to climb some stairs to access the nominations venue, making it challenging or inaccessible for persons with physical disabilities.

Presence of Party Agents:

Party agents for APRC were sighted at the IEC regional office in Kanifing, party agents for GDC were sighted at the IEC regional office in Kerewan, party agents for Independent Candidates were sighted at the IEC regional offices in Kerewan and Brikama, Party agents for NPP were sighted at the IEC regional offices in Banjul , Kerewan, Mansakonko, Basse and Brikama , Party agents for PPP were sighted at the IEC regional office in Brikama, and Party agents for UDP were sighted at the IEC regional offices in Kanifing, Banjul, Janjanbureh, Mansakonko, Basse and Brikama.

Presence of Domestic and International Observers:

GP Observers witnessed the presence of only domestic observers during the nomination period. The Election Watch Committee (EWC) were seen at the IEC regional offices in Brikama, Mansakonko and Janjanbureh and the CSO Coalition on Election observers were sighted at the IEC Brikama and Basse nomination centers.

Presence of Security Personnel:

100% of the observers witnessed the presence of at least one security personnel throughout the period of nomination at nomination centers. The security personnel identified were mainly Gambian Police officials.

Electoral Administration

Presence of IEC Officials

Gambia Participates observers reported an average of four (4) IEC officials were present for each day of the Mayoral and Chairmanship nominations. On average of three (3) IEC officials, One (1) IEC official at the nomination venue was a woman.

- Throughout the nomination period, an average of One (1) IEC officials seen at the nomination centers was a person with disabilities.
- Observers reported that across all the Seven (7) IEC regional offices, the officials in charge of the nomination process were male, and the officials objectively received all necessary nomination papers.



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The Nomination Process

Filing for Mayoral and Chairmanship Nominations

- Throughout the period of the nomination, 86% of observers reported that the majority of the candidates/parties have the required number of documents to file for nomination. However, observers reported that the APRC candidate in Brikama did not present the required number of documents to file for nomination.
- 100% of observers reported that the candidates/parties obtained the required number of supporters/signatures (200) required for the nomination process.
- 100% of observers reported that every candidate/party obtained a receipt (form) to confirm they have submitted all the required documentation to the IEC.

Malpractice in Attaining the required number of Signatures:

Observers in Banjul, Basse, Brikama, Kerewan and Janjanburreh, observed malpractices orchestrated/perpetrated by the APRC's candidates/party in attaining the required number of supporters/signatures needed for the nomination.

III. Recommendations

Based on these findings of the nomination exercises, Gambia Participates makes the following key recommendations to stakeholders:

IEC

- 1. Diversity of the electoral process:** While we commend IEC for ensuring that the nomination venue is substantially accessible for persons with disability, the IEC is, however, encouraged to ensure access to PWDs and increase the recruitment and participation of youth and persons with disability in the deployment of election officials. Gambia Participate also calls on the IEC to allow more women to serve as principal officers.

Gambia Police Force

- 2. Maintain Neutrality:** We call on the Police and other security agencies to maintain neutrality in the political and electoral processes and to not interfere unless asked to intervene to enforce/maintain law and order by IEC officials in charge of electoral activities.

Civil Society Organizations

- 3. Observe Key Electoral Processes:** Gambia Participates documented low levels of civil society-organized observation of the nominations process and encourages international partners to support the deployment of more citizen observation groups. Citizen



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observers play a crucial role in strengthening the credibility of elections, thus the significance of their presence in electoral processes.

Development Partners and International Observers

- 4. Commit to Supporting the Electoral Processes:** Development partners and international observers should continue to providing support in strengthening the electoral processes and electoral reform in The Gambia.

Political Parties

- 5. Gender representation amongst political parties is still very low in our elections.** Political parties in The Gambia are still behind in putting women into elective positions. Only UDP and PPP are sponsoring a female candidate in this election. Thus, we call on parties to prioritize female representation during elections

END

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marr Nyang", with a small cross-like mark below it.

Signed

Marr Nyang

Executive Director, Gambia Participates

ANNEX

No.	Candidate Name	Gender	Political Party	Incumber Yes/No	Nomination Status
BANJUL CITY COUNCIL					
1.	EBOU FAYE	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
2.	ROHEYATOU LOWE	F	UDP	YES	ACTIVE
KANIFING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL					
1.	BAKARY Y. BADJIE	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
2.	TALIB AHMED BENSOU DA	M	UDP	YES	ACTIVE
3.	PA MODOU JAINABA MBOWE	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
BRIKAMA AREA COUNCIL					
1.	YANKUBA BARROW	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
2.	LAMIN JAMMEH	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	WITHDRAWN
3.	AMADOU MUHTAR CHAM	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
4.	SEEDY SHERIFF CEESAY	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
5.	JAINABA BAH	F	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
6.	YANKUBA DARBOE	M	UDP	NO	ACTIVE
7.	SALIEU JALLOW	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
8.	AHMADOU GITTEH	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
9.	BAKARY SAIBOU SANNEH	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	WITHDRAWN
10.	IBRAHIM J.S. SANNEH	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
11.	BAISEY SAWO	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
KEREWAN AREA COUNCIL					
1.	ABDOULIE JALLOW	M	GDC	NO	WITHDRAWN
2.	PAPA TUNKARA	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
3.	MALAMIN I.L. BOJANG	M	UDP	YES	ACTIVE
4.	BABOU KEBBEH	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
MANSAKONKO AREA COUNCIL					
1.	KEBBA DEM	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
2.	LANDING B. SANNEH	M	UDP	YES	ACTIVE



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JANJANBUREH AREA COUNCIL					
1.	HARUNA BARRY	M	GDC	NO	ACTIVE
2.	SULAYMAN SAWANEH	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
3.	MALICK SOWE	M	UDP	NO	ACTIVE
4.	ALHAGIE A.S. BOYE	M	INDEPENDENT	NO	ACTIVE
KUNTAUR AREA COUNCIL					
1.	ABDOULIE KEITA	M	GFA	NO	ACTIVE
2.	SAIHOU JAWARA	M	NPP	YES	ACTIVE
3.	ALHAGI S.B. SILLAH	M	UDP	NO	ACTIVE
BASSE AREA COUNCIL					
1.	MAHAMADOU CEESAY	M	NPP	NO	ACTIVE
2.	ALHAGIE KARAMO TOURAY	M	PDOIS	NO	ACTIVE
3.	FODAY DANJO	M	UDP	YES	ACTIVE