



**CENTRAL BANK OF THE GAMBIA
REMARKS BY GOVERNOR FAMARA L. JATTA**

On the Occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the National Workshop on Training and Capacity Building on Counter Money laundering and Terrorist Financing Organised in Collaboration with the CBEMP and UNODC, June 15-17, 2005, Banjul The Gambia.

- Mr. Chairman
- Madame Director, Capacity Building for Economic and Management Project
- Representatives of UNODC
- Experts
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel deeply honoured to be associated with such an important Workshop. I wish to first of all welcome you to this Workshop particularly the experts who have traveled afar to join us in enhancing our efforts towards building a robust regime in the fight against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing.

Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism (*AML/CFT*) issues have become increasingly important in a global economy where funds can easily and immediately be transferred from one financial institution to another, including transfers to institutions in different jurisdictions. The international community is relying upon all countries to establish effective AML/CFT regimes that are capable of successfully preventing, detecting and prosecuting money laundering and terrorist financing in order to fight the devastating economic and social consequences of these criminal activities.

Money Laundering, in a simple form, is the process by which proceeds from a criminal activity are disguised to conceal their illicit origin. On the other hand, financing of terrorism is the financial support, in any form, of those who encourage, plan, or engage in terrorism. These terms have been further defined to reflect more comprehensively on the complexities in the fight against this scourge. I am sure the Workshop will come across one or several more of these definitions.

Initially, money laundering was associated with illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs. At the moment, ill-gotten gains are known to be proceeds of a vast range of criminal activities – amongst them political corruption, illegal sale of weapons, and illicit trafficking in and exploitation of human beings.

Regardless of the crime, money launderers resort to placement, layering and integration in the process of turning illicit proceeds into apparently legal monies or goods. I am convinced that the Workshop would provide more insight into the processes and linkages between money laundering and terrorist financing as you progress in the subject matter.

The fight against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing has gained so much international attention to the point that it cannot be discussed without reflecting on the effects this menace would have on small economies like that of The Gambia. These include amongst many the following: –

- **Increase in Crime and Corruption** – Successful money laundering in any country helps make criminal activities attractive to the extent that such a country becomes a safe haven for criminals thereby attracting more criminals and promoting corruption.
- **International Consequence & Foreign Investments** – Countries perceived to be safe havens for criminals will always be shun by the international community and are less likely to attract foreign investments.
- **Weakened Financial Institutions** – Money laundering and terrorism activities tend to weaken the soundness of a country's financial system as well as the stability of its financial institutions through loss of profitable businesses and liquidity problems resulting from erratic withdrawal of funds.

It is my belief, Mr. Chairman, that the experts will reflect more on these during your discussions.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, The Gambia has signed and ratified the Vienna Convention as well as the Palermo Convention which are the first steps of a country's commitment in joining the international community in the fight against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing. In addition, The Gambia has promulgated a law criminalizing the activities related to money laundering and has complemented it with directives to banks and other financial institutions to adopt the Know Your Customer/Customer Due Diligence of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

I am aware of the additional tasks we are faced in enhancing our regime, some of which are included in your agenda. I hope you will come up with viable and practical recommendations to help us address these issues.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank the Capacity Building for Economic Management Project, for their collaboration in financing this important Workshop. I also wish to thank the UNODC for their interest in assisting The Gambia deal with activities relating to money laundering and terrorism financing.

On this note Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my singular honour to declare this Workshop open.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

FAMARA L JATTA
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CENTRAL BANK OF THE GAMBIA
15 JUNE 2005