

# PEACE AMBASSADORS-THE GAMBIA (PAG) ELECTIONS WATCH PROJECT 2021

# PAG Voter Registration Observation Report



PAG Election Watch Voter Registration Observers in Training at Farafenni, North Bank Region on May 24th 2021

By Peace Ambassadors - The Gambia Elections Watch Committee

May - July 2021

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#### About Peace Ambassadors - The Gambia

Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia (PAG) is a voluntary non-profit peace education and advocacy organization operating in The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea Bissau. Since its inception in 2001, Peace Education and Conflict Resolution has served as the basis of the organization's existence. We incorporate other core issues such as youth empowerment, civic education and election observation. These core programming areas are made possible through capacity building and awareness creation.

PAG has therefore since 2006 monitored every election held in The Gambia including presidential, parliamentary and local government elections. The organization also conducts voter education to ensure the public is educated on the conduct of the elections in all aspects. This is the organization's commitment to ensure peace and stability in the country. Presently, the PAG prides itself as the first CSOs on Elections in The Gambia to commence long term election observation work in The Gambia through the Elections Watch Project.

The overarching objective of the PAG's non-partisan citizen observation effort for the 2021 voter registration, called Election Watch Project 2021, is to enhance the credibility of the registration process, detect and deter electoral fraud and other problems along the way, and proffer recommendations to improve future exercises. The Election Watch Project 2021 is being implemented in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), with funding support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

### Summary

Between May 29 and July 11, PAG deployed 59 trained observers across the 7 Administrative Regions and 53 Constituencies of The Gambia to observe the voter registration process. PAG's observation took place in three phases:

- Phase 1: Saturday, 29th May, 2021 Wednesday, 2nd June, 2021
- Phase 2: Tuesday, 15th June, 2021 Saturday, 19th June, 2021
- Phase 3: Wednesday 7th July, 2021 Sunday, 11th July, 2021

This report serves as our fifth update and it covers all three phases of the voter registration observation exercise.

Generally, reports from PAG observers from all constituencies show that the registration exercise commenced on May 29 in every constituency across the country and continued through 11th July 2021 with the exception of Janjanbureh Constituency which concluded its exercise on the 28th June 2021. The reports show that registration officials deployed by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) throughout the country followed most of the registration procedures. In the opening days of the process, PAG observers reported challenges with the functioning of registration equipment such as printers and laptops that caused the early closure of some centers, but these were not widespread. In the second phase of PAG's observation, observer reports indicated that the IEC has improved in some aspects of its operations resulting in fewer instances of malfunctioning of equipment. While most registration centers opened on time, PAG observers noted that some registration officials reported to the registration centers late and closed earlier than the stipulated time, particularly in the last week of the registration exercise. As well, during

the last week, observers reported an increase in equipment malfunctions including those that prevented some voters from collecting their cards. PAG observers reported that security personnel and political party agents were deployed across the country to observe the process. Nevertheless, registration staff inconsistently applied some of the registration procedures in some centers and COVID-19 safety protocols were not widely followed.

#### Background

In 2020, the IEC released an electoral calendar for the conduct of voters' registration and other activities in the electoral cycle. The registration exercise was initially scheduled to commence on the 14th of January, 2021, but was postponed at the last minute due to logistical reasons. Eventually, the exercise was rescheduled to commence on May 29, 2021. Thus, between May 29 and July 11, 2021, the IEC conducted a voter registration exercise in The Gambia ahead of the 2021 Presidential and 2022 Parliamentary elections.

A total of 1000 registration centers were established, a 20% increase from the 800 registration centers in 2016. By the IEC Operational Manual, each registration center was to be staffed by a team of four registration officials: a supervisor, a registration clerk, an operator; and a card issuer. Ahead of the exercise, the IEC released a movement plan indicating the dates each registration would be opened. Registration teams rotated to registration centers based on this movement plan. Registration centers were scheduled to open at 8:00 am and close at 5:00pm. Registration centers were required to register registrants on the queue even after the stipulated closure time.

The registration procedures require all applicants to appear in person at registration centers and applicants had to demonstrate that they were Gambian citizens and 18 years old or older at the time that they are due to vote on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. In addition, an applicant was required to be a resident of or born in the constituency where they registered.

The legal framework for the conduct of the voter registration remained contentious. Although the registration exercise was conducted pursuant to the Electoral Act 2016, the act was specifically silent about the power of the Mayor of Banjul to issue attestations for registrants who could not present any other form of identification to register. Though very controversial, this is still important in our case as it extends the right to franchise to many citizens. However, the issuance of attestation by the Lord Mayor of Banjul was contested in the High Court by some CSO's i.e. Gambia Participates and the Centre for Research and Policy Development, and the Councilor for Box Bar Ward, Banjul North who filed a suit on June 23rd 2021 against the Mayor of Banjul, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Attorney General. In a landmark ruling, the High court of The Gambia ruled that the actions of the Mayor of Banjul in issuing attestations to residents in the IEC's general voter registration are in contravention of section 12 (2) (e) of the Elections Act." The court in its judgement also declared that only the revising court established in accordance with section 24 of the Elections Act can deal with the individual entries in the register of voters. This means that the High Court did not have the jurisdiction to question the lists of voters or remove any name from it. PAG further notes that the Display and Appeals process offers the opportunity for voters, political parties, and others to challenge the registration of a person if the person is thought to be ineligible.

#### Methodology

As part of its Election Watch Project, PAG trained and deployed 53 observers and 6 coordinators across the country to observe the voter registration exercise. Observers were tasked to send their observation reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones to the PAG's National Information Center located in Kanifing at the PAG Secretariat in near real time.

Of the 59 PAG observers deployed across the country, 6 were regional coordinators – one per region with Banjul and Kanifing combined having one coordinator – and 53 were constituency observers – one per constituency.

PAG deployed its observers in every constituency using two deployment methodologies: stationary observation and the mobile observation methodologies. All 53 constituency observers are deployed for a total of nine (9) assigned days (Attached as appendix A), each at a specific registration center within their constituencies. These observers were stationed at a different registration center throughout the day on specific assigned days of observation where they observed the entire registration process at a specific center and report observation data using a comprehensive observer checklist. They also reported critical incidents as they occurred using the critical incident reporting form.

On the other hand, the six (6) regional coordinators were deployed every day, throughout the registration period within their assigned regions where they observed the general environment of the registration process and reported critical incidents as they occurred. Overall, 39% of the PAG observers are women.

In preparation for the observation efforts, the PAG Elections Watch observers were trained by NDI's local, Washington DC and Regional Teams on different aspects of election observation including grant management. Following these training and skills acquired, the PAG was able to conduct a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Kanifing for its training teams on May 21 and 22. The training teams then deployed on May 24 and 25 to conduct four cluster trainings held across the country in advance of the start of voter registration.

All PAG observers were trained on the IEC registration procedures, how to complete the observation checklist, and how to format and send in their observation reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones. At the workshops, PAG observers participated in a simulation exercise where they practiced formulating and sending observation reports via coded text messages using their own mobile phones. A National Information Center was also established through which the Elections Watch team received, analysed and reported on observers findings. The checklists were designed to track a range of issues including the following: compliance by IEC officials and other political actors with electoral guidelines; the set up and the conduct of the registration exercise in the polling stations; whether the registration protocols were being applied uniformly; the behavior of registrants and political actors at the registration centers; the role of CSOs, media and other electoral stakeholders at the centers; enforcement of COVID 19 prevention guidelines; accessibility of the registration centers by

persons with disability; dispute resolution mechanisms, as well as critical incidents such as assault and frauds at the registration centers.

All the Peace Ambassadors – The Gambia (PAG) observers were given copies of the IEC's Guidelines for Observers (Domestic and International) and signed the PAG Non-Partisan Pledge (Attached as Appendix B) to ensure they observe in compliance with IEC regulations and are politically neutral at all times. PAG's observers were carefully selected from the network's member organizations and were accredited by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to observe the voter registration process.

#### **Findings**

This PAG report provides comprehensive information on reports from all PAG observers during the three phases of the observation period. During the voter registration observation (29 May to 11 July), PAG's 53 observers submitted 472 reports reflecting their observations at 287 unique registration centers. Due to the small number of registration centers in some constituencies, some observers reported from the same center on multiple days.

## **Opening**

While the IEC did not have much difficulties in opening the registration centers, PAG observers reported an increase in the late arrival of officials during the last phase. There were few administrative challenges which led to some centers opening late. However, most of those issues were quickly resolved as indicated below.

- 408 of 472 reports indicated that the registration center opened on time. Most of the other registration centers opened by 9:30am. Only one center never opened due to an equipment failure
- 347 of 472 reports indicated four or more registration officials
- 367 of 472 reports indicated that at least two registration officials were women

## Setup

Generally, the IEC Registration Centers were accessible and identifiable by the registrants. However, there were challenges with some center locations being changed or moved without the notice of the communities. In some instances, Persons with Disability found it difficult to access registration centers due to the unavailability of ramps where there are steps.

- 456 of 472 observer reports show that registration centers were identifiable and clearly marked by signs;
- 460 of 472 observer reports indicate that registration centers had all the critical registration materials present.
- 402 of 472 observer reports show that centers were accessible by all registrants while 70 reports show that centers were not accessible, for example, applicants were required

to go up stairs to register – which potentially posed problems for some persons with disabilities.

## **COVID 19 Safety Measures**

The IEC in its 2021 voters registration training manual included the implementation of the COVID 19 safety guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Health of The Gambia and World Health Organization (WHO) at all registration centers. However, in most of the IEC registration centers the enforcement of COVID-19 safety protocols became more lax as the exercise progressed.

- 289 of 472 reports indicated that the assigned registration center had all of the required COVID-19 prevention materials such as hand wash buckets, soap, sanitizers and thermometer.
- 256 of 472 reports indicated that IEC officials wore face masks.
- 99 of 472 reports indicated that Police always enforced COVID-19 regulations.

	Phase 1 (29 May-2 June)	Phase 2 (June 15- 19)	Phase 3 (July 7 - 11)
Centers had all COVID-19 materials	98 of 159 reports (62%)	100 of 158 reports (63%)	91 of 155 reports (59%)
IEC officials wore face masks	124 of 159 reports (78%)	82 of 158 reports (52%)	50 of 155 reports (32%)
Security officials always enforced COVID 19 regulations	46 of 159 reports (29%)	29 of 158 reports (18%)	24 of 155 reports (15%)

## Registration Procedures

Once centers opened, PAG's observer reports indicated that registration officials followed most of the registration procedures:

- 469 of 472 reports show that all or many registrants were asked to present a valid identification document (such as national ID card, birth certificate, Gambian Passport or an attestation) before being registered.
- 452 of 472 reports show that no applicant who presented a valid national identification document was denied registration.
- 461 of 472 reports show that applicants were asked to affix their thumbprint to the registration form to certify that their information was correct before being sent to the operator.

- 464 of 472 observer reports show that the operator input the data of all applicants into the laptop and their photos were taken.
- 434 of 472 PAG observer reports show that applicants requiring assistance such as pregnant women and persons with disabilities were given priority to register.

However, PAG observers also noted that some procedures were applied inconsistently across registration centers. For example:

- 294 of 472 reports reflect that IEC officials did not always ask registrants whether they had registered somewhere else. 130 of the 472 reports indicated that the registration never asked this question. The above mentioned question was a major emphasis in the IEC training manual which is geared toward reducing the incident of multiple registration.
- 51 of 472 reports show that if the applicant was found to be ineligible, registration officials did not fill out the rejection form and the rejected applicant was not served a copy. Several observers noted that registration officials turned away minors without filling out the rejection form. This was particularly a challenge in Brikama and Kerewan administrative areas. This Rejection Form is an important mechanism in the Display and Appeal process as it offers an opportunity for voters, political parties and others to challenge the rejection of persons thought to be ineligible.
- 375 of 472 reports indicate that all successful registrants were issued their voter cards before leaving the center. However, during the last phase of observation several observers reported that malfunctions of or a shortage of supplies for the card printers resulted in applicants having to come back later or go to another center to collect their registration cards. These challenges seemed to be most prevalent in Basse, Janjanbureh, and Kerewan administrative areas.

## Use of Attestation Forms

• 385 of 472 reports indicated that some or many applicants utilized an attestation form as identification. 11 of 472 reports indicated that all applicants used this method to register.

The Attestation Form is an important mechanism that allows Gambians who lack another form of identification to register. PAG observer reports indicated that a good number of registrants used the attestations to register.

Table 1: Use of Attestation Form on Observed Days by Administrative Region

	BANJUL	BASSE	BRIKAMA	JANJANB UREH	KANIFING	KEREWAN	MANSAKO NKO	Total
No Applicants	1 of 27 reports (3.70%)	1of 63 reports (1.59%)	4 of 108 reports (3.70%)	4 of 96 reports (4.17%)	4 of 63 reports (6.35%)	4 of 61 reports (1.64%)	0 of 54 reports (0.00%)	15 of 472 reports (3.18%)
Few Applicants	14 of 27 reports	2 of 63 reports	15 of 108 reports	5 of 96 reports	13 of 63 reports	1 of 61 reports	11 of 54 reports	61 of 472 reports

	(51.85%)	(3.17%)	(13.89%)	(5.21%)	(20.63%)	(1.64%)	(20.37%)	(12.92%)
Some Applicants	9 of 27 reports (33.33%)	15 of 63 reports (23.81%)	24 of 108 reports (22.22%)	36 of 96 reports (37.50%)	28 of 63 reports (44.44%)	17 of 61 reports (27.87%)	10 of 54 reports (18.52%)	139 of 472 reports (29.45%)
Many Applicants	3 of 27 reports (11.11%)	42 of 63 reports (66.67%)	64 of 108 reports (59.26%)	49 of 96 reports (51.04%)	15 of 63 reports (23.81%)	40 of 61 reports (65.57%)	33 of 54 reports (61.11%)	246 of 472 reports (52.12%)
All Applicants	0 of 27 reports (0.00%)	3 of 63 reports (4.76%)	1 of 108 reports (0.93%)	2 of 96 reports (2.08%)	3 of 63 reports (4.76%)	2 of 61 reports (3.28%)	0 of 54 reports (0.00%)	11 of 472 reports (2.33%)

## Security and Party Agents

PAG observers reported many centers having uniformed security personnel and political party agents present to observe the process:

- 436 of 472 reports show that there were uniformed security personnel present at registration centers;
- 449 of 472 reports indicated one or more party agents present at the registration center.

## **Closing**

Generally, observers reported that registration centers remained open throughout the day for the required time which is 5:00 pm. However, PAG observers noted some challenges with equipment malfunctions that caused either minor or serious delays to the registration process. As previously noted, many of these instances included issues with the voter card printer. Most of these incidents occurred mainly during the first and final phase of the observation (See Table 2).

- 447 of 472 reports indicated that registration centers stayed open until 5:00pm. However, towards the end of the exercise, observers reported that some centers (14 of 155 reports) closed early.
- 35 of 472 reports indicated that voters in the queue at 5:00pm were sent home and told to come back the next day rather than being allowed to register. 26 of these 35 reports came during the first phase (opening week). This was particularly a challenge in Brikama, Janjanbureh, and Kerewan.

Table 2: Reports of equipment malfunctions by observation phase.

	Phase 1 (29 May - 2 June)	Phase 2 (June 15- 19)	Phase 3 (July 7-11)	
No equipment malfunctions	63 of 159 reports (40%)	132 of 158 reports (84%)	102 of 155 reports (66%)	
Minor equipment issues quickly resolved	53 of 159 reports (33%)	24 of 158 reports (15%)	33 of 155 reports (21%)	

Equipment issues that caused serious delay to registration	43 of 159 reports (27%)	2 of 158 reports (1%)	20 off 155 reports (13%)
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During the registration exercise, PAG observers witnessed some instances of disruption, intimidation and harassment at some registration centers. 28 of 472 observer reports indicated some level of disruption or attempt to disrupt the registration throughout the observation days while 21 of 472 observer reports included instances of intimidation and harassment at registration centers.

- 444 of 472 reports indicated that there were no attempts to disrupt the voter registration process; however, observers submitted 28 reports of incidents.
- 451 of 472 reports indicated that there were no attempts to intimidate or harass people in or around the center; however, observers submitted 21 incidents during assigned observation days.

#### Critical Incidents

PAG observers were instructed to immediately report any serious problems that could compromise the conduct of the voter registration exercise. During the observation of the registration exercise, PAG received a total of 183 Critical Incidents, of which 90 were confirmed. During the first phase of the observation, the PAG confirmed 59 incidents. During the second phase of the observation, PAG received and confirmed only 18 Critical Incidents (a decrease from the 59 Critical Incidents confirmed during Phase 1). During the third phase of the observation, the PAG confirmed 13 (a decrease from the 18 Critical Incidents confirmed during Phase 2). A vast majority of the critical incidents received were centered on early closure of registration centers or delay in registration process due to malfunction of critical registration materials such as laptops, printers, generators, etc. Critical Incidents received also highlighted IEC officials reporting to their assigned registration centers late as opposed to the dictates of the IEC training manual as well as some political parties not adhering to Inter-Party Committee Code of conduct and actively disrupting the voter registration process in some centres.

Other critical incidents reported by PAG observers include:

- Registration without issuance of voter's cards;
- Center closure before stipulated time 5:00PM; and
- Malfunctioning of IEC electronic gadgets like laptops and printers.

#### Registration Numbers

The table below displays the differences between total registered voters in 2016 and the total registered voters in 2021. It also shows the difference in registrants over the last two voter registration exercises.

Table 3: Analysis of Registrants in 2016 against 2021 at regional level

	2016 Registration Total	% of Registrants	2021 Registration Total	% of Registrants	Difference in Registrants	Difference in % of Registrants
Banjul	22731	2.56%	21445	2.17%	-1286	-0.39%
Kanifing	199957	22.55%	187632	19.00%	-12325	-3.55%
Brikama	281115	31.71%	360825	36.54%	+79710	+4.83%
Kerewan	101717	11.47%	109934	11.13%	+8217	-0.34%
Mansakonk o	49198	5.55%	57832	5.86%	+8634	+0.31%
Janjanbure h	116675	13.16%	123984	12.56%	+7309	-0.60%
Basse	115185	12.99%	125832	12.74%	+10647	-0.25%
Total	886578		987484		+100906	

#### Recommendations

Again, reports from PAG observers from all 53 constituencies show that the registration progressed across the entire country and that registration officials followed most of the registration procedures. There have been challenges with the IEC officials reporting to registration centers late and closing earlier than the stipulated time. Observers reported that security personnel and political parties agents are being deployed across the country to observe the process. Nevertheless, it was noted by PAG observers that registration staff appear to be inconsistently applying the registration procedures in some centers and security officials are likewise inconsistent in enforcing the COVID-19 regulations.

PAG in this regard, offers the following recommendations for Future Voter Registration Exercises and the upcoming general elections.

#### To the IEC:

#### In the short term:

- Employ concrete measures to ensure effective and respective distribution of voters' cards of registrants that were not given their cards on the spot;
- Provide information about the display and appeal process to citizens, political parties and CSO's sufficiently ahead of the process; and
- Provide disaggregated data on the provisional number of registrants on the basis of Constituency, Registration Centers and age bracket to ensure transparency.

## In future voter registration exercises:

- Enhance the training of voter registration staff to ensure they adequately understand the voter registration procedures, rules and regulations including the role of observers in the process; and
- Alongside civil society, conduct widespread voter information campaigns sufficiently ahead of the voter registration process to ensure that citizens are aware of the process and how to participate.
- Work in collaboration with CSO, IPC and lawmakers to review the Electoral Act to address the widespread use of the attestation by citizens.

## To Political Parties and the Inter-party Committee (IPC)

- Monitor and engage in the IEC Voter Register display and the appeal process.
- Encourage party supporters to stop spreading false information, hate speech and violent actions.
- The IPC should consider measures to monitor and enforce its code of conduct for political parties to minimize incidents of hate speech and other forms of political intolerance

## To All Stakeholders

- Upon completion of registration, PAG encourages all to safeguard their voter's cards ahead of the forthcoming elections.
- The Gambia Police Force and other security agencies should increase the presence of uniformed security personnel across the country to help enforce the law, troubleshoot problems that arise and enhance confidence in the process.

#### Conclusion:

The reports from PAG observers in all 53 constituencies generally projected that the process was well conducted by IEC throughout the country. Generally, the majority of reports from PAG observers deployed shows that most centers opened on time, followed the COVID19 guidelines, had the necessary materials and generally followed the principal procedures. Notwithstanding, the repeated challenges with equipment including generators, laptops, thumb-reader, and printers, late openings of centers, the entire process of the registration was not grossly halted or

significantly affected. To ensure that only eligible voters register as well as establishing mechanisms of vividly preventing multiple registration continue to exist as a challenge that the IEC should further address in imminent elections. It is noteworthy that the PAG reporters flagged a few critical incidents which were subsequently duly conveyed to responsible institutions for address.

#### **APPENDIX**

## Appendix A: Deployment Timeline

# PEACE AMBASSADORS-THE GAMBIA (PAG) ELECTIONS WATCH PROJECT 2021 VOTER REGISTRATION OBSERVATION

#### **Deployment Timeline**

On each of the assigned observation days, select one Voter Registration Center and observe there for the entire day. You will receive a call from the PAG National Information Center at every stage of the observation to provide observation data. The Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia cannot comment on the Voter Registration process without using your observation data.

Always keep your phone on!!!

Phase	Observation Dates		s	Activity
1	Saturday, May 29	Monday, May 31	Wednesday, June 2	On each of the assigned days in the first phase, select one Voter Registration Center and observe there for the entire day.
2	Tuesday, June 15	Thursday, June 17	Saturday June 19	On each of the assigned days in the second phase, select one Voter Registration Center and observe there for the entire day.
3	Wednesday , July 7	Friday, July 9	Sunday, July 11	On each of the assigned days in the third phase, select one Voter Registration Center and observe there for the entire day.
4	Two extra da extension	ys for possibi	lity of	Observation in this phase is based on the possibility of extension of the process by the IEC. If there is an extension, PAG will communicate to you on which days to observe.
МОВ	MOBILE OBSERVATION			On non-stationary days, all observers are to look out for critical incidents within their assigned constituencies and report directly to the PAG Information Center if there is any.

Finally, all Constituency Observers are required to report their observation checklists to their assigned regional coordinators for submission to the PAG Secretariat.

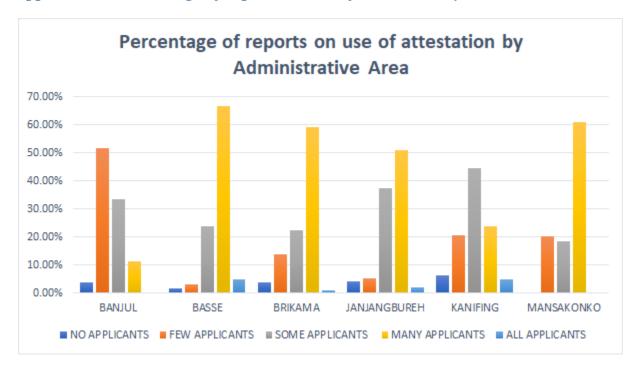
You will only receive your deployment stipend after submitting all your observation checklists to your coordinator!!

# Appendix B: PAG Non-Partisan Pledge

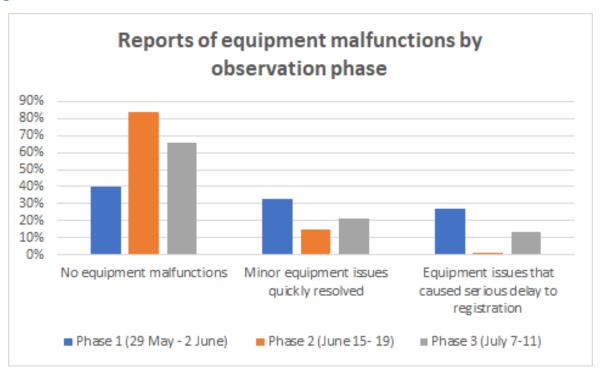
## Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia Non-Partisan Pledge 2021 Voter Registration

I, —	the undersigned hereby pledge as follow:					
1.	That I agree to serve as an observer for the Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia (PAG) for the 2021 Voter Registration exercise in the Gambia.					
2.	That as a non-partisan Election Observer, I will not engage in any activities that could be construed as campaigning either for or against one side or the other directly or indirectly. Whatever the outcome of the Registration, as a non-partisan observer, my concern is to maintain the integrity of the Process.					
3.	That I will attend training sessions and fully understand the duties of an observer.					
4.	That I will execute my duties impartially and objectively and to the best of my ability, and in keeping with the IEC Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Observers; and					
5.	That the reports I give both oral and written will represent an objective, independent and credible account of the proceedings witnessed by me.					
PAG	G Observer PAG Secretariat					
Nan	ne: Name:					
Sign	nature: Signature:					
Date	Date:					

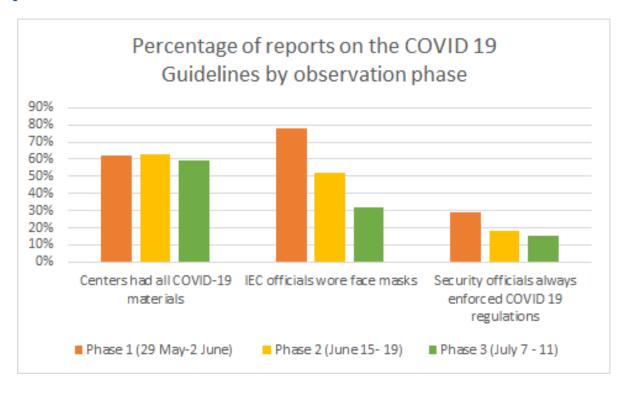
Appendix C: Percentage of reports on use of attestation by Administrative Area



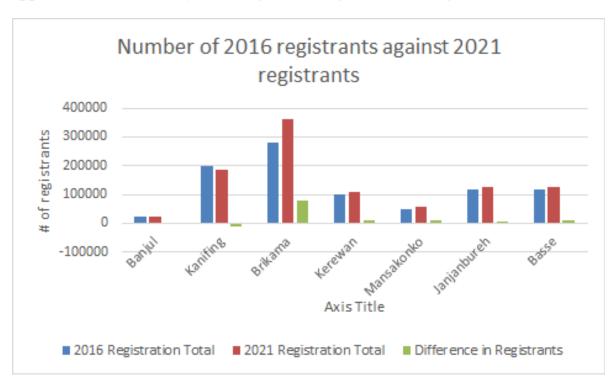
Appendix D: Percentage of Reports on equipment malfunction by observation phase

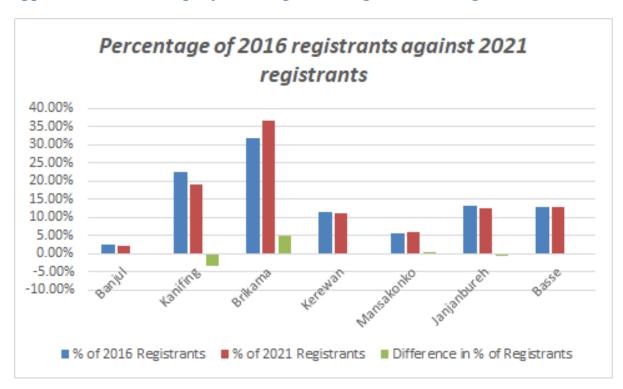


Appendix E: Percentage of reports on the COVID 19 Guidelines by observation phase



Appendix F: Number of 2016 registrants against 2021 registrants





Appendix G: Percentage of 2016 registrants against 2021 registrants

## Appendix H: Partner and Collaborators

The impact and successes registered herein would not have been this bright without the support of our partner - NDI - The Gambia, and collaborators listed in alphabetical order:

- Activista The Gambia
- Beakanyang
- Commission on Political Debates
- Gambia Participates
- National Youth Parliament

# Appendix I: Gallery































For further information contact the PAG team on:

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**PAG Secretariat** at <u>www.pag-gambia.org</u> Follow **PAG** on **Social Media** at Facebook: Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia and twitter @yapeacegambia

Thank you for your kind consideration as we all work to advance the democracy of The Gambia!!!