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The Cour Constitutionnelle (constitutional court) confirms President Macky Sall (2012-present) the winner of the 24 February presidential election with 58.26% of votes cast. Sall pledges to hold political dialogue with opposition parties. United Kingdom (UK)-based oil and gas company British Petroleum (BP) awards separate contracts to France-based Eiffage and Italy-based Saipem as well as UK-based engineering company TechnipFMC to construct offshore gas facilities for the Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project.

President Macky Sall secures re-election in first round ...

President **Macky Sall** (2012-present) has secured a second term to lead **Senegal** for the next five years. Sall's re-election will enable him to continue the political and economic agenda he pursued during his first term and ensure policy certainty. The **Cour Constitutionnelle** (constitutional court) confirmed Sall the winner of the 24 February presidential elections with 58.26% of votes on 5 March, avoiding a second round of voting.¹ Although Sall was widely predicted to win (see *ARC Briefing Senegal February 2019*), a first-round victory improved his chances of re-election – former presidents **Abdou Diouf** (1980-2000) and **Abdoulaye Wade** (2000-2012) were both voted out of office during the second round of elections in 2000 and 2012 respectively.

Sall faced four other presidential candidates – **Idrissa Seck**, **Ousmane Sonko**, **Issa Sall** and **Madické Niang** – in the smallest electoral field since the 1988 elections, which saw a total of four participants.² Leading opposition figures **Karim Wade** of the **Parti Démocratique Sénégalais (PDS)** and **Khalifa Sall** of **Rewmi** were conspicuously absent due to the invalidation of their candidacies on grounds of legal convictions (see *ARC Briefing Senegal January, February 2019*).³ Opposition parties issued a joint statement on 28 February saying they would not challenge Sall's election victory.⁴

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Macky Sall	Alliance pour la République (Benno Boff Yakaar (BBY) Coalition)	2,554,605	58.26
Idrissa Seck	Rewmi	899,674	20.4
Ousmane Sonko	Patriotes du Senegal pour le Travail, l'Éthique et la Fraternité (PASTEF)	687,065	15.67
Issa Sall	Parti de l'Unité et Rassemblement (PUR)	178,533	4.07
Madické Niang	Madické2019	65,002	1.58

¹ RFI, 5 Mar 2019

² Jeune Afrique, 14 Jan 2019

³ Jeune Afrique, 14 Jan 2019

⁴ Washington Post, 28 Feb 2019

During his campaign, President Sall focused on the positive results of his **Plan Sénégal Emergent I (PSE I)**, the first phase of Senegal’s medium-term economic development strategy.⁵ PSE I enabled Senegal to attain positive economic growth and complete major infrastructure projects during Sall’s first term of office.⁶ Sall promised to build on these achievements if re-elected, through second phase of the Plan Senegal Emergent, **PSE II**.⁷ Sall also used his stabilisation of the longstanding conflict in the **Casamance** region to galvanise voters for his re-election.⁸ Sall hoped to capitalise on support from the **Benno Boff Yakaar (BBK)** ruling coalition, which includes political parties such as Sall’s **Alliance pour la République**, the **Parti Socialiste (PS)** and **Alliance des Forces de Progrès (AFP)**.⁹ Sall also received an unlikely endorsement from opposition political heavyweight and member of parliament (MP) **Aissata Tall Sall** (no relation to the president).¹⁰ Sall ran a robust 21-day campaign.¹¹ The BBK mobilised 4,500 supporters who canvassed door-to-door.¹² As a result, President Sall lost only in the **Ziguinchor** region, winning an electoral contest for the first time in **Dakar** where his coalition lost in the 2014 local and 2017 legislative elections.¹³

Prime minister **Mahammed Boun Abdallah Dionne** attracted criticism for his premature declaration of Sall’s victory on 25 February, claiming that Sall had received 57% of votes and was victorious in 13 out of 14 regions.¹⁴ **Commission Nationale de Recensement des Votes (CNRV)** (national vote counting commission) president **Demba Kanji** said the result provided by the prime minister was not official and had no legal backing.¹⁵

“Nobody has the right to proclaim provisional results except the CNRV and the final results by the constitutional court.”¹⁶

Despite these conflicting statements and the CNRV’s call to order, international observers praised the organisation of the elections as well as the calm climate. **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** observer mission head, **Benin’s** former president **Thomas Yaya Boni** (2006-2016), said there were no major incidents during voting.¹⁷ Boni said the transparency, credibility and sincerity of the elections could not be called into question but appealed to political actors to ensure the calm situation prevailed while votes were tallied.¹⁸ **European Union (EU)** observer mission head **Elena Valenciano** also praised the conduct and transparency of the elections and asked leaders from both sides to avoid making antagonistic statements.¹⁹

The CNRV noted that voter participation was 66.23%, compared to 51.8% in 2012.²⁰ The increase in voter turnout was a clear rejection of former president Wade’s call for voters to

⁵ Africa Confidential, 11 Jan 2019

⁶ Africa Confidential, 11 Jan 2019

⁷ Africa Confidential, 11 Jan 2019

⁸ Africa Confidential, 11 Jan 2019

⁹ Jeune Afrique, 1 Dec 2019

¹⁰ Jeune Afrique, 29 Jan 2019

¹¹ RFI, 28 Feb 2019

¹² Jeune Afrique, 4 Mar 2019

¹³ Jeune Afrique, 7 Mar 2019

¹⁴ RFI, 25 Feb 2019

¹⁵ RFI, 25 Feb 2019

¹⁶ RFI, 25 Feb 2019

¹⁷ RFI, 25 Feb 2019

¹⁸ RFI, 25 Feb 2019

¹⁹ RFI, 27 Feb 2019

²⁰ RFI, 28 Feb 2019

boycott the elections and burn voting material (see *ARC Briefing Senegal February 2019*).²¹ Wade's refusal to register a PDS presidential candidate was not well received by some elements of the PDS.

After the announcement of his victory, President Sall promised to pursue open and constructive political dialogue with the opposition, inviting former presidents Diouf and Wade to be part of the dialogue.²² Idrissa Seck and Ousmane Sonko are now the respective leaders of the Senegalese opposition. Seck garnered broad-based support from different politicians but will have to maintain those alliances in the aftermath of the election. Sonko has made significant inroads in the political landscape – in the 2017 legislative elections, he obtained 33,706 votes, versus 687,065 in these elections, a sign of his growing popularity.²³ If the opposition can better coordinate its strategy, it may make gains in the December local elections.

The Senegalese presidential elections confirm the country's status as one of **Africa's** most stable political environments. Despite antagonism between candidates, there were no incidents of politically-inspired violence or voter intimidation. President Sall's call for political dialogue, despite his position of advantage due to his large victory, is a sign of maturity that contrasts starkly with many of his regional and continental peers. As a result, Senegal is likely to be seen as an attractive investment environment in the **West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)** compared to its counterparts such as **Cote d'Ivoire** and **Guinea**, which are embroiled in scenarios of high political uncertainty.

... promising political dialogue and economic opportunity

President Sall has a host of priority areas to tackle in order to ensure Senegal attains its full economic and political potential in this second term. Sall has said he intends to organise a political dialogue with the various opposition groups, acknowledging that 41.22% of Senegalese voters – 1.82 million – did not vote for him.²⁴ Sall is likely to outline the focus of the dialogue during his inauguration ceremony, set to take place on 2 April. The dialogue will no doubt aim to chart the political pathway forward for Senegal and ease ongoing tensions between the presidential coalition and the opposition. The opposition is likely to request that amnesty be granted to Khalifa Sall and Karim Wade, who were prevented from participating in elections due to past convictions.²⁵ The opposition has claimed that Sall won because he used the judiciary to sideline Sall and Wade.²⁶

President Sall will attempt to build on Senegal's reputation as one of **sub-Saharan Africa's** best governed countries. The **2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)** ranked Senegal 10th out of 54 African countries in terms of overall governance.²⁷ Despite this, Sall called for measures to improve public administration so as to maximise revenue collection and improve education for better youth employment prospects.²⁸

²¹ RFI, 14 Feb 2019

²² RFI, 5 Mar 2019

²³ Jeune Afrique, 4 Mar 2019

²⁴ Quotidien Sud, 4 Mar 2019

²⁵ Quotidien Sud, 4 Mar 2019

²⁶ Jeune Afrique, 4 Mar 2019

²⁷ 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, October 2018

²⁸ Jeune Afrique, 21 Sep 2018

Senegal made considerable economic gains during President Sall's first term of office, with GDP growth increasing from 3.5% in 2013 to 7% in 2018. The improvement in economic growth has been largely attributed to the role of the PSE I in stimulating economic activity.

Senegal: GDP growth rate					
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
3.5%	4.3%	6.5%	6.6%	7.2%	7%

PSE II aims for Senegal to register 9.1% growth in GDP by 2023.²⁹ In December, bilateral and multilateral partners organised under the **Groupe Consultatif Senegal** pledged \$14 billion towards the funding of PSE II.³⁰ **Mouvement des Entreprises du Senegal** (Senegalese business movement) business cartel adviser **Moustapha Sane** has expressed hope that PSE II will give local firms more opportunity with respect to allocation of infrastructure projects.³¹ The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** believes that Senegal can attain GDP economic growth rates of 6.9% in 2019, 7.5% in 2020, and double digit growth when oil and gas exploration commences in 2022.³² Senegal needs to grow by 7-8% annually in order to support sustainable poverty reduction.³³ As a result, Sall's administration will need to pursue the seven priority areas of agriculture, infrastructure development and construction, energy, industrial activity, digital economy, tourism and finance outlined in PSE II during this term.

President Sall intends to make the hydrocarbons sector a major contributor to Senegal's economic prosperity. This desire has been motivated in large part by the discovery of commercially exploitable gas at the **Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA)** offshore gas field in December 2015 by **United States (US)**-based **Kosmos Energy** (see below).³⁴ **United Kingdom (UK)**-based **British Petroleum (BP)** is currently the licensing operator for the GTA project and has committed to investing \$10 billion in the project.³⁵ Production of natural gas is set to begin in 2022.³⁶ In addition, **France**-based oil and gas company **Total** signed two exploration and exploitation agreements in May 2017.³⁷ In October 2018, state oil company **Petrosen** announced it was launching a licensing round for the **Senegal Offshore South and Deep Offshore Senegal** blocks.³⁸ CEO **Mamadou Faye** said Petrosen intends to sell 12 additional blocks in 2019 in line with the new petroleum code, still under deliberation, which intends to be more investor friendly.³⁹

BP awards infrastructure development contracts for Grand Torture Ahmeyim project

BP has awarded separate contracts to construct offshore gas facilities on the GTA gas field to a consortium led by France-based **Eiffage** and Italy-based **Saipem**,⁴⁰ and UK-based

²⁹ La Tribune Afrique, 217 Dec 2018

³⁰ Jeune Afrique, 17 Dec 2018

³¹ Jeune Afrique, 20 Feb 2019

³² Jeune Afrique, 20 Feb 2019

³³ Jeune Afrique, 24 Dec 2018

³⁴ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

³⁵ Jeune Afrique, 2 Jul 2018

³⁶ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

³⁷ Le Parisien, 2 May 2017

³⁸ Africa Oil and Power, 4 Oct 2018

³⁹ La Tribune Afrique, 2 Oct 2018

⁴⁰ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

engineering company **TechnipFMC**.⁴¹ These developments will ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to enable the eventual exploitation and production of GTA natural gas reserves. The first construction contract was signed on 27 February and is worth \$350m. Eiffage reports that the firm has a majority share in its partnership with Saipem.⁴² Eiffage and Saipem will build berthing facilities for the floating complex for the production of liquefied natural gas.⁴³ In addition, a breakwater consisting of 21 concrete caissons weighing 16,500 tonnes each will be erected to protect the offshore installations.⁴⁴

BP, as licence operator for the GTA project, already has a working relationship with Eiffage and Saipem in relation to the GTA offshore gas field.⁴⁵ Since April 2018, the consortium has helped BP to optimise the design of maritime infrastructure, refine the implementation plan and prepare for the launch of the execution phase.⁴⁶ **Mauritania's** stated owned-hydrocarbons company, **Société Mauritanienne des Hydrocarbures et du Patrimoine Minier (SMHPH)** and Petrosen are also members of the GTA project contractors' association.⁴⁷ As a result, they will participate in the investment for the construction of these facilities. Construction of the offshore gas terminal and complementary facilities is set to begin in 2020.⁴⁸

BP announced on 1 March that it had granted TechnipFMC the contract for the engineering, supply, construction, installation and commission (EPCIC) of the floating storage and unloading production unit (FPSO) at the GTA offshore gas field.⁴⁹ TechnipFMC is known for its experience in carrying out hydrocarbons-related projects, particularly in the domain of constructing offshore gas facilities.⁵⁰ The deal is a continuation of the engineering detailed preliminary design (FEED) contract that TechnipFMC won in April 2018.⁵¹ Although the value of the contract was not revealed, it is estimated at \$500m-\$1 billion based on the nature of work to be conducted.⁵²

These announcements are positive developments with respect to the eventual exploitation of the GTA offshore gas field located on the Senegal and Mauritania maritime boundary.⁵³ GTA has gas reserves estimated at 450 billion cubic metres, exploitation of which can last up to 35 years.⁵⁴ In February and December 2018 respectively, the governments of Senegal and Mauritania signed international cooperation agreements to ensure the commencement of exploitation activities.⁵⁵ At full capacity, the GTA project is expected to provide 10m tonnes of liquefied natural gas per year.⁵⁶ In July 2018, BP stated its intention to invest \$10 billion in the project.⁵⁷ This followed BP's announcement in 2016 to allocate \$916m towards the GTA

⁴¹ Agence Ecofin, 1 Mar 2019

⁴² Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁴³ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁴⁴ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁴⁵ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁴⁶ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁴⁷ Afrique Confidentielle, 28 Feb 2019

⁴⁸ Afrique Confidentielle, 28 Feb 2019

⁴⁹ Agence Ecofin, 1 Mar 2019

⁵⁰ Agence Ecofin, 1 Mar 2019

⁵¹ Agence Ecofin, 1 Mar 2019

⁵² Agence Ecofin, 1 Mar 2019

⁵³ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁵⁴ Jeune Afrique, 27 Feb 2019

⁵⁵ Jeune Afrique, 24 Dec 2018

⁵⁶ Offshore Energy Today, 25 Feb 2019

⁵⁷ Jeune Afrique, 2 Jul 2018

project after purchasing a controlling stake from Kosmos Energy.⁵⁸ Kosmos Energy, which has a 28% share in the GTA project, announced on 25 February that it would sell down its stake in GTA:⁵⁹

“Kosmos Energy has discovered a significant valuable resource in Mauritania and Senegal and the final investment decision of the Tortue project in December 2018 has created a value inflection point. Following interest from multiple third parties, Kosmos intends to sell down its position to 10%.”⁶⁰

The increasing investments and interest in the evolution of the GTA project will be good news for private stakeholders, with potential to attract more investment from different actors. For the governments of Mauritania and Senegal, the GTS project offers an opportunity to improve the development prospects of their respective countries.

Planner

2 April 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. Presidential inauguration ceremony;
2022 **Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA)** offshore gas field: production of natural gas set to begin

Chronology

8 Mar 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. **L’Autorité de Régulation des Marchés Publics (ARMP)** cancels the award of the water production, distribution and commercialisation concession to **France**-based utility company **Suez**;

6 Mar 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Agence Ecofin*. The **Banque Centrale de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (BCEAO)** estimates members of the **West African Economic and Monetary Union** will register 6.8% in gross domestic product economic growth in 2019;

5 Mar 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. The **Cour Constitutionnelle** declares President **Macky Sall** winner of the 24 February presidential elections with 58.26% of votes;

1 Mar 2019 **London (United Kingdom)(UK)** **British Petroleum** awards UK-based **TechnipFMC** the contract for the engineering, supply, construction, installation and commission (EPCIC) of the floating storage and unloading production unit (FPSO) at the **Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA)** offshore gas field;

1 Mar 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Construction Review*. **Japan**-based construction company **MODEC International** begins construction of the first floating oil production storage and offloading vessel in offshore **Senegal**;

28 Feb 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Washington Post*. Opposition parties issue a joint statement saying they will not challenge President **Macky Sall**’s election victory;

27 Feb 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Africa Oil & Power*. **United States (US)**-based oil company **Kosmos Energy** plans a 10% buy-in to the **Grand Tortue Ahmeyim Complex** in offshore **Senegal** and **Mauritania**;

⁵⁸ Jeune Afrique, 19 Dec 2016

⁵⁹ Petroleum Africa, 27 Feb 2019

⁶⁰ Offshore Energy Today, 25 Feb 2019

27 Feb 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Jeune Afrique*. **United Kingdom**-based **British Petroleum** grants for the construction of offshore gas infrastructure to a consortium made up of **France**-based **Eiffage** and **Italy**-based **Saipem** ;

26 Feb 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Reuters*. Preliminary results show that President **Macky Sall** will win the presidential election;

25 Feb 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Soleil*. Prime minister **Mohammed Dionne** says that President **Macky Sall** won the presidential vote, though official results have not been released;

24 Feb 2019 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Al Jazeera*. Counting of votes begins for **Senegal's** presidential election;

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