

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Côte d'Ivoire Briefing July 2020

Côte d'Ivoire Summary 15 July 2020

Prime minister and ruling Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP) candidate for the October presidential elections Amadou Gon Coulibaly dies as a result of a longstanding heart condition. The power vacuum his death creates may see President Alassane Ouattara (2010-present) pursue a third presidential term. President Ouattara extends Cote d'Ivoire's national state of emergency and lifts the confinement of Greater Abidjan, enabling travel into and from the metropolis for the first time since 26 March. The government takes steps to improve production and processing capacities for operators in the rubber and cocoa sectors. An agreement with a consortium of rubber sector players sees tax exemptions and adjustments in return for investment in increased production and processing capacities. The economy and finance ministry underwrites a €330m (\$376.4m) loan from Chinese financial institutions to the coffee and cocoa representative body, Conseil Café-Cacao (CCC), to construct cocoa processing plants and storage units.

Prime minister's death opens succession battle

Prime minister **Amadou Gon Coulibaly** died in **Abidjan** on 8 July, after falling ill during a cabinet meeting earlier in the day.¹ The 61-year-old Gon Coulibaly was set to represent the ruling coalition, **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)**, as its candidate in the 30 October presidential elections. His sudden demise is likely to create a succession battle within the RHDP.²

Gon Coulibaly died a few days after returning from **Paris (France)** on 2 July, to where he had been evacuated on 2 May to receive treatment related to complications from a heart transplant he had received in 2012, resulting in the placement of a pacemaker.³ Gon Coulibaly's return had been delayed several times, leading to local conjecture about his health. However, on arrival at the **Aéroport International Felix Houphouet-Boigny**, Gon Coulibaly attempted to dispel speculation, stating he was in good health.⁴ He dined with President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present), defence minister **Hamed Bakayoko**, who served as acting prime minister during his absence, and presidential affairs minister and younger brother of President Ouattara, **Tene Brahim Ouattara**, on 5 July.⁵ He also met with France's ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, **Gilles Huberson**, on 6 July and the following day held a meeting with cabinet ministers at his office.⁶ On the morning of 8 July, Gon Coulibaly attended a cabinet meeting, during which he became ill.⁷ President Ouattara adjourned the meeting and ordered that Gon Coulibaly be taken to the **Polyclinique Internationale Sainte Anne-Marie (Pisam)** in Abidjan to receive treatment, where Gon Coulibaly was later pronounced dead.⁸ Presidency secretary

¹ Koaci.com, 8 Jul 2020

² Koaci.com, 8 Jul 2020

³ RFI, 8 Jul 2020

⁴ RFI, 8 Jul 2020

⁵ Jeune Afrique, 9 Jul 2020

⁶ Jeune Afrique, 9 Jul 2020

⁷ Jeune Afrique, 9 Jul 2020

⁸ Jeune Afrique, 9 Jul 2020

general **Patrick Achi** announced his death that evening on the state broadcaster.⁹ The office of the presidency declared eight days of national mourning.¹⁰

Gon Coulibaly's death has thrown Cote d'Ivoire's already tumultuous political landscape into greater disarray. The ruling RHDP coalition had in March selected Gon Coulibaly, at the behest of President Ouattara, as its presidential candidate for the October election (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire April 2020*). Ouattara had described Gon Coulibaly as the “*natural candidate*” for the presidential candidacy, lauding his experience and technocratic background.¹¹

Gon Coulibaly had a 30-year working relationship with Ouattara. He was technical adviser to the prime minister when Ouattara held the position from 1990-1993.¹² In 1994, he resigned from the **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** to join Ouattara's newly formed **Rassemblement des Republicains (RDR)** and helped to write the party's founding texts. Gon Coulibaly was member of parliament (MP) for **Korhogo**, the town from which he hailed, from 1995 to 1999. In 1999 he was arrested by former president **Henri Konan Bedié** (1993-99) and sentenced to two years' imprisonment for participating in opposition protests. Gon Coulibaly served as mayor of Korhogo from 2001 to 2018, concurrently with his term as agriculture minister from 2003 to 2010 and presidency secretary general from 2012 to 2017. He served as prime minister from January 2017 until his death.¹³

Gon Coulibaly's selection in March as presidential candidate did not receive unanimous approval within the presidential coalition. Former foreign affairs minister **Marcel Amon Tanoh** and former higher education minister **Moïse Toïkeusse Abri** claimed the party should have held a primary race to decide its candidate as Ouattara himself had suggested in the past (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire April 2020*).¹⁴ Despite Gon Coulibaly's questionable health, Ouattara had not considered a 'plan B' for the October election.¹⁵ However, certain individuals stand out as potential frontrunners to stand in as the RHDP's flag bearer:

President Alassane Ouattara

Despite announcing in March that he would not run for a third term and wanted to pass the mantle of leadership to a new generation, President Ouattara has previously mooted the possibility of standing for the 2020 election. Despite having served two presidential terms, Ouattara argues that the adoption of the 2016 constitution nullifies his previous mandates.¹⁶ In November, Ouattara acknowledged he would participate in the elections if his former ally, Henri Konan Bedié, ran for office (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire December 2019*). After the PDCI's selection of Konan Bedié as its presidential candidate on 2 July, this scenario is an increasing possibility, particularly since the PDCI has established a political alliance ahead of the elections with former president **Laurent Gbagbo's** (2000-2010) **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)**.

Sources have indicated that Ouattara's lack of confidence in Bakayoko and his desire to ensure the north retains political control are his main motivating factors in seeking a third term.¹⁷ RHDP executive secretary **Adama Bictogo** leads a faction within the party that supports Ouattara running for a third term. However, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** is officially opposed to heads of state violating the two-term limit and Ouattara may also encounter opposition from France's President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present), who earlier congratulated him for his decision not to stand for an additional term.¹⁸

⁹ Koaci.com, 8 Jul 2020

¹⁰ Koaci.com, 9 Jul 2020

¹¹ Koaci.com, 12 Mar 2020

¹² Jeune Afrique, 12 Jul 2020

¹³ Jeune Afrique, 12 Jul 2020

¹⁴ African Development Bank analyst

¹⁵ Jeune Afrique, 12 Jul 2020

¹⁶ ARC Cote d'Ivoire analyst

¹⁷ African Development Bank source

¹⁸ Africa Intelligence, 15 Jul 2020

Hamed Bakayoko

Defence minister Hamed Bakayoko is a logical successor to Gon Coulibaly as the RHDP presidential candidate. Bakayoko has been a cabinet minister throughout Ouattara's presidency and was also a minister under Gbagbo's government of national unity. Like Gon Coulibaly and Ouattara, Bakayoko hails from the north, the RHDP's electoral support base.¹⁹ In addition, by virtue of his 2018 victory as the mayor of one of Abidjan's most populous communes, **Abobo**, Bakayoko has a solid political base, which is buttressed by his popularity amongst the youth.²⁰ Furthermore, he has a close relationship with the first lady, **Dominique Ouattara**, who had lobbied for him as the RHDP presidential candidate before Gon Coulibaly was chosen.²¹ However, the 55-year-old Bakayoko does not enjoy the president's confidence to the extent that Gon Coulibaly did. Sources indicate this may be because Bakayoko would be less easy for Ouattara to influence, if the former became president.²²

Patrick Achi

The current secretary general at the presidency is a longstanding member of government who was infrastructure minister from 2000-2017 under the respective presidencies of Gbagbo and Ouattara.²³ The 64-year-old Achi is from the south and is president of **Mé** regional council. As former PDCI vice president, he could be an attractive presidential candidate by taking away votes from the PDCI.²⁴ Achi is a **United States**-educated trained engineer, whose technocrat profile appeals to Ouattara. However, despite his status as a regional president, Achi's chances are slim, as he does not have an identifiable political base.²⁵

The **Commission Électorale Indépendante (CEI)** has set 1 September as the deadline for presidential hopefuls to confirm their candidatures for the elections, but President Ouattara will aim to have the RHDP candidate decided as soon as possible.²⁶

In addition to possible opposition from foreign partners, Ouattara could risk encouraging the establishment of a strong "*anti-Ouattara*" coalition in the lead-up to the election. Exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) president and presidential candidate **Guillaume Soro** could join the PDCI-FPI alliance. Disgruntled RHDP members may also switch allegiance,²⁷ such as vice president **Donald Kablan Duncan**, who officially resigned from cabinet on 13 July, although he issued his resignation letter in February.²⁸ Duncan, a PDCI member, officially stepped down for personal reasons, but sources indicate his failure to be considered a presidential successor by Ouattara and his increasingly minimal role in government motivated this decision.²⁹ The emergence of such an alliance could significantly raise the stakes in a country with a well-established history of election-related violence.

State of emergency maintained but lockdown of Greater Abidjan lifted

The government is maintaining the state of emergency throughout Cote d'Ivoire until 30 July but has ended the isolation of **Covid-19** epicentre **Greater Abidjan** from the rest of the country. Although domestic and international flights are authorised to recommence, land and sea borders remain

¹⁹ Abidjan-based analyst

²⁰ Abidjan-based analyst

²¹ Abidjan-based analyst

²² Abidjan-based analyst

²³ Jeune Afrique, 11 Jul 2020

²⁴ Jeune Afrique, 11 Jul 2020

²⁵ Abidjan-based analyst

²⁶ Koaci.com, 9 Jul 2020

²⁷ Abidjan-based analyst

²⁸ Koaci.com, 13 Jul 2020

²⁹ Abidjan-based analyst

closed.³⁰ Foreign visitors are required to undergo screening upon arrival at Aeroport International Felix Houphouet-Boigny and will be monitored throughout their stay.³¹

President Ouattara chaired a meeting of the **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council) on 13 July, which extended the national state of emergency, set to end on 15 July, to 30 July.³² The extension of the state of emergency has been a regular exercise since it commenced on 25 March (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire April 2020*) during the early stages of the pandemic in Cote d'Ivoire. Bars, cinemas, nightclubs and other entertainment centres will remain closed but the CNS announced that lockdown of Greater Abidjan would be lifted on 15 July.³³ Movement into and out of the region had been highly restricted since 26 March, as it harboured 96% of Covid-19 cases, according to the health ministry.³⁴ Cote d'Ivoire has recorded 12,872 cases in its territory, with 2,810 recoveries and 84 deaths at time of writing.³⁵ Despite the disproportionate number of cases in Abidjan, there is also concern about the rising number of cases in localities such as **Aboisso, Bouake and San Pedro**.³⁶

The CNS said operation of the country's five regional care hubs was underway, with Bouake and San Pedro already functional, while **Abengourou, Gagnoa** and Korhogo are still to be completed.³⁷ Health ministry technical adviser Dr. **Edith Clarisse Kouassi** attributed the rise in the number of cases to an increase in the number of tests conducted.³⁸ Kouassi said the proportion of cases had reduced from a high of 41% of positive cases from tested individuals by mid-June to the current figure of 15-20%.³⁹ The CNS highlighted that Cote d'Ivoire's mortality rate of 0.7% is low compared to the current global situation.⁴⁰ The CNS said it intended to make wearing of protective masks compulsory, saying that only 10% of Greater Abidjan residents were adhering to this measure.⁴¹ The government distributed 101 million masks from 7 May to 20 June, according to the health ministry.⁴²

The government has embarked on the fourth phase of management of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first phase, from March to mid-April, was characterised by the implementation of a nationwide lockdown and significant restrictions on the movement of individuals and carrying out of socio-economic activities.⁴³ This saw the government attempt to confine the virus to the upper-class Abidjan communes of **Cocody and Marcory**, where most cases were identified, and to establish health support mechanisms throughout the country as well as formulate a socio-economic response plan.⁴⁴ The second phase, from mid-April to early June, saw the removal of restrictions such as lifting the lockdown outside of Greater Abidjan, reopening schools and allowing larger numbers of people to attend gatherings. These measures were in response to pressure regarding the socio-economic consequences that a prolonged confinement could have on the population. However, an uptick in confirmed Covid-19 cases in Greater Abidjan as well as the emergence of cases in the interior of the country led to the reintroduction of restrictive measures for the better part of June.⁴⁵ Currently, the fourth stage demonstrates the government's attempt to undertake measures that will gradually ensure the resumption of economic activities and enable people to move with greater ease

³⁰ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

³¹ Le Point, 29 Jun 2020

³² FratMat.info, 13 Jun 2020

³³ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

³⁴ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

³⁵ Abidjan.net, 15 Jul 2020

³⁶ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

³⁷ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

³⁸ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

³⁹ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

⁴⁰ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

⁴¹ Abidjan.net, 13 Jul 2020

⁴² FratMat.info, 29 Jun 2020

⁴³ Abidjan-based analyst

⁴⁴ Abidjan-based analyst

⁴⁵ Abidjan-based analyst

throughout the country. Ivorian sources say the government appears to have control of the situation at present, despite the backslide in June.⁴⁶

Rubber and cocoa sectors get a boost

The government concluded an agreement with a consortium of 12 rubber sector players in terms of which it will grant tax exemptions and adjustments to these firms, while the rubber operators will invest in increasing their production and processing capacities.⁴⁷ The agreement was signed on 16 June in the presence of acting prime minister Hamed Bakayoko. The group of rubber sector companies was led by the **Société Africaine de Plantation d'Hévéas de Côte d'Ivoire (SAPH)**, a branch of Cote d'Ivoire-based agro-industrial firm **Sifca**.⁴⁸ In terms of the agreement, the companies will invest 56.5 billion FCFA (\$98.3m) during the period from 2020-2023, which will enable Cote d'Ivoire to raise its annual rubber production and transformation capacity to 2 million tonnes and around 1 million tonnes per year by 2023.⁴⁹ The initiative is expected to lead to the creation of 1,819 jobs.⁵⁰ In 2019, rubber output stood at 780,000 tonnes while 519,000 tonnes were processed.⁵¹ Trade and investment minister **Souleymane Diarrasouba** said specific agreements would be signed with each company,⁵² with tax credits expected to range from 25%-75% depending on the amount each firm invests.⁵³

Like most commercial agriculture sectors in the country, Cote d'Ivoire's rubber sector has been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector has experienced a drop in exports and the global price as a result of a drop in demand from **China** and tire manufacturers. Furthermore, Cote d'Ivoire has not been able to compete with more competitive rubber producers such as **Indonesia, Thailand** and **Vietnam**.⁵⁴ In response, President Ouattara announced that the rubber sector would receive 24.98 billion (\$42.9m) of the 250 billion FCFA (\$413.7m) support package he approved for 11 agricultural sectors in May (see ARC *Briefing Cote d'Ivoire June 2020*). The government plans to boost transformation capacity in the long term to 100% of rubber output. Local operators have also called on the government to abolish the 5% turnover tax.⁵⁵

Cote d'Ivoire's cocoa and coffee representative body, the **Conseil Café-Cacao (CCC)**, reportedly intends to borrow €330m (\$376.4m) from Chinese financial institutions to construct cocoa processing plants and storage units.⁵⁶ The Ivorian government, via the economy and finance ministry, has approved the project and will provide a guarantee to underwrite the funding.⁵⁷ The project entails the establishment of two cocoa processing factories at San Pedro and Abidjan, with a transformation capacity of 50,000 tonnes per year for each factory.⁵⁸ The Abidjan factory will be located at the new industrial development zone at **Akoupe-Zeudji**,⁵⁹ which the government is developing in partnership with **African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)**.⁶⁰ In addition, two storage units, which can stock 150,000 tonnes of cocoa each, will be constructed. The two initiatives aim to improve the cocoa value chain and reduce the amount of raw exports, and control the amount of cocoa available on the international market in a bid to influence the price.⁶¹ CCC president **Yves Kone** noted:

⁴⁶ Abidjan-based analyst

⁴⁷ Jeune Afrique, 17 Jun 2020

⁴⁸ Sika Finance, 17 Jun 2020

⁴⁹ Jeune Afrique, 17 Jun 2020

⁵⁰ Sika Finance, 17 Jun 2020

⁵¹ Jeune Afrique, 17 Jun 2020

⁵² Jeune Afrique, 17 Jun 2020

⁵³ Agence Ecofin, 17 Jun 2020

⁵⁴ Jeune Afrique, 17 Jun 2020

⁵⁵ Jeune Afrique, 17 Jun 2020

⁵⁶ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁵⁷ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁵⁸ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁵⁹ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁶⁰ Gouv.ci, 11 Nov 2019

⁶¹ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

“This is the vision of President Ouattara, which we are executing in order to enable farmers to have a decent price. This plan will put us under less pressure from the international markets.”⁶²

CCC’s Chinese partner, **China Light Industry Design Co. Ltd (CNDC)**, will assist it to obtain the loan.⁶³ CNDC is a state-owned firm involved in agro-industry, construction, engineering and light industry activities. CNDC is also a branch of state-owned **China Haisun Engineering Co.**⁶⁴ While the potential funders for this initiative have not yet been revealed, there is speculation that the CCC could solicit the assistance of **EximBank China** due to its experience in financing the activities of **Ghana’s** cocoa regulatory body, **Cocobod**.⁶⁵ **China Development Bank** and **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** have also been cited as possible financiers.⁶⁶

The Ivorian government has taken several steps over the past two years to add value to the local cocoa industry. In March 2018, Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana, the world’s two largest cocoa producers, signed the **Abidjan Declaration**, indicating their intention to harmonise their cocoa policies in order to assert themselves as global industry leaders.⁶⁷ In June 2019, Ivorian and Ghanaian cocoa buyers agreed to establish a minimum price of \$2,600 per tonne. Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana presented an alternative pricing option that would entail a \$400 per tonne **Living Income Differential (LID)**.⁶⁸ The LID aims to ensure that farmers obtain at least 70% of the \$2,600 per tonne minimum price, with this written into export contracts, and provide support for farmers if market prices fall below \$2,600 (see *ARC Briefing Cote d’Ivoire July 2019*).⁶⁹ In order to improve cocoa transformation capacity, the CCC established an ambitious cocoa transformation plan in July 2019, with a target of 900,000 tonnes of transformed cocoa by 2020.⁷⁰ By 2019, Cote d’Ivoire had the largest transformation capacity in Africa at 580,000 tonnes, second only to the **Netherlands** globally.⁷¹

Planner

31 Oct 2020 (**Côte d’Ivoire**) *Abidjan.net*. Scheduled presidential elections;

Chronology

14 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d’Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d’Ivoire launches fourth bond loan on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional market, where it intends to raise 145 billion FCFA for budgetary support;

13 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d’Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Vice president **Donald Kablan Duncan** resigns from cabinet, reportedly for personal reasons;

11 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d’Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Senate president **Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio** contracts **Covid-19**, reportedly while undertaking a medical evaluation in **Germany**;

10 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d’Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. The transportation of merchandise on the **Abidjan-Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)** railway recommenced on 8 July, following the suspension of activities on 16 March as a result of the **Covid-19** outbreak;

9 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d’Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The office of the presidency declares eight days of national mourning following the death of former prime minister **Amadou Gon Coulibaly**;

⁶² Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁶³ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁶⁴ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁶⁵ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁶⁶ Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2020

⁶⁷ AllAfrica.com, 26 Mar 2018

⁶⁸ Reuters, 3 Jul 2019

⁶⁹ Reuters, 10 Jul 2019

⁷⁰ Jeune Afrique, 9 Jul 2019

⁷¹ Jeune Afrique, 9 Jul 2019

9 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The **Commission Electorale Indépendante** (independent electoral commission) will receive candidatures for the October presidential election from 16 July to 1 September;

8 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. Prime minister and presidential candidate for the ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** **Amadou Gon Coulibaly** dies aged 61 after falling ill during a cabinet meeting;

8 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. The government will set aside 171 billion FCFA (\$296.4m) for the construction and rehabilitation of health centres, dispensaries and maternity wards;

7 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d'Ivoire raises 35.5 billion FCFA (\$61.5m) on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market through a treasury bond issue, below its target of 45 billion FCFA (\$78m);

3 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former president and presidential candidate for the opposition **Parti Démocratique de la Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** **Henri Konan Bédié** warns that citizens from **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** member states should not register on the electoral roll for the October elections;

30 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Petroleum and renewable energy minister **Abdourahmane Cisse** during videoconference with the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** reports that Côte d'Ivoire produces 30,000 barrels of oil per day and 210 million cubic feet per day of gas;

29 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. Government provides 14 billion FCFA (\$24m) subsidy to state-owned **Air Cote Ivoire**;

26 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. The **Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)** (**West African Development Bank**) has provided a 20 billion FCFA (\$34.1m) loan to the Ivorian government for construction of the 42-km **Yakasse-Attobrou** road network;

26 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Floods across Abidjan communes have caused seven deaths, displaced inhabitants and destroyed homes;

25 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **MTN-Cote d'Ivoire**, a branch of **South Africa**-based telecoms firm **MTN**, has signed an agreement with **South Africa**-based **Teyliom** to construct new headquarters at the **Akwaba Business Park** at a cost of 20 billion FCFA (\$34.1m);

23 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Germany**-based development bank **KfW** has allocated a 5.9 billion FCFA (\$10m) loan to the Ivorian government, which will go towards agricultural development;

22 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Defence minister and acting prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko** announces the capture of the leader of the jihadist commando responsible for the attack on an army post at **Kafolo** on the **Burkinabé** border on 11 June;

20 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. The opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** designates former president **Henri Konan Bédié** as its candidate for the October presidential elections;

20 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. State-owned airline **Air Ivoire** says domestic flights will recommence from 26 June;

20 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. The **World Bank** and Ivorian government sign two financing conventions worth 224.68 billion FCFA (\$390.7m), which will go towards the **Urban Sanitation and Resilience** and **Women's Empowerment Project and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel** projects;

19 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. An Ivorian government communiqué announces Cote d'Ivoire will not seek a debt suspension from its private creditors;

18 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. A landslide at the Abidjan commune of **Anyama** kills 13 people, destroys property and suspends traffic on the **Abidjan-Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)** railway;

17 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. The government signs an agreement with 12 local rubber production companies to invest 56.3 billion FCFA (\$96.2m) to increase the amount of locally processed rubber from 2020-2023 to 430,000 tonnes;

17 Jun 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. Ivorian national and former **Switzerland-based Credit Suisse** CEO **Tidjane Thiam** is appointed to the board of luxury brand **Kering**;

About Africa Risk Consulting

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

www.africariskconsulting.com

About ARC Briefing

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

www.africariskconsulting.com

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080

Follow us on Twitter: [@ARCBriefing](https://twitter.com/ARCBriefing)