

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Guinea Monthly Briefing April 2025

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#### Guinea Summary 25 April 2025

*Junta leader General Mamadi Doumbouya (2021-present) pardons former junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara (2008-2009), who was found guilty in 2024 of crimes against humanity. In return, Camara is expected to delivered the electorally important Guinée Forestière region, where he is from, to Doumbouya in the event of an election. Two population censuses are under way in Guinea. The general population census that determines where and how Guineans live will be ready in June. The administrative census aims to create a database for a voters' register to serve the constitutional referendum, which is planned for September. An attack on a convoy carrying new 20,000-Guinean franc banknotes, worth more than \$2m, results in the theft of the entire stock. Banque Centrale de la République de Guinée (BCRG) (central bank) has established a crisis committee but so far there is no trace of the stolen banknotes. Guinea's one-stop investment centre, Agence de Promotion des Investissements Privés (APIP), announces it has modernised and redesigned its website, aiming to fully digitise the investment process.*

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#### Doumbouya pardons former junta leader Moussa Dadis Camara

Junta leader **General Mamadi Doumbouya** (2021-present) pardoned former junta leader **Moussa Dadis Camara** (2008-2009) on 28 March.<sup>1</sup> A **Conakry** court in August held Camara responsible for a massacre on 28 September 2009 in the main stadium of the capital, Conakry, in which 157 people died and more than 100 women were raped, and sentenced him to 20 years in prison.<sup>2</sup> Local and international human rights organisations condemned the pardon as “an affront to justice”.<sup>3</sup> Camara was flown to **Morocco** during the night of 13-14 April, where he received medical treatment but is expected to return to Guinea.<sup>4</sup>

It is widely understood that electoral considerations underpin the decision to set Camara free. Camara is from **Guinée Forestière**, where he remains very popular. Widespread celebrations took place there when news of his release broke. General Doumbouya will expect Camara to play an important role in swaying his home region in Doumbouya's favour when presidential elections take place.<sup>5</sup> While it is not clear when these will be held, they must follow a constitutional referendum that is now slated for 21 September.

Guinée Forestière is important in several ways. It represents roughly one-fifth of the electorate and is home to the **Simandou** iron ore extraction operation upon which Doumbouya has predicated his political survival. It is also one of former president **Alpha Condé's** (2010-2021) traditional strongholds. The region must also be made to forget and forgive Doumbouya for the 150 football deaths resulting from a stampede at **N'zérékoré** stadium on 1 December during a match organised in his honour (see *ARC Briefing Guinea Dec 2024*).<sup>6</sup> Doumbouya needs Camara there to help him win.

#### Planning minister announces census results, while second census is launched

Planning and international cooperation minister **Ismael Nabé** has declared that the number of people living in Guinea amounts to 17 million. Nabé said the general population census, **Récensement**

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<sup>1</sup> ledjely, 28 Mar 2025; Le Monde, 29 Mar 2025

<sup>2</sup> ledjely, 28 Mar 2025; Le Monde, 29 Mar 2025

<sup>3</sup> FIDH statement, 1 Apr 2025

<sup>4</sup> RFI, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>5</sup> Guinee28, 19 Apr 2025

<sup>6</sup> ledjely, 29 Mar 2025; Guinee28, 19 Apr 2025

**Générale de population et de l'habitat, RGPH4**, which serves development purposes, will be complete in June.<sup>7</sup> The results are mostly linked to the provision of (usually foreign-funded) social infrastructure, i.e. schools, boreholes, clinics and dispensaries. RGPH 3 was conducted in March 2014 and the results made public in 2015, showing that Guinea had 10.5 million inhabitants.

A second census, the **Récensement administratif à vocation d'état civil (RAVEC)**, started in November but was halted early this year for lack of funds.<sup>8</sup> RAVEC will result in a database that feeds into the voters' register.<sup>9</sup> RAVEC relaunched on 15 April, in the presence of a top-heavy ministerial delegation, with secretary-general to the Presidency **General Amara Camara** and cabinet director at the Presidency, **Djiba Diakité**, at its head. Diakité also presides over the **Comité de suivi du projet Simandou**, put in place to enforce the contracts and time-frame of the project signed between the government of Guinea and the consortia carrying out the project. Territorial administration and decentralisation minister **Ibrahima Kalil Condé**, tasked with organising elections, was also summoned to be present, as well as budget, defence, education and finance ministers.<sup>10</sup>

The new RAVEC concerns only Guineans aged 10 years and older and is supposed to prepare the voters' roll for the constitutional referendum. Doumbouya has decreed that this will happen on 21 September, a time-frame observers consider extremely limited.<sup>11</sup> The original RAVEC was supposed to have been managed by a local company and included all Guineans.

### Convoy attack results in theft of 21 billion Guinean francs

An attack on a convoy of vehicles belonging to the **Banque centrale de la République de Guinée (BCRG)** on 12 April has resulted in the theft of new banknotes worth GNF21 billion (\$2.4m).<sup>12</sup> The BCRG confirmed the heist on 14 April, adding that it had established a crisis committee under the leadership of bank governor **Karamo Kaba**.<sup>13</sup> The attack happened on the road between the towns of **Kindia** (130 km from Conakry) and **Mamou**, an important national crossroads. To date, neither the loot nor the gang responsible for stealing the new GNF 20,000 banknotes have been found. The BCRG has demanded extra vigilance of Guinean citizens and has asked them to inform the authorities if they see these new banknotes in circulation. The BCRG has shared the serial numbers with the security forces.<sup>14</sup>

The heist has raised several pertinent questions, not least among them how it is possible that such an important sum of money is sent into the country's interior under the supposed protection of a private security firm. Commentators have asked why convoys such as these are not accompanied by the armed forces.<sup>15</sup> The security firm in question has not been named.<sup>16</sup>

Mamou has been a long-standing centre of banditry.<sup>17</sup> The problem of what Guineans call "*coupeurs de route*" dates to the regime of late former president **Lansana Conté** (1984-2008) and became particularly bad at the beginning of this century, when Conté lost his grip on Guinea and there was widespread lawlessness in Conakry and beyond.<sup>18</sup> Coupled with this problem is the extremely bad state of Guinea's road network, which obliges vehicles to frequently slow to a crawl, thus facilitating the activities of highway robbers, who travel on motorbikes.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Guinee360, 5 Apr 2025

<sup>8</sup> RFI, 28 Mar 2025

<sup>9</sup> Visionguinee, 5 Apr 2025

<sup>10</sup> Guineenews, 15 Apr 2025; Présidence de la République de Guinée, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>11</sup> Reuters, 2 Apr 2025

<sup>12</sup> Guineenews, 15 Apr 2025; ledejly, 15 Apr 2025; Guinee360, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>13</sup> ledejly, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>14</sup> ledejly, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>15</sup> Guinee360, 15 Apr 2025; ledejly, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>16</sup> Guinee360, 15 Apr 2025

<sup>17</sup> RFI, 8 Feb 2023; Visionguinee, 10 Nov 2023; Mondoblog, 17 Jul 2022

<sup>18</sup> Source, analyst resident in Guinea

<sup>19</sup> Mondoblog, 17 Jul 2022

All successive governments have announced major road projects, few of which have ever materialised. The latest is a project that involves road works on long stretches of the interior, including the one where the attack took place. Road works have been reported from the Kindia – Mamou stretch, but progress is slow.<sup>20</sup>

### Investment agency announces opening of redesigned website

Guinea's one-stop investment centre, the **Agence de Promotion des Investissements Privés (APIP)**, announced on 4 April that it has modernised and redesigned its website.<sup>21</sup> APIP, established via presidential decree in 2014, is managed out of the trade, industry and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) ministry and has as its principal role to carry out government policies regarding investments into the Guinean economy.<sup>22</sup> Its tasks include fulfilling the functions of a one-stop stop, attracting and accompanying investors in key sectors, such as agriculture, energy and IT and acquainting potential investors with the legal environment. APIP also exists to foster partnerships between enterprise inside and outside Guinea.<sup>23</sup> A particular focus is Guinea's youth and the promotion of SMEs, which are largely informal and provide 96% of job opportunities in the country.<sup>24</sup>

APIP's modernised website aims to facilitate the agency's functions, making the online experience more interactive. In principle, all investment-related formalities should now be able to be done online, using tutorials regarding how to create and register enterprises.<sup>25</sup> However, all information is only available in **French**.

APIP's effectiveness is unknown. There do not appear to be any surveys listing the number and size of investments that have gone through this agency and what these may have contributed to the national economy. The principal reason for this is that since independence in 1958, Guinea has developed investment processes that rely heavily on personal relations and far less on formalities. All major investment decisions have inevitably been run by the Office of the President. None of the governments in place since 1958 have fundamentally changed this working method.<sup>26</sup> The current military junta of General Mamadi Doumbouya is no exception.

However, since APIP is beholden to execute government policy, it has shifted its focus into the direction the junta desires, which is a top-heavy promotion of anything related to the Simandou iron ore extraction project, in particular the much-touted **Simandou 2040** development programme. To this end, APIP and **Anglo-Australian** multinational mining company **Rio Tinto**, one of the partners in the Simandou project, on 24 March signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that aims to encourage investment and the development of local enterprises in connection with the Simandou project.<sup>27</sup>

### Chronology

22 Apr 2025 **Conakry (Guinea) Mining Weekly**. Australia-listed **Traka Resources** signs an agreement with Guinea-based **Alamako Corporation International** to earn a 75% interest in the **Didi** gold project, which is highly prospective for gold;

18 Apr 2025 **Conakry (Guinea) Vision Guinee**. Authorities confirm unknown perpetrators attacked a convoy travelling between **Kindia Region** and **Mamou Region** transporting 21 billion GNF (\$2.42m);

14 Apr 2025 **Conakry (Guinea) Vision Guinee**. **World Bank** launches an evaluation of the public procurement system in Guinea in collaboration with the government;

<sup>20</sup> Guineenews, 20 Jan 2025

<sup>21</sup> Guineenews, 4. Ap 2025

<sup>22</sup> APIP website: nos missions (apip.gov.gn/nos-missions)

<sup>23</sup> APIP website

<sup>24</sup> APIP website; Agence Ecofin, 25 Mar 2025

<sup>25</sup> Guineenews, 4. Apr 2025

<sup>26</sup> See "Mangos, not Mining are the Future of Guinea", The World Today, 5 Feb 2014

<sup>27</sup> Agence Ecofin, 25 Mar 2025

13 Apr 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Punch*. Guinea's ambassador to **Nigeria**, **Siaka Cissoko**, urges Nigerian companies to invest in Guinea's mega-projects, which he says are worth \$20 billion;

7 Apr 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africaguinee*. Foreign affairs minister **Morissanda Kouyaté** says an agreement will be signed with **Mauritania** to address migration issues between the two countries;

5 Apr 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Planning and international cooperation minister **Ismaël Nabé** reports that the Guinean population has reached 17 million according to the general population and housing census, above estimates of 14 million, impacting budgets;

29 Mar 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africanews*. Junta leader Colonel **Mamady Doumbouya** pardons former junta leader **Moussa Dadis Camara** for his role in the 2009 stadium massacre on the grounds of health reasons;

27 Mar 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Justice Info*. Government announces that the national budget will cover the entire cost of compensation for victims of the 2009 stadium massacre, following the **Dixinn** court's sentencing on 31 July 2024 of eight defendants to jail and order to pay reparations of between \$21,554 and \$172,432 per victim;

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Please contact us by email [info@africariskconsulting.com](mailto:info@africariskconsulting.com)

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