

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH
UNITY &
PARTNERSHIPS**

NOVEMBER 2018



WAREF

With Alliance Reorientation Economic Force



WAREF PARTY MANIFESTO
THE GAMBIA

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PROSPERITY FOR ALL GAMBIANS

WAREF PARTY MANIFESTO

Foreword

The Next Election in The Gambia will be a defining one for our Nation. After decades of being a Pariah Nation, we entered into years of stagnation and Deterioration in almost every area of our society: From inadequate infrastructure to increasing levels of crime; from poor social services to lack of any meaningful job creation; from a General hopelessness in the Current Leadership to a continued exodus of our youth through the back way.

The Current Coalition Government has been parlayed by infighting, uninspired bureaucratic performance, inefficiency and in some cases outright corruption. The crisis of poor performance has undermined the relationship between the governments and our people and will in due course bring it down to its knees.

The Patience of long -Suffering Gambians has run out and WAREF is ready to put in the hard work of building a sustainable economy by truly harnessing the Energy and of All Gambians. WAREF will Ensure That Our Natural Resources, Minerals, Oil and Gas wealth is used for the development of our nation and ALL of our people can make a contribution to our nation's success with everyone benefitting from it.

The Task facing our New WAREF Government will be to stabilize the Economy, rebuild our Society and Restore Trust in The Government. WAREF's immediate Goal will be to Introduce Greater Transparency and Accountability in Government. While the task will not be easy, I am confident in our ability to build a new society, to establish a strong economy and to nurture engaged communities and I encourage you to join with WAREF in realizing this new vision to fashion and construct a more secure and sustainable future for The Gambia.

Committed to Achieving Millennial Development Goals



Our Country Deserves Better. Waref will Deliver

Prosperous farmers mean more employment, more prosperity for the workers and the business men of every industrial area in the whole country.

MODOU LAMIN BAH

FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WAREF is guided by the principle that the highest mission of society is the development of its citizens. Accordingly, the commitment of our government Resource will be to promote a Process of People Centered Development.

Development To achieve our mission, we will build our policies on the Millennial Development Pillars, which are interconnected and which constitute the cornerstones of our strategy for sustainable development of The Gambia. Our government will embrace the richness and beauty of our people's great diversity to nurture a more humane and cohesive society.

Unity in Diversity will inspire the harmony which is so vital to national progress. Our commitment to the sustainable development of The Gambia is informed by our commitment to our Declaration of Principles and our Declaration of Values.

We understand sustainable development to mean that we leverage our resources and apply our effort in such a way that we produce more than we consume, that our development strategy will take fundamental principles of environmental sustainability into account and that as we accelerate the pace of development in the society, we will also secure the best interest of future generations.



SEVEN INTERCONNECTED PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. **People-Centered Development:** We Need Everyone and All Can Contribute

In a country of 2 million people, the optimum contribution of each and every citizen is a crucial knowledge-driven economy, a strong basic education system and significant participation in tertiary education make a decisive difference.

Accordingly, we commit to making human development a central thrust through the education system and through the creation of other infrastructure to support lifelong learning, skills building, institutional strengthening and the building of a competitive economy

2. **Poverty Eradication and Social Justice:** Preference for Poor and Disadvantaged

The number of people who continue to live under the poverty line is about 67%. This is totally unacceptable. Social Justice demands that abject poverty be reduced and ultimately eradicated. All our citizens are entitled to a sustainable livelihood and the gap between the haves and the have-nots must be closed.

The issues of poverty eradication, closing the divide between the rich and the poor and providing a safety network for the poor and vulnerable, are fundamental to the strategy of development that we embrace.

3. National and Personal Security: Human Security for Peace and Prosperity

The Gambia will not be able to design a desirable future unless law and order, and security of the person and of property can be addressed in a context in which all citizens can feel that justice can and will be done. We will seek to create a just and fair environment. We recognize that lawlessness and disorder contribute to the atmosphere in which criminal activity thrives and we will address this challenge head on.

But we will also focus on addressing social issues which nurture an environment where crime tends to flourish. We will rethink the prison system, reorganize the justice system and make interventions of a proactive and preventative nature. At the center of our focus will be human security and the establishment of a regime of peace, security and prosperity on a sustainable basis for our nation.

4. Information & Communication Technology: Connecting the Gambia and Building the New Economy

Information and communication technologies (ICT) and the systems that they can create are fundamental to the development of every modern, progressive society. The ICT backbone, linked to the competencies of a well-educated population, provide the required support for effective communication, information sharing and knowledge management.

We will expand the country's internet connection capabilities so that every citizen will be able to have access and conduct business for a wide range of governmental services. IT-based learning will be infused in education at every primary and secondary levels to support and complement other forms of teaching, learning and basic research

5. A Knowledge Intensive Economy: Building on the Native Genius of Our People

In a world in which innovation is the decisive competitive advantage, human initiative and creative capacity represent an enormous asset. Institutional frameworks need to be established to make human capacity building possible on a sustainable basis.

In this context, we will create a society in which creativity and creation are encouraged and rewarded. We will encourage and develop strong linkages among our creative sectors, technological sectors, design sectors and our education and academic sectors.

6. Good Governance: People Participation

The focus in this area will be on three governance Areas. These are:

- **Strengthening Existing Institutions:** establishing and restructuring of government delivery systems to make government more responsive to the needs of the people. New institutions to support accountability, transparency, consultation, participation and consensus.
- **Enhancing democracy:** We will support the separation of powers among key institutions in the society such as Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary and we will strengthen their autonomy and **strengthening execution and delivery capacity.**

7. Foreign Policy: Securing Our Place in the World

The entire thrust of our international relations strategy will be to build partnerships, to rebuild the image of Gambia and make it an attractive place for FDI, Tourism and Commerce

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

We are committed to the following as essential components of our economic, monetary and fiscal policy:

- **Fiscal Pravity:** There will be zero tolerance of corrupt practices and unwise and wasteful expenditure. We will strengthen and make more efficient the Revenue Collection and Customs.
- **Enabling Environment:** As a prerequisite for investment and growth we will facilitate an enabling environment. We will review and redress regulatory barriers to investment, as well as processes and procedures that unnecessarily increase the cost of doing business.
- **Aligning Policy:** We will establish a framework for government's fiscal policies and Central Bank's monetary policies to be more effectively aligned to achieve national goals and objectives.
- **Investment Environment:** We will develop strategies to create an environment for investment by Round Faming increasing domestic savings, facilitating competitive interest rates, securing property rights, by establishing good governance practices.
- **Research and Innovation:** We will foster a culture of research and innovation by allocating resources and providing incentives for research and development particularly in the non-energy and services sector. Here our target will be to increase R&D spending to at least 3% of GDP over the next 10 years. We will establish a Council for Competitiveness and Innovation
- **Balancing Spending:** We will seek to find the balance between consumption and savings. Consumption satisfies present needs, while savings provides for the needs of future generations. We must cater to both to support a thriving economy as well as achieve sustainable development.
- **Equitable Distribution:** We will address strategies to ensure more equitable income distribution to contain and correct the weakening of the social structure and the climate of instability that it engenders.
- **Resource Allocation:** We will emphasize and seek to promote the efficient use of resources, including human skills, natural resources and capital, to enhance productivity, which is vital to economic growth and the creation of meaningful and sustainable jobs.
- **Diversification:** We will develop innovative strategies to achieve sustainable growth and diversification of the Economy in order to reduce our dependence on energy, create good jobs and generate new sources of wealth creation.
- **Financial Crisis:** We will take action as required to address issues such as the financial crisis in the best interest of people in a timely and transparent manner.
- **Economic Planning:** The focus will be on sustainable development, competitiveness, integration and synergy, diversification, strengthening existing sectors and clusters and creating new ones and linking research to wealth creation, innovation and competitiveness.



INFRASTRUCTURE

WAREF recognizes that physical infrastructure is both an enabler and a consequence of development while the current government has spent little on infrastructure, some of its key components, which are critical to improving the quality of life of our people, remain woefully inadequate.

We see infrastructure as the basis for developing human capital, indigenous capacity and expanding our skills base. When foreign firms are involved in infrastructure projects, knowledge transfer arrangements will be negotiated into contracts. So, too, will local content quotas.

Our policy on infrastructure will be based on ensuring quality, reliability and maintenance of existing infrastructure while adopting transparent and fair procurement practices.

We commit to making significant improvements to the nation's infrastructure, with a special focus on the following:

Water: We are committed to pursuing water security for the nation through effective water catchment, distribution, management policies. This will include water for the people, agriculture, industry and the protection of the environment

Transportation: The most effective modes of transportation will be adopted to move people and goods within The Gambia guided by a national transportation study.

Roads & Bridges: A National Roads and Bridges Authority will be established to determine the appropriate network of major roads, highways, underpasses and overpasses and the construction of new bridges and the re- construction of existing bridges.

Housing: We commit to the provision of quality housing for citizens, to be distributed in a timely manner and in a fair and equitable manner. Our housing policy will be based on the development of homes, families and sustainable communities and will be aligned to an overall land use policy.



WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL A MANIFESTO MAKE?

WAREF recognizes that a holistic and synergistic approach to sustainable development is necessary to achieve meaningful and lasting results.

Accordingly, structures, mechanisms and institutions will be created as may be required to effect coordination, integration and optimum impact in the right places so that policy implementation yields the maximum direct benefit to our citizens.

The Policy shifts that will occur if development of our country is guided by this manifesto will have the following impacts:

- All development would take place in the context of a land use and physical planning framework and that sustainable development principles will apply. There will be order and purpose in development strategy and execution.
- People would be central to the development process; not in word but indeed. Education for all will be a reality. Sixty percent tertiary participation will be realized; a poverty reduction strategy will be set in motion; social welfare support will be integrated for impact and jobs will be created on a sustainable basis in a thriving economy which reduces our dependence on energy and creates jobs through new industries that pay better.
- The crime and personal security issues will be decidedly improved and the justice system overhauled resulting in faith that justice will be done and seen to be done. Poverty will also be reduced on a systematic basis and the quality of life in individual homes will be further improved by our home focused strategy. More people will be empowered to achieve sustainable livelihoods and more children will achieve in school.
- We will achieve food security as a reality and in the process effectively address the issue of water resources management including flooding and water security and that will have a direct effect on our quality of life and the price of food. By linking workers to the productive process and to sustainable initiatives, we will improve productivity and enhance sustainable development practices throughout the country.
- We will be strengthening our energy industry, but we will also be building for a sustainable future linked to alternative energy and new knowledge and creative industries such as sport, entertainment, festivals, information technology, biotechnology, high-tech manufacturing, light manufacturing, tourism, agro-industries and knowledge industries. Sustainable diversification of our economy will therefore become a sustainable goal.
- Local government will be more meaningful to people and more impactful on community development and there will be many more opportunities for participation and influence by citizens.
- We will have clean, responsible and responsive government with legislative changes and constitutional amendments to curb excesses and abuse of power. There will also be an emphasis on transparency and accountability.
- We will have immediate action in specific areas identified in our 120-day plan that will begin to make a difference immediately such as measures for water resources management, High Intensity Moringa Farming, irrigation and Increased Power Generation.
- The tone of the country will change and barriers will be broken down through consultation, participation, involvement and consensus- building. This will help us to achieve unity of purpose in our efforts and partnership and trust in the society.

PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP GOVERNMENT

1. Partner with the People in establishing the conditions in which every Gambian can fulfil his/her true potential so that our country can flourish on the basis of sustainable development everyone counts and everyone is needed
2. Provide a safe, secure and sustainable environment where all people can live, work and play without fear and in which their quality of life is optimized. The partners will seek to transform the society and end the lawlessness and disorder which contributes to criminal activity thrives.
3. Ensure that the disadvantaged in our society are provided with the tools to enable them to become productive and make reasonable provisions for those persons who, by reason of illness, old age or disability cannot work.
4. Provide an education and training system that enhances mutual respect and esteem in order to help bring about a peaceful and fraternal coexistence between people of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions within a framework which is relevant to the needs of the modern world with particular emphasis on civics, moral and spiritual values and the need to become a knowledge-based economy and to introduce a platform for young people to engage in entrepreneurial activity.
5. Build a diverse and democratic society that respects human rights, in which all people live in dignity and security, free of all forms of discrimination on the basis of religion, color or gender, where labor is respected and which fosters the culture of dialogue to facilitate an increase of understanding and mutual trust between individuals and groups for these are the premise of authentic peace.
6. Not tolerate any form of corruption and should not politicize the civil service, commissions or state enterprises.
7. Promote legislation for the registration and funding of political party's subject to review of an independent body.
8. Support a system of governance which upholds the rule of law and the separation of powers and the independence of the Judiciary in its administrative and adjudicative functions under which all major sectors of the population are represented and which encourages the participation of women at all levels of governance.
9. Invite international observers to oversee every general election and whose report is promptly laid in Parliament.

DECLARATION OF VALUES

Selflessness: Make decisions based solely in terms of the public interest. Members should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends

Integrity: Not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties

Objectivity: Make choices based on merit in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits

Accountability: Be accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office

Openness: Be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands

Honesty: Declare any private interests relating to their public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest

Dialogue: Commit to frank and patient dialogue, refusing to consider their differences as an insurmountable barrier, but recognizing instead that to encounter the diversity of others can become an opportunity for greater reciprocal understanding

Leadership: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

People and Natural Assets Tourism is an important platform through which we will create sustainable employment opportunities for our people, create international relationships and allow the world, a taste of the finer things of The Gambia's Smiling Coast. Because of our plurality and rich cultural diversity, maximizing our tourism potential requires multiple approaches to development.

This includes the exploration and expansion of all the variety of tourism products including but not restricted to recreation, sport, health, leisure, business, festivals, culture and eco-tourism. Gambia is well positioned for an awareness campaign that showcases it as a choice destination.



**ENSURE
PROSPERITY
FOR ALL**

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

WAREF Makes A Simple Promise to All Gambians: Our Goal Is to Achieve Sustainable Development with You, The Citizen at The Center of It. We Are Committed to Inclusion and Equity:

