

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Senegal Summary 24 September 2025

President Bassirou Diomaye Faye (2024-present) reshuffles his cabinet, making changes to the justice, interior and foreign affairs ministries. An International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff mission visits Senegal from 19 to 26 August to discuss the prospects of a new staff-monitored programme with the government. Faye meets with France's President Emmanuel Macron (2017-present) on 27 August in Paris (France) to discuss bilateral relations, with reports indicating several issues were discussed, including the IMF's recent mission to Senegal, the political and security situation in the Sahel, and the war in Gaza.

Faye reshuffles cabinet

President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** (2024-present) reshuffled his cabinet, as confirmed on local television on 6 September, making changes to the justice, interior and foreign affairs ministries. Faye [moved](#) foreign affairs minister **Yassine Fall** to the justice ministry, taking over from **Ousmane Diagne**, and replaced Fall with former ambassador to the **United Nations (UN)** and several other countries, **Cheikh Niang**. The interior minister, General **Jean-Baptiste Tine**, has been replaced by **Mouhamadou Bamba Cissé**, a lawyer who has worked with prime minister **Ousmane Sonko**.

Other ministers [were](#) shuffled around but remain in government. **Abdourahmane Diouf** will take over the environment and ecological transition ministry, leaving higher education, while **Amadou Bâ** will take over the culture, crafts and tourism ministry. The infrastructure and transport ministry was also split, with **Déthié Fall** taking over as the new infrastructure minister. Sonko [noted](#) that when the new administration assumed power, it had become clear that various infrastructure-related issues had been fragmented across several ministries, hindering progress.

Sonko [said](#) in a statement following the reshuffle that the new government will be hard working and focused on addressing key issues:

"This will not be a government of leisure but a government of commitment and combat. We will be uncompromising and very demanding. [We will have to] work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, given the situation we inherited."

[One](#) of these issues is an investigation into the political violence that took place between 2021 and 2024, which left at least 65 people dead. The new administration launched judicial investigations into the crimes committed, but there has been little progress. On 30 August, hundreds of people marched in **Dakar** demanding justice for the victims and answers from the investigations, denouncing their slow pace. Sonko noted that Fall's [goal](#) in her new ministry will be to "reconcile with the Senegalese and win back their trust".

The reshuffle takes place against a background of reported tensions between Sonko and Faye (*see ARC Briefing Senegal Jul 2025*). The departure of Diagne – with whom Sonko reportedly clashed – and the appointment of his ally, Cissé, is indicative of Sonko's [influence](#). However, Faye's retention of allies such as Fall, shows that Faye and Sonko are maintaining a delicate power balance.

IMF mission visits Senegal

An **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff mission visited Senegal from 19 to 26 August to discuss the prospects of a new staff-monitored programme with the government. The IMF suspended its previous \$1.9 billion programme with the country, following the revelations that the former administration had misreported key economic data, including government debt levels (*see ARC Briefing Senegal Jul 2025*). This issue was at the forefront of the mission, led by **Edward Gemayel**.

Gemayel said in a [statement](#) that the discussions were productive, but that further discussions were required over the coming weeks to finalise measures before the staff mission presents Senegal's case to the IMF executive board to seek a waiver that would allow the IMF to implement a new programme. Without the waiver, the government could be faced with having to repay the funds disbursed from the previous programme.

On a positive note, Gemayel [highlighted](#) the new administration's willingness to make progress on budget transparency, and noted that they had discussed measures to enhance transparency, ensure reliable data reporting, and ways to work on budget sustainability. Some of these recommended measures include a centralised debt database, budgetary control bodies and a consolidation of the treasury's current accounts. Gemayel also noted that the IMF is ready to support Senegal in executing its reform agenda, as presented by Sonko in July.

In its post-mission statement, the IMF highlighted other developments, including that Senegal's economic growth registered 12.1% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2025, but that non-hydrocarbon growth remains much lower at 3.1%.

Faye meets with Macron

President Faye met with **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present) on 27 August in **Paris** (France) to discuss bilateral relations, with reports indicating that they discussed several issues, including the IMF's recent mission to Senegal, the political and security situation in the **Sahel**, and the war in **Gaza**. This visit is the [third time](#) the two have met since Faye assumed power in April 2024, marking a departure from the rhetoric on which the ruling **Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef)** campaigned ahead of the presidential election, with Sonko often critical of the relationship between France and Senegal.

While Senegal has been careful to not completely cut ties with France, there appears to have been a recalibration of the relationship. Although France is an important investment and trade partner, accounting for 16% of FDI in 2023, it ended its military presence in Senegal in July, at the request of the Senegalese government. In November 2024, France [officially](#) recognised the **Thiaroye Massacre**, in which the French army killed an unconfirmed number of Senegalese riflemen in December 1944. During his latest visit, Faye extended an invitation to Macron to visit Senegal in December and join the commemoration day of the massacre.

The two leaders confirmed that trade, investment, defence and security ties will be [discussed](#) at the next intergovernmental seminar, expected to take place in Dakar in November and to be attended by France's prime minister, the recently appointed **Sébastien Lecornu**. The meeting between Faye and Macron has re-emphasised that the countries remain committed to positive bilateral relations, but in a new era.

Planner

30 Aug – 5 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** 19th **African Food Systems Forum**

Nov 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** France's prime minister **Sébastien Lecornu** to attend Sixth Franco-Senegalese Intergovernmental Seminar

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

Chronology

23 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. Controversy emerges as the **Autonomous Port of Dakar** and the **Agence Nationale de Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD)** (national agency for statistics and demography) report starkly conflicting figures for 2024 port activity, with the port claiming growth of between 6% and 8%, sparking suspicions of manipulation and data sabotage;

23 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Agence Ecofin*. **World Bank** and **United States**-headquartered **S&P Global Market Intelligence** publish the annual **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI)**, with the **Port of Dakar** the highest-ranked port in **sub-Saharan Africa** in 2024;

18 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Times Live*. Government reportedly plans to raise 100 billion FCFA (\$179.55m) through a local Islamic bond sale by year-end and is preparing to launch a benchmark international sukuk in 2026;

18 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Jeune Afrique*. The supreme court rules that the removal of **Barthélémy Dias** as mayor of Dakar in December 2024 is legitimate, ending his bid to have the decision overturned;

15 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Senegal adopts a new investment code, replacing its 2004 code, as part of efforts to stimulate investment;

9 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Mining Review*. **Canada**-headquartered **Thor Explorations** acquires the remaining 30% interest in the **Douta Gold Project** in Senegal, strengthening its position;

9 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** cancels his first official trip to **France**, citing scheduling constraints;

8 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Energy, petroleum and mines ministry data forecast that the **Sangomar** oil field will produce 34.5 million barrels this year, up from an initial forecast of 30.53 million;

8 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. **Morocco**-headquartered **Managem Group** commissions production at its 230 billion FCFA (\$412.44m) **Boto** gold mine;

7 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** announces a cabinet reshuffle, replacing the justice and interior ministers;

7 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** arrives in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** to discuss increasing cooperation between Senegal and the UAE;

4 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. **Agence nationale de la statistique et de la démographie** (national statistics agency) reports that Senegal's trade deficit improved significantly in June, falling to 30.3 billion FCFA (\$53.8 m) from 80.7 billion FCFA (\$143.3 m) in May;

31 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. **Société Nationale de Gestion et d'Exploitation du Patrimoine Bâti de l'État (SOGÉPA)** (state built heritage company) director general **Elimane Pouya** confirms government terminated 114 rental agreements between June 2024 and June 2025 in a bid to reduce state rental expenses;

30 Sep 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Jeune Afrique*. Hundreds demonstrate against what they call a delay in justice regarding investigations into the crimes committed during political violence between 2021 and 2024;

28 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APA News*. Gendarmerie hosts representatives from its **Guinean** counterparts to discuss combating transnational criminal networks and human trafficking;

27 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** meets with his **French** counterpart, **Emmanuel Macron**, in France to discuss bilateral ties;

27 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. Parliament adopts a law to protect whistle-blowers in a bid to strengthen transparency in the country, making it the first **French-speaking sub-Saharan African** country to adopt such a law, according to the **Platform for the Protection of Whistleblowers in Africa (PPLAAF)**;

22 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. Senegal denounces the new **United States (US)** sanctions on **International Criminal Court** judges and prosecutors;

20 Aug 2025 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** announces that from 2026, Senegal will stop importing gas and rely on its own reserves, saving up to \$249m annually;

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