



DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF **BASSE** **DEVELOPMENT** **INITIATIVE** **(BDI)**

DATE: _____

**NAME OF ORGANIZATION: - Basse Development Initiative-
(BDI)**

DATE FOUNDED: February-2020.

CATEGORY OF ORGANIZATION: - Civil Society Organization (CSO)

HEAD OF ORGANIZATION: President

DESIGNATION/TITLE: President

**ADDRESS: Sinchu-Alhagie, West Coast Region,
The Gambia. West Africa.**



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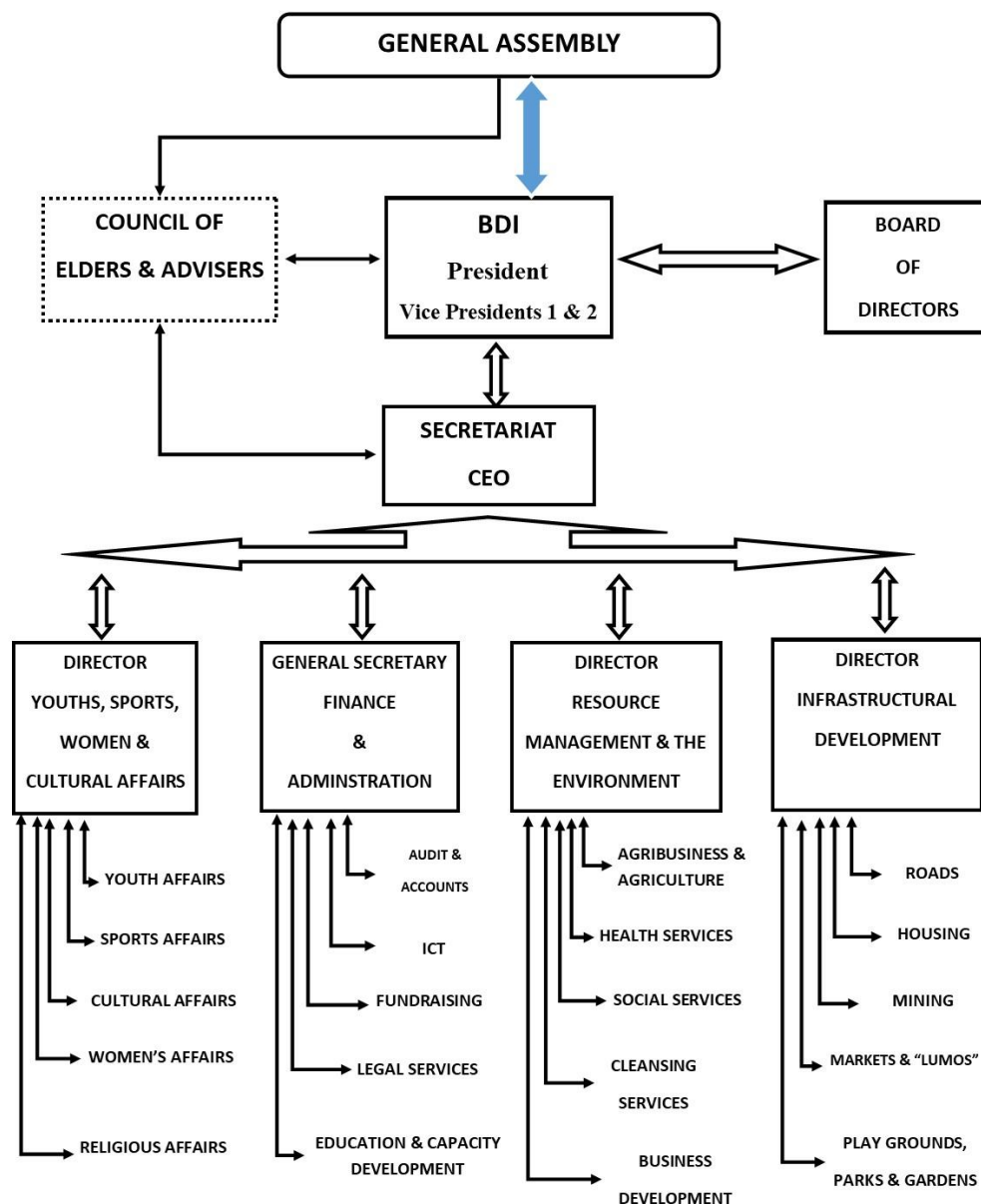
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BASSE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (BDI) ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.



Articles 1: - Background Information and Preamble of BDI.

1.0 Background Information

The Basse Region of The Gambia is among the most endowed regions of The Gambia. The Region recently renamed as the Upper River Region is endowed with very illustrious, resilient and hardworking people, with Basse being the Regional



Capital and the epicentre for Businesses, Trading and Agriculture. Located strategically close to the Senegalese Southern border towns of Vellingara and Tambakunda, it is less than 3 hours' drive to Mali. This Strategic location has made it a priority area for the Government of The Gambia in its Development plans on Trade, Commerce and Agriculture.

The inhabitants of Basse who have migrated from the sub-region: namely Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Mauritania, have lived together in harmony, giving Basse the diverse mix of cultures and ethnic origins.

A great majority of the descendants of these people have moved and live in other parts of The Gambia but have over the years maintained their family connections and relationships with people still living in the URR.

Over the years it has been realized that for Basse to benefit from her illustrious sons and daughters, she must organize her people and give them a platform to enable her to speak with one voice. This unified voice will be the basis for empowering the Basse people so that Basse takes her rightful position and role in the Development of The Gambia.

It is with this intention that a group of Founding Fathers and Mothers have agreed to start a Civil Society Organization that will steer the affairs of Basse, URR for Development and Progress for all the people of Basse, URR. This CSO is named the BASSE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (BDI).

1.1 Preamble

We the Representatives of Basse Development Initiative, Upper River Region of The Republic of The Gambia, endeavour to come together in a Civil Society Organization, motivated by the need to mobilise and coordinate at Grassroots, Regional, National and International levels, in addition to Partnering and Collaborating with Government, Private Donors and all well-wishers in an integrated effort to address the Development Aspirations of the Peoples of Basse, URR.

BDI, have decided to Supplement and Compliment the Efforts of Government in catering for the needs and Aspirations of our People.

Articles 2: The Name, Address, and Nature of the CSO

2.1 Name of the CSO

The name of the CSO shall be the **BASSE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (BDI)** hereafter referred to as the BDI. The nature of the BDI is Development-Oriented.

2.2 Registered offices and address:

The registered office and its Secretariat shall be situated in SINCHU ALHAGIE, West Coast Region, The Gambia with the aim of having the Headquarters in Basse and Branch Offices in different parts of the URR soon. The BDI shall be registered in



accordance with the Laws of The Gambia, Volume 7, CAP. 50:04, an Act to regulate the operation of Non-Governmental Organisation and provide for their registration and for connected matters. (Decree No. 81 of 1996). Date of commencement: 23rd May 1996.

2.3 Vision

The Vision of the BDI is to provide a Platform in the form of a Corporate Structure for BASSE URR CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS to pool Resources and Human Capital with the intention of Harnessing and Maximising Economic Benefits for the Development of the Region into a model for Sub-Regional Trade and Investment. The Activities of the BDI shall be Apolitical and shall be Administered by Competent and Committed Members; Competent in terms of Qualifications and Experience; Committed in terms of the Vision, Mission and Ethics of the BDI.

The BDI will sensitize and educate the citizens of URR and endeavour within their constitutional rights, duties and responsibilities to effectively engage Government to serve communities in the best interest of Gambians in line with Universally-accepted best practices of Democracy, Accountability and Transparency.

2.4 Mission

To catalyse a critical mass of well-informed, capable Institutions and Individuals, as well as the Government of the day to help Intensively and Proactively deliver tangible Social, Economic and Environmental Development to Stakeholders across the URR.

2.5 Character of BDI

The BDI is a legally-registered Civil Society Organisation as defined in the Constitution of The Gambia, whose major aims are to promote DEVELOPMENT; foster healthy traditions and cultural norms; and advocate for The rule of Law, Social Justice, Good Governance and protect the interests of the BDI.

2.6 Membership

Membership is open to Individuals, NGOs, Government, Donor Agencies and any other Civil Society Organizations that subscribe to the ideals of the BDI. To accommodate the various individuals and interest groups referred to above, it has been deemed necessary that Membership be categorized as follows:

- I. Silver Membership**
- II. Gold Membership**
- III. Platinum Membership**
- IV. Honorary Membership**



2.7 Organization's Logo

The Logo of the BDI shall be the Basse-Wulli Bridge.



2.8 Organization's Moto

United We can Develop OUR Region.

Articles 3: Principles and Objectives of the BDI

3.1 The basic principles of the BDI are:

- 3.1.1 Inclusiveness and Equal Participation.
- 3.1.2 Gender Equity and Equality.
- 3.1.3 Transparency, Accountability and Selflessness.
- 3.1.4 Independence, Impartiality and active participation of members.
- 3.1.5 Collective Ownership and Responsibility.
- 3.1.6 Networking and Information sharing with all stakeholders should be at the core of BDI's operations.
- 3.1.7 Mutual Respect and Trust.
- 3.1.8 Effective, proper and accurate representation of constituent groups.
- 3.1.9 Competence and Professionalism
- 3.1.10 Confidentiality
- 3.1.11 Equal rights and responsibilities.

3.2 Objectives

To effectively participate in and Influence the Economic, Social and Environmental Processes within the URR through Advocacy, Mass Organisation and Lobbying.

- 3.2.1 To monitor the Formulation and Implementation of the BDI's Policies and Programmes from a pro-poor and Gender Sensitive Perspective, to address the



needs and concerns of Socially and Economically Marginalized and Vulnerable groups.

- 3.2.2 To promote and advance the protection of human and people's rights in The Gambia and to encourage efforts at deepening democracy in The Gambia.
- 3.2.3 Promote, Protect and Uphold the spirit of Constitutionalism, rule of Law, Good Governance and respect for State Institutions within The Gambia.
- 3.2.4 To Promote the Visibility of National issues from a Civil Society Organisation's perspective in The Gambia.
- 3.2.5 To Foster a Culture of Tolerance and Constructive Engagement in The Gambia and amongst Gambians and other people living in The Gambia.
- 3.2.6 To Encourage the adoption of the principle of Collective Responsibility by the citizens of The Gambia.
- 3.2.7 To Present a concerted front through Support and Solidarity to members of similar Organizations in the promotion and pursuance of any of the above objectives.
- 3.2.8 Capacity Building of Members.
- 3.2.9 To Foster Research and Consultation Work on matters relevant to the Objectives of the BDI.
- 3.2.10 To Promote Information Dissemination, Communication and Documentation

Articles 4: Membership

The following shall be members of the BDI:

- I. Any Citizen or Resident of the URR or Any Persons who have BDI's ideals at heart and are willing to participate in the Development Initiatives of the Region.
- II. The Founding members of the BDI.
- III. Any Civil Society Organization as defined in section 1 of this Constitution that shall apply for and be accepted as a member of the Organization. Such an application shall be made on an *Application for Membership* Form and addressed to the General Secretary of the BDI. The application should be accompanied by:
 - a. Certified copies of the Organisation's Constitution or Articles and Memorandum of Association.
 - b. Certificate of Registration of the Organization to apply for membership.
 - c. Any other documents as shall from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors.

4.1 Categories of Membership:

It is BDI's opinion that every citizen of Basse and URR is a member, to be allocated a Membership Status – the membership is a birth-right.

However, BDI is in its infancy and must contend with the financial realities that will mould its formation and subsequent growth. In addition, as "Corporate responsibility"



is expected of a Corporation, so are “Personal contributions” expected of individuals in the drive to improve the welfare of communities.

BDI realises that funds are required to help start small-scale ventures, the proceeds of which will be used for operational requirements and welfare programs for Basse, URR. Towards this objective, BDI will introduce four (4) categories of Membership Status and Membership dues to all aspiring members and expects that each Member will acquire a Card and be paying their Membership dues, according to his or her ability.

The Membership Status will be a one-time obligation.

The Membership dues will be a recurring Monthly/Annul contribution.

4.1.1 Silver Membership

This category will include Individuals born in URR, Individuals whose parents come from URR and Residents of URR or Any persons who have BDI’s ideals at heart and are willing to participate in the Development Initiatives of the Region. Members of this category will pay the prescribed Registration fees and Annual Membership dues.

- I. The Registration Fees:
 - a. The Gambia and the Sub-Region.
A fee of D200.00 per person.
 - b. Members residing Overseas.
A fee of D1000.00 or its equivalent per person.
- II. Annual Dues:
 - a. The Gambia and the Sub-Region.
An Annual subscription of D1,200.00 per person.
 - b. Members residing Overseas.
An Annual subscription of D10,000.00 or its equivalent per person.

4.1.2 Gold Membership

This category shall include NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and all other Groups that share BDI's ideals and wish to partner with BDI in achieving its Development Aspirations.

Members of this Category resident in the Gambia and/or the Sub-Region are required to pay an annual membership fee of D10,000.00 or its equivalent per Organization. No annual subscriptions are required for members in this category.

Members of this Category resident in the Diaspora are required to pay an annual membership fee of D100,000.00 or its equivalent per Organization. No annual subscriptions are required for members in this category.



4.1.3 Platinum Membership

Membership in this category is open to Donor Agencies, Government, Businessmen, Politicians, Philanthropists and Any other entity willing to assist in BDI's Development Agenda. This Category of members will not pay Membership fees but will serve as Patrons of BDI.

4.1.3.1 The Executive Committee deems it an honour to bestow Platinum Membership on His or Her Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia.

4.1.4 Honorary Membership

This category will comprise of the Founding Members, Former Executive Officials and any Nominated Persons. This Category will not pay membership fees but will serve as Sponsors and Advisers.

4.2 Gold Membership Application Consideration

The Board of Directors shall consider the application for Gold Membership and:

- 4.2.1** Accept Application in line with the established regulations for such membership, or
- 4.2.2** Request the Applicant Organisation to submit further information or details which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, is relevant for the comprehensive consideration of their application, or
- 4.2.3** Reject the Application for membership, stating the reasons for such rejection.

4.3 Rejected Applications:

An Organization/Person that is dissatisfied with the decision of the Board of Directors rejecting such application for membership shall have a right of appeal to the General Assembly.

4.4 Cessation of Membership

Membership to the BDI shall cease on any of the following grounds:

- 4.4.1** Any member of the Organization who tenders their withdrawal to the General Secretary.
- 4.4.2** A member Organization stating its intention to withdraw its membership in writing and addressed to the General Secretary.



- 4.4.3 If a member Organization violates any of the objectives or principles of the BDI as contained in this Constitution, followed by an ouster vote by two thirds majority of members present in such a deliberation.
- 4.4.4 Failure by a member organization to attend FIVE consecutive meetings of the General Assembly without reasonable cause.
- 4.4.5 Failure by a Member Organization to pay FIVE (5) consecutive annual subscriptions to the BDI.

Articles 5: Organs of the BDI

The BDI shall have the following organs:

- 5.1 General Assembly
- 5.2 Board of Directors
- 5.3 Secretariat
- 5.4 Council of Elders/Advisers
- 5.5 Interim Executive

5.1 General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest Organ of the Organization. The General Assembly is responsible for the election/selection of the following officials: The President, Vice President 1, Vice President 2, General Secretary and the Council of Elders/Advisers. Any registered Member can contest for any Executive position:

1. The President.
 - a. A registered member contesting for the Presidency will require to be nominated by twenty-five (25) registered members.
2. Vice Presidents or General Secretary.
 - a. A registered member contesting for the Vice Presidency or General Secretary will require to be nominated by Fifteen (15) registered members.
3. Council of Elders/Advisers.

Any ten registered member can nominate a candidate; However, the General Assembly will select Five out of the nominated candidates to form the Council.

The duration of the elected Officials shall last for four (4) years, at the end of which the General Assembly shall elect a new team for the BDI. The outgoing team has four (4) weeks to hand over to the incoming team.

All elected members of the BDI are directly answerable to the General Assembly through Congress, Periodic Reports, Statements and Regular visits to the four corners of the URR Region.

5.2 The Board of Directors



- I. The Board of Directors shall be the second highest organ of the BDI and shall be composed of the President, Vice President 1, Vice President 2, CEO, Governor of URR, one representative from Council of Elders/Advisers and one other selected member. The General Secretary will serve as the Secretary to the Board of Directors.
- II. The Board shall have an Annual General Meeting that shall be held not later than 30th March of each year. The Annual General meetings shall be held on a rotational basis in each of the five sub regions of the URR.
- III. Any one third of the members may convene an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting by signing and submitting a petition to the General Secretary, which petition shall state the reason for the meeting and request the CEO to convene the meeting within a period of two weeks from the date of the petition.
- IV. Quorum for any meeting of the BDI shall be 5% of the total membership, provided there is as much equitable representation of members from each of the five URR Sub-Regions as possible amongst the members present.

5.2.1 The Board of Directors: Composition, Responsibilities and Disciplinary Actions.

5.2.1.1 Composition

5.2.1.1 The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, Vice President 1, Vice President 2, CEO, the Governor of URR, one representative from the Council of Elders/Advisers and one (1) Selected Member. The General Secretary will be the Secretary to the Board of Directors.

5.2.1.2 Responsibilities

- 5.2.1.2.1** To formulate Policies and Regulations for the proper conduct of the BDI's business.
- 5.2.1.2.2** To oversee the Implementation of the BDI's Policies by the Secretariat.
- 5.2.1.2.3** To prepare and forward for consideration of the General Assembly the Annual Activities Reports, Annual Budget Estimates and Financial and Audited Accounts of the BDI.
- 5.2.1.2.4** To Appoint Thematic and Working Committees to address specific issues in line with the Objectives of the Organization as stated in this Constitution.
- 5.2.1.2.5** To set up Committees to Fundraise and Mobilize resources for the BDI.
- 5.2.1.2.6** To Formulate the Staff Rules and Regulations for the Personnel within the Secretariat.
- 5.2.1.2.7** To Appoint the Chief Executive Officer and other Officers of the Secretariat.
- 5.2.1.2.8** To receive and consider applications for membership to the BDI, subject to ratification by the General Assembly.
- 5.2.1.2.9** To undertake any other functions as shall be delegated by the General Assembly.



5.2.1.2.10 To receive recommendations and proposals for the amendment or repeal of rules made by the General Assembly.

5.2.1.2.11 The Board of Directors shall meet once every three months, and the meetings of the Board of Directors shall be convened by the General Secretary.

5.2.1.2.12 The President shall chair all the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Board of Directors, and in his or her absence the Vice-President 1, and in the absence of both, the council shall elect the chair.

5.2.1.2.13 The President shall be the official spokesperson of the BDI, and in his or her absence, the Vice President 1. The Chief Executive Officer may, in consultation with or upon delegation from the Board of Directors, also act as the spokesperson of the BDI.

5.2.1.2.14 The Vice President 1 shall be the focal Person in The Gambia and the Sub-Region.

5.2.1.2.15 The Vice President 2 shall be the focal Person in the Diaspora.

5.2.1.2.16 The General Secretary will be the Head of Finance and Administration. The General Secretary shall ensure prudent, efficient and proper management of the BDI's finances and shall submit quarterly financial reports to the Board of Directors to be considered at the Council's meetings.

5.2.1.3 Disciplinary Actions

A member of the Board of Directors shall lose their seat on the Board of Directors in any of the following circumstances:

- I.** Abuse of Office (When two thirds (2/3) of Executive or General Membership agree on the abuse committed.)
- II.** Failure to attend FIVE (5) meetings of the Board of Directors, without a reasonable cause.
- III.** Mental or Physical incapacity rendering the member unable to conduct their duties as a member of the Board of Directors.
- IV.** Conduct deemed contrary by two thirds (2/3) of Executive or General Membership to the Objectives of the BDI as contained in this Constitution.
- V.** Convicted of a non-Political Criminal Offence and Sentenced to a Custodial term of not less than six (6) months.

5.3 The Secretariat

The Secretariat shall conduct the day to day activities of the BDI.

5.3.1 The Secretariat shall be headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and shall consist of such other staff as the Governing Body shall by Regulations



prescribe.

5.3.2 The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall ensure that all Official Documents and Records of the BDI are safely and properly kept and shall submit quarterly Reports on the activities of the Secretariat to the Board of Directors.

5.4 The Council of Elders/Advisers.

The Council of Elders/Advisers shall act as an Informal Advisory Committee to the President and CEO.

5.4.1 The Council of Elders/Advisers shall be a Five-Member Committee Selected by the General Assembly.

5.4.2 The Council of Elders/Advisers shall render guidance to the President and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) through their Wisdom.

5.5 Interim Executive.

The Interim Executive Committee Members comprise mostly the founding Fathers and Mothers of the BDI. The Interim Executive Committee is tasked with running the BDI's affairs through the Registration process and up to the holding of General Assembly.

Articles 6: Finances of the BDI: Sources, Utilization and Management.

6.1 Sources

6.1.1 Membership Status and Membership Dues.

6.1.2 Grants.

6.1.3 Consultancy fees derived from consultancies that the BDI may engage in.

6.1.4 Sale of materials and other resources, intellectual or otherwise, that shall be developed or generated by the BDI.

6.1.5 Any source whose terms and conditions do not in any way contravene the principles and objectives of the BDI as stipulated in this Constitution.

6.2 Utilization and Management

6.2.1 All the Material and Financial Resources of the BDI shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the BDI as set out in this Constitution.

6.2.2 The Board of Directors shall by resolution determine the Bank Accounts that the BDI shall open and operate, including Specification of who the Signatories



to these Accounts shall be.

- 6.2.3 All Transactions performed on behalf of the BDI shall be in the name of the BDI.
- 6.2.4 The Financial Year of the BDI shall be twelve (12) Calendar Months, commencing on the 1st of January and ending on 31st of December of every year.
- 6.2.5 The Books of Account of the BDI shall be Audited every year by an Auditor appointed by the General Assembly, provided that in appointing the Auditor the General Assembly shall ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the Auditor as appointed and the BDI.

Articles 7: Power to Make Rules

- 7.1 Subject to any express provision of this Constitution the Power to make day to day rules are vested in the General Assembly or Governing Body.
- 7.2 Any Member may Propose or Repeal an Amendment, or any Change in the Rules. Such Proposal / Repeal / Changes shall be served in writing to the Board of Directors of the BDI who, if satisfied, shall table it before the General Assembly.

Articles 8: Amendment to The Constitution

- 8.1 Any of the provisions to this Constitution may be amended by two thirds (2/3) majority of members present at an Annual General Assembly Meeting or Extra Ordinary General Assembly Meeting, provided that the proposed amendments are circulated to the members with the Notice calling for the Meeting two weeks prior.

Articles 9: Dissolution of the BDI.

- 9.1 The BDI shall be Dissolved by a Resolution at a General Assembly Meeting at which at least two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast support the Motion of Dissolution.
- 9.2 The BDI can only be dissolved upon a signed resolution of two thirds (2/3) of the members submitted to the General Assembly.
- 9.3 Notice of Dissolution shall be given not later than one calendar month before a General Assembly meeting.
- 9.4 Upon the winding up and Dissolution of the BDI, the Assets of the BDI remaining after the fulfilment of Obligations and Liabilities shall be given or transferred to the neediest in Basse, URR.
- 9.5 In the event of Liabilities being realized after the Dissolution of BDI, The Secretariat would be tasked with collecting funds from the Membership to settle the Liabilities.



This Constitution was Adopted by the General Assembly of the *Basse Development Initiative (BDI)* on the ____ day of _____ Two Thousand and Twenty (___/___/2020) at *Sinchu-Alhagie, West Coast Region, The Gambia*.

Sign:

Date: ___, _____ 2020
Alhagie Amat Jaw Cham
President

Sign:

Date: ___, _____ 2020.
Haja Charjie Jallow
Chief Executive Officer



Interim Executive Committee Members

	Name	Position
1	Alhagie Amat Jaw Cham	President.
2	Hassan M.B. Jallow	Vice President 1.
3	Wuyeh Yorro Sanyang	Vice President 2.
4	Haja Charjie Jallow	CEO.
5	Abdoulie Cham	General Secretary.
6	Binta Baldeh.	General Member.
7	Abdoulie MB Jallow (Star)	Director Youths, Sports, Women, Cultural Affairs and Religious Affairs.
8	Haruna Jobe	Director Resource Management and The Environment.
9	Sarjo Kenbugul Sam	Director Infrastructural Development.
10	Mamadou Salieu Jallow (Bala)	Chief Technical Officer (CTO).