

INAUGRAL MEETING OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 27TH AUGUST 2021

On Friday 27th August 2021, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs held the inaugural meeting of the Internal Audit Committee. The following persons were nominated to form the Committee:

1. Mr. Benjamin Carr (Chairman)
2. Mr. Yaya Sireh Jallow
3. Ms. Abisosseh Victoria George
4. Ms. Haddijatou Lamin Njie
5. Mr. Mustapha Darboe

The Government of The Gambia, since 2007 has embarked on several financial management reforms to improve financial and economic governance programs within Government in order to foster transparency and accountability and enhance operational efficiency in public sector financial management. Key amongst these reforms is the establishment of an Internal Audit Directorate under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

As per Section 67 of the Public Finance Act, 2014, the Head of the Directorate of Internal Audit under the Ministry shall perform his duties under the direct supervision of the Audit Committee. The same section further states that the role, membership and constitution of the Audit Committee shall be approved by the Minister from time to time as deemed necessary. It is as a result of this legislation along with the necessity of it that has prompted the establishment of this Committee.

The primary role of the Audit Committee is to assist the Chief Accounting Officer, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry in fulfilling his duties as designated to him

by the Honourable Minister in accordance with the provisions of the Government Budget Management and Accountability Act, 2004.

The Audit Committee shall assist the Ministry in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to:

- The integrity of the Government financial statements and financial reporting process and the Government's systems of internal accounting and financial controls;
- The performance of the internal auditors;
- The annual independent audit of the Government's financial statements, the engagement of the independent auditors and the evaluation of the independent auditor's qualifications, independence and performance;
- The compliance by the Government with legal and regulatory requirements, including Government's disclosure controls and procedures; and
- The evaluation of management's process to assess and manage Government's enterprise risk issues.

The Committee shall also prepare its report, which will be included in the Government's annual financial statement.