

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING Côte d'Ivoire Briefing August 2020

Côte d'Ivoire Summary 24 August 2020

*The ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** officially confirms President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) as its candidate for the 31 October presidential elections, raising fears that his candidacy could spark political violence. United States-based credit rating agency **Moody's** confirms Cote d'Ivoire's **Ba3** rating and awards a positive medium-term economic outlook. The government continues to raise funds for its Covid-19 response plan amid concerns over an increasing budget deficit. The **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council) extends Cote d'Ivoire's national state of emergency for an additional 30 days until 30 August. However, the CNS lifts some restrictions, allowing bars, nightclubs and other entertainment centres to reopen.*

Violent protests follow Ouattara's candidacy for third presidential term ...

President **Alassane Ouattara's** (2010-present) decision to stand for a third presidential term and the official confirmation by the ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** of Ouattara as its candidate in the 31 October presidential elections have sparked consternation and violent protests. **Cote d'Ivoire** experienced violence in three successive presidential elections in 1995, 2000 and 2010 and there are fears that similar violence will mar this October's elections.

President Ouattara made a surprise announcement on 6 August, the eve of Cote d'Ivoire's national day and 60th anniversary of its independence, that he would run for a third presidential term.¹ The declaration followed a formal request to Ouattara by the RHDP political council on 29 July to stand as the party's candidate.² Ouattara said his candidature was due to an "exceptional situation", the death of the late former prime minister, **Amadou Gon Coulibaly**, whom the party had chosen as its candidate in March (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire April 2020*). Gon Coulibaly died on 8 July as a result of a longstanding heart condition (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire July 2020*).³ Ouattara said the party would have had difficulty in organising party primaries and finding a consensus candidate ahead of the deadline to file the candidature with the **Commission Électorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission).⁴ Ouattara said the need to manage the effects of the **Covid-19** pandemic (see below), maintain peace and security, and consolidate the achievements of the past nine years motivated his decision to run for a third term.⁵ Ouattara defended his ability to run for president despite having exhausted the constitutional two-term limit, arguing that the 2016 constitution cancelled the previous mandates served.⁶

RHDP first vice president **Henriette Dagri Diabate** announced the party's endorsement of Ouattara as its presidential candidate at a rally on 22 August at the **Stade Felix Houphouet Boigny** in **Abidjan**.⁷ Tens of thousands of RHDP supporters attended the rally despite Covid-19 health measures

¹ RFI, 6 Aug 2020

² AA, 30 Jul 2020

³ Jeune Afrique, 22 Aug 2020

⁴ Jeune Afrique, 22 Aug 2020

⁵ RFI, 6 Aug 2020

⁶ RFI, 6 Aug 2020

⁷ Koaci.com, 22 Aug 2020

and restrictions on gatherings.⁸ Ouattara condemned recent violent protests and accused “*those who could not win*” of trying to destroy the country.⁹ Referring to his political rivals, Ouattara noted:

*“Some are candidates but it’s been 10-20 years since they worked. What can they offer Cote d’Ivoire?”*¹⁰

This was an obvious reference to opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d’Ivoire (PDCI)** candidate and former president **Henri Konan Bedié** (1993-1999), who will be President Ouattara’s main challenger in the October contest.¹¹ Ouattara concluded his address predicting a first-round victory for the RHDP: “*On 31 October, it will be a knockout.*”¹² Ouattara lodged his official candidacy file on 24 August¹³ and is expected outline a social project for 2021-2025 and a medium-term vision for the 2021-2030 timeframe.¹⁴ Ouattara is also expected to kick off his pre-electoral campaign with state visits to the regions of **Marahoué** (centre-west) and **Moronou** (centre-east) in September.¹⁵

Ouattara’s confirmation as the RHDP presidential candidate followed a month of intense lobbying and strategising within the ruling camp. Following Gon Coulibaly’s death, several party heavyweights including party spokesperson **Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani**, executive secretary **Adama Bictogo**¹⁶ and newly appointed prime minister **Hamed Bakayoko** called for President Ouattara to be the party’s candidate.¹⁷ There is consensus within the RHDP that only President Ouattara could maintain unity in the party in the wake of recent high-profile party resignations and guarantee victory over an increasingly united opposition.¹⁸ Bictogo said that while Bakayoko and presidency secretary general **Patrick Achi** had the requisite profiles, they would not “*please the majority*” in the RHDP.¹⁹ Bictogo’s statement reflects his affiliation with a faction of the RHDP opposed to a Bakayoko presidency, as well as Ouattara’s own reservations about potential successors.²⁰

Cote d’Ivoire’s main opposition parties, including the PDCI, the **Génération et Peuples Solidaires (GPS)** of exiled former **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) president **Guillaume Soro**, and the faction of the **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** affiliated with exiled former president **Laurent Gbagbo** (2000-2010), all condemned Ouattara’s intention to stand.²¹ Protesters carried out demonstrations against Ouattara’s decision across the country, including in Abidjan, **Bonoua**, **Daoukro**, **Gagnoa** and **Port Bouët**.²² The government initially downplayed the protests, which started on 10 August, with communication minister and government spokesperson **Sidi Touré** stating they were “*just the expression of tensions that would normally arise ahead of elections*”.²³ However, a government communiqué on 19 August indicated that the protests had led to six deaths, 173 injuries, 1,500 internally displaced individuals and 63 arrests.²⁴ The most violent incidents took place in Daoukro, a PDCI stronghold and Konan Bedié’s hometown, where protest action saw four people killed and local PDCI and RHDP party headquarters destroyed.²⁵ Further violence occurred in **Divo**, after the CEI confirmed on 18 August that it had officially removed the names of Gbagbo and Soro from the

⁸ RFI, 22 Aug 2020

⁹ RFI, 22 Aug 2020

¹⁰ RFI, 22 Aug 2020

¹¹ RFI, 22 Aug 2020

¹² Koaci.com, 22 Aug 2020

¹³ Koaci.com, 24 Aug 2020

¹⁴ Koaci.com, 23 Aug 2020

¹⁵ Jeune Afrique, 10 Aug 2020

¹⁶ La Croix, 23 Jul 2020

¹⁷ RFI, 26 Jul 2020

¹⁸ Chatham House, 28 Jul 2020

¹⁹ Financial Afrik, 20 Jul 2020

²⁰ Abidjan-based African Development Bank Analyst

²¹ RFI, 7 Aug 2020

²² Africanews, 16 Aug 2020

²³ RFI, 11 Aug 2020

²⁴ Abidjan.net, 20 Aug 2020

²⁵ AA, 13 Aug 2020

electoral register, effectively ending their ability to run as presidential candidates.²⁶ CEI president **Ibrahime Coulibaly-Kuibiart** said the electoral body removes a person from the voters' register in the event of death or loss of political and civic rights.²⁷ The latter applies to both Gbagbo and Soro, whom the Ivorian judiciary has sentenced to prison terms.²⁸

The opposition has accused the CEI of manipulating the electoral lists and enrolling foreign nationals, claiming they will vote for the RHDP. RHDP secretary general Patrick Achi said the **Cour Constitutionnelle** (constitutional court) will handle any issues pertaining to President Ouattara's eligibility.²⁹ However, since Ouattara himself selected the members of the court, they are unlikely to pronounce judgement against him.³⁰

Electoral violence is becoming an increasing possibility as opposition and ruling party actors adopt hard line stances.³¹ In an August report, Africa-focused public opinion institution **Afrobarometer**, in collaboration with Cote d'Ivoire-based think tank, **Centre de Recherche et de Formation sur le Developpement Integre (CREFDI)**, reported that four out of 10 Ivorians believe the elections will not be peaceful, while eight out of 10 are in favour of a two-term presidential mandate limit.³²

The international community has been conspicuously silent on the matter. Local sources indicate that foreign stakeholders are unhappy with how President Ouattara has handled his succession.³³ However, despite their formal opposition to a third presidential term, they are equally uncomfortable with a Konan Bedié presidency.³⁴ Ouattara is set to meet with **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present) during his trip to France from 25 August to 6 September, when France's position on this matter will be clarified.³⁵ With the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** regional body currently occupied with the political impasse in **Mali**, it is unlikely to offer any public pushback to a third presidential term at the moment.³⁶

... but Moody's predicts positive economic outlook for Cote d'Ivoire

Despite political turmoil in Cote d'Ivoire and the continuing economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, **United States**-based credit rating agency **Moody's** confirmed Cote d'Ivoire's Ba3 score on 7 August. Moody's evaluation followed a sovereign review it announced it would undertake in June, following Cote d'Ivoire's admission to the **Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)**.³⁷ Moody's said Cote d'Ivoire's credit rating was maintained at an "investment grade" category, due to the likelihood that there will not be an extension of the DSSI beyond 2020.³⁸ Moody's gave Cote d'Ivoire a "stable" economic outlook, highlighting that it would generate sustained growth in the medium term and develop sectors that will produce value-added exports, thereby improving income and budget flexibility.³⁹ Moody's warned that the upcoming presidential elections could lead to a resurgence of tensions, which could impact the country's credit quality, as happened after the post-electoral crises of 2000 and 2011.⁴⁰ US-based credit ratings agency **Fitch Ratings** similarly noted on 7 August that Ouattara's decision to contest the October presidential election will create risks of political instability, although it believes the elections will occur smoothly.⁴¹

²⁶ RFI, 22 Aug 2020

²⁷ RFI, 7 Aug 2020

²⁸ ARC Cote d'Ivoire analyst

²⁹ Financial Afrik, 14 Aug 2020

³⁰ Abidjan-based political analyst

³¹ Abidjan-based political analyst

³² CREFDI, Aug 2020

³³ Source, Abidjan-based African Development Bank analyst

³⁴ Source, Abidjan-based African Development Bank analyst

³⁵ Jeune Afrique, 25 Aug 2020

³⁶ Source, Abidjan-based political analyst

³⁷ Sika Finance, 10 Aug 2020

³⁸ Sika Finance, 10 Aug 2020

³⁹ Sika Finance, 10 Aug 2020

⁴⁰ Sika Finance, 10 Aug 2020

⁴¹ Fitch Ratings, 7 Aug 2020

Moody's positive medium-term analysis of the Ivorian economy is in line with projections made by the **African Development Bank** in its 2020 **African Economic Outlook**⁴²(see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire February 2020*) and the **World Bank's World Economic Outlook**. The World Bank predicts that, despite a Covid-19-induced economic slowdown of 2.7% growth in 2020, growth will pick up to 8.7% in 2021 (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire June 2020*).⁴³

Budget deficit balloons with funding for Covid-19 response plan

The government continues to provide support to stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire's economy and raise funds for the \$2.8 billion Covid-19 socio-economic response plan it announced at the end of March (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire April 2020*). Government spokesperson **Sidi Toure** confirmed on 29 July that Cote d'Ivoire had received a 49.1 billion FCFA (\$83.8m) loan from the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, which will go towards the government's Covid-19 response plan.⁴⁴ Additionally, Cote d'Ivoire on 3 August carried out its third Covid-19 social bond issue on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market.⁴⁵ Covid-19 social bonds are treasury bills with a three-month maturity rate that aim to give WAEMU member states access to debt finance with interest rates below 5% to fund their Covid-19 interventions.⁴⁶ The operations are coordinated by **Senegal-based UMOA Titres**.⁴⁷ The Ivorian government aimed to raise 535 billion FCFA (\$883.9m) through this financing mechanism to fund its Covid-19 response efforts (see *ARC Briefing Cote d'Ivoire May 2020*).⁴⁸ In its first bond issue in April Cote d'Ivoire raised 180 billion FCFA (\$297.4m), while its latest bond issue brought in the targeted amount of 200 billion FCFA (\$359.7m).⁴⁹

The **Direction des Prévisions, des Politiques et des Statistiques Economiques (DPSSE)** (directorate of forecasts, policies and economic statistics) reported that the government's efforts to provide economic, social and humanitarian assistance during the pandemic have increased public expenditure, leading to a 428.5 billion FCFA (\$770.6m) budget deficit at the end of May.⁵⁰ This represents a 74.54% year-on-year increase in the deficit, with public expenditure having increased by 3.5% or 2,386.6 billion FCFA (\$4.3 billion). A 5% fall in revenue during this period, equivalent to 1,958 billion FCFA (\$3.5 billion), has added to the widening deficit.⁵¹

Although the implementation of the Covid-19 response plan increased government spending, the public investment and operating budget expenditure reduced by 18.7% and 17% respectively during this timeframe.⁵² However, in positive news the DPPSE reported that Cote d'Ivoire's commercial balance saw a 3.49% increase of 616,75 billion FCFA (\$1.12 billion) at the end of May on the back of increased cocoa, rubber, cashew nut, processed cocoa and petroleum exports.⁵³ According to the **Institut National de Statistiques (INS)** (national statistics institute), monthly inflation fell slightly in July to 2.6%, down from the June figure of 2.7%.⁵⁴

State of emergency maintained as some Covid-19 restrictions lifted

The **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council) has extended Cote d'Ivoire's national state of emergency for an additional 30 days until 30 August.⁵⁵ Following a CNS meeting on 30 July, health and public hygiene minister Dr **Eugène Aka Aouélé** announced the state of emergency

⁴² African Economic Outlook, 30 Jan 2020

⁴³ World Bank, 8 Jun 2020

⁴⁴ Abidjan.net, 30 Jul 2020

⁴⁵ Sika Finance, 3 Aug 2020

⁴⁶ Jeune Afrique, 24 Apr 2020

⁴⁷ Jeune Afrique, 24 Apr 2020

⁴⁸ Jeune Afrique, 24 Apr 2020

⁴⁹ Sika Finance, 3 Aug 2020

⁵⁰ Sika Finance, 19 Aug 2020

⁵¹ Sika Finance, 19 Aug 2020

⁵² Sika Finance, 19 Aug 2020

⁵³ Sika Finance, 19 Aug 2020

⁵⁴ Sika Finance, 20 Aug 2020

⁵⁵ Abidjan.net, 30 Jul 2020

that has been in effect since 25 March, would be extended for a further 30 days.⁵⁶ However, the CNS lifted some restrictions, allowing bars, nightclubs and other entertainment centres to reopen from 31 July as the country's Covid-19 case total reduces and the number of recoveries increases. According to the latest update on 21 August, Cote d'Ivoire had registered 17,319 positive cases, 14,820 recoveries, 2,378 active cases and 112 deaths in its population of 26 million since confirming its first case on 11 March.⁵⁷

Although international commercial flights have recommenced, land and sea borders remain closed.⁵⁸ Aka Aouélé highlighted the need to respect health protocols, including physical distancing and hand-washing, while elderly people and those with underlying conditions are instructed to remain at home as much as possible.⁵⁹ The government ended the isolation of Covid-19 epicentre **Greater Abidjan** from the rest of the country on 15 July.⁶⁰ Security and civil protection minister **Diomande Vangonde** said security forces would conduct routine controls on public transport vehicles and in public places to ensure respect of the health and safety protocols established by the government.⁶¹ National police spokesperson **Bleu Charlamagne** noted on 4 August that during the week of 27 July to 3 August, 97.3% of Ivoirians wore protective masks.⁶² The re-opening of Cote d'Ivoire's economy appears to be almost complete as Ivoirians become accustomed to living with the coronavirus.⁶³

Planner

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

Chronology

25 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Jeune Afrique*. President **Alassane Ouattara** set to visit **France** from 25 August to 6 September, where he will meet with President **Emmanuel Macron**;

22 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** endorses President **Alassane Ouattara** as its presidential candidate;

21 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Financial Afrik*. Government spokesperson **Sidi Toure** reports cashew nut production reached 902,000 tonnes, a 100,000 tonne increase compared to the same period in 2019;

21 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. Australia-based miner **Mako Gold** aims to raise A\$10m (\$7.17m) towards the development of the **Napié** gold project

20 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Africanews*. Government prohibits protests until 15 September following anti-government riots;

19 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Direction des Prévisions, des Politiques et des Statistiques Economiques (DPSSE)** (directorate of forecasts, policies and economic statistics) reports Cote d'Ivoire's commercial balance had seen a 3.49% increase of 616.75 billion FCFA (\$1.1 billion) at the end of May;

19 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d'Ivoire and **Ghana** have established the "*Initiative Cacao Cote d'Ivoire-Ghana*", which aims to better coordinate common policies in the cocoa sector;

19 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Direction des Prévisions, des Politiques et**

⁵⁶ Abidjan.net, 30 Jul 2020

⁵⁷ Abidjan.net, 30 Jul 2020

⁵⁸ Abidjan.net, 30 Jul 2020

⁵⁹ Abidjan.net, 30 Jul 2020

⁶⁰ FratMat.info, 13 Jul 2020

⁶¹ Abidjan.net, 22 Jul 2020

⁶² Abidjan.net, 4 Aug 2020

⁶³ ARC Cote d'Ivoire analyst

des Statistiques Economiques (DPSSE) (directorate of forecasts, policies and economic statistics) reports Cote d'Ivoire experienced a 428.5 billion FCFA (\$770.6m) budget deficit at the end of May, indicating a 74.54% year-on-year deterioration;

18 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. The **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) confirms that it has removed the names of **Laurent Gbagbo** and **Guillaume Soro** from the electoral register;

16 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Africanews*. An estimated six individuals have died in the past three days during protests against President **Alassane Ouattara's** decision to run for a third presidential term as a candidate for the ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** in the 31 October presidential election;

13 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Opposition groups call on the **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) not to validate President **Alassane Ouattara's** presidential candidature, accusing the CEI of manipulating electoral lists with the help of Cote d'Ivoire-based publicity firm **Voodoo**;

12 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **Autorité Nationale de Régulation des Marchés Publics (ANRMP)** (national agency for public procurement regulation) director **Coulibaly Yacouba Pénagnaba** announces the ANRMP will audit 200 public contracts that were issued without a public call for tenders from 2014-2017;

10 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI)** (general directorate of taxation) director general **Abou Sié** announces the end of the three-month moratorium on tax payments for businesses, which lasted from April to July;

10 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Reuters*. The **Conseil Cacao Café (CCC)** (cocoa and coffee council) reports that cocoa exports surpassed 2 million tonnes during the period from 1 October 2019 to 31 July 2020;

7 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Fitch Ratings*. **United States**-based credit ratings agency **Fitch Ratings** predicts President **Alassane Ouattara's** decision to contest the October presidential election will create risks of political instability, but believes the elections will occur smoothly;

6 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. President **Alassane Ouattara** announces he will run for a third presidential term as a candidate for the ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** during the 31 October presidential election;

5 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Australia**-based **Tietto Minerals** intends to raise \$45.16m to finance the development of the **Abujar** gold project;

4 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d'Ivoire successfully raises 60.5 billion FCFA (\$108.9m) through a treasury bond issue on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market;

3 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance* Cote d'Ivoire raises 200 billion FCFA (\$360.3m) in **Covid-19** social bonds on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market;

3 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *BBC*. The opposition **Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix en Côte d'Ivoire (UDPCI)** nominates former higher education minister **Abdallah Albert Mabri Toikeusse** as its presidential election candidate;

3 Aug 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. Supporters of former president **Laurent Gbagbo** protest the decision by the **Commission Electorale Indépendante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) to remove Gbagbo's name from the voter register, as a result of a 20-year jail sentence that the **Tribunal d'Abidjan** (Abidjan Tribunal) imposed on him in 2018;

- 31 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. The **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** (national security council) authorises the reopening of bars and nightclubs across the country;
- 29 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d'Ivoire inaugurates the **Bourse des Matières Primaires Agricoles (BMPA)**, which will serve as an agricultural commodities market;
- 28 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. The **Commission Electorale Independante (CEI)** (independent electoral commission) declares that the number of provisional voters on the electoral roll has increased by 900,000 to 7,535,000 voters, compared to the last elections in 2018;
- 28 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former president **Laurent Gbagbo** has applied for an Ivorian passport at the Ivorian Embassy in **Brussels (Belgium)** as he aims to return to Cote d'Ivoire for the first time since his arrest and transfer to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** in 2011;
- 28 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Agence Ecofin*. The **World Bank** states Cote d'Ivoire may see a 14% increase in national income following the enactment of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**;
- 28 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. A total of 29 businesses registered for the **Fonds de Soutien aux Grandes Entreprises (FSGE-COVID-19)** (large business support fund) from 4 June to 15 July and benefited from 9.7 billion FCFA (\$17.3m) financial support from the FSGE;
- 27 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *RFI*. The opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** confirms former president **Henri Konan Bédié** as its candidate for the October presidential election;
- 27 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d'Ivoire aims to raise 33 billion FCFA (\$59.1m) on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market through a treasury bond issue;
- 24 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. The **World Bank** reports Cote d'Ivoire has the third largest electricity production capacity in **sub-Saharan Africa** at 2230 MW and is the largest exporter of electricity in **West Africa**;
- 23 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. **France**-based telecoms firm **Orange** and Cote d'Ivoire-based financial services provider **NSIA** have launched **Orange Bank Africa**, to improve access to mobile financial services across **West Africa**;
- 22 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former foreign affairs minister **Marcel Amon Tanoh** declares he will run for the 2020 presidential election;
- 17 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. Former prime minister **Amadou Gon Coulibaly** is buried in his hometown of **Korhogo**, following his death on 8 July;
- 16 Jul 2020 **Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Cote d'Ivoire aims to raise 350 billion FCFA (\$618.5m) on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market through a treasury bond issue;

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)