

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: The Gambia
TYPE OF REPORT: FINAL:
YEAR OF REPORT: JUNE 2020



Project Title: Support to establish Strategic Policy Planning and Management Unit in the Office of the President													
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: IRF 00108786													
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund: UNDP	Type and name of recipient organizations: RUNO UNDP (Convening Agency) please select please select please select please select												
Date of first transfer: 25 January 2018 Project end date: 30 July 2020 Is the current project end date within 6 months? Yes													
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project													
Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization): <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Recipient Organization</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>\$ 500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right" colspan="2">Total: \$ 500,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Recipient Organization	Amount	UNDP	\$ 500,000		\$		\$		\$	Total: \$ 500,000	
Recipient Organization	Amount												
UNDP	\$ 500,000												
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Total: \$ 500,000													
Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 100 *ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE*													
Gender-responsive Budgeting: Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment:													
Project Gender Marker: GM1 Project Risk Marker: Low Project PBF focus area: 4.1 Strengthening National State Capacity													

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Sering Fallu Njie, National Advisor, DSPD

Project report approved by: Nessie Golakai-Gould, Deputy Representative, UNDP *Nessie Golakai*
15-Jun-2020

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: please select

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

All project staff were recruited during the previous reporting period. During this reported period, staff were taken through an orientation and a staff retreat convened to develop a strategic plan for the unit

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000 character limit):

Not applicable, end of project

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize the **main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

The unit has emerged now as the main technical unit of the Office of the President; it has initiated an economic council that's meets monthly to brief the President on economic issues, reviews all cabinet papers to ensure quality and consistency and also follows up on cabinet decisions to ensure their implementation. It played a leading role in government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing policy analysis and scenario building to guide decision making.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- *"On track" refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
- *"On track with peacebuilding results" refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: SPU organizational structure with clearly defined tasks and functions established within the Office of the Presidency

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

The full staff complement is now on board and each of the three units developed its component of the unit strategic plan as well as an annual work plan that it is implementing now.

Staff of the Department are providing support to the office of the President to ensure that the national development agenda is properly articulated, planned and implemented, by relevant ministries and government bodies. The department is working closely with Ministries to agree on timelines and key milestones for delivering on priority projects and/or reforms while working closely to ensure that these are implemented. Implementation is mainly through coordinating across government and partner agencies if necessary and unblocking any obstacles through using the authority of the Office of the President.

Other activities undertaken include technical Support to the Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture in the development and analysis of the assessment instruments for the National Agricultural Sample Survey (NASS) and Preharvest, preparation of summary of the 2019/2020 preharvest assessment report on the state of food Insecurity, support the Vice president office in the resuscitation of the National Food Security Council, supported the preparation of the Vice President for the launching of the Biennial Report of Disaster Risk Reduction during the next AUC head of State Submit in February 2020 in Addis Ababa, technical support to NAWEC planning department by training staff on the use of GIS to design Electricity Network of NAWEC, liaison with FAO to support government on the provision of Postharvest equipment's to be implemented through the PACD programme, coordinating preparations for the international investment forum on the NDP in Spain.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (1000 character limit)

Gender equality and Women's empowerment is cross cutting in all these support activities provided to the government ministries and departments. The unit has a total of 17 staff of which three are female. Of the three Directors of the units two are male and one is female.

Outcome 2: A well-supported SPU with strengthened technical, institutional and operational capacity to oversee a comprehensive government policy work programme, management information systems, and an outreach and communication activities

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit) Review cabinet submissions to ensure consistency, quality, and consultation with key stakeholder ministries. Advise and support line ministries on their submissions.

More than 9 cabinet papers have been reviewed by PAU this year before the meeting with the Cabinet Paper Review Committee, e.g.: **National Public Buildings and Facilities Policy** (Ministry of Transport, Work and Infrastructure), **Gambia Maritime Administration Fees and Charges** (Ministry Transport, Work and Infrastructure), **Levy on Freight for Ship-owners** (Ministry of Transport, Work and Infrastructure), **Persons with Disabilities Bill** (Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare)

Coordinate policy development and implementation across various MDAs

The Unit is actively engaged in the committees of the following Ministries: **Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration & Employment** (Trade Facilitation Committee and Industrial Support Committee); **Ministry of Health** (Health Financing Committee and National Health Insurance Committee), **Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare** (Women's Enterprise Development Fund). The unit did two policy papers on the COVID 19; the first being a policy analysis and scenario building on the potential impact on COVID-19 and the other being a policy paper on the impact of the lockdown, particularly the impact of the closure of the weekly markets called Luomos.

Prepare content for speeches and statements: the unit prepared the following: Brief for the Indian President Visit (October 2019), Presidential Speech for the Russia Africa Summit (October 2019), Brief on the Meeting with the Turkish President (January 2020), Brief for Vice President for Tokyo International Conference for African Development (August 2019), Presidential Budget Statement for the Supreme Institutions (November 2019). Also the unit facilitates and act as secretariat to high-level meetings of Permanent Secretaries, chaired by the Secretary General including the PS Retreat and the Senegalo-Gambia Presidential Council Technical Committee.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000 character limit)

The Unit provided strategic support to Statutory meeting including providing support to the Office of the Vice President during the United Nations General Assembly and on the Commission on the Status of Women. The unit also provided support to the newly created Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare in the formulation of their strategic plan.

Outcome 3: Key Government policy priorities considered by SPU

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

The policy unit provided advise on the production of a budget policy statement in line with the President's priorities to begin the budget process; indicating priorities for the budget for the following year to guide the work of MoFEA and Ministries, Departments and Agencies(MDAs)in the budget drafting process. The unit represents the Office of the President in the budgetary process, including MDA bilateral meetings, so that the Presidential priorities and Cabinet resolutions are factored in the budget.

Donor mapping exercise and partnerships with MoFA and MoFEA: This exercise is ongoing, the unit is embarking on a donor mapping exercise to set strategic alignment of donor programs/interventions and government priorities to prevent duplication and under funding in sectors across Government. During the consultation, we also engaged partners to identify

funding opportunities that are available for the country and follow up on pledges and promises made to support Gambia's development aspirations.

The coordination unit is also embarking on a stakeholder consultation with MDAs mandated to mobilise resources for the NDP and to that end, met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Gambians Abroad, to discuss strategies and agreed on a framework to follow-up on promises and pledges made to the Gambia during the Brussels conference. The unit also scheduled a donor mapping engagement with all Bilateral partners, but it is currently postponed due to the Coronavirus.

The unit made a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and introduced DSPD and Coordination Unit in particular. The team was headed by the Director General, who gave a brief introduction about the department. The Permanent Secretary of Finance welcomed the DSPD team and assured the team that his office is ready to work with the department to realize the NDP. He further requested that the Directors of the two institutions meet regularly, at least once a month to exchange ideas and establish areas of collaboration.

Voluntary National Review (VNR) Steering Committee

The coordination Unit is a Member of the VNR (Voluntary National Review) Steering Committee together with Ministry of Finance to coordinate the reporting of VNR process (stock-taking on the implementation status of the SDGs in The Gambia). The unit has been part of the regional consultation team together with other stakeholders to assess the stock of achievements made on the SDGs/NDP, level of awareness on these development agendas and will be playing a leading role together with Directorate of Development Plan under the Ministry of Finance in the drafting of the VNR report. The report has been completed and submitted to New York and the unit is supporting MOFEA in the preparation and recording of a presentation by the Ministry of Finance for the virtual VNR to be held in July 2020.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000 character limit)

Women and youths were stakeholders in all these processes particularly the VNR, Women focus groups formed part of the national and regional consultations and a process to gather and incorporate youth voices into the VNR was embarked upon in collaboration with the National Youth Council.

Outcome 4:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:
(1000 character limit)

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p><u>Monitoring:</u> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p> <p>end of project evaluation</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? yes</p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? no</p>						
<p><u>Evaluation:</u> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? please select</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required):</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit): The TOR for the end of project evaluation and the recruitment of a consultant is on-going.</p>						
<p><u>Catalytic effects (financial):</u> Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. PACD project</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of funder:</td> <td>Amount:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gambia Government</td> <td>US\$5 million</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>US\$1 million</td> </tr> </table>	Name of funder:	Amount:	Gambia Government	US\$5 million	UNDP	US\$1 million
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Gambia Government	US\$5 million						
UNDP	US\$1 million						
<p><u>Other:</u> Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>Tony Blair Institute is integrated within the department to support the organizational structuring and linkage within the organizational structure and business process of the Presidency to ensure efficiency of work streams.</p>						

PART IV: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

*Using the **Project Results Framework** as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)*

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Government policies and strategies with greater coherence and based on in-depth analysis and research that is essential to effectively guide and oversee the implementation of political and development	Indicator 1.1 A policy with government positions and strategy	Less government-wide coherence and consistency in messaging in various government policies on key priorities (SSR, TJ, development, humanitarian HR, etc.) -Absence of SPU to serve	All Government policies initiated and designed by line Ministries are signed-off by the Presidency - Existence of SPU with capacity, technical skills and financial	more than 9 cabinet papers reviewed and inputted into	cabinet papers are vetted before submission and followup of cabinet decisions made by the department	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
reforms in The Gambia.		as the think-tank of the Presidency on key political and development reforms	resources to perform its functions			
	Indicator 1.2					
	Indicator 1.3					
Output 1.1 DSPD organizational structure with clearly defined tasks and functions established within the Office of the Presidency	Indicator 1.1.1 Availability of team providing strategic and technical support on SSR	No staff and/or advisory services are provided.	Full team of staff and experts operational December 2019	staff recruited	full complement of staff on board,	
	Indicator 1.1.2 SPU Work plan with government policy priorities	No workplan	Function DSPD	workplans developed	work plans developed and being implemented	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 1.2	Indicator 1.2.1 and communication strategy established	No consistent messaging and outreach/ communication on strategy	Communicati on briefs on government policies shared with the public	public hearings done	engaging with sectors on policy, coordination and delivery issues	
	Indicator 1.2.2					
Output 1.3	Indicator 1.3.1					
	Indicator 1.3.2					
Output 1.4	Indicator 1.4.1					
	Indicator 1.4.2					
Outcome 2	Indicator 2.1					
	Indicator 2.2					
	Indicator 2.3					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 2.1.2					
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1					
	Indicator 2.2.2					
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					
	Indicator 2.3.2					
Output 2.4	Indicator 2.4.1					
	Indicator 2.4.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2					
	Indicator 3.3					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1					
	Indicator 3.1.2					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
Output 3.4	Indicator 3.4.1					
	Indicator 3.4.2					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.1					
	Indicator 4.2					
	Indicator 4.3					
Output 4.1	Indicator 4.1.1					
	Indicator 4.1.2					
Output 4.2	Indicator 4.2.1					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
	Indicator 4.2.2					
Output 4.3	Indicator 4.3.1					
	Indicator 4.3.2					
Output 4.4	Indicator 4.4.1					

Annex D - PBF project budget

Note: If this is a budget revision, insert extra columns to show budget changes.

Table 1 - PBF project budget by Outcome, output and activity

Outcome/ Output number	Outcome/ output/ activity formulation:	Budget by recipient organization in USD - Please add a new column for each recipient organization	Percent of budget for each output reserved for direct action on gender equality (if any):	Level of expenditure/ commitments in USD (to provide at time of project progress reporting):	Any remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification, for example if high TA or travel costs) Commitment (salaries and final evaluation)
OUTCOME 1: Government policies and strategies with greater coherence, gender-sensitive, and based on in-depth analysis and research that are essential to effectively					
Output 1.1:	SPU organizational structure with clearly defined tasks and functions established within the Office of the Presidency.	330000		217985	16000
Activity 1.1.1:	Staff recruitment Salaries	330000		217985	16000
Output 1.2:	A well-supported SPU with strengthened technical, institutional and operational capacity to oversee a comprehensive government policy work programme, management information	147290		224725	8500
Activity 1.2.1:	contractual services	10000		9279	8500
Activity 1.2.2:	Transfers and Grants to Partners	40000		70610	
Activity 1.2.3:	Travel	25000		53316	
Activity 1.2.4:	Supplies, commodities and materials	25000		15149	
Activity 1.2.5:	Equipment and furniture	23000		67464	
Activity 1.2.6:	General operating other direct costs	24290		8907	
TOTAL \$ FOR OUTCOME 1: USD		477290		442710	24500
SUB-TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:					
Indirect support cost (7%)		32710.3		28329	4461
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE:					
Indirect support costs (7%):		442710			
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: USD 500,000		28328			



**THE STATE HOUSE
BANJUL**

Department of Strategic Policy and Delivery

11 May 2020

To: H.E. The President

From: Director General, Department for Strategic Policy and Delivery (DSPD),
via Secretary General

RE: Brief on the recent activities of the DSPD

BRIEF ON DSPD ACTIVITIES

Your Excellency,

The Department of Strategic Policy and Delivery has been engaged in many activities and interventions as per your directions. This is a summary of some of the progress made in key areas for your attention below. Please note that this brief will not be an exhaustive list of all the activities undertaken, but the main highlights.

It is important to note that due to the recent outbreak, many of the Department's workstreams are likely to be affected in the coming months. However, the DSPD has the capacity to quickly adapt to support the Presidency in whichever capacity is needed during this time.

As this is the first regular brief in this form, we expect that it will improve over time given feedback so that it can be tailored to provide the right of information.

Policy Analysis Unit

The objective of the Policy Analysis Unit is to provide supplemental, contextual analysis and scrutiny on key policy issues from Ministries for the information and use of the President and the Cabinet. This will ensure that deliberations and policy decisions taken by the President and the Cabinet are informed, and that information reaching the executive level is of an appropriate standard and has been consulted with relevant stakeholders in advance.

Furthermore, the unit will ensure that briefs and important information are collated, prepared and presented to the President on a regular basis reflecting developments in the state of the macroeconomy and the performance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (including SOEs) against their long-term objectives.

The Policy Analysis Unit has been working on the following activities:

Policy report on airport efficiency, profits and operational structure

The Gambia Civil Aviation Act 2018 establishes the decoupling between the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) as a regulatory body and the Gambia Airport Management Agency (GAMA) as the operating body of Banjul International Airport. However, the execution of the decoupling is yet to take place.

Against this background, and the well-known fact of the unprofitable operations of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in The Gambia, the PAU is preparing a policy report. The report investigates the current and past financial situation of the GCAA and explores potential options for the governance and financial structure of the GAMA by reviewing existing literature and evidence, exploring four different country cases, and providing some scenario analyses. The aim is to trigger the debate on the future of GCAA, GAMA and the Banjul International Airport amongst stakeholders. The policy report will be the first in a series of reports on various topics which we aim to produce on a quarterly basis.

The draft report has been finalized and submitted to the DG for comments while awaiting final printing.

Report on Government Travel Requests and Approvals

The PAU is preparing a report which investigates the current practice for official travel requests and approvals by the Special Committee on Overseas Travels (SCOT) at the Office of the Vice President. The PAU has developed an improved data entry framework for travel requests and approvals which is easy to use and ensures complete information entered in a consistent format which also allows data analysis. It has already been operationalized and is currently being used by the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and there are plans to implement it for Office of The President as well.

The project has involved analysing SCOT data for 2018, improving the data entry framework on travel requests and approvals for 2019 onwards, and scrutinizing the number of trips as well as resources spent on travels by each ministry. The final draft has been prepared and SG has received an executive summary awaiting printing of the final version of the report.

Support to Tourism, Increase SMEs Benefits in the Travel Industry

Currently, the ticket prices in Gambia are subjected to double commissions at the very minimum. This increase overall ticket prices in the country. Furthermore, few foreign companies are taking the junk of the government expenses on tickets.

The government of Sierra Leone were in a similar precarious situation in the recent past. They worked with the IATA on a platform called Billing and Settlement Plan. The PAU for the past months initiated contacts with IATA on the possibility for Gambia. IATA promised to get back to us in the coming days. We are also in contact with the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Transport and Aviation in Sierra Leone to guide us through.

This initiative has the potential to reduce ticket costs by almost 10% – a substantial saving to the government. It also expands the benefits to more Gambian Travel agents.

Compiling and mapping Policy Documents from Ministries, Departments and Agencies

The PAU has requested that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies submit all their policy documents. This will allow us to have a comprehensive image of existing policies, identify gaps and overlaps, and conduct thorough policy analysis. In total, 16 Ministries have submitted their policies.

In connection to this we are also reviewing the information from a comprehensive policy mapping exercise conducted in 2018, to identify areas for DSPD engagement. The information from the policy documents and the policy mapping exercise will both feed into a brief digital compilation of all sector policies which is currently under progress.

Policy Forum

The PAU has developed a concept note and held a presentation on a future Policy Forum to be held annually. The forum aims to promote evidence-based policy formulation in all sectors by utilizing research on policy implications.

The envisioned format includes stakeholders to present 6 research papers on policy implications within certain fields (this year will focus on Education, Health and Agriculture), followed by a discussion among all stakeholders (policy makers, researchers, CSOs, NGOs, employees, students, etc.) to bridge the gaps between policy implications, policy formulation and policy implementation.

Port Labour Reform

Upon receiving information that dock workers and tally clerks may engage into industrial action, the Office of the Secretary General and the PAU engaged the Dock Workers Union on for a dialogue.

The crux of the discussion centred on the fact that, the Gambia Ports Authority (GPA) are yet to put in place a scheme for the integration of dock workers and tally clerks into the GPA Structure. The Labour Act 2007 expressly states that the GPA is responsible for the recruitment of dockworkers and tally clerks, however, the GPA expressed concerns that it is not in the position to absorb 454 dockworkers and 116 tally clerks.

PAU has received the consultancy reports from the Gambia Ports Authority in respect of the dockworkers and in addition, the dock workers have also forwarded their petition. We have submitted the brief for SG's consideration and the recommendations have been approved. A meeting has been scheduled with the Managing Director of Gambia Ports Authority to discuss about the implementation of the recommendations made in our brief.

Kanifing Fire Incident Inquiry Committee

Between December 2019 to February 2020, PAU e Secretary to the Kanifing Fire Incident Inquiry Committee.

The Committee was setup by the Office of The President to conduct preliminary investigations into the cause of the fire incident that occurred at Kanifing Industrial Estate on 27th October 2019 and make recommendations regarding penalties and or compensations to people whose properties were affected.

On the 5th March 2020, the committee presented the final report of the KFIC to the SG.

Review the Earnest& Young LLC (EY) Special Audit of seven State Owned Enterprises

The PAU provided a summary of the Special Audit Report of Seven SOEs in The Gambia for 2017, produced by EY. The report was submitted to the PAU by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. The Special Audit report comprises of two phases. Phase one addresses the internal control systems of SOEs and the governance structure, whereas phase two addresses the financial performance of SOEs and the issues concerning the preparation of financial statements.

Findings revealed major lapses in internal control in the seven SOEs such as revenue controls, procurement, financial management and inventory asset management. The report also highlighted major problems in proper record keeping and asset classification. The audit revealed that SOEs audit trail was weak. The report also provides recommendations to tackle these issues.

One principal policy analyst has been tasked with reviewing the document and preparing a brief for the SG on the financial situation of the SOEs and the recommended actions.

Note: the formal review of the audit recommendations forms part of the IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) and PAU will be part of this process with the National Audit Office and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Functional Review of the Project Coordinating Units (PCUs)

The PAU observed different modus operandi of Project Management Units in different Ministries. We recommended a functional review with a view to establish a standard operating procedure. The Personnel Management Office agreed in principle to conduct this exercise. A formal letter has been sent to them earlier this year. Progress on this has been slow but we will intensify with PMO.

Securiport LLC contract

In June 2018, The Government of The Gambia (GoTG) signed a contract with Securiport LLC to deploy a Civil Aviation Immigration Security System (CAISS) during a period of five years.

Failure to start the contract in January 2019 triggered an extension clause in the contract to an additional five years. To pay for this service, the contract specifies that 20 USD is to be paid by each passenger upon arrival and departure – amounting to a 40 USD charge for a normal roundtrip. The PAU has conducted some scenario analysis on how to handle the financial implications of the contract and provided a brief to H.E.

PAU was thus tasked to explore the possibility of renegotiating the contract. The letter was written to Securiport LLC to request for a meeting at their convenience. However, due to the fact that the local representatives had to forward our request to the headquarters in Washington DC, USA the date of the meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Submission and review of SOES' 2020 budgets for Executive approval

So far, PAU have reviewed and recommended Executive approval for the budgets for GNPC, AMRC, Gamcel, Gamtel, Gampost and GRTS with a view to chart a stable financial path for SOEs' by making sure that their budget for 2020 show either a net operating profit or reducing operating loss. This is expected to retrack SOEs on a prudent path to sound financial management and eventually restore fiscal rectitude across government. SSHFC, and GCAA have submitted their budgets but further clarification is being sought on their recurrent expenditure. Out of 13 SOEs, 8 SOEs have submitted their budgets and we are yet to receive the budgets from 5 SOEs namely: GGC, GIA, GPA, GPPC and NAWEC.

Cabinet Paper Reviews: The Director of PAU is part of the Cabinet Paper Review Committee which reviews cabinet papers and make sure they contain the necessary information and meets the required standard before they are presented to Cabinet. Ahead of the committee meetings staff of the PAU reviews the submitted cabinet papers to be discussed.

The cabinet papers which have been recently reviewed include:

- ***Persons with Disabilities Bill*** submitted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, which the PAU held a final drafting session with the Ministry of

Women, Children and Social Welfare before the cabinet papers were shared with the relevant stakeholders for consultations.

- ***Management and Operations of the Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Centre*** submitted by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure. However, this paper was listed on the Cabinet agenda before the comments of the committee could be addressed.
- ***Gambia Public Procurement Act*** submitted by the Hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Management. Unfortunately, this paper was submitted to Cabinet on Monday 9th March without consideration of the comments of the committee from its meeting on the 3rd March
- ***Cybercrime Bill 2020*** submitted by the Hon. Minister of Information and Communication Infrastructure. Unfortunately, this paper has already been listed on the agenda for Cabinet before the comments of the committee could be addressed
- ***Petroleum Sector Reform: Establishment of the Petroleum Commission*** submitted by Hon. Minister for Petroleum and Energy. Unfortunately, this paper has also been listed on the agenda before the comments of the committee could be addressed.
- ***The Gambia Institute of Public Administration and Management (GIPAM) Bill, 2020*** and ***The University of The Gambia Bill, 2020*** submitted by the Hon. Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology have both been reviewed and comments provided to the ministry.
- ***Adoption of the National Public Building and Facilities Policy*** submitted by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure has been reviewed and comments provided to the ministry
- ***Levy on Freight (Cost of Transport of Import and Export Cargoes on the Ship-Owner)*** submitted by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure has been reviewed and comments provided to the ministry
- ***Gambia Maritime Administration (GMA) Fees and Charges*** submitted by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure has been reviewed and comments provided to the ministry
- ***Loan and Grant Agreement Between the Government of The Gambia and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Financing of the Resilience of Organisations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS)*** submitted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs has been reviewed and comments provided to the ministry

The PAU are continuing to work with the Committee and the Cabinet Office to ensure a robust process is in place for timely submission, analysis and revision of Cabinet Papers, and to allow the preparation of briefs for H.E. as chair of Cabinet ahead of the meeting.

Delivery Unit

The objective of the Delivery Unit is to provide a 'delivery' function to ensure that the President's agenda is properly articulated, planned and implemented, by relevant ministries and government bodies.

The unit is working closely with Ministries to agree on timelines and key milestones for delivering on priority projects and/or reforms while working closely to ensure that these are implemented. Implementation is mainly through coordinating across government and partner agencies if necessary and unblocking any obstacles through using the authority of the Office of the President.

The Delivery Unit has been working on the following activities:

Coordinating Response to 2019 TIP Report

Following the designation of The Gambia as tier 3 country in the 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Your Excellency tasked the Department for Strategic Policy and Delivery (DSPD) at Office of the President to coordinate efforts to address the human trafficking intervention gaps outlined in the human trafficking report 2019 that led to the downgrading of the country from Tier 2 to Tier 3.

DSPD has since then been coordinating this process and other activities geared towards combating trafficking in persons in the country. The Department set up a taskforce of key stakeholders to review the recommendations of the 2019 TIP report and to develop a plan of action to address issues highlighted in the report.

After a series of consultations with the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NAATIP), the National Taskforce on TIP and other relevant stakeholders, the taskforce produced a more responsive and action-oriented plan action. The Delivery Unit of DSPD monitors the implementation of this plan of action.

The following progress have been made in the areas of strengthening investigation and improving safety measures at the Bakoteh Victims Shelter.

- Nine (9) additional investigators from the Gambia Police Force, SIS and the Immigration Department have been assigned to NAATIP to strengthen its investigation capacity and capability. The investigators from SIS have long since started work at NAATIP but the others could not start due to lack of office/workspace at NAATIP
- TIP Focal Points have been posted at all the border post in the country, including Banjul International Airport.
- GPF, SIS and GID have all submitted names for the panel of investigators to investigate the backlog of cases reported at NAATIP, including the cases reported by the Network of Girls Against Human Trafficking(NoGAHT). ToR for the panel is now drafted and the panel has long since started work but honorarium payment for the panel members is yet to be done

DSPD visited Bakoteh Shelter to assess safety and security concerns raised in the report – detailed report prepared and shared with DSW and other stakeholders. There is still no tangible progress on the raising of the fence at the shelter. The meeting to discuss raising of the fence did not happen due to the difficulty of getting MoFEA to a meeting. For the 24-hour security at the Shelter, the Secretary General and Head of Civil Service had formally requested GPF to provide 24-hour police security at the Bakoteh Shelter. GPF and DSPD visited the Shelter on Monday 7/4/2020 to assess security needs for Shelter. On prosecution and conviction of traffickers, all TIP cases before the courts have been documented. It is

important to note that there are currently only two (2) TIP cases before the courts, and these are (1) *State vs Lucy Malachy & Christian Oranugu* and (2) *State vs Lamin Jaiteh*. Both cases are before the high courts. DSPD, through its Delivery Unit, continues to follow up on the progress of the two cases and update SG at the weekly briefings.

In the *State vs Lucy Malachy & Christian Oranugu*, the case was heard on Friday 21/02/2020 for only one hour. One of the suspects jumped bail. Prosecution made submission for bail bond to be forfeited to the state while the defense argued bail bond should not be forfeited. The case was adjourned was to 28/02/2020 and defense continued submission on why bail bond should not be forfeited to the state. Case was again adjourned to 25/03/2020 for the court to make ruling on forfeiture of bail bond.

In the case of the *State vs Lamin Jaiteh*, the case last proceeded in court on 03/03/2020 and was adjourned to 27/04/2020. Prosecution has called 5 witnesses but the fourth and fifth witnesses are yet to conclude their testimony. The judge threatened to close the case of the prosecution if they fail to produce a witness on the next adjourned date. This means the court will not allow the remaining prosecution witnesses to testify and will order the Defense to open their case. The records of proceedings indicate that the prosecution has persistently failed to provide these witnesses to conclude their testimony and it could be that they are either out of the jurisdiction or cannot be traced.

It is expected that these cases will now be delayed indefinitely as all court sittings are suspended until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The development of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and SOPs for identification, protection, referral, and assistance of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) and Vulnerable Migrants are in progress. A two-day training workshop on victim identification, referral and protection for stakeholders, including the National Taskforce on TIP was conducted from 20th to 21st February 2020. Another two-day training workshop aimed at establishing standardized guidelines for service providers and stakeholders to identify and refer vulnerable migrants to assistance, protection and reintegration support was conducted from 26th and 27th February 2020. These trainings are part of the initiative to develop a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and SOPs for identification, protection, and assistance of VoTs and Vulnerable Migrants in The Gambia. The NRM and the SOPs are expected to be finalised by end of May 2020.

Your Excellency,

Out of the 38 activities and measures set out in the plan of action for the 2019 TIP Report, nine (9) activities have been implemented, seven (7) other activities are in progress and four (4) activities are scheduled for implementation in the second quarter of 2020.

The Delivery Unit successfully conducted a two-day workshop which brought together all relevant stakeholders to answer the questions for the 2020 TIP report. It is important to note the HE the Vice President attended the opening ceremony of the event and talked about the importance of fighting TIP and the efforts of the Government in combating the phenomenon in The Gambia. It is also important to note that the US Embassy in The Gambia commended DSPD and OP for coordinating this process and for the timely submission of the responses.

Replication and implementation of PUDC development model in The Gambia

Following the recommendation of both study tours to Senegal to understudy the PUDC development model, DSPD has been tasked to coordinate the process to replicate the model in The Gambia. To this end, the Department had set up a Technical Working Group comprising key stakeholders to guide and direct this process which has been meeting weekly.

So far, the DU has produced an articulation and presentation of presidential priorities with activities and total budget for implementation, secured D250,000,000 in the 2020 budget for the programme, and developed a project document with results framework, budget and workplan for some of the project components.

The Project Document and Financing Agreement are now being finalized and the first tranche of funds (GMD 93,750,000) have been disbursed and the second tranche is awaiting disbursement. With the additional US\$ 1,000,000 track resources from the UNDP, project document has been revised and finalised. There is now an additional component to the project i.e. *'Sustainability of services and assets'*

Community sensitisation activity is scheduled to start on 23rd March 2020 and the baseline survey to follow one week after, but these activities are now put on hold due to COVID -19 outbreak. However, Delivery Unit is consulting with UNDP to explore other means of community sensitisation that will not involve gathering people in one space i.e. sensitisation using community radios in the regions. Delivery Unit is developing a concept note, ToR and budget for this mode of sensitisation for further discussion with UNDP and other stakeholders.

LPAC membership is now confirmed and first LPAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 31st March 2020. Signing of the PACD Project is scheduled for 3rd April 2020 and this will take place at the Office of the President, State House, Banjul.

LPAC had its first meeting on Tuesday 31st March 2020 and has approved the Project document. On Friday 3rd April 2020 PACD Project Document and Financing Agreement were signed signaling the official commencement of the Project.

Two of the preparatory activities i.e. formal launching of PACD and community sensitisation are temporarily shelved because of restrictions imposed by the declaration of public emergency due to the outbreak of corona virus disease (COVID-19) currently ravaging the world. However, despite the difficult circumstance and restrictions because of COVID – 19, preparations are at an advanced stage to implement one of the preparatory activities i.e. the baseline survey. Plans are being finalised for enumerator training scheduled for week commencing 4th April 2020. A baseline survey, expected to last at least ten (14) days, will follow immediately after enumerator training. This activity will be implemented in strict and full compliance with WHO COVID-19 guidelines and measures set out in the Public Emergency Declaration of March 27, 2020.

MDA Priority Projects

As part of its mandate, the Delivery Unit is to track implementation and report on progress of priority projects in MDAs. To this end, the Unit is supposed to work closely with MDAs to agree on timelines and key milestone for delivering on the priority projects.

In accordance with this mandate, the Unit requested for priority projects and workplans for 2020 from all the MDAs in order to select priority projects for monitoring implementation. The Unit now received priority projects and 2020 workplan from six Ministries and these are (1) Ministry of Agriculture (2) Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources (3) Ministry of Energy and Petroleum (4) Ministry of Children and Women's Affairs, (5) Ministry of Interior (6) Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure and has developed a plan to sit with technicians of these ministries to agree on timelines and key milestones.

The Unit arranged to start with MoA but at the last moment the Hon. Minister cancelled the meeting citing that the Unit does not have the mandate to engage with the Ministry on priority

projects. This has the potential to seriously impact the ability of the unit to conduct its work. The DG and SG followed up on the issue and the meeting eventually took place on Thursday 19th March 2020 at CPCU, Ministry of Agriculture. However, the delay impacted negatively on the plan of the Unit to meet with other MDAs and thus set the pace of work back. It is important for the Executive to make all MDAs aware of and respect this mandate of the Delivery Unit.

Mixed Farming Centres (MFCs) visit

A team comprising staff of DU, DSPD and DoA visited all 25 MFCs in the country from 11th to 16th February 2020 including those renovated, those currently being renovated and those that are neither renovated nor contracted for rehabilitation. Seven (7) MFCs were renovated/rehabilitated in 204/15 and seven (7) were contracted for renovation in 2018 and 2019. There are eleven (11) MFCs that are not contracted for renovation, and all of them need total rehabilitation.

It is important to note that, with the exception of Mankamang Kunda, all the MFCs contracted for renovation in 2018/19 have not meet the contract completion dates. They have all failed the initial completion dates, except for Mankamang Kunda. New completion dates for all the ongoing contracts is 31st March 2020. There is a need to visit again end of April to see if the new deadline has been met. Report of the visit is now finalised and will be shared soon.

Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS) projects

Senior Delivery was part of the team that visited project sites in Chamen (The Songhai Initiative), Mini Stadium in Basse, Farafenni and Jarra Soma, Kaur Football Field, Nyangabantang Youth Processing Centre and Jangjang Bureh Youth Service Centre as part of MoYs conducted a field visit to its project sites across the country, 4th to 12th February 2020.

ECOWAS-EU Peace Building Capitalisation Retreat at Tendaba, 25-28 February 2020

ECOWAS-EU PSS Project provided support to the consolidation of peace, democracy and good governance in The Gambia through the European Union Support to ECOWAS Regional Peace, Security and Stability Mandate. A four-day retreat was organised to review achievements of interventions, to share lessons learnt and best practices for building sustainable peace and to define key priority actions and way forward.

Delivery Unit, DSPD was involved in the preparations, coordination, and implementation of this activity. Seven staff of DSDP, including the Director General and the directors of Delivery and Policy Units, participated in this forum. The four-day retreat came up with a Declaration called '*Tendaba 2020 Peace Building Declaration*', which reaffirms the will and commitment of stakeholders to support Government's effort in consolidation of peace, democracy, and good governance in The Gambia. First draft of the report has been shared with DSPD, OP for review.

Other activities that the unit has undertaken:

- Technical Support to the Department of Planning Ministry of Agriculture in the development and analysis of the assessment instruments for the NASS and Preharvest.
- Preparation of summary of the 2019/2020 preharvest assessment report on the state of food Insecurity.
- Support the Vice president office in the resuscitation of the National Food Security Council.

- Support the preparation of the Vice President for the launching of the Biennial Report of Disaster Risk Reduction during the next AUC head of State Summit in February 2020 in Addis Ababa.
- Technical support to NAWEC planning department by training staff on the use of GIS to design Electricity Network of NAWEC.
- FAO to support government on the provision of Postharvest equipment's to be implemented through the PACD programme
- Coordinating preparations for the international investment forum on the NDP in Spain

COVID – 19 Food Support Initiative

Delivery Unit was actively involved in the COVID-19 food support response. The Unit worked on model with outputs that informed key decisions.

Coordination Unit:

The objective of the Coordination Unit is to serve as a key interlocutor between government and development partners by defining long-term strategic objectives for these partnerships and cultivating a relationship between the executive and heads of partner agencies.

This will aim to ensure that the government can regularly communicate with a unified voice to partners regarding its high-level priorities.

The Coordination Unit has been engaged in the following activities:

Donor mapping exercise and partnerships with MoFA and MoFEA

This exercise is on-going, the unit is embarking on a donor mapping exercise to set strategic alignment of donor programs/interventions and government priorities to prevent duplication and under funding in sectors across Government. During the consultation we also engage partners to identify funding opportunities that are available for the country and follow up on pledges and promises made to support Gambia's development aspirations

The unit is also embarking on a stakeholder consultation with MDAs mandated to mobilise resources for the NDP and to that end, met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Gambians Abroad, to discuss strategies and agreed on a framework to follow-up on promises and pledges made to the Gambia during the Brussels conference. The unit also scheduled a donor mapping engagement with all Bilateral partners, but it is currently postponed due to the Coronavirus.

The unit made a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and introduced DSPD and Coordination Unit in particular. The team was headed by the Director General, who gave a brief introduction about the department. The Permanent Secretary Finance welcomed the DSPD team and assured us that his team is ready to work with us to realize the NDP. He further requested that the Directors of the two institutions met regularly, at least once a month to exchange ideas and establish areas of collaboration.

Presidential Tour

The 2019 President's Meet the People's tour has been finalized and the draft was submitted for your Excellency's approval. We received the approval and as proposed in the report, we have also drafted a Cabinet Paper to be tabled by Her Excellency the Vice President. This is to ensure that some of the policy pronouncements made during the tour will update planners in the different Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other stakeholders on the new priority needs of the communities so that this can be factored in their future plans/budget where required. The report of the tour can be viewed as participatory dialogue between His

Excellency the President and the general public to aligned and reprioritized the community's basic needs. For which, we want to argue that the report be used to support the annual review of the National Development Plan to address emergency issues such as water, food security and healthcare.

To build and maintain a relationship between the between SG and UN-RC

The Unit is proposing a high-level meeting between RC and SG for the last Tuesday of every Quarter) to discuss the UN Development Assistance Framework progress and challenges and identify ways to enhance smooth implementation of the programme. To this effect ,the unit has drawn up a calendar and shared it with SGs Secretary, but after consultation with UN-Resident Coordinator s Office, it was agreed that during their first meeting, the final calendar will be discussed. Once agreed upon, it will be booked for their subsequent meeting.

Furthermore, to build and maintain relationship between the Executive and the Partner Agencies, we are also proposing a Tea Meeting between Your Excellency the President and heads of key Partners Agencies including Ambassadors in the country to convene over tea and informally share thought on current issues, status of development programmes and any other business at least twice a year. However, this is put on hold due to the Coronavirus pandemic

The formation of Ministerial Working Groups (MWG)

The National Development Plan recommended the creation of Technical Clusters or thematic working groups. These working groups will form the backbone of planning for each ministry to ensure that government policies and plans are aligned to the interests of the stakeholders. In this way we can ensure that the ministry's policies and plans for the short and medium term are consistent, understood and coordinated. It also means all key players in every sector of our country will contribute to the government's planning and policy process. The respective Ministries will know where government and partners intend to intervene. This is expected to improve accountability and transparency, and to ensure coordination within government, its donor partners, the private sector and civil society.

Ministries are responding to our request to form Ministerial Working Groups with their key stakeholders in line with the NDP implementation framework. Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure and Basic and Secondary Education have concluded their Coordinating Committee Meeting (CCM)/ Ministerial Working Group and the Coordination unit was given an opportunity to make a presentation on the importance of MWG during the meeting. In addition, the Unit have developed a draft procedure manual to guide the Ministerial working group consultations and is shared with DG for his review and approval.

Voluntary National Review (VNR) Steering Committee

The Unit is a Member of the VNR (Voluntary National Review) Steering Committee together with Ministry of Finance to coordinate the reporting of VNR process (stock-taking on the implementation status of the SDGs in The Gambia). The unit has been part of the regional consultation team together with other stakeholders to assess the stock of achievements made on the SDGs/NDP, level of awareness on these development agendas and will be playing a leading role together with Directorate of Development Plan under the Ministry of Finance in the drafting of the VNR report. The first draft is expected in April 2020.

Submission of Quarterly Activity Report from all UN Agencies in The Gambia

We embarked on sectoral consultations and during which concerns were raised on the lack of access to information from partner agencies i.e. data reporting. As a result, the Coordination Unit has drafted a request letter and developed sample reporting template for the submission of quarterly report of the activities of all UN agencies in The Gambia.

In addition, the unit has successfully conducted a consultative meeting with all UN Implementing Partners in the country. The purpose of the meeting was to engage the IPs and get first-hand information about the project implementation status, challenges and recommendations on addressing the bottlenecks in implementation. These are among pre-event meetings in preparation for the High-level meetings with development partners that we are planning.

PBF Leadership & Governance Project (Strengthening Inclusive Citizen Engagement)

The 2019 Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) report identified key challenges to good democratic governance and social cohesion including the lack of responsive, accountable state and informed citizenry.

The Unit is jointly implementing this project and its related activities with 9 (Nine) other responsible Parties such as IPC, NYC, TANGO and Action Aid etc. This project will work towards addressing 'Improved Accountability and trust between Public Service Leadership and the Population.' The DSPD is identified to implement one of the outcomes, which is geared towards creating a functional national platform for dialogue on public policies between government and citizen, and the strengthening of government mechanism for coordination and performance management

One of the activities identified under this project is to organise a town hall dialogue. A committee has been identified to develop guidelines for the Town Hall dialogue, and a concept note has been drafted and shared. A workshop on the guidelines for Town Hall was scheduled for next week however, this activity is now postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic

An inaugural project steering committee of the PBF Governance and Leadership project was convened Chaired by Director General DSPD, to approve the Annual workplan of all the IPs.

Decade of Action of the SDGs

We participated in a stakeholders meeting organized by the UN Resident Coordinator for official launch of the Decade of Action of the SDGs. One of the key highlights that came up during the meeting, was for His Excellency the President to officially launch the Decade of Action of the SDGs. This will show the commitment of the Government towards advancing the SDGs and its related targets especially as we enter the final decade of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Both the Government and UNCT will be required to make a statement during the launching of the Decade of Action. It was agreed that the launch of the Decade of action is anchored on Youths and their role towards advancing the 2030 agenda is crucial. This activity is also put on hold due to the pandemic.

Senegambia Bridge

The Unit organized a stakeholders meeting on Senegambia Bridge which was opened early last year, to analyze the current collection modality against the forecasted revenue in the 2020 budget and discuss the way forward. It came to our attention that the expected revenue from the Senegambia Bridge that was highlighted in the 2020 budget was as a result of misclassification and that the monthly revenue collection to date so far is lower than envisaged.

After series of consultations and further stakeholders' meetings we have come to understand that the toll bridge was part of the original contract which is still under implementation. We requested for the contract documents and the detail specification, which is under review, whilst we wait for the status report on implementation from the Ministry of Works.

GPA Expansion Project (PPP)

We coordinated a stakeholders meeting to get briefing on the status of the proposed PPP arrangement for GPA Expansion Project. The Managing Director of Gambia Ports Authority informed the meeting that a detail information and TOR about the project have been sent to the Ministry of Finance, requesting them to facilitate a PPP arrangement.

TGPA has supplied the Unit with the Port Master Plan including the tariff and traffic data to facilitate our engagement with investors. We understand from the Ministerial Working group that GPA is going ahead to employ Africa Legal Facility as Transaction Adviser for the PPP tender process for the Port expansion.

Sare-Debo village

The community of Sare-Debo village in Upper Fulladu West, CRR are not cooperating with the newly appointed Alkalo of their village whom they claimed lacks the moral high ground to lead the village. The action of the villagers is borne by the alleged removal of the Alkalo of the village by personnel of the para-military force and the subsequent appointment of his successor without regard to the customs and traditions in the village.

The Unit responded to the village with an acknowledgment letter assuring them that all necessary measures will be taken to resolve the situation. A letter was also sent to the Ministry of Local Government and Lands to engage with the local government authorities in the areas to address the situation at village of Sare-Debo.

Banjul Stray Dogs

After series of complains from the residents of Banjul on the prevalence of stray dogs on their street. A committee was set-up and all relevant stakeholder were consulted to resolve the matter and a site visits have been conducted to better understand the challenges. The committee have come with a report on the outcome, recommendations and action points to be implemented by the Banjul City Council (BCC).

OIC as a Revenue Mobilization for the NDP

In us to quest to mobilize resources for the NDP. The Unit has proposed a stakeholder's engagement to organize the different sectors of government/madrassas/religious groups/charities/CSOs to develop project proposal and take advantage of the development partners, religious groups we are expecting during the summit. We are proposing for a study tour to Senegal and/or Turkey to learn best approach on how they took advantage of the opportunities offered by the OIC summit to support their development aspirations.

Public Buses

Following Ashok Company proposal to supply Public buses, a meeting with key stakeholder on Public Buses was organized to get their views on the proposal. As a public enterprise keen on making profits for their shareholder, any proposal should be in line with their procurement standard approve by their Board of Directors.

The Unit further engaged Social Security and Housing Finance Cooperation and GTSC to discussion how to improve public transport service in the Gambia. As requested during the meeting, we have sent out a letter to GTSC asking them to identify how government can support to enhance the availability of Public Transport Service to the general public. They promised to come up with a proposal before end of March 2020

Payment to MSTE for the supply number plates to GPF in 2018

The Unit was tasked to convene the relevant stakeholders (MoFEA, MoI, AGD, IAD and IGP) for a meeting to look into the complains of Modou Sowe Trading Enterprise (MSTE) for the delay in payment of the balance of his money for the supply of vehicle number plates to Gambia Police Force in 2018. During the meeting the Police acknowledged and confirmed receipt of the said supplies of number plates as claimed by the supplier. After which, it was recommended that the claimed balance be paid to avoid further legal actions and all necessary measures be taken to correct the procurement lapses at the Ministry of Interior. For this reason, a letter was sent to Ministry of Interior and copied to Internal Audit instructing them to go ahead and pay the supplier based on the recommendations of the committee to avoid further legal action on government.

Business Council

As highlighted in the NDP, the Government recognise the importance of the Private Sector participation in National Development. As such, a dynamic Private Sector requires a strong enabling environment without obstacles in order to contribute to National Development. For this reason, the Directorate of Coordination together with the Business Council Secretariat (GCCSI) will work together to provide a platform for dialogue between the Government and the private sector on issues of relevance to private sector development and how this contributes to Economic growth.

Gambia Transport Union Issues –

On the directives of HE, Coordination unit coordinated this meeting and was chaired by SG. All the various transport Unions operating in The Gambia were invited to the meeting, namely, Gambia National Transport Control Union, General Transport Union and Transport Drivers Union. suggestions included having a unified body representing the interest of the unions.

Action points include a follow-up meeting with representatives from the various unions with Government stakeholders such as MoTIE, MoTWI, MoI and MoJ will be invited in the next meeting proposed to review the MOU signed by the respective unions.

Project Review Board is also Coordinated by Coordination Unit

The unit drafted the TOR for the Project Review Board, given the importance of this body, the DG will engage the Chairman of the board to review its current mandate, TOR and composition of the board to be more inclusive and to represent the interest of the stakeholders.

Upcoming and Outstanding Issues

During this 1st quarter of 2020, it is important to organize a Permanent Secretary's retreat so that the recommendations from the last PS Retreat would be discussed, reviewed and updated.

The planned retreat has now been reorganised to allow for ministries to come to the Office of the President on a particular schedule to present their progress on their priorities for 2019 as identified at the first PSs retreat of 2019, and to identify their 2020 priorities.

The DSPD will work closely with the office of the SG to initiate the process of re-establishing a Cabinet Retreat to further look into, discuss and approve some of the crucial decisions of the PS Retreat.

The Coordination Unit is proposing a High-Level National Partner Working Group meeting during the 2nd quarter of 2020 to discuss the progress of the strategic priorities of the NDP/SDGs. The Gambia Aid Policy is coming to an end this year and we are proposing a revision of the policy.

As noted in the introduction, many of the upcoming workstreams are dependent on the continuing developments of the coronavirus outbreak.