

THE REPUBLIC



OF THE GAMBIA

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
STATE HOUSE
BANJUL**

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BOO	-	Build Operate and Own
BOT	-	Build Operate and Transfer
DCD	-	Department of Community Development
DOE	-	Department of Energy
DOF	-	Department of Forestry
DOSTIE	-	Department of State for Trade, Industry and Employment
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
GBA	-	Greater Banjul Area
GOTG	-	Government of The Gambia
GREC	-	Gambia Renewable Energy Centre
HFO	-	Heavy Fuel Oil
HSE	-	Health, Safety, Security and Environment
IPP	-	Independent Power Producer
LPG	-	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
OP	-	Office of the President
MSGBC	-	Treaty of Cooperation Between Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry
NAWEC	-	National Water and Electricity Company
NEP	-	National Energy Policy
NEPC	-	National Energy Planning Committee
OMVG	-	Organisation for the Development of The Gambia River Basin
PRSP	-	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
R&D	-	Research and Development
RPTES	-	Review of Policies for the Traditional Energy Sector
SBU	-	Strategic Business Unit
UPDEA	-	Organisation of African Energy Producers
WEC	-	World Energy Council
WAPP	-	West African Power Pool
WAGP	-	West African Gas Pipeline

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1. INTRODUCTION

An adequate, reliable, affordable and efficient supply of energy is essential to support the country's continued socio-economic growth and development. With the rapidly expanding economy, a substantial increase in the energy supply is urgently needed to meet current demand and forestall major shortages in the future by the adoption of least-cost strategies.

The in depth assessment of the Gambia's energy sector, undertaken in Part One of this National Energy Policy document, shows that the energy resource base of the country is limited and the energy supply unreliable and unsustainable. The electric power supply has, over the past fifteen years, been grossly inadequate, inefficient, erratic and extremely unreliable, negatively impacting on investment and production. The over-reliance of the city and major urban centres on fuel wood and charcoal is destroying the country's forest resources and natural vegetation cover at an alarming rate, causing general environmental degradation.

Government's efforts in formulating this comprehensive National Energy Policy is intended to address the key issues in the Energy Sector and provide the framework for efficient utilisation and management of these resources, by avoiding over-dependence and depletion of the nation's finite energy resources.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK

As part of Government's efforts to build a sound reliable and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure, this Policy is being introduced to provide the framework for the provision of an efficient, reliable and affordable energy supply to effectively support the socio-economic development of the country.

To accomplish the desired results, the Energy Policy, strategy and programmes should be coordinated and implemented within the framework of the national economic and social policies. In this regard, the National Energy Policy will be consistent with the overall development policy objectives of Government, as outlined in the Vision 2020 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following issues would guide the formulation of the Energy Policy:

- 3.1. Providing a system of energy supply that is cost-effective and dependable;
- 3.2. Improved energy security through sub-regional energy trade and cooperation;
- 3.3. Recognition of private sector investment as critical for growth;

- 3.4. Legislation and regulatory procedures that are investor-friendly and would allow public and private sector participation;
- 3.5. Reform the electricity subsector to ensure effective and efficient supply, delivery and end-use of electricity through private sector participation;
- 3.6. Provide attractive incentives to encourage private sector investors;
- 3.7. Continued support for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation of oil and gas;
- 3.8. Human capacity development in all institutions involved in the energy sector;
- 3.9. The need to promote energy efficiency while preserving the natural forest cover;
- 3.10. Prescription of standards for the energy production and supply chain;
- 3.11. The principle of energy being the engine of growth for the economy;
- 3.12. Developing and promoting renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind and biomass.

4. POLICY GOALS

The long-term aim of the Government of The Gambia for the Energy Sector, as enshrined in the Vision 2020 document, is to maximise the efficient development and utilisation of scarce energy resources to support economic development in an environment-friendly way.

The goals, objectives and strategies outlined in this Policy document will provide the framework for the development and implementation of the energy sector programmes and projects in the medium-term.

5. OVERALL SECTOR OBJECTIVES

Government's overall objectives for the Sector are to:

- 5.1. Improve and expand, efficiently, existing energy supply systems through private sector partnership with the public sector.
- 5.2. Promote a domestic fuel sub-sector, which clearly focuses on sustainable management of forest resources;
- 5.3. Widen the population's access to modern forms of energy so as to stimulate development and reduce poverty;

- 5.4. Strengthen institutional and human resource capacity and enhance Research and Development (R&D) in energy development;
- 5.5. Provide adequate security of energy supply.

6. SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

6.1. Electricity

The main aims of the electricity sub-sector are to:

- a) Ensure that there is an adequate, efficient and affordable electricity supply to support socio-economic development in an environmentally-sustainable way;
- b) Improve the reliability and security of power supply as well as enhance power sector efficiency;
- c) Promote the long-term sustainability of power sector operations by encouraging more private sector participation in power supply.

The specific development objectives of the sub-sector are to:

- a) Improve and expand generating, transmission and distribution capacity to improve the reliability and quality of electricity services and cater for load growth;
- b) Reduce the cost of electricity;
- c) Encourage investment in rural power supply;
- d) Encourage the use of alternative and efficient technologies and fuels for electricity.

6.2. Petroleum Products

The petroleum sub-sector aims at ensuring the availability of adequate supplies of petroleum products throughout the country at economic prices.

The specific objectives are to:

- a) Ensure efficiency and availability of petroleum products at competitive prices;
- b) Develop Health, Safety, Security and Environmental (HSSE) standards for the procurement, storage and distribution of products;
- c) Encourage use of alternative fuels for energy production;

- d) Create strategic stocks of petroleum products to take care of unexpected shortages;
- e) Establish a regulatory framework to monitor and ensure compliance in the industry

6.3. Hydrocarbon Exploration

- a) Promote Gambia's hydrocarbon potential world wide ;
- b) Encourage and support hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation.

6.4. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

- a) Ensure the sustainable supply and use of LPG through a minimum buffer stock of fifteen days supply
- b) Encourage private sector participation in the procurement, supply, bulk storage and distribution of the product;
- c) Adopt a regional approach for popularisation of LPG use, countrywide;
- d) Ensure health and safety standards for storage, transportation and distribution;
- e) Reduce the unit cost of gas through, investment incentives, to promote its usage and reduce dependency on fuel wood;

6.5. Renewable Energy

The aim of the Renewable energy sub-sector is to ensure the promotion and judicious utilisation of renewable energy that will bring about the sustainable development of the country. The specific objectives are to:

- a) Promote the utilisation of renewable forms of energy such as solar, wind and bio-mass;
- b) Promote the use and develop, to the extent possible, a domestic production capacity for renewable energy fuels and technologies;
- c) Ensure the sustainable supply of renewable energy fuels/device/technologies at competitive prices through private sector participation.

6.6. Fuel Wood

- a) Ensure sustainable and efficient utilisation of fuel wood resources that are environment-friendly.
- b) Promote widespread use of alternative and efficient domestic fuels.
- c) Support widespread utilisation of improved technologies for fuel wood and other biomass in the country.

6.7. Institutional Aspects

- a) Ensure an effective enabling institutional framework for the Energy Sector.

7. POLICY AND STRATEGIES

7.1. Electricity

7.1.1 Policy 1: **Increase the adequacy, accessibility and reliability of electricity supply nationwide**

Strategies:

- a) Encourage the development and diversification power generation capacity through the promotion of alternative sources, including other thermal, renewable and hydropower generation systems, in partnership with the private sector.
- b) Continue the implementation of the national electrification programme.
- c) Conduct detailed studies to determine the nature, magnitude and timing of capacity expansion in the GBA and provinces.
- d) Implement the transmission and sub-transmission plan for the GBA and the rest of the country.
- e) Establish regulations and guidelines for efficient and cost-effective operations.
- f) Accelerate the setting up of a Nationally Interconnected Power System.
- g) Long-term planning for replacement of generating sets, equipment and operating systems.

- h) Continue to grant duty concessions on power generators, plant, machinery, equipment and accessories for public, private and community projects.
- i) Strengthen human resource capacity in technical and managerial areas.

7.1.2. Policy 2: Reduce the cost of electricity.

Strategies:

- a) Develop a tariff structure for the various segments of the electricity supply chain through tariff studies.
- b) Acquire energy-efficient technologies and associated infrastructure to reduce generating costs and increase electrification rate.
- c) Reduce technical and non-technical losses in electricity generation and transmission.
- d) Promote and support private sector participation in the wholesale supply of power to major consumers.
- e) Set up a wholesale power supply market that will use “open access” or “third party access” transmission and distribution services to promote healthy competition between power producers in the “power pool”.

7.1.3. Policy 3: Encourage private sector participation in the electricity supply industry

Strategies:

- a) Institute the Electricity Law and the Gambia Utility Regulatory Agency.
- b) Ensure the entry into and exit from the power sector by granting licences to eligible registered operators, developing and enforcing specific “codes of practice” and “standards of performance”, as provided in the Electricity Act;
- c) Invite private sector proposals, through international competitive bidding, for meeting the country’s medium- to long-term power demand.
- d) Facilitate the re-aligning of the management structure of NAWEC into Strategic Business Units (SBU’s) and commercialise the operations.
- e) Divest the interest of government in the power sector.

- f) Encourage the purchase of electricity by the utilities from individuals/communities who may have excess power.

7.1.4. Policy 4: Provide energy security through sub-regional and international cooperation

Strategies:

- a) Build capacity to effectively participate in the development of OMVG's hydroelectric power projects and the interconnection of the electric power grids of the sub-region.
- b) Ensure GOTG's participation in regional/international energy-related initiatives, including the development of the West Africa Power Pool and the West African gas pipeline - a potential alternative source of fuel for the production of electricity.

7.1.5. Policy 5: To stimulate rural development through the electrification of towns and villages.

Strategies:

- a) Establish a Board for a Rural Electrification Fund, to mobilise financial resources for the Rural Electrification projects and the recovery of investment made in the project.
- b) Promote community power generation facilities, including the use of alternatives such as solar power and other types of renewable energy technologies.
- c) Secure funds for phase two and subsequent phases of the Rural Electrification Programme to increase the number of beneficiary-villages.

7.1.6. Policy 6: Increase the efficiency and productive use of electricity

Strategies:

To help achieve the main aim of nationwide electrification, the promotion of efficient and productive uses of electricity will be undertaken alongside electricity expansion projects and in communities that have recently been electrified. This will be facilitated through:

- a) Expand the use of pre-payment (cash power) electricity meters.
- b) Introduce user-education programmes on efficient and productive uses of electricity.
- c) Promote the introduction of energy efficient appliances through tax concessions and other fiscal incentives.

7.2. Petroleum

7.2.1. Policy 1: To ensure efficiency and security of supply for petroleum products at competitive prices.

Strategies:

- a) Formulate petroleum-marketing regulations to ensure price competition and a level playing field thereby providing scope for new entrants into the industry.
- b) Adopt the “common carrier” concept for the transportation, storage and distribution of petroleum products to reduce prices.
- c) Erect adequate storage fuel tank farm and associated pipeline to for heavy fuel oil to eliminate excessive demurrage charges and minimise oil spills.
- d) Continue monitoring and participating in the development and expansion of the West African Gas Pipeline Project through ECOWAS meetings, to cover all the ECOWAS countries.
- e) The Gambia Free Zones Authority shall promote the sub-regional bunkering of petroleum products in the free zone, to increase fuel security and reduce fuel cost in the medium to long term.

7.2.2. Policy 2: To create strategic stocks of petroleum products

Strategies:

- a) Pursue the construction of a new petroleum depot and terminal with adequate capacity outside the limits of the city of Banjul to optimise parcel sizes, minimise dead-weight charges and subsequently the cost of fuel to the user.
- b) Explore the possibility of erecting at least two small depots at strategic locations upstream along the river where they can be supplied either by barges or road tankers;
- c) Bunker a legal Stock Reserve of petroleum products;

7.2.3. Policy 3: Develop safety standards for the procurement, transportation storage and distribution of petroleum products

Strategies:

- a) Formulate regulations and guidelines to ensure fair competition and curb collusive tendencies.
- b) Establish a quality assurance, inspection and testing system.
- c) Introduce regulations for the sub-sector, covering quality standards, safe use, transportation, handling, distribution and storage; and the disposal of used petroleum products.
- d) Ensure that independent HSSE audits are commissioned by all actors operating in the petroleum products logistics chain.
- e) Ensure efficient use of the oil berth and the safe discharge of petroleum products at the Banjul Port.
- f) Establish management and inspection systems to mitigate the impact of oil spill incidents, pipeline and tank leaks, explosion and fire hazards.

7.2.4. Policy 4: Encourage the use of alternative fuels and technologies

Strategies:

- a) Explore the prospects of using gas, heavy fuel sludge, modern biomass (including bio-energy, groundnut shell and sawdust briquettes, and bagasse) for energy generation.
- b) Complement GOTG's fiscal incentives, with donor assistance, to promote the use of efficient fuels and technologies.
- c) Continue to provide fiscal incentives in the form of duty waiver for fuel supply to the rural electrification project.
- d) Encourage investment in efficient alternative technologies for energy generation.

7.3. Hydrocarbon Exploration

7.3.1. Policy 1: Support Hydrocarbon Exploration and Exploitation

Strategies:

- a) Encourage Private sector participation in oil and gas exploration and prospecting worldwide.
- b) Promote Sub-regional cooperation in hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation.
- c) Encourage MSGBC cooperation for hydrocarbon exploration.

7.4. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

7.4.1. Policy 1: Ensure security of supply for LPG.

Strategies:

- a) Encourage the construction of bulk storage facilities for LPG through private sector participation.
- b) Formulate regulations to ensure price competition and a level playing field thereby providing scope for new entrants into the industry.
- c) Continue monitoring and participating in the development and expansion of the West African Gas Pipeline Project through ECOWAS meetings, to cover all the ECOWAS countries.
- d) Ensure the sustainable supply of LPG through a minimum buffer stock.

7.4.2. Policy 2: Reduce the unit cost of LPG to promote its use and reduce dependence on fuel wood.

Strategies:

- a) Provide fiscal incentives to attract interests for development of bulk storage and terminal facilities for LPG.
- b) Encourage private sector participation in the LPG sub-sector.

7.4.3. Policy 3: Popularise the use of LPG Nationwide

Strategies

- a) Re-introduction of start-up subsidy, for a limited period of time, (through donor assistance) to overcome one of the major drawbacks to the use of LPG - the relatively high cost of the prerequisite equipment (the cylinder, burner and stand).
- b) Provide incentives to encourage more private sector participation in the further promotion of domestic consumption of LPG.
- c) Encourage the setting up of an LPG cylinder and component manufacturing plant in The Gambia.
- d) In collaboration with operators, carryout awareness raising programmes to educate communities on the safe use of LPG, as well as its environmental benefits through radio, TV, print and electronic media.

7.4.4. Policy 4: Formulate Health, Safety, Security and Environment Regulations for LPG.

Strategies:

- a) Formulate Health, Safety, Security and Environmental (HSSE) standards for the handling, transportation, storage, distribution and retailing of LPG.
- b) Introduce regulations for the location and operation of LPG filling and storage facilities.

7.5. Renewable Energy

7.5.1. Policy 1: Promote utilisation of new and renewable energy technologies.

Strategies:

- a) Popularise the use of solar photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal and other renewable energy systems to provide energy for various applications, particularly in rural areas.
- b) Facilitate donor (local & international) intervention on the provision of grants, interest-free loans as well and other fiscal incentives for the acquisition of renewable energy devices, including solar photovoltaic and thermal, wind and biomass systems.
- c) Promote the use of solar water heaters in institutional facilities, hotels and private households.

- d) Create awareness of the benefits (economic and environmental) of using renewable energy technologies through public education (TV, radio and other media).
- e) Promote adaptive research and development of renewable energy devices.
- f) Encourage the production/assembly of Renewable energy devices in The Gambia
- g) Encourage utilisation of efficient renewable technologies by providing tax-free concessions on them and on proven energy-efficient devices.
- h) Encourage and support private sector participation in the promotion and development of renewable energy fuels, devices and technologies at competitive prices.

7.6. Fuel wood

7.6.1. Policy 1: Ensure sustainable and efficient utilisation of fuel wood resources.

Strategies:

- a) Encourage the production and promotion of “new generation” improved stoves.
- b) Promote forest management for sustainable exploitation of fuel wood stocks.
- c) Ensure the monitoring of product flow of fuel wood and its consumption.
- d) Ensure the development and introduction of alternative fuels/technologies to fuel wood and charcoal (including kerosene) to curb and minimise the forest cover depletion.
- e) Maintain the ban on the domestic production of charcoal.
- f) Intensify the on-going community forestry management efforts being implemented by the Forestry Department in all Divisions.
- g) Conduct periodic nationwide surveys of fuel wood consumption patterns.

7.7. Institutional Aspects

7.7.1. Policy 1: Ensure an effective enabling institutional framework for the Energy Sector

Strategies:

- a) Harmonise and strengthen the institutional framework for effective policy implementation and coordination of energy-sector in the different institutions, including the creation of a national energy commission and department of energy;
- b) Identify and execute a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the energy sector.

8. LEGAL, REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The provisions in this proposed framework are premised on the following:

- a) The Office of the President being the Department of State responsible for Energy Policy;
- b) Up-grading the Energy Unit, in the Office of the President, to the Department of Energy (DOE);
- c) Creation of a National Energy Commission.
- d) Reform the electricity sub sector (NAWEC) and prepare it for privatisation through public private partnership;
- e) Creation of a Utility Regulatory Agency (Multi-sectoral); and
- f) Introduction of the Divestiture and Electricity Acts.

Timely and efficient execution of the Policy and strategy elements necessitates institution of a sound, well focussed and result-oriented structure to effectively deal with the administrative, legal, regulatory and institutional aspects, as detailed below:

8.1. Legal Aspects

The legal aspects in this Policy comprise existing legal provisions as well as proposed new legislation, to facilitate policy implementation. The legal aspects are as follows:

Existing Legislation and Draft Legislation Being Reviewed:

- 8.1.1. **The New Investment Code (June, 1999):** Investment Incentives granted in this Code to priority investment sectors should be extended to all categories of energy-related imports, especially new and renewable energy items.
- 8.1.2. **The provisions in The Gambia Divestiture Act,** (2001) (by which the Gambia Divestiture Agency was established) should also apply to the Electricity Sub-sector. The Agency should, inter alia, participate, as appropriate, in the reform process of the Electricity Sub-sector, to facilitate private sector participation.
- 8.1.3 **The provisions in The Gambia Public Utilities Regulatory Authority Bill,** 2001, (by which the Gambia Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall be established) should also apply to the Petroleum, Hydrocarbon Exploration, LPG and Renewable Energy sub-sectors; and to the management of energy use.
- 8.1.4 Draft Electricity Law (by Stone and Webster Management Consultants, Inc.) and the Draft Forestry Bill currently being reviewed.

Proposed New Legislation:

The following instruments are proposed:

- 8.1.4. Creation of a National Energy Commission (NEC);
- 8.1.5. Legislation in the following areas:
 - a) Electricity sub-sector;
 - b) Petroleum sub-sector;
 - c) Hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation;
 - d) LPG (including safety in the handling, transportation, storage, distribution, and the location and security of gas filling outfits);
 - e) Fuel wood energy sources;
 - f) Renewable energy;
 - g) Energy Efficiency (Scrupulous management of energy use in buildings, industry, agriculture and in the types of appliances, to prevent misuse and reduce energy costs.)

8.2 Regulatory Functions

To assign meaning to the legislative instruments proposed in Section 8.1, above, it is necessary to institute a Regulatory Framework to independently monitor the Sector, and ensure strict compliance. Objective and meaningful administration of regulatory functions calls for complete separation of legislative and regulatory institutions.

In broad terms, Regulatory functions shall be assigned clearly to the Agency, by statute, with clear procedural guidelines on how to conduct the various tasks, including the following:

- a) Setting the ground rules for operation (by sub-sector);
- b) Licensing: issuing of licences for operating in specific areas of the Sector; and monitoring and enforcing compliance with the provisions in the licences;
- c) Pricing: reviewing tariff proposals and establishing tariffs;
- d) Service and Quality Standards: specifying and enforcing quality standards;
- e) Sector expansion: reviewing capital investment plans;
- f) Monitor compliance with regulations in general and, in particular, specific issues such as arrangements for prevention of fire, explosion and environmental hazards; and competition issues and adjustment of equipment/instruments;
- g) Imposing penalties for non-compliance, as and when necessary, but creating room for regulatory decisions to be appealed against in the courts, if desired.

Specifically, regulatory procedures shall apply to the different Sub-sectors, as follows:

Electricity:

- 8.2.1. Regulation of private sector entry and participation in the generation (supply) and maintenance of electricity supplies.

Petroleum Products:

A Regulatory Framework is necessary to ensure that:

- 8.2.2. There is safety, security and delivery of high quality products, and that the tendency for abuse of procedures, or collusion is avoided;
- 8.2.3. Compliance with existing legislation is adhered to;
- 8.2.4. Safety is guaranteed, thus prevent harm or danger to people, the environment and/or assets;
- 8.2.5. All required fiscal metering is performed in accordance with the regulations;
- 8.2.6. The petroleum pricing mechanism functions, in accordance with the regulations, thus result in open competition;
- 8.2.7. The tax system functions in accordance with existing regulations;

- 8.2.8. Product quality measures up to national and international standards and it meets Gambian specifications;
- 8.2.9. Spot checks are made on fuels including petrol, diesel fuel, kerosene and aviation fuel to prevent product adulteration; and to ensure adherence to safety standards spelt out in existing;
- 8.2.10. The products do not pollute the environment irreversibly.

Separate regulatory arrangements shall be made for LPG and wood Energy sources to administer the following:

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

- 8.2.11. Regulatory procedures governing the granting of permits for dealing in LPG, and inspections on LPG installations, to verify compliance with standards for all aspects of the importation and retailing chain;
- 8.2.12. Regulation to ensure that the benefits from the Government incentives are shared with consumers.

Wood Energy Sources

- 8.2.13. Regulatory processes necessary for the use of traditional energy sources such as fuel wood. Public sector institutions assigned the monitoring of these functions should create an environment that would foster a participatory approach involving the private sector, NGOs and the grassroots (bearing in mind the gender dimension), to effectively harness these resources.

Renewable Energy

- 8.2.14. Regulatory process necessary for the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass. A necessary enabling environment should be created to ensure the provision of renewable energy devices/equipment, beneficiaries have the required basic training from the equipment suppliers, the right equipment and advice is provided, spares and after sales services are provided at competitive prices through a participatory approach involving the private, NGOs and the grassroot to harness the resources.

8.3. Institutional Framework

8.3.1. Existing Institutional Framework

The existing framework for energy is fragmented and consists of the following:

- a) The Office of the President formulates and implements Energy Policy and also serves as the Focal Point for Energy matters. The Energy Unit coordinates energy-related technical matters including the electricity Sub-sector;
- b) Matters relating to the management and supply of traditional fuels are administered by the Department of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources and the Environment through its Department of Forestry (DOF);
- c) The Department of Community Development (DCD) conducts adaptive research into improved technologies for energy production with traditional fuels, and also handles sociological aspects of traditional fuels;
- d) The Commissioner for Petroleum, in the Office of the President, is responsible for hydrocarbon exploration;
- e) The Energy Division, Office of the President, through its technical arm, Gambia Renewable Energy Centre (GREC) assumes the responsibility for conducting adaptive research and development, and promotion of renewable energy and alternative energy technology use;
- f) The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is the Desk Office for the Gambia's participation in the OMVG initiative to generate hydro-electricity for its member-countries (The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau).

8.3.2. Proposed New Institutional Framework

- a) Office of the President to be the coordinating office for implementing this Policy;
- b) Creation of a National Energy Commission (NEC) to guide policy implementation and review. The Commission should be composed of members from both the public and private sectors, to reflect the holistic approach necessary for efficient development of the Sector. The mandate of the Commission shall include:
 - i) Overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the National Energy Policy (NEP);
 - ii) Participate in periodic policy review;
 - iii) Deliberation on energy-related matters that impact on the Energy Sector and the economy;
- c) Strengthening of the Energy Unit in the Office of the President in the immediate future, to enable it conduct its technical coordination functions; and elevation of the Unit to a Department of Energy (DOE), in the medium-term to long-term, to serve as the Technical Secretariat to the NEC and also execute the following responsibilities:

- i) Planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all energy-related activities in the implementing institutions (existing institutions as well new ones proposed to be created to facilitate policy implementation);
- ii) Foster effective in-country inter-agency collaboration, to facilitate efficient policy implementation;
- iii) Ensure strengthening of the Gambia Renewable Energy Centre (GREC) to provide technical backstopping in the sound development and use of renewable energy;
- iv) Establish/nurture linkages with sub-regional/regional energy-related initiatives (including knowledge networks, WAPP and the OMVG), to facilitate accrual of substantial benefits to The Gambia, in energy development and utilisation;
- v) To network, as appropriate, with other countries/organisations abroad, particularly in the development of technologies and human resources, to enhance the Gambia's potential in the development and use of energy-efficient and environment-friendly technologies for national energy supplies;
- vi) Prepare list of roles for all participating institutions to ensure effective policy implementation;
- vii) Monitor each institution to ensure that there is maximum efficiency in the execution of their assigned tasks;
- viii) Conduct periodic evaluation exercises and submit reports;
- ix) Periodic reports should identify constraints in the implementation process and propose measures for overcoming the constraints;
- x) Ensure that all existing and new legislation are implemented;
- xi) Ensure effective liaison between the participating institutions, the private sector and non-government organisations;
- xii) Prepare and identify funding for a comprehensive capacity-building programme for the energy sector, in collaboration with the various sub-sector agencies, to build a critical mass of expertise, at all levels that would facilitate sustainability of energy supplies.