

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Senegal Summary 22 May 2025

Members of parliament (MPs) vote on 8 May to refer five ministers who served under former president Macky Sall (2012-2024) to the Haute Cour de justice (high court of justice), a special court that has the mandate to investigate and judge crimes against ministers. The five former ministers are being investigated for embezzlement from Senegal's Covid-19 fund. Senegal secures over \$3 billion in financing from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), indicating that confidence in the country remains high despite the previous administration's misreporting of economic data. Prime minister Ousmane Sonko visits Burkina Faso to bolster ties.

Former ministers charged in Covid-19 funds case

Members of parliament (MPs) voted on 8 May to refer five ministers who served under former president **Macky Sall** (2012-2024) to the **Haute Cour de justice** (high court of justice), a special court that has the mandate to investigate and judge crimes against ministers. The outcome was expected as President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye's** (2024-present) **Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef)** party holds the majority in the **Assemblée nationale** (national assembly).

The court has only presided over two cases – one in 1963 and another in 2005 – indicating the significance of this development.¹ The five ministers in question are:

- **Mansour Faye**, Sall's brother in law, and former community development, social and territorial equity minister and then infrastructure minister;
- **Aïssatou Sophie Gladima**, former mines and geology minister and then energy and oil minister;
- **Moustapha Diop**, former industrial development and small and medium enterprises minister;
- **Salimata Diop Dieng**, former women, family, gender and child protection minister;
- **Ismaila Madior Fall**, former justice minister and then foreign affairs minister.²

Dieng and Diop were elected MPs in November but parliament lifted their immunity to allow them to face investigations. Four of the five charges are linked to the management of the 770 billion FCFA (\$1.32 billion) in **Covid-19** funds that the state raised with the help of international partners, intended to cushion citizens against the fallout of the pandemic.

However, a **Cour des comptes** (court of auditors) investigation in 2022 found massive cases of embezzlement of the funds. The court identified several examples of misuse of the funds, including the alleged purchase of flower boxes worth 240m FCFA (\$414,444) by the urban planning ministry, which also organised a celebratory cocktail party that cost 40m FCFA (\$69,073).³ The community development ministry, of which Faye was in charge, also recorded 399m FCFA (\$689,010) in unusual disbursements. Other suspicious payments include Gladima who allegedly paid 73.2m FCFA (\$126,404) to a company for the construction of a gravimetric processing unit without any work done, a violation of the public accounting rules that govern payments from government, and 2.5 billion FCFA (\$4.3m), meant to purchase masks, that was paid from the public treasury's deposit

¹ Jeune Afrique, 9 May 2025

² Jeune Afrique, 9 May 2025

³ Jeune Afrique, 18 Apr 2025

account into a bank account managed by Diop personally.⁴ Madior Fall's charges are related to accusations of corruption and bribery by a real estate developer.⁵ On 20 May, the court placed Madio Fall under electronic surveillance.⁶ On 19 May, the court charged Dieng with complicity in embezzlement of 52m FCFA (\$89,795) and set her bail at 57m FCFA (\$98,430), which she paid in order to be placed under judicial supervision.⁷

The opposition has denounced these court cases as political, but the court of auditors' findings were made public in December 2022, before the March 2024 presidential election, and no action was taken against those implicated, likely as Sall was focused on the election, and charging ministers under his administration would have not boded well for his campaign. The new administration ran on an anti-corruption mandate and these cases finally being heard reinforces this.

World Bank and ITFC confirm financing for Senegal

Senegal has continued to attract commitments from international financial institutions despite the revelations that the former administration had misrepresented Senegal's debt levels, indicating that confidence in the country and the new administration remains high.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) managing director **Makhtar Diop** confirmed in an interview with local media outlet **Le Soleil** that the IFC will invest approximately \$1 billion in Senegal this year.⁸ The IFC is the **World Bank's** private sector arm. The funding will be focused on infrastructure, energy and agriculture, to help authorities reach goals set out in **Vision Senegal 2050**, Senegal's development plan unveiled in October 2024.

Economy minister **Abdourahmane Sarr** also signed a \$2.26 billion five-year framework agreement on 21 May with **International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)** CEO **Adeeb Yousuf Al-Aama** on the side-lines of the **Islamic Development Bank (IDB)** annual meetings.⁹ The framework agreement, covering 2025-2029, will focus on funding sectors including energy supply, agriculture, health and private sector development with the overarching goal of promoting job creation. Since 2008, when it was established, the ITFC has invested \$1.9 billion in Senegal through 27 projects.

These international institutions offering Senegal such significant financing indicates that the former administration's misreporting of debt and other economic figures has not harmed Senegal's reputation too much and will instil confidence ahead of **International Monetary Fund's (IMF)** meetings on a new staff-monitored programme.

Sonko visits Burkina Faso

Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** arrived in **Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)** for an official visit on 16 May, meeting with Burkina Faso's junta leader, Captain **Ibrahim Traoré**, to express support for Burkina Faso and its fight against terrorism, and to discuss the ongoing tensions between the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** and **Alliance des États du Sahel (AES)** (alliance of **Sahel** states) of which Burkina Faso, alongside **Mali** and **Niger**, is a member.

Notably, Sonko said that ECOWAS had made errors in managing political crisis in the Sahel and called for dialogue and reconciliation between ECOWAS and the AES. Sonko noted that ECOWAS had not spoken up when he had been imprisoned under the former administration, potentially creating tension between himself and ECOWAS.

Sonko confirmed that Burkina Faso and Senegal already have 20 agreements ratified and a further 23 under discussion, emphasising that Burkina Faso's lack of membership of ECOWAS will not impact

⁴ Le Soleil, 8 May 2025

⁵ Jeune Afrique, 20 May 2025

⁶ Sene News, 20 May 2025

⁷ Jeune Afrique, 20 May 2025

⁸ Le Soleil, 12 May 2025; Le Soleil, 8 May 2025

⁹ APA News, 21 May 2025

this.¹⁰ It was also announced that the 6th **Joint Cooperation Commission** between the two countries would be held but no date was set, while Sonko invited Burkina Faso's prime minister, **Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo**, to visit Senegal.¹¹

A joint statement following Sonko's meeting with Oudédraogo indicated that the two spoke of increasing efforts to tackle terrorism and cross-border crime and trafficking through activities such as increased information sharing.¹² Further, Sonko acknowledged that it is "illusory" to think that terrorism will remain contained to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and that every country in the region will be impacted.¹³

Planner

2027 (Senegal) Yakaar-Teranga gas project set to begin production;

Chronology

22 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Soleil*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** and his **Mauritanian** counterpart **Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani** visit the **Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA)** gas project, located along their shared maritime border;

19 May 2025 **Moscow (Russia)** *APA News*. Foreign ministry's department of partnership with **Africa** director, **Tatiana Dovgalenko**, says Russia has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ties with the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** under its **2023-2026 Russia-Africa Partnership Action Plan**;

19 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Soleil*. **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative's (EITI)** Senegal president, **Thialy Faye**, says EITI paid 571 billion FCFA (\$986m) to the state in 2023 and the first half of 2024;

16 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** begins a 48-hour visit to **Burkina Faso**, meeting with junta leader Captain **Ibrahim Traoré** to discuss regional security challenges;

12 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. **World Bank's** private sector arm **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** managing director **Makhtar Diop** confirms the IFC plans to invest nearly \$1 billion in Senegal in 2025;

12 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. State-owned electricity company **Société nationale d'électricité du Sénégal (Senelec)** starts operations to convert its **Bel Air** thermal power plants to natural gas;

9 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Jeune Afrique*. Members of parliament (MPs) pass a resolution to refer five ministers that served under former president **Macky Sall** to the **Haute cour de justice** (high court of justice) for investigation into various financial crimes;

7 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. State-owned electricity company **Société nationale d'électricité du Sénégal (Senelec)** director **Papa Toby Gaye** says electricity fraud costs Senelec up to 90 billion FCFA (\$155.41m) per year;

5 May 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Energy Capital & Power*. Energy, petroleum and mines ministry reports the **Sangomar** oil field has produced and sold 3.8 million barrels of crude since operations began in January 2025;

¹⁰ APA News, 20 May 2025

¹¹ Le Soleil, 19 May 2025

¹² Sene News, 17 May 2025

¹³ Jeune Afrique, 17 May 2025

29 Apr 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** holds discussions with **Qatari** secretary of state for foreign affairs **Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraiki** on strengthening collaboration between Senegal and Qatar;

25 Apr 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Reuters*. Constitutional court rejects parliament's approval to revise an amnesty law that would have allowed for possible prosecutions over the deaths of dozens of protesters during anti-government demonstrations between 2021 and 2024;

25 Apr 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Soleil*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** forecasts that Senegal's economy will grow by 8.4% in 2025, the highest rate on the continent;

24 Apr 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Soleil*. Chief of staff in the economy, planning and cooperation ministry **Gorgui Fall** announces that Senegal will invest 4.37 trillion FCFA (\$7.54 billion) in public-private partnerships between 2025 and 2029;

22 Apr 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Tax authorities report that the digital tax introduced in July 2024 has led to collections of 1 billion FCFA (\$1.75m) thus far;

21 Apr 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sene News*. A high-level delegation meets with **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** managing director **Kristalina Georgieva** on the sidelines of the IMF and **World Bank** spring meetings;

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