

Guidelines for Selection and Appointment of Commissioners to the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission in The Gambia

The ministry of justice hereby publishes Guidelines for the Selection and Appointment of Commissioners to the TRRC in The Gambia

Recalling the nationwide public consultations on the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC);

Underscoring the importance of public participation in and ownership of the TRRC process;

Desirous of the need to establish a balanced and impartial Commission that is reflective of the geographic, ethnic, gender, religious and cultural diversity of The Gambia and is capable of delivering results that meet the expectations of the people of The Gambia;

Noting the need for a TRRC composed of Gambians of the highest integrity and moral character;

the following Guidelines are issued for the selection and appointment of the eleven Commissioners to the TRRC in The Gambia. Selections and Appointment of Commissioners shall be conducted in two separate parallel processes in the following manner:

A. Regional Nominees

Five commissioners shall be appointed from the following five regions in the country, namely: WCR, NBR, CRR, LRR, and URR. One commissioner shall be selected from each region. Selection of commissioners from these regions shall be coordinated by the Regional Governors. Regional Selection Panels (RSP), which shall include representatives of youth and women's groups, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights, religious and community leaders of the region, shall be established in each of the said five regions. The Regional Selection Panel from each region shall, after consultations with the inhabitants of all districts in the region, and preferably by consensus, nominate three candidates including at least one female for appointment from amongst the three majority ethnic groups in the region. No more than **one** candidate from each of the three majority ethnic groups in the region shall be nominated by a region. Nominations shall be based on the following additional criteria:

- a) integrity
- b) high moral character
- c) no criminal record
- d) not known to be actively involved in a political party
- e) residency in the region
- f) Gambian nationality

The regional Governors shall transmit the list of nominated candidates to the Ministry of Justice with a report identifying members of the Regional Selection Panel and certifying that the nomination process complied with the aforesaid procedure. The said list shall contain the following information about each nominated candidate:

1. Full name and current address
2. Age
3. Gender
4. Ethnicity
5. Religion
6. Educational background
7. Occupation
8. Employment history
9. Short notes of no more than 500 words (type-written; font size 12; 1.5 line spacing) stating the reasons for the person's suitability for appointment as commissioner to the TRRC in light of its mandate and objectives.

B. Presidential Nominees

The President of the Republic of The Gambia shall nominate five commissioners in the following manner:

The general public shall be invited to identify suitable candidates for appointment addressed to the Ministry of Justice based on the following criteria:

- a) integrity
- b) high moral character
- c) no criminal record
- d) not known to be actively involved in a political party
- e) residency in the greater Banjul area (Banjul and KMC) or in the Diaspora
- f) Gambian nationality

Proposals from the general public shall include the following information on the proposed candidate:

1. Full name and current address
2. Age
3. Gender
4. Ethnicity
5. Religion
6. Educational background
7. Occupation
8. Employment history
9. Short notes of no more than 500 words (type-written; font size 12; 1.5 line spacing) stating the reasons for the person's suitability for appointment as commissioner to the TRRC in light of its mandate and objectives.

C. One commissioner shall be appointed from among youth groups in the country in consultation with the National Youth Council.

When all the candidates are identified and before appointment by the President in consultation with the various groups identified under section 5 of the TRRC Act 2017, the final list of 11 names shall be published and the general public shall be invited to make objections with justification, if they so desire, to the appointment of any of the candidates on the list.