

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Côte d'Ivoire Briefing August 2021

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#### Côte d'Ivoire Summary 23 August 2021

*President Alassane Ouattara (2010-present) and former president Laurent Gbagbo (2000-2010) hold their first face-to-face meeting since the end of the 2010-2011 post-electoral violence and commit to promoting peace, reconciliation and social cohesion. President Ouattara appoints new directors-general at state enterprises and agencies in the hydrocarbons, mines, energy, transport and logistics sectors. Côte d'Ivoire experiences a spike in Covid-19 cases, but has avoided a third wave of infections due to the absence of the so-called Delta variant and a Covid-19 vaccination roll out that has reached more than 1.2 million people. The country records its first Ebola virus disease case since 1994.*

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#### First meeting between Ouattara and Gbagbo in over a decade ...

President **Alassane Ouattara** (2010-present) and former president **Laurent Gbagbo** (2000-2010) met on 27 July in their first face-to-face meeting since the end of the 2010-2011 post-electoral violence.<sup>1</sup> Since Gbagbo's return to Côte d'Ivoire on 17 June, following the **International Criminal Court's (ICC)** confirmation in March of his acquittal of charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis (see *ARC Briefing Côte d'Ivoire April 2021*), which killed an estimated 3,000 people, there has been uncertainty over when, or if at all, the two leaders would meet.<sup>2</sup> **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** president **Félix Tshisekedi** (2019-present) and **Togo's** President **Fauré Gnassingbé** (2005-present) reportedly played a role in facilitating the meeting.<sup>3</sup>

During the 45-minute-long 27 July audience, Gbagbo was accompanied by **Assoa Adou**, secretary-general of the Gbagbo-aligned faction of the opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)**, as well as former minister **Hubert Oulaye** and opposition **Ensemble pour la Démocratie Souveraineté (EDS)** president **Armand Ouégnin**, amongst others.<sup>4</sup> Present alongside Ouattara were his cabinet director, **Fidèle Sarasorro**, and political affairs minister-adviser, **Ibrahima Cissé Baongo**.<sup>5</sup> Gbagbo requested the release of persons arrested and detained for acts of violence allegedly committed during the post-electoral crisis, providing a list of 110 individuals whom he hoped would be beneficiaries of this plea.<sup>6</sup> Gbagbo also expressed hope that the meeting would be the first step towards easing the current socio-political tension and stated the need for Ivorians to talk to each other for the country to move forward.<sup>7</sup> Ouattara gave Gbagbo full military honours and thanked him for his attendance, underlining the need to put the past behind them and work on promoting cohesion and reconciliation.<sup>8</sup> Ouattara noted the importance of Côte d'Ivoire remaining peaceful and his commitment to working with Gbagbo to restore confidence amongst Ivorians to assure the country's progress. Ouattara suggested that a follow-up audience might occur in August.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Africanews, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>2</sup> Source, ARC Côte d'Ivoire analyst

<sup>3</sup> Jeune Afrique, 28 Jul 2021

<sup>4</sup> RFI, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>5</sup> Jeune Afrique, 28 Jul 2021

<sup>6</sup> Koaci.com, 29 Jul 2021

<sup>7</sup> Koaci.com, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>8</sup> Koaci.com, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>9</sup> Koaci.com, 27 Jul 2021

The encounter between Gbagbo and Ouattara was generally positively received. Ruling **Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix (RHDP)** spokesperson and minister of state in charge of agriculture and rural development **Kobenan Adjoumani** praised Ouattara for the initiative, suggesting it characterised his political foresight and commitment to peace.<sup>10</sup> Adjoumani also recognised Gbagbo's "*humble approach*".<sup>11</sup> The RHDP's statement is an about face, from its previous views on Gbagbo-related matters since his return from exile, which have ranged from indifference to hostility.<sup>12</sup> Former prime minister and government-recognised leader of the FPI **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** said the meeting was an indication that the spirit of dialogue is a reality while former minister **Charles Blé Goudé**, who was acquitted alongside Gbagbo in March, described the event as a "*strong act*".<sup>13</sup> Blé Goudé is still living exile in **The Netherlands**, while he awaits the issue of his Ivorian passport.<sup>14</sup> **Moussa Touré**, spokesperson for exiled former prime minister and **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) president **Guillaume Soro**, said Soro welcomed the meeting but cautioned that Ouattara and Gbagbo have been the cause of the country's problems for the last 30 years.<sup>15</sup>

There was also optimism within civil society. **Associations des Femmes et Familles des Détenus d'Opinion (Affdo-CI)** (association of women and families of prisoners) president **Desirée Douati**, said she hoped Ouattara would provide a favourable response to Gbagbo's request for the release of prisoners, which she said would be a great step towards promoting true reconciliation.<sup>16</sup> NGO **CIVIS-CI** coordinator and human rights activist **Christopher Kouamé** also noted that the release of the prisoners would be a sign of appeasement.<sup>17</sup> **Institute of Security Studies (ISS)** researcher **Fahiraman Koné** said Ouattara should seriously consider Gbagbo's request while Ivorian political analyst **Geoffrey Kouao** said the meeting was "*symbolic*", with Gbagbo recognising Ouattara as head of state.<sup>18</sup>

**African Union (AU)** representative to Côte d'Ivoire **Joséphine Mayuma Kala** welcomed the development and expressed hope that it would help to consolidate peace.<sup>19</sup> Kala said the high-level encounter is a sign that Ivorian leaders are willing to take the necessary steps towards fostering social cohesion and reconciliation. **Amnesty International Cote d'Ivoire** president **Nathalie Kouakou** says Ivorians need to adopt a "*wait and see*" approach, noting "*if the meeting was sincere, it can heal the wounds of the post-electoral violence*".<sup>20</sup>

Not all reactions to the meeting were positive. **Collectif des Victimes en Côte d'Ivoire (CVCI)** (Ivorian victims' collective) president **Isiaka Diaby** described the meeting as "*an act of defiance towards the victims*" of the 2010-2011 violence, and believes the meeting will not reconcile Ivorians.<sup>21</sup> Diaby said Ivorian judicial authorities need to prosecute all perpetrators of crimes and that victims' rights should not be sacrificed in the name of reconciliation.<sup>22</sup> Koné warned that the state and relevant political actors must navigate the situation carefully to avoid upsetting victims, which could lead to calls for revenge.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>10</sup> L'Intelligent d'Abidjan, 29 Jul 2021

<sup>11</sup> L'Intelligent d'Abidjan, 29 Jul 2021

<sup>12</sup> Source, ARC Côte d'Ivoire analyst

<sup>13</sup> DW, 29 Jul 2021

<sup>14</sup> Jeune Afrique, 22 Aug 2021

<sup>15</sup> DW, 29 Jul 2021

<sup>16</sup> DW, 28 Jul 2021

<sup>17</sup> DW, 28 Jul 2021

<sup>18</sup> DW, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>19</sup> RFI, 24 Jul 2021

<sup>20</sup> DW, 28 Jul 2021

<sup>21</sup> Koaci.com, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>22</sup> Koaci.com, 27 Jul 2021

<sup>23</sup> DW, 28 Jul 2021

Since the death of founding president **Félix Houphouët-Boigny** (1960-1993), the Ivorian political scene has seen the regular use of violence to achieve political ends. This has largely been fuelled by the rivalry between Gbagbo, Ouattara and former president and current opposition **Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI)** leader **Henri Konan Bedié** (1993-1999).<sup>24</sup> The aftermath of the 31 October presidential elections saw violence that led to 85 deaths and Bedié being placed under house arrest. However, there are encouraging signs that Gbagbo, Ouattara and Bedié are heeding domestic and international calls for political action to restore peace to Côte d'Ivoire. The facilitation of Gbagbo's return and the audience granted him have been the two most important steps taken so far. There is also widespread expectation that Ouattara, Gbagbo and Bedié will make a public appearance together. On 6 August, during a televised speech to commemorate Côte d'Ivoire's 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary, Ouattara announced he had granted amnesty to nine people and authorised the provisional release from detention of 69 others who had been arrested during the November post-election violence.<sup>25</sup> Ouattara reiterated his support for reconciliation, dialogue and the release of prisoners.

Ouattara appears committed towards pursuing appeasement measures, which is a good sign, particularly with respect to the release of prisoners.<sup>26</sup> However, for true reconciliation to become reality, it cannot be the preserve of Ouattara, Gbagbo and Bedié and must be an effort that goes beyond photo opportunities and media declarations.<sup>27</sup> Involving the population at large is important, particularly since Côte d'Ivoire appears to be choosing the path of peace over justice, with respect to dealing with alleged perpetrators of crimes.<sup>28</sup> There is also a school of thought that suggests that the retirement of Gbagbo, Ouattara and Bedié from Ivorian politics would be the best solution to sanitise the political environment and promote peace.<sup>29</sup>

### ... as Ouattara appoints new leaders at state enterprises and agencies

President Ouattara has appointed new directors-general at state-owned corporations and government agencies operating in the energy, hydrocarbons, mining, transport and logistics domains.<sup>30</sup> Although the appointment of new personnel is routine, it is taking place in the midst of an anti-corruption campaign initiated by Ouattara.<sup>31</sup> However, there is scepticism regarding the motives for the campaign as well as the extent to which it will be carried out.<sup>32</sup>

The presidency announced a wave of nominations on 5 August. The board of the **Société Nationale des Opérations Pétrolières (Petroci-Holdings)**, the state-owned firm in charge of research and production of hydrocarbons deposits,<sup>33</sup> named **Vamissa Bamba** as the new director general, replacing **Ibrahima Diaby**, who had held the position since 2015.<sup>34</sup> Bamba was previously director general of Petroci subsidiary **CI-11**, in charge of the CI-11 offshore bloc on which the **Lion** and **Panthère** oil fields are located. Bamba, a petroleum engineer by profession, is a protégé of current energy and petroleum minister **Thomas Camara**.<sup>35</sup> Bamba will be assisted by **Sié Georges Kam**, the new deputy director general in charge of production.<sup>36</sup> Petroci generated revenue of 274 billion FCFA (\$489.7m) in 2019.<sup>37</sup> Still in the hydrocarbons sector, **Tioioho Soro** was named head of the national refining company, **Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage (SIR)**, replacing Thomas Camara, who had spent

<sup>24</sup> Source, ARC Côte d'Ivoire analyst

<sup>25</sup> RFI, 7 Aug 2021

<sup>26</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank analyst

<sup>27</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank analyst

<sup>28</sup> Stellenbosch University Researcher on Justice and Conflict in Africa

<sup>29</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank analyst

<sup>30</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>31</sup> Source, ARC Côte d'Ivoire analyst

<sup>32</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank analyst

<sup>33</sup> Sika Finance, 7 Aug 2021

<sup>34</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>35</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>36</sup> Sika Finance, 7 Aug 2021

<sup>37</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

nine years as director general before his promotion to cabinet minister in April.<sup>38</sup> SIR registered 1,335 billion FCFA (\$2.3 billion) in revenue in 2019.<sup>39</sup>

**Moussa Seydou Koné** now heads the **Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire (SODEMI)**, the state-owned company in charge of the state's mining portfolio,<sup>40</sup> which recorded 75.6 billion FCFA (\$135.1m) in revenue in 2019.<sup>41</sup> In the energy domain, **Côte d'Ivoire Énergies (CIE)**, the state entity in charge of constructing electricity infrastructure, has appointed **Sidibé Noumany** as director general, while electricity sector regulator, the **Autorité Nationale de Régulation du Secteur de l'Électricité de Côte d'Ivoire (ANARE-CI)** named **Amidou Traoré** as its director general.<sup>42</sup> The **Port Autonome d'Abidjan (PAA)** (Port of Abidjan) appointed **Djénéba Gon Coulibaly-Okou**, sister of late prime minister **Amadou Gon Coulibaly**, as deputy director general.<sup>43</sup> An aspect of the appointments that did not go unnoticed was that all the individuals nominated are from different parts of northern Côte d'Ivoire, Ouattara's political stronghold and main source of support.<sup>44</sup>

The appointments were long anticipated and came as no surprise. However, Ouattara has also instructed that audits of state entities be carried out as part of the “*operation main propres*” (operation clean hands) anti-corruption campaign.<sup>45</sup> In April, Ouattara established a new ministry dedicated to the fight against corruption, which complements the **Haute Autorité pour la Gouvernance (HAG)** (higher governance authority) created in 2015.<sup>46</sup> In June, it was revealed during a cabinet meeting that 10 state firms, including **Petroci**, **Sotra** (urban transport) and **Poste de Côte d'Ivoire** (post office) amongst others, posted losses of 56.6 billion FCFA (\$101.1m) during the 2020 financial year.<sup>47</sup> In a rare development, four directors general and some of their collaborators were suspended in June, on allegations of financial misappropriation:

- **Désiré Ange Yapi** - **La Nouvelle Pharmacie de la Santé Publique (NPSP)** (state pharmacy);
- **Youssouf Ouattara** - **L'Agence de Gestion et de Développement des Infrastructures Industrielles (AGEDI)** (infrastructure development agency);
- **Diéméleou Bile** - **L'Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications/TIC de Côte d'Ivoire (ARTCI)** (telecoms regulatory agency);
- **Lamine Coulibaly** - **L'Agence de Gestion Foncière (AGEF)** (land management agency).<sup>48</sup>

Coulibaly has been held in detention since 14 June and is charged with fraud involving 998m FCFA (\$1.7m), illicit enrichment and money laundering.<sup>49</sup> In February, the **Cour des Comptes** (audit bench) ordered Youssouf Ouattara to pay 3 billion FCFA (\$5.3m).<sup>50</sup> An estimated 40 state entities are currently under investigation.<sup>51</sup> It is unclear if Ouattara will increase the scope of the anti-corruption campaign or if it will be a selective campaign.<sup>52</sup> Already, eyebrows have been raised regarding the case of the **Fonds d'Entretien Routier (FER)** (road management fund), for which a company audit was ordered a few months back, but no findings have been revealed to date. FER is headed by **Lanciné**

<sup>38</sup> Sika Finance, 7 Aug 2021

<sup>39</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>40</sup> Sika Finance, 7 Aug 2021

<sup>41</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>42</sup> Sika Finance, 7 Aug 2021

<sup>43</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>44</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank Analyst

<sup>45</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>46</sup> DW, 8 Jul 2021

<sup>47</sup> Sika Finance, 17 Jun 2021

<sup>48</sup> DW, 8 Jul 2021

<sup>49</sup> FratMat.info, 25 Jun 2021

<sup>50</sup> Sika Finance, 17 Jun 2021

<sup>51</sup> **Ivoire Soir** editor **André Silver Konan** quoted in DW, 8 Jul 2021

<sup>52</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank Analyst

**Diaby**, an individual who is well connected in the ruling coalition circles, giving rise to some scepticism.<sup>53</sup>

### Covid-19 cases spike but are “under control”

Despite a spike in **Covid-19** infections since the end of July, public health authorities say the situation is “under control” and that the country is not experiencing a third wave of Covid-19 infections.<sup>54</sup> Although Cote d’Ivoire has not recorded any cases of Covid-19 attributed to the so-called **Delta** variant, the government has instituted stricter measures at ports of entry<sup>55</sup> and encouraged the population to get vaccinated against Covid-19.<sup>56</sup> As of 22 August, Côte d’Ivoire had registered 53,645 cases of Covid-19 in its population of roughly 26 million, with 395 Covid-related deaths and 52,405 recoveries, with an average 4.1% positivity rate.<sup>57</sup>

High-level positive tests and cases of Covid-19 led the government to scale down national day celebrations scheduled to take place on 7 August.<sup>58</sup> President Ouattara entered quarantine and was under medical observation from 3 August after testing positive for Covid-19 following contact with someone who had tested positive.<sup>59</sup> Ouattara’s younger brother, defence minister **Téné Birahima Ouattara**, contracted Covid and was evacuated to **France** for medical treatment on 7 August.<sup>60</sup> On 18 August, a communiqué from the presidency stated President Ouattara had received a negative test and was cleared to return to work.<sup>61</sup>

President Ouattara had acknowledged during a 29 July **Conseil National de Sécurité (CNS)** meeting that the country was experiencing a noteworthy increase in the number of Covid-19 infections, with 136 recorded the previous day.<sup>62</sup> Since April, Côte d’Ivoire had averaged fewer than 100 new cases daily, with June seeing an average of 50 new cases per day.<sup>63</sup> Health minister **Pierre Dimba N’Gou** said 95% of new cases emanated from **Greater Abidjan**, making it the epicentre but the 2-3% positivity rate meant the situation was under control.<sup>64</sup> Nevertheless, the CNS decided to implement sanitary controls and increased surveillance at the **Aéroport Internationale Félix Houphouët-Boigny**. The CNS on 1 July extended the national health state of emergency to 30 September.<sup>65</sup>

**Institut National de l’Hygiène Publique de Côte d’Ivoire** (Ivorian public hygiene institute) director **Joseph Bri Vroh Bénié** attributed the rise in cases to people not wearing masks or practising social distancing, as well as to a larger number of social gatherings taking place in Côte d’Ivoire’s holiday season.<sup>66</sup> Vroh Bénié indicated that Côte d’Ivoire had not confirmed any cases of the so-called Delta variant and as long as the positivity rate remained below 5%, there should not be cause for concern.<sup>67</sup> Nevertheless, travellers from **Dakar (Senegal)** and **Tunis (Tunisia)**, two countries in which the Delta variant is present, are provided with free Covid-19 tests upon arrival in Côte d’Ivoire.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>53</sup> Abidjan-based African Development Bank Analyst

<sup>54</sup> APA, 30 Jul 2021

<sup>55</sup> APA, 8 Aug 2021

<sup>56</sup> APA, 30 Jul 2021

<sup>57</sup> Abidjan.net, 22 Aug 2021

<sup>58</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>59</sup> Gouv.ci, 3 Aug 2021

<sup>60</sup> Jeune Afrique, 13 Aug 2021

<sup>61</sup> Anadolu Agency, 19 Aug 2021

<sup>62</sup> APA, 30 Jul 2021

<sup>63</sup> APA, 30 Jul 2021

<sup>64</sup> APA, 30 Jul 2021

<sup>65</sup> Presidence.ci, 1 Jul 2021

<sup>66</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>67</sup> Jeune Afrique, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>68</sup> APA, 8 Aug 2021

Ouattara expressed satisfaction with the pace of the country's vaccination campaign, noting that from the end of July to September, a total of 1,492,059 vaccine doses would be delivered to the country.<sup>69</sup> Since the start of the national vaccination on 1 March, the public health ministry reports that 1,274,083 persons have been inoculated as of 22 August.<sup>70</sup> This is far from attaining the health ministry's goal of vaccinating 20 million people, or 70% of the population.<sup>71</sup> Concern over vaccine supply was alleviated on 21 August by the arrival of 1,180,530 doses of the **United States (US)**-manufactured **Pfizer** vaccine.<sup>72</sup> The consignment was part of US president **Joe Biden's** (2021-present) efforts to ensure economically disadvantaged countries have access to vaccines. US ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire **Richard Bell** reiterated the US desire to support the Ivorian people in their fight against the pandemic.<sup>73</sup>

In a further boost to efforts to combat the pandemic, **Germany**-based medical laboratory **Das Labor. GmbH** has established an industrial unit in the coastal town of **Grand Bassam**, which will produce on average 100,000 rapid testing kits per month.<sup>74</sup> The project, which its Ivorian subsidiary **Das Labor Biodiagnostic** is carrying out in partnership with German development agency **GIZ**, began operations on 13 August and has already produced 10,000 kits.

### Côte d'Ivoire records first Ebola case in 25 years

Côte d'Ivoire confirmed its first **Ebola** case since 1994, on 15 August.<sup>75</sup> The health ministry said the patient was an 18-year-old **Guinean** national, who had travelled 1,500 km by road from the Guinean locality of **Labé** to Abidjan,<sup>76</sup> and arrived at her final destination on 12 August.<sup>77</sup> After being admitted to hospital, samples taken to the **Institut Pasteur d'Abidjan** confirmed the presence of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).<sup>78</sup> Health minister Pierre Dimba N'Gou said the Ebola case is "*isolated and imported*" and called on the population to remain calm.<sup>79</sup>

**World Health Organisation (WHO) Africa** regional director **Dr. Matshidiso Moeti** expressed concern at the discovery of the case, as **Greater Abidjan** has a population of over 5 million.<sup>80</sup> Côte d'Ivoire has procured 5,000 doses of the Ebola vaccine and is administering these to health workers, relatives and close contacts of the patient.<sup>81</sup> Beyond Abidjan, vaccination will take place at **San Pedro, Ouaninou** and **Duékoué**.<sup>82</sup> In Duékoué alone, 33 individuals have been identified as having been in direct or indirect contact with the patient.<sup>83</sup> The health ministry stated that Côte d'Ivoire has strengthened its border surveillance, especially with Guinea.<sup>84</sup>

No other Ebola cases have been confirmed in Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>85</sup> This is the third Ebola outbreak in Africa in 2021, following detection of cases in Guinea and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>69</sup> APA, 30 Jul 2021

<sup>70</sup> Abidjan.net, 22 Aug 2021

<sup>71</sup> AIP, 24 May 2021

<sup>72</sup> APA, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>73</sup> APA, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>74</sup> FratMat.info, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>75</sup> Al Jazeera, 15 Aug 2021

<sup>76</sup> RFI, 19 Aug 2021

<sup>77</sup> Al Jazeera, 15 Aug 2021

<sup>78</sup> Al Jazeera, 15 Aug 2021

<sup>79</sup> Al Jazeera, 15 Aug 2021

<sup>80</sup> Al Jazeera, 15 Aug 2021

<sup>81</sup> Al Jazeera, 16 Aug 2021

<sup>82</sup> FratMat.info, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>83</sup> FratMat.info, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>84</sup> FratMat.info, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>85</sup> FratMat.info, 21 Aug 2021

<sup>86</sup> DW, 17 Aug 2021

The WHO has sent five experts to assist Ivorian authorities.<sup>87</sup> Côte d'Ivoire did not record any Ebola infections during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, which ravaged its neighbours, Guinea and Liberia.

## Planner

Oct 2021 **Montpellier (France)** Africa Intelligence. **France-Afrique** summit

## Chronology

22 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Minister of state, in charge of defence **Téné Birahima Ouattara** returns to Côte d'Ivoire following a medical evacuation to **France** after contracting **Covid-19**;

18 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. President **Alassane Ouattara** cleared to return to work after testing positive for **Covid-19**;

14 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. Côte d'Ivoire confirms its first **Ebola** virus case in 25 years;

12 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *APA*. Energy minister **Thomas Camara** announces that the fourth turbine at the **Azito** thermal power plant will become operational from September, increasing power generation capacity from 460 MW to 713 MW;

9 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former president **Laurent Gbagbo** suggests to supporters of the opposition **Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI)** that he will create a new political party due to the reluctance of current FPI president **Pascal Affi N'Guessan** to relinquish party leadership;

8 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *AIP*. The government will allocate 300 billion FCFA (\$536.8m) to the construction of the rapid transit bus line between the Abidjan communes of **Yopougon** and **Bingerville**;

6 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. President **Alassane Ouattara** appoints **Vamissa Bamba** and **Soro Tiotioho** as directors general of state-owned hydrocarbons firm **Société Nationale des Opérations Pétrolières (Petroci)** and state-owned oil refining company **Société Ivoirienne de Raffinage (SIR)** respectively;

3 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Financial Afrik*. Côte d'Ivoire, via the **Direction Générale du Trésor et de la Comptabilité Publique (DGTCP)** (general directorate of the treasury and public accounts), has raised 56.3 billion FCFA (\$100.7m), through a treasury bond issue on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market;

2 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **Orange Côte d'Ivoire**, a subsidiary of **France**-based telecoms firm **Orange**, reports first semester turnover of 310.92 billion FCFA (\$562.9m), an improvement from 286.65 billion FCFA (\$518.9m) in the first semester of 2020;

2 Aug 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. **United Kingdom**-based **Standard Chartered** has signed €159m (\$189m) financing agreement with the economy and finance ministry for the renovation of 62 maternity wards across the country;

30 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. Côte d'Ivoire intends to raise 50 billion FCFA (\$90.5m) through a bond issue on the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market, to finance the development of the **Akouédo** landfill, which collects waste from all of Abidjan;

29 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Abidjan.net*. Prime minister **Patrick Achi** calls for greater cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and **Burkina Faso** in the area of fighting terrorism during

<sup>87</sup> Al Jazeera, 15 Aug 2021

proceedings at the 9th **Traité d’Amitié et de Coopération (TAC)** (treaty of friendship and cooperation), the bilateral relations platform between the two countries;

29 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** *Koaci.com*. Former president **Laurent Gbagbo** has reportedly provided to President **Alassane Ouattara** a list of 110 political detainees who were arrested during the 2010-2011 post-election crisis and whom Gbagbo desires to see released;

28 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** *RFI*. The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** has withdrawn the arrest warrant for former first lady **Simone Gbagbo**, on four counts of crimes against humanity, murder, rape, and other inhumane acts and persecution, allegedly committed during the post-electoral crisis of 2010-2011;

27 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** *Financial Afrik*. According to the 9th **Traité d’Amitié et de Coopération (TAC)** (friendship and cooperation treaty), trade between **Burkina Faso** and **Côte d’Ivoire** increased from 233 billion FCFA (\$417.3m) in 2017 to 348 billion FCFA (\$623.3m) in 2018;

27 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** *FratMat.info*. Former president **Laurent Gbagbo** and President **Alassane Ouattara** hold first face-to-face meeting since November 2010;

26 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** *Financial Afrik*. President Alassane Ouattara appoints **Cissé Bacongo** minister-adviser in charge of political affairs;

24 Jul 2021 **Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire)** *Sika Finance*. The **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** allocates 12.24 billion FCFA (\$22m) in funding to Côte d’Ivoire to support the revival of agricultural activity;

### 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.

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### 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.

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### Getting in touch

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