

THE GAMBIA TEACHERS UNION

MID-TERM REVIEW DELEGATES CONGRESS – AUGUST 2012

PRESIDENT’S PROGRESS REPORT

Observe normal protocol

- Congress delegates
- Distinguished guests and observers
- Members of the National Executive Committee of GTU
- Representatives of partner organizations here present
- Members of the GTUCCU and Women’s Wing Board of Directors and Executives, respectively
- Staff of the Secretariat and Teacher House
- The Press – both print and electronic
- All other protocols duly observed

Good morning and welcome to the 3rd Mid-Term Review Delegates Congress of our great union – the GTU. This Review Congress is an important one for me and my executive in the sense that it is the first stock-taking moment of this nature since our assumption of the mantle of leadership of our great union. Similarly, a demonstration of our continued commitment and resolve to uphold the principles and dictates of our Constitution and Bye-laws.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a moment to reflect on the gains registered, examine the obstacles we confronted along the path and brace-up for greater action in the remaining period of my term of office.

Fellow Comrades, ladies and gentlemen I will provide you with a synopsis of what the period under review meant to my leadership. Although the details of our engagements will come in subsequent reports, I will still endeavor to catalogue our major achievements over the period.

My executive, elected in August 2009 was handed the mantle of the leadership of this Union and mandated to steer its affairs for a period of five years. During the period under review, we kept alive our resolve and aspirations to build on the gains made by the past executive and break new grounds in our efforts to better the conditions of teachers.

The departure in 2009 was not an easy one as I had to travel to the United Kingdom soon after my election, for further studies. Consequently, I had little time to settle down and hand over the mantle to my able lieutenants who did a beautiful job in my absence. The achievements I will share with you shortly were made possible thanks to their team work and the support of the Secretariat and the general membership. This is no doubt, one key highlight of the democratization process in terms of good governance that my government continues to cherish.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my election manifesto, I spelt out specific priority areas of intervention for my executive and promised to deliver on those areas in order to take our union to another level of achievement. A lot of effort has been invested in that regard and we will continue to deliver on our promises and pronouncements to secure their complete fulfillment before the 2014 National Delegates Congress.

I now give you a brief rundown the achievements so far registered under my stewardship, the details will come in the General Secretary's report:

- We have been able to strengthen and build the capacity of the Secretariat and NEC members in order to effectively carry out their assigned duties and responsibilities.

- During the period under review, we revived the Meet-The-Teacher Tour which enabled NEC to get closer to the membership and also have first-hand knowledge of their problems and concerns for

effective advocacy. We have succeeded in expanding both the coverage and number of participants in the scheme.

- We continued to provide professional support to teachers through the Extra Mural Class. Given the lessons learnt in the closure of Soma Centre in August 2010 and the withdrawal of the scheme's main sponsor - the Irish National Teachers Organization (INTO), a lot more careful planning is required to expand the programme and also ensure its sustainability and stability.
- We enhanced operations of our regional structures by providing them with new motor bikes and maintaining their regional votes.
- We continued to consolidate partnership with national CSOs, NGOs, private sector and Government institutions particularly in education and welfare.
- We participated in matters of national and public interest such as the mid-term review of the Education Policy 2004 -2015 of the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. Similarly, we also participated in the entire process of formulation and development of the Higher and Tertiary Education Policy.
- Donations to the National Disaster Management Agency and the Food Crisis Committee were also made.
- We continued in solving disputes, grievances and conflicts involving our members as well as responding to other issues of a trade union nature affecting them.
- We strengthened member education and recruitment campaigns to ensure an informed and increased membership for sustainable growth and development.

Congress delegates, the road to these achievements was marked with selfless sacrifice and dedication to duty. However, in the remaining years of our stewardship, we will need to strengthen our resolve in order to realize the noble objectives we have set ourselves and continue to collaborate with our esteemed partners to sustain our programmes.

In conclusion, please allow me to seize this opportunity to formally extend our gratitude once again to the Ministries of Education, Finance, Interior, Regional Integration and Employment, Office of the President and parents. We thank you for the support and your continued effort in creating the enabling environment which we are all morally obliged to preserve.

I thank you for your kind attention.