



People's Reformist Organization for Growth, Renewal, Equity, Security and Social-justice

**PEOPLE'S REFORMIST
ORGANIZATION FOR
GROWTH, RENEWAL,
EQUITY, SECURITY
AND SOCIAL-JUSTICE.**

(P.R.O.G.R.E.S.S.)



www.progressgambia.org

— OUR VISION FOR A BETTER GAMBIA



For too long, The Gambia's potential has been hindered by corruption, inefficiency, and a reliance on external aid. Over half a century after independence, many citizens still await the promise of true development and equitable prosperity. Now, at a critical juncture in our nation's history, Gambians are yearning for bold and transformative leadership to turn the tide. Project PROGRESS has emerged to answer that call.

Project **PROGRESS** is more than a political movement. It is a vision for a new Gambia that is united, just, and prosperous. Our vision is to build a nation anchored on transparency, accountability, inclusivity, and innovation, where every citizen, irrespective of background, enjoys equal opportunity to thrive.



— OUR MISSION

To realize this vision, our mission is to deliver people-centered governance that truly serves the public. We will do so through transparent leadership and accountable institutions, fair distribution of resources and effective management of development, empowerment of youth, women, and marginalized communities, strategic global partnerships that advance our national interests, and sustainable economic growth rooted in innovation, agriculture, and tourism. This manifesto outlines how we will achieve these goals. It details our plans to overhaul governance, revitalize the economy, and uplift the social well-being of all Gambians. It is both a call to action and a promise: to bring about real **PROGRESS** that touches every Gambian life and secures our nation's future.



— **Priority Agenda**

1. Cost of Living

Reducing the cost of living begins with promoting national self-reliance and food security. PROGRESS envisions a Gambia that produces what it consumes and consumes what it produces. We will support local farmers through targeted subsidies, investment in smart farming techniques, and access to modern equipment to increase productivity and yields. Our approach will also include a national campaign to diversify eating habits towards nutritious, home-grown alternatives over imported food, fostering both health and economic sustainability.

2. Elimination of Corruption

Corruption has crippled development and eroded public trust. PROGRESS will declare corruption a national emergency from day one. We will establish an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission vested with powers of investigation, arrest, and prosecution, operating under the administrative oversight of the National Assembly. Audit and Commission of Inquiry reports will be fully enforced, and costly commissions will be replaced by time-bound criminal investigations. Penalties for corrupt practices will be significantly increased to deter abuse and restore accountability in public service.

3. Ending Wastefulness & Cost Cutting

To free up national resources for development, PROGRESS will end wasteful government expenditure. We will rationalise ministries, reduce from 20 – 8 ministries, foreign travel and perks, and streamline the civil and foreign services to improve efficiency and unnecessary cost. Savings from these reforms will be redirected to critical sectors such as education, healthcare, agriculture and infrastructure, ensuring that every dalasi of public funds serves the people's interest.

4. Overhaul of the Health System

PROGRESS will embark on a complete overhaul of the healthcare system using a bottom-up approach that prioritises primary and preventive healthcare. We will implement a One Village, One Doctor policy to ensure universal access to medical professionals, declare maternal mortality a national emergency, and eliminate import duties on female sanitary products. Public hospitals will be removed from under the direct control of the Ministry of Health and placed under an autonomous, professionally run authority focused on quality service delivery and accountability.



5. Overhaul of the Education Curriculum

Education reform will be at the heart of national transformation. PROGRESS will undertake a comprehensive overhaul of the education curriculum to align with the needs of the 21st century and national development goals. Emphasis will be placed on civic education, innovation, entrepreneurship, and national pride. The teaching profession will be restructured to attract and retain the best minds through better remuneration, professional development, and social recognition, ensuring that teachers become true nation-builders.

6. Radical Reform of Local Governance

The present local government system has been weakened by politicisation, corruption and inter-party feuds, such that councils spend more time on constant partisan squabbles than on development. PROGRESS will dismantle this model and replace it with a people-centred system that puts decision-making and accountability at the community level. At the foundation will be Village Development Committees (VDCs), chosen in democratic village elections and structured to include youth, women, elders and persons with disabilities so that every group has a voice.

From this base, representation will move upward to the district, regional and national levels through universal suffrage, with candidates selected on the strength of their ideas, competence and service to their communities rather than party label. To stop leakages in local governance, revenue collection will be centralised at the national level and shared back to the regions through automatic, transparent allocations. To further reduce costs and political tensions, parliamentary and presidential elections will be held on the same day. In this new dispensation, local governance will be driven by community priorities, fairness and service and not partisanship or personality clashes.

7. Security and Public Safety

The Gambia's development depends on peace, stability, and public trust. PROGRESS will implement the long-awaited security-sector reform to ensure professionalism, discipline, and merit-based recruitment. Training and remuneration will be improved to attract capable and patriotic officers. A reformative, rather than punitive, criminal justice system will be implemented to promote rehabilitation and reintegration. Community policing will be strengthened to build trust between law enforcement and citizens, ensuring that every community feels protected, secure, and free to thrive.



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**Make Gambia
Smile Again**