



# **Tracking the Implementation Status of the Recommendations Made to Ministries on the Reports laid by Committees at the Plenary: 2017 – 2022**

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By Library & Research Dept., in collaboration with Committee Secretariat and Table Office

National Assembly of The Gambia

## **ABOUT US**

The Library and Research Dept. of the National Assembly of The Gambia provides credible, timely and impartial research service to members and staff of the National Assembly to help them in the effective execution of their mandate.

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## ACRONYMS

<b>FPAC</b>	Finance and Public Accounts Committee
<b>MCA</b>	Medicines Control Agency
<b>MDI</b>	Management Development Institute
<b>MoBSE</b>	Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
<b>MoFEA</b>	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
<b>MoHERST</b>	Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>NAM</b>	National Assembly Member
<b>NAQAA</b>	National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority
<b>NCCE</b>	National Council for Civic Education
<b>SCDS</b>	Standing Committee on Defence and Security
<b>SO</b>	Standing Order
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UTG</b>	University of The Gambia

## **ABSTRACT**

This research gauges the implementation status of the recommendations made by various committees of the National Assembly through the committee reports that were being laid and adopted at the plenary from March 2017 to December 2022.

The committees that were identified for the study include the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts, Standing Committee on Defence and Security, Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT, and Select Committee on Health, Refugees, Disaster and Humanitarian Relief.

### **Findings**

Fifty-six (56) recommendations have been collated from the general and specific resolutions adopted by the four committees hereunder study, distributed among eleven (11) of the institutions that they perform oversight on (4 ministries and 7 departments/agencies). The findings reveal that 43% of the recommendations have been implemented, 39% partially implemented and 18% not implemented.

It is interesting to note that the institutions of the Committee on Education have among them 51% fully implemented their recommendations while the Ministry of Interior did not implement any of the recommendations made to them by the Standing Committee on Defence and Security.

### **Key Challenges**

The common and some specific challenges reported by the concerned institutions as reasons for their partial or non-implementation of the recommendations include:

- Inadequate budgetary (financial) allocations;
- Lack of legal status to make certain initiatives or implementation;
- Human resource constraints;
- Government (MoFEA) not involved in negotiations of some grants from UN Agencies and other development partners, extended directly to beneficiary Sectors and Ministries;
- Delay in payment of testing fees by Government (MCA).

## **Conclusion**

The low level of follow up by the committees of the National Assembly on their oversight institutions may have contributed to the low implementation of the recommendations. To this end, while the rate of implementation of some institutions hereunder study is commendable, some ministries have, notwithstanding, recorded zero percent implementation rate.

## **Limitations**

Because of the high number of committees vis-à-vis the limited human resources, five committees were initially identified and they are, Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts; Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT; Select Committee on Health, Disaster, Refugees and Humanitarian Relief; Standing Committee on Defence and Security; and Select Committee on Agriculture, which was later changed for the Committee on Environment. However, it was not possible to trace the reports that were laid by the Select Committees on Agriculture and Environment. As such, the group assigned to this was given part of the institutions of the Select Committee on Education.

## **General Recommendation**

The Office of the Clerk should consider extending this follow-up exercise to other committees to establish the extent to which oversight institutions adopt and implement committee recommendations. This will help National Assembly Members (NAMs) during their oversight exercises.

## Introduction

Parliaments worldwide perform three (3) core functions: law-making, oversight and representation. The 1997 Constitution of The Gambia vested the National Assembly with legislative powers to make laws for the country (s100). The National Assembly, unless it delegates to another body, is the legitimate authority to make laws in The Gambia. Besides, section 101(a) confers the Assembly with oversight power to receive and review reports on the activities of the Government and its agencies.

To perform its legislative and oversight functions effectively and efficiently, section 109 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of Committees to investigate into the administration and activities of ministries, departments and agencies of the Government. This power is further complemented by order 97 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly. Moreover, to make parliamentary work less cumbersome, order 96 of the Standing Orders provides for the nomination of National Assembly Members (NAMs) to various Committees regardless of their political background to express their views, experience and expertise with less influence of or consideration to their political differences, and serve the general interest of the people.

As a matter of practice, a good deal of Parliamentary business is transacted at committee level. The Constitution and Standing Orders give committees powers to summon, and enforce where necessary, the appearance of witnesses in an investigation, a bill under consideration or any matter of public interest that is being considered by the committee (Const., 101, 102 & 109; SO,100).

Thus, the ability of legislators to play a more effective oversight role is inextricably linked to their capacity and ability to properly and effectively monitor the recommendations made to institutions over the issues that are being considered and adopted at the plenary. It may be argued that due to the volume of work that they are faced with, coupled with limited resources, Committees of the National Assembly have not been able to effectively follow-up and monitor the implementation of some of the recommendations they have made to ministries or the agencies that they perform oversight on.

It is against this background that the Library and Research Department, Committees Secretariat and Table Office jointly undertook this research to follow up the implementation status of the recommendations made by the National Assembly, through the Committee reports presented and adopted by the plenary, during the period of the Fifth Legislature, and transcending to the first eight months of the Sixth

Legislature (April 2017 – December 2022). Because of the high number of committees vis-à-vis the limited human resources, four committees were identified and they are, Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts; Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT; Select Committee on Health, Disaster, Refugees and Humanitarian Relief; and Standing Committee on Defence and Security.

Thus, information was elicited and retrieved from the Ministries of Basic and Secondary Education; Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology; Health; Finance and Economic Affairs; and the Interior; National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority, University of The Gambia, The Gambia College, Management Development Institute, and National Council for Civic Education.

### **Justification**

Parliamentarians operate in an environment where they need to respond to extensive range of public issues but the time for reflection is limited. Committees can track the implementation level on the recommendations made through their engagement with various institutions during committee meetings or inviting Ministers to respond to parliamentary questions at the plenary. However, the most effective instrument for committees to do this is through oversight tours or research conducted on their behalf on issues of interest. Since the time allotted to committees has not always been sufficient to adequately monitor the implementation of adopted recommendations at the plenary, the Library and Research Department, Committees Secretariat and Table Office deem it paramount to complement in this regard by tracking the implementation status of recommendations made to Ministries from 2017-2022.

### **Aim**

The overall aim of the research is to consolidate and enhance the support rendered by the National Assembly Service to the legislative and oversight responsibilities of the National Assembly by providing National Assembly Members with the requisite knowledge and understanding on the implementation status of the recommendations made by various Committees hereunder study to institutions and departments under their purview, with a view to judiciously and efficiently enhance their performance in oversight scrutiny.

### **Objectives**

The Research has the following objectives:

- i.** To provide timely, objective, and non-partisan information on the status of implementation of the recommendations made by various Committees that are adopted by the plenary;
- ii.** To enable Honorable Members hold the Executive to account on the implementation of the recommendations made by National Assembly during the period under review; and
- iii.** To improve and strengthen the capacity of the National Assembly towards identifying the limitations of the Executive from implementing the recommendations adopted by the plenary.

## **Methodology**

The research was a field exercise. The researchers were divided into five groups of four participants, with each group assigned the specific Terms of Reference of administering the recommendations as made by the committees. The research period was two weeks. At the end of the field exercise, a report was written by the various groups on their findings and submitted for collation.

## FINDINGS

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH</b>			
<b>CONCERNED INSTITUTION: MINISTRY OF HEALTH</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The Select Committee stressed the need for an urgent establishment of a functional Pharmacovigilance (PV) unit at the MCA and hereby recommend for its immediate establishment in January 2023.	Implemented	
2.	The Select Committee recommends for MCA to blacklist Maiden Pharmaceuticals products and ban all their products in the Gambian market.	Implemented	
3.	The government should pursue legal action against Maiden Pharmaceuticals for exporting contaminated drugs to The Gambia with the Atlantic brand name. Investigation has revealed that Atlantic pharmacy in The Gambia had followed all regulations for importation of medicines including the batch that had the contaminated syrups.	Partially implemented (Government is in discussion with a legal firm in America so that Maiden Pharmaceuticals are sue to court).	A huge sum of money is involved in taking legal actions against Maiden Pharmaceuticals using a foreign firm.
4.	Government to strengthen MCA's capacity with the needed financial aid, infrastructure and Human Resources for more effective and efficient implementation of its regulatory functions.	Partially implemented (ongoing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate human resources for MCA to effectively and efficiently implement its regulatory functions. Twenty new positions were created in the 2023 budget for</li> </ul>

			<p>PV among others but MoFEA has not allocated any money for recruitment of new staff for MCA. These new positions were also not approved by the NA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate subvention from MoFEA for MCA of existing staff as approved by the NA (D13M vs D10M).</li> <li>• The operational costs approved by the NA was D6M but not given by MoFEA yet (Quarter 1 and 2 nothing given to MCA).</li> <li>• MCA does not have approval by MoFEA to use its internally generated funds to support its operations through its Strategic Plan as approved by the Board, despite several written requests and visits to MoFEA by MCA management, Board and MoH.</li> </ul>
5.	MCA to operate as an autonomous Agency for effective and efficient regulation.	Partially implemented (Board is set up but MCA is not still fully autonomous).	Lack of financial independence is hindering MCA from becoming efficient and effective regulatory body.
6.	Ministry of Health to revive the primary health care system for early detection of medical cases for more effective and efficient health care		A lot of villages still lack Doctors, Clinics and Ambulances to facilitate access to medical

	delivery.		facilities.
7.	<p>Because the cost of medicines in the Gambia is high partly due to testing and importation payments levied on importers, MCA should consider a reduction in the cost of medicines for the public by collecting payments for registration and listing in Dalasi and by also accepting payments for testing in the local currency. MCA as an institution can convert these funds to foreign currency through the existing banks as a short-term measure.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepting listing and registration fees in dalasis is implemented when the need arises whilst the approved and gazzetted fees (currency) by the Government are in US Dollars.</li> <li>• MCA does not have the funds to pay for bank charges in buying foreign currency for the payment of testing fees to external laboratories on behalf of the importers.</li> <li>• MCA or the Government does not have Quality Control Laboratory. With national laboratory the charges would be in dalasis.</li> </ul>
8.	<p>To ensure that all medicines brought into this country are registered and listed, MCA and PCG staff should be attached to GRA offices in key entry points (Airport, borders, and weekly markets) to monitor pharmaceutical products imported into the country.</p>	<p>Partially implemented</p> <p>(MoH/ public sector products are very difficult to register)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posting of MCA staff to key entry points is not implemented as MCA could not recruit new staff to take up this</li> </ul>	<p>The implementation/ compliance for listing and registration for the public sector is very challenging and might lead to unavailability of medicines for the public sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate human resources to post staff at the key entry points. Twenty new positions were created in the 2023 budget for MCA but MoFEA has not allocated</li> </ul>

		function.	any money for recruitment of new staff for MCA. These new positions were also not approved by the NA.
9.	Random sampling of each imported medicines should be conducted, and the result kept at the MCA. This practice will keep importers on their toes. Ensure at least 5% of all randomly sampled medicines are annually tested. (e. g. 2.5% each 6 months) at the cost of the importer.	Implemented	The testing is costly because it is outsourced to other countries and most private importers delay in payment and some unwilling to pay the testing fee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is delay by the Government to pay the testing fees.</li> </ul>

Most of the recommendations collated from the Select Committee on Health are linked to the importation and testing of medical equipment in the country. To this end, nine (9) recommendations have been sent to the Ministry of Health and a follow-up was made with the Medical Control Agency (MCA). Of this, 33% of the recommendations have been implemented while the rest of the recommendations are ongoing.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ICT****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (MDI)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	Assets donated to the institution be valued fairly and incorporated in the books of the organization. This needs to be completed by year-end 2021.	Partially implemented	This is in a working progress stage; currently waiting to be verified by the external auditors. The audit exercise will be carried out in the next couple of weeks.
2.	The management should devise a recovery strategy to enhance collection of fees due from students, particularly those that are long overdue. Debtor's accounts should be regularly checked to identify and address doubtful and recoverable debts.	Partially implemented	Some efforts are being made and we will continue on the progress.  However, we still have challenges with the recovery of debts.
3.	The accounts department of MDI must ensure bank reconciliation is done on a monthly basis and all issues resolved with the respective banks.	Implemented	No challenges
4.	Develop policies and strategies that will address the issue of tuition fees and arrears.	Partially implemented (in progress)	No challenges. The process is in an advance stage of completion.
5.	Develop an MOU with the University of the Gambia to address the issue of sharing facilities and resources	Not implemented	UTG will move to its campus in Faraba. Waiting for the date to be finalized by MoHERST. For this reason, the Institute is putting the MoU on hold for now since this may

			not be needed if UTG moves to Faraba.
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The MDI were served five (5) recommendations. One (1) of these recommendations, representing 20%, has been implemented, three (3) partially implemented and one (1) not implemented, representing 60% and 20% respectively.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ICT****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: THE GAMBIA COLLEGE**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The management to determine the assets of the college as at 2017 and their respective value	Partially implemented	The Gambia college cannot account for all its assets hence part of its land has been allocated to USET
2.	The Committee strongly recommends management to computerize its accounting system for proper and accurate recording of all financial transactions	Implemented	
3.	The college to have a loan policy, and loan deductions must not go above 40% of the salary	Not implemented	The loan facility of the College has been halted pending an adequate Loan policy.
4.	The committee strongly recommends for management to reconcile the cashbook and all its bank accounts, regularize, and update all the outstanding items on monthly basis	Implemented	
5.	The enrolment and application procedure must be done through the online portal application. Students without the minimum requirements should be discouraged	Implemented	

The administration and management of Gambia College have also been served five (5) recommendations. 60% of these recommendations has been implemented while 20% has been partially and not implemented respectively.

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ICT</b>			
<b>CONCERNED INSTITUTION: MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY (MoHERST)</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The Committee recommends for the Ministry of Higher Education in consultation with National Audit Office to conduct Forensic Audit exercise on Gambia College.	Fully implemented	
2.	The Committee strongly recommends with immediate effect that the Ministry of Higher Education dissolves the current Governing Council and constitute a new one.	Fully implemented	

MoHERST received only two recommendations in relation to Gambia College. All these recommendations have been implemented.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIC EDUCATION**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The NCCE to update its finance and accounting procedures manual to indicate the type of accounting policy or reporting framework the council should use in preparing the receipts and payments.	Fully implemented	
2.	The NCCE should fill all vacant positions by end of July 2021 to ensure. The smooth operation of the institution.	Fully implemented	
3.	The NCCE to conduct assessment on the impact of Civic education. Activities in communities.	Not implemented	The Council intends to conduct this assessment upon the completion of the electoral cycle 2021-2023 electoral cycles. However, the council is also constraint with funds to conduct this activity.
4.	The Management should consider migrating from IPSAS cash base accounting framework to IFRS accrual accounting.	Not implemented	

Four (4) recommendations have been followed up with the National Council for Civic Education. 50% of the recommendations have been implemented and the other 50% have not been implemented.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTS****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	That all unreconciled government transactions indicated in the audited accounts be reconciled by the Accountant General before the end the financial year, 2022 and a report sent to the FPAC.	Partially implemented (ongoing)	Substantial work has been done on the clearance of the unreconciled items and work is still ongoing to clear the pending unreconciled items.
2.	That the Accountant General resolve all prior year closing balances and current year opening balances of the Government with respect to Loans and Grants be consolidated before the end of this financial year;	Fully implemented	
3.	That the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs must be part of any grant negotiations and be the recipient of all grants for and on behalf of Government.	Partially implemented	The challenge we do encounter is the grants extended directly to other Ministries and UN interventions
4.	That all government projects shall use the IFMIS system for all the accounting processes by the end of this final year, 2022.	Partially implemented	A work plan has been developed for the migration of the IFMIS to the self-accounting projects. Communication has been sent to all MDAs informing them of FPAC's recommendation that all projects under their purview should use the IFMIS as their financial management system. At the moment,

			four Self-Accounting Projects are already using the IFMIS.
5.	That any existing revenue collections by third parties shall be handed over to the Accountant General within ninety days.	Fully implemented	

The response from the MoFEA indicates the implementation of 60% of the recommendations, while 40% are partially implemented.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The prescribed authority responsible for the issuance of License under the provisions of Arms and Ammunition Act 2009 should, in future, attach terms and conditions to all License that are to be issued for the importation of firearms.	Not implemented	A commission on Small arms and Light Weapons is already established, however, efforts are still ongoing to harmonize regulations on licensing of importation of guns are still under discussion. Accordingly, there is no prescribed authority to handle licensing of firearms, instead of the Office of the IGP
2.	Modernized weapons such as the ones imported by GACH Security Company Ltd and were confiscated by security agents for being considered deadly when used on human targets should not be granted approval as hunting guns in the country.	Not implemented	
3.	The Arms and Ammunition Act 2009 be further reviewed to align with the current realities and international best practices by instituting a License Awards Panel that will be responsible for the award of license on the importation of firearms, instead of leaving that to the sole responsibility of the IGP.	Not implemented	

4.	The Ministry of Interior to rectify the lapses by tabling the instrument on the agreement with Semlex before Parliament for consideration and, if necessary, ratification.	Not implemented	
5.	That the government to continue engaging the Belgian authorities for additional information they can share on the biometric ID card production issue which could inform any future agreements it might undertake with Semlex.	Not implemented	

Out of the five (5) recommendations that were served to the MoI, none of them have been implemented.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ICT****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA (UTG)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The UTG to set up a permanent governing council by end of June 2021	Implemented	
2.	The Governing council to set up various sub-committees by the end of July 2021	Implemented	
3.	All vacant senior positions at UTG are to be filled by July 2021	Partially implemented	The pending senior positions to be filled are: a. Chief Director of Operations. b. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) c. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovations)  The aforementioned positions had been advertised locally and internationally and eligible applicants are being shortlisted
4.	The UTG to conduct special procurement training for all members of the Contracts Committee, Finance Unit, and the internal auditors by end of March 2021	Implemented	
5.	The finance unit to prepare quarterly management accounts and various analytical reports, which should be made available to the internal auditors	Implemented	

	and the governing council		
6.	The UTG to desist from offering courses that are not accredited by NAQAA and fulfil all the requirements demanded by it	Partially implemented	The UTG has submitted applications to NAQAA to accredit various programmes. NAQAA has accredited some of the programmes.
7.	Well-equipped labs must be provided for all science-based courses as a matter of priority	Implemented	
8.	Staff intending to go on study leave with salary must fulfil all the bonding requirements and must be cleared by the Vice Chancellor in writing	Implemented	
9.	The UTG to create a Health and Safety unit with clear terms of reference to guide its operations by the last quarter of 2021	Partially implemented	A Health, Safety, Security and Environment Policy has been drafted.
10.	The committee recommends that an up-to-date research strategy be developed to reflect University's current research aspirations and infrastructure to support the coordination and direction and knowledge transfer activities.	Not implemented	

There were ten (10) recommendations followed up with UTG. Of these, 60% has been implemented, 30% partially implemented and 10% not implemented.

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ICT</b>			
<b>CONCERNED INSTITUTION: NATIONAL ACCREDITATION &amp; QUALITY ASSURANCE AUTHORITY</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	The authority should ensure that all licenses relating to trainers and institutions are renewed in accordance with the policy guidelines.	Partially implemented	Renewal of licenses for trainers and institutions is a continuous process throughout the year.
2.	The Authority should review and set guidelines on curriculum development for all Institutions to ensure alignment in standards.	Implemented	
3.	The Finance and Admin department should generate quarterly reports including variance analysis on budget utilizations to ensure management is fully updated.	Implemented	
4.	The authority should ensure that all withholding taxes are paid to GRA promptly.	Implemented	

NAQAA's response shows that 75% of the recommendations have been implemented, and 25% is partially implemented.

**NAME OF COMMITTEE: SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ICT****CONCERNED INSTITUTION: MINISTRY OF BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (MoBSE)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Recommendations/ Resolutions</b>	<b>Status of Implementation</b>	<b>Remark (Please state challenges if any)</b>
1.	To ensure schools have more money on SIG, all ECD pupils should be captured in the roll of their respective schools	Implemented	
2.	All upgraded Basic Schools should be furnished with sufficient classroom and furniture before they are operational	Partially implemented	Schools are upgraded based on need as advised by school mapping exercise and upgrading criteria. Delaying the operationalisation of the school in order to provide furniture and additional classrooms, would deny pupils of that community access to education. This is why we may opt for either double shifting or the putting up of temporal sheds as a short-term measure until permanent structures are built which goes with furnishing.
3.	There is need to increase the number of teaching staff especially graduate teachers to ease the load of the other teachers	Implemented	
4.	Schools need to be fenced to avoid animals disrupting sessions and reduce the advise effect of Harmattan wind on	Partially implemented	Fencing of Schools is high cost and requires huge funding. However

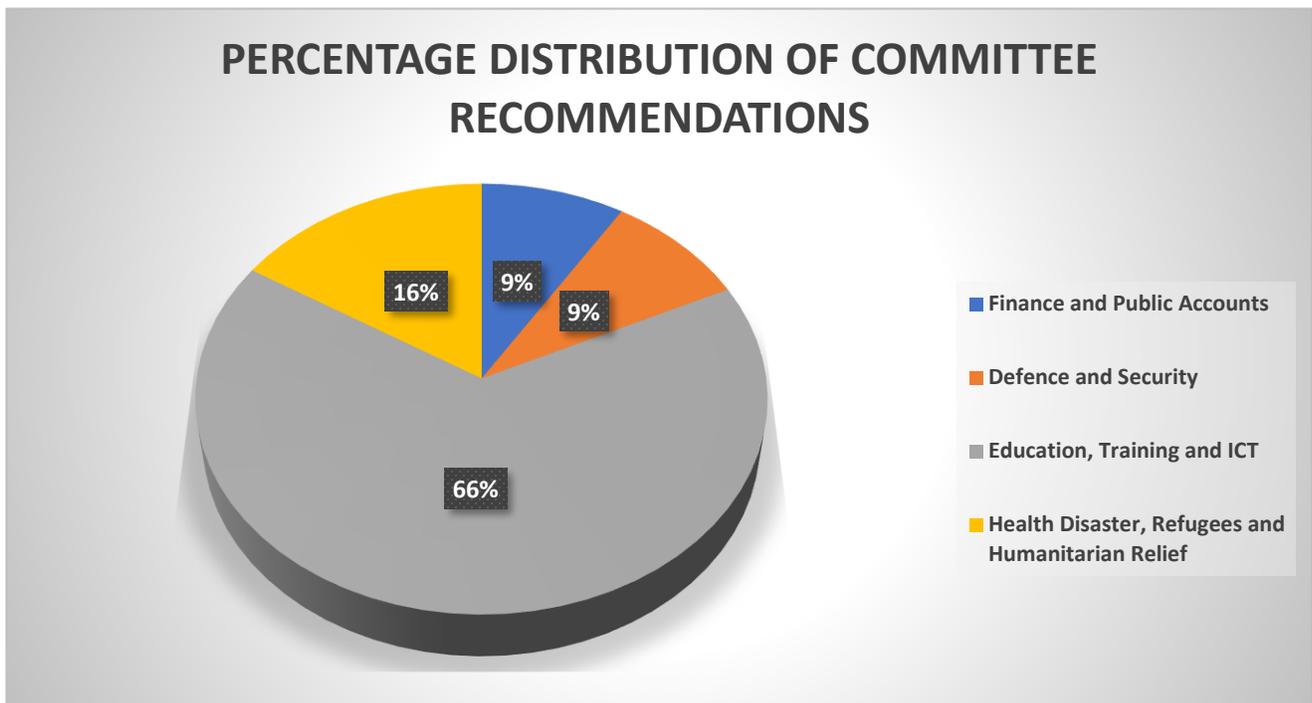
	students		were funding is available, schools are fenced.
5.	Building of staff quarters and toilet facilities for the teachers should be a priority for MOBSE and be included in their annual budget	Partially implemented (ongoing	In 2021, MOBSE proposed a budget of D80,000,000.00 for classroom construction and toilet facilities but the budget was not approved. This was repeated in 2022 but to no avail. It was only this year that D8,000,000.00 was approved for renovation of storm damaged buildings. However, all newly constructed schools have both staff quarters and toilets.
6.	There is need to build science labs in all upgrade schools to strengthen the education of science and technology. These labs must be equipped with the relevant materials.	Partially implemented	All the newly constructed senior secondary schools have science labs and the Ministry recently constructed four new technical senior secondary schools for the teaching of TVET. However, the resource outlay for setting up of well-equipped labs is really huge.
7.	There is need to expand the solar power project in all schools to advance the teaching of science and technology	Partially implemented	Like many other successful interventions in MOBSE, the solar power project was initiated by a project and is supposed to have been taken up on the GLF.

			Fortunately, there is an EU supported Solarisation Project targeting about a thousand school.
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Of the seven (7) recommendations sent to MoBSE, 29% were reported to have been fully implemented, and 71% are partially implemented as some of the recommendations are expected to be ongoing implementation.

## ANALYSES AND DISCUSSION

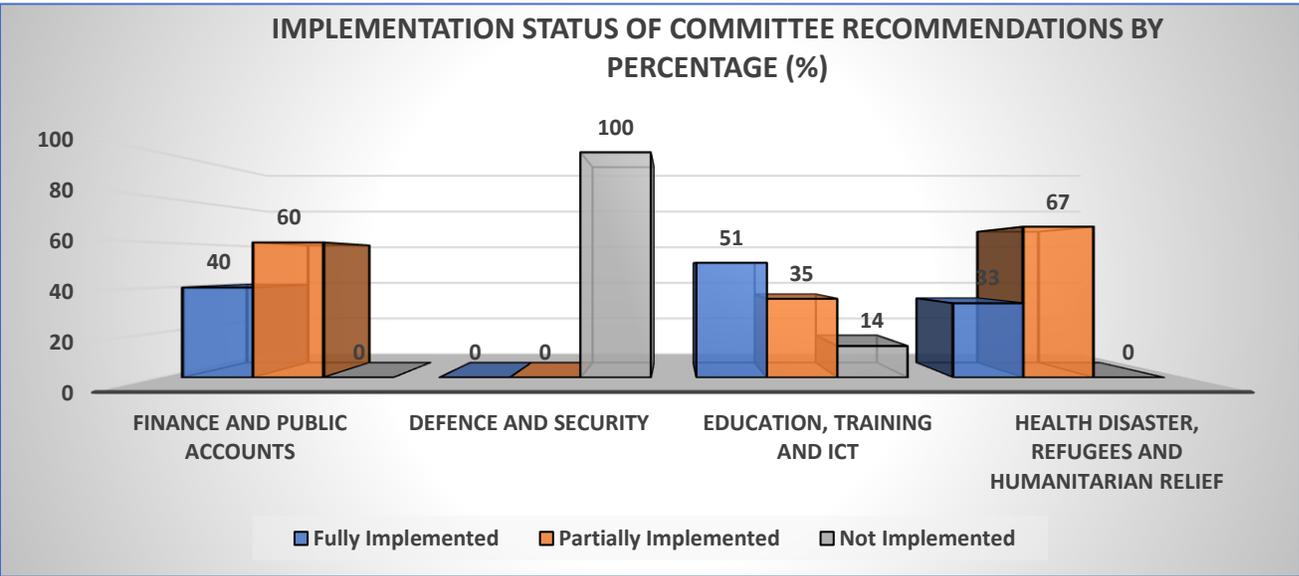
The research focused on fifty-six (56) recommendations made to four (4) Ministries, and seven (7) Agencies. Out of the total recommendations, the Select Committee on Education registered the highest percentage of recommendations administered with 66%, followed by the Select Committee on Health (16%), and FPAC and the Standing Committee on Defence and Security registered 9% respectively. This is represented as follows:



The response to these recommendations are highlighted below:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>No. of Recommendations</b>	<b>Fully Implemented (%)</b>	<b>Partially Implemented (%)</b>	<b>Not Implemented (%)</b>
1.	Standing Committee on Finance and Public Accounts	5	40	60	0
2.	Standing Committee on Defence and Security	5	0	0	100
3.	Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT	37	51	35	14
4.	Select Committee on Health, Disaster, Refugees and Humanitarian Relief	9	33	67	0

From the table above, it can be deduced that, out of the five (5) recommendations for MoFEA, 40% have been fully implemented, and 60% are either partially implemented or ongoing. There is zero percent of implementation by MoI, and the institutions under the Select Committee on Education, Training and ICT have among them 51% of the recommendations fully implemented, 35% partially implemented and 14% not implemented. The Select Committee on Health, Disaster, Refugees and Humanitarian Relief has 33% of its recommendations being fully implemented by its oversight institutions while 67% are partially implemented.



In the instances where a recommendation has not been implemented, some of the institutions endeavored to explain the circumstances leading to the partial or non-implementation. For instance, the Ministry of Interior, which registered zero percent implementation of the recommendations made to them on the importation and handling of guns in the country, noted that the Office of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) still continue to be the sole Authority that issue licences, which is contrary to what the Standing Committee on Defence and Security recommended. The Ministry pointed out that a Commission was established to handle the licensing of Small Arms and Light Weapons, but it is yet to start operations due to ongoing discussions to harmonize regulations on licensing of importation and handling of guns. Moreover, the recommendation that the Arms and Ammunition Act 2009 be further reviewed to align it with the current realities and international best practices was also not implemented.

Meanwhile, as a follow-up to the recommendations made to the Ministry of Health, the Medical Control Agency confirmed undertaking several efforts and initiatives to implement the recommendations made by the Select Committee on Health. However, the Agency lamented acute financial and limited human resources to make certain implementation. The MCA was equally advocating for its financial autonomy, as this would allow it to make certain financial and managerial decisions.

Almost all the institutions under the Select Committee on Education equally highlighted the financial implications of some of the recommendations made to them. The NCCE revealed that it has already submitted a draft bill to Cabinet for onward introduction at the National Assembly for its financial autonomy.

On the need to be part of negotiations of grants, MoFEA reported that the Directorate of Aids Coordination, which is mandated to monitor all government projects (Grants or Loans), is not usually involved in the negotiation of some of the grants from UN Agencies and other development partners that are extended directly to beneficiary Ministries, Departments or Agencies.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the low level of follow-up on the part of the National Assembly committees may have contributed to the low implementation of its recommendations by the institutions hereunder study. To this end, while some institutions have scored above fifty percent implementation rate, there are others that recorded zero percent.

It is worth highlighting that some recommendations have financial implications. Thus, for the institutions to fully implement these recommendations, it would require the National Assembly to appropriate specific amounts on the budget and ensure that the implementations are strictly monitored.

# ANNEX

## LIST OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

<b>NO.</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>
<b>GROUP 1</b>	<b>FPAC</b>	<b>1. LAMIN MANNEH 2. FATOUMATA KEITA 3. AMIE BARROW 4. FATOU JAMMEH</b>
<b>GROUP 2</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>1. ALHAGIE M. DUMBUYA 2. ISATOU SONKO 3. MARY T. MENDY 4. TONEY F. MENDY</b>
<b>GROUP 3</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>1. ALIEU SONKO 2. EBRIMA JAWO 3. ISATOU MANNEH 4. SARATA BOJANG</b>
<b>GROUP 4</b>	<b>DEFENCE</b>	<b>1. MARABI S. HYDARA 2. FATOU BOJANG 3. MAMADOU A.M. BAH 4. ALARIE GILLEN</b>
<b>GROUP 5</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>1. SAINY KONTEH 2. HALIMATOU TAMBA 3. FATOU GIBBA 4. MODOU SILLAH</b>