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EFSCRJ Election Watch

30th September 2026

NPP–APP-Sobeyaa Agreement
Must Offer Clear Commitments, Full Transparency and Public Accountability

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice commends APP-Sobeyaa for publishing its memorandum of understanding with the National People's Party (NPP) on Essa Mbye Faal's official Facebook page on Tuesday, 29th September 2026, within 72 hours after the agreement was signed. Through its Election Watch initiative, EFSCRJ has reviewed the agreement and calls on both parties to make its commitments more specific, transparent, and accountable to the Gambian people.

The agreement identifies reforms that matter to Gambians: a new constitution, electoral reform, an effective Anti-Corruption Commission, implementation of outstanding TRRC recommendations, security sector reform and improvements to public services and livelihoods.

We welcome any commitment to advance these goals. However, an agreement seeking the people's votes must allow the people to judge what will actually be delivered.

As it stands, the agreement gives APP-Sobeyaa a clear obligation to support the NPP presidential candidate but gives citizens no equally clear timetable for delivering the reforms. It places the priorities within a broad 2027 – 2031 period and promises that specific actions, deadlines, and measurable targets will be developed after a new government is formed. That asks voters to endorse the partnership before they can examine its delivery plan.

The agreement also promises APP-Sobeyaa government positions yet places the minimum allocation in a "Confidential Annex." It refers to additional positions under a personal undertaking by the President. The parties cannot claim that this partnership is founded on public accountability while withholding a material part of their political bargain from the public.

EFSCRJ therefore calls on the NPP and APP-Sobeyaa to:

1. **Publish the complete agreement**, including the "Confidential Annex" and any other undertakings concerning government positions, appointments, or political support.
2. **Publish a reform delivery plan before the election**, stating for each priority the action promised, responsible institution, start date, milestones, completion date, estimated cost, and measure of success.
3. **Clarify their constitutional commitment**, particularly the proposed presidential term-limit provision and whether President Barrow's previous terms would count. Given the political significance of a third-term bid, this question cannot be deferred.
4. **Specify the electoral reforms they will pursue**, including their position on diaspora voting and barriers to participation, and explain which reforms require legislation or constitutional change.



5. **Identify the outstanding TRRC recommendations they will prioritize** and set out concrete steps for making the Anti-Corruption Commission independent and effective.
6. **Address urgent public needs with measurable commitments**, including reliable electricity and water, the cost of living, healthcare, and employment.
7. **Establish public accountability rules**, including quarterly progress reports, evidence for claims of completion, explanations for delays, independent scrutiny, and a clear process for resolving breaches of the agreement.

The government's record on unfinished reforms makes specificity especially necessary. Promises to "pursue" or "advance" reform, without dates and measurable results, cannot by themselves restore public confidence. Nor should citizens have to wait until after the election to learn the full terms on which political support and government positions were agreed.

EFSCRJ makes the same call to all political parties and coalitions seeking the people's mandate: publish your agreements and give citizens commitments they can examine, compare, and hold you to. Political parties are free to form alliances. Citizens are equally entitled to know what those alliances promise in their name.

The test of this agreement is simple: what will be done, by whom, by when, at what cost, and what happens if it is not delivered? The NPP and APP-Sobeyaa should answer those questions before asking Gambians for their votes.

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