

The Supreme Court of the Gambia on Tuesday 21st December 2021 presides over the 2021 presidential election petition filed by the United Democratic Party.

At the hearing, the Supreme Court was to hear the arguments of parties on the motion of the 16th December 2021 seeking the court to strike out the petition on grounds of constitutionality.

However, counsel for the 1st Respondent intimated to the court that the 1st Respondent has filed another motion dated 20th December 2021 seeking similar but more detail grounds for the striking out of the petition.

Counsel for the 1st Respondent also intimated to the court that he has filed another motion seeking to consolidate the two motions and argue them together. This application was opposed by counsel for the Petitioner on grounds that it is made in bad faith intending to delay proceeding. Therefore ask the court to dismiss the motion.

The court refused the 1st respondent's application to consolidate the two motions and ordered that the 1st motion be heard today and the 2nd motion on Friday 24th December 2021.

Consequent to the court's ruling the 1st Respondent's counsel seek to withdraw the 1st motion asking the court to strike out.

Counsel for the petitioner opposed the application, but the court allowed the application and strike out the matter awarding cost of D10, 000 against the 1st Respondent to the Petitioner.

The court proceeded to announce that pursuant to the pre-trial conference held on the 20th December 2021 at the Chambers of the Hon. Chief Justice, the following is ordered:

1. That all Respondents file and serve their replies on or before the 22nd December 2021.
2. That hearing of the petition will commence on Tuesday 28th December 2021.
3. That the Petitioner and 1st Respondent are given five days each, the 2nd Respondent (IEC) two days and the 3rd Respondent (AG) one day to argue their case.

4. That the list and particulars of witnesses be filed on or before the 24th December 2021, failure of which such witnesses will not be heard except for good cause.

The matter is adjourned to Friday 24th December 2021 at 9:30am for the hearing of the 1st Respondent's second motion dated 20th December 2021.