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Senegal Summary 24 March 2021

*The arrest and detention of opposition **Patriotes du Senegal pour le Travail, l’Ethique et la Fraternité (PASTE)** president and MP **Ousmane Sonko** lead to Senegal’s most violent protests in over a decade, leaving an estimated eight people dead. In response to the recent protests, President **Macky Sall** (2012-present) has established the 350 billion FCFA (\$634.1m) **Programme d’Urgence pour l’Emploi et l’Insertion Socio-Économique des Jeunes (PUEISE-Jeunes)** (emergency youth employment and socio-economic placement programme) to address youth unemployment. France-based construction firm **Eiffage** has reached an agreement to cede 25% of its controlling stake in the concession of the **Dakar-Aéroport international Blaise Diagne (AIBD)** toll motorway to the Senegalese state for a reported 19 billion FCFA (\$34.4m).*

Violent protests lead to eight deaths

Senegal’s most violent protests in a decade have led to an estimated eight deaths and highlighted deep-seated popular grievances over current economic hardship. President **Macky Sall** (2012-present) has acknowledged the concerns raised during the protests and outlined measures to address these grievances.¹ The protests are the most significant challenge Sall has faced since taking office and the aftermath of the events could be a turning point in his presidency.²

The catalyst for the demonstrations was the arrest and detention of opposition **Patriotes du Senegal pour le Travail, l’Ethique et la Fraternité (PASTE)** president and member of parliament (MP) **Ousmane Sonko** on 3 March.³ Although Sonko’s arrest sparked the week-long protests, they were fuelled by growing anger over systemic corruption, the negative impact of **Covid-19** restrictive measures on the economy, youth unemployment and resentment against the business practices of foreign private sector actors.⁴

Sonko faces allegations of raping and making death threats to a female massage parlour employee (see *ARC Briefing Senegal February 2021*).⁵ The **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) voted on 26 February to withdraw his parliamentary immunity, 98 MPs in favour, one against and two choosing to abstain.⁶ The outcome of the vote was a foregone conclusion, as the presidential ruling coalition **Benno Bokk Yaakaar (BBK)** occupies 125 of 165 parliamentary seats.⁷ Sonko and his lawyers initially refused to appear before a judge to face charges, claiming President Sall had framed him.⁸ However, on 3 March, Sonko decided to present himself at the **Palais de Justice** in **Dakar**, followed by a convoy of hundreds of supporters.⁹ Clashes resulted between Sonko’s supporters, anti-riot police and the national gendarmerie when local authorities blocked the convoy and arrested Sonko.¹⁰ Interior minister **Antoine Felix Diome** said Sonko’s arrest was justified, as he had violated

¹ APS, 8 Mar 2021

² Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

³ The Continent, 13 Mar 2021

⁴ The Continent, 13 Mar 2021

⁵ Jeune Afrique, 5 Feb 2021

⁶ RFI, 27 Feb 2021

⁷ Jeune Afrique, 15 Feb 2021

⁸ Al Jazeera, 4 Mar 2021

⁹ Al Jazeera, 4 Mar 2021

¹⁰ Al Jazeera, 4 Mar 2021

the ban on public gatherings and carried out an unauthorised demonstration, contrary to Covid-19 preventive measures.¹¹

The news of Sonko's arrest on charges of causing public order led to the escalation of protests across Dakar, which spread to **St. Louis** and the localities of **Bignoa** and **Ziguinchor** in Sonko's home region of **Casamance**.¹² Protesters attacked the headquarters of government-run daily newspaper **Le Soleil** and the premises of **RFM**, a radio station owned by Senegalese artist and former culture minister **Yousou N'Dour**.¹³ The **Conseil National de Regulation de l'Audiovisuel (CNRA)** (national audiovisual regulatory council) suspended local television stations **Walf TV** and **SEN TV** for broadcasting images of the violent protests.¹⁴ Non-government organisation (NGO) **NetBlocks** reported social media activity was also affected during the protests, suggesting the government had implemented some form of blackout.¹⁵ Opposition and civil society consortium **Mouvement de Défense de la Démocratie (M2D)** announced further protests against the government on 5 March, when Sonko was set to appear before a college of judges to hear the charges against him.¹⁶ The dean of the college of judges, **Samba Sall**, informed Sonko he would be placed under custody for public disorder and face another hearing on 7 March.¹⁷

By this point, Senegal's protests had gained significant international attention with the *#FreeSenegal* hashtag trending on social media. **United Nations (UN)** secretary general **Antonio Guterres** expressed concern about the evolution of the protests,¹⁸ while the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** condemned the violence and called on Senegalese authorities to take steps to calm the situation and ensure the respect of human rights and the right to protest.¹⁹ Members of the ruling camp took a less conciliatory stance. **Abdou Mbow**, spokesperson for Sall's party, the **Alliance pour la République (APR)**, and first vice president of the national assembly, described the protests as "*vandalism*" and said the state would take necessary action to quell the violence and ensure that law and order prevail.²⁰ In an interview with **France24**, foreign affairs minister **Aïssata Tall Sall** blamed "*external forces*" for stirring up the protests.²¹ State mediator **Alioune Badara Cissé** called on Sall on 7 March to take control of the situation and advised him to "*listen to the youth*".²² The influential **Caliphe Générale** of the **Mourides Muslim Brotherhood** also asked Sall to pursue dialogue with protest leaders.²³

Public disorder charges were dropped during Sonko's court appearance on 7 March.²⁴ At a further hearing on 8 March, Judge Samba Sall charged Sonko with rape but released him from custody under judicial supervision and the surrender of his passport,²⁵ requiring Sonko to make himself available to investigators on the last Friday of every month.²⁶

President Sall addressed the nation on 8 March for the first time since the protests began, calling for "*calm and serenity*".²⁷ Sall acknowledged protesters' grievances, especially with respect to the economic challenges exacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.²⁸ Sall described the measures the

¹¹ Al Jazeera, 4 Mar 2021

¹² The Continent, 13 Mar 2021

¹³ RFI, 5 Mar 2021

¹⁴ Jeune Afrique, 5 Mar 2021

¹⁵ Jeune Afrique, 5 Mar 2021

¹⁶ RFI, 5 Mar 2021

¹⁷ RFI, 5 Mar 2021

¹⁸ Jeune Afrique, 5 Mar 2021

¹⁹ Jeune Afrique, 5 Mar 2021

²⁰ RFI, 3 Mar 2021

²¹ France24, 7 Mar 2021

²² RFI, 7 Mar 2021

²³ RFI, 7 Mar 2021

²⁴ RFI, 7 Mar 2021

²⁵ Jeune Afrique, 8 Mar 2021

²⁶ The Continent, 13 Mar 2021

²⁷ The Continent, 13 Mar 2021

²⁸ APS, 8 Mar 2021

government had undertaken to support the population throughout the pandemic, notably its 1,000 billion FCFA (\$1.8 billion) **Force Covid-19** response plan.²⁹ Sall promised to re-orient the budget to finance new initiatives in training, employment, entrepreneurship and supporting the informal economy (see below).³⁰

The M2D submitted a 10-point memorandum to Sall, calling for the release of political prisoners, an end to the legal action against Sonko, and public assurance that Sall would not run for office in 2024.³¹ NGO **Amnesty International Senegal** has called for an independent investigation to be carried out into the violence, which it estimates has claimed the lives of eight people.³² Amnesty International Senegal researcher **Ousmane Diallo** suggests there is evidence that security forces used lethal force during the protests.³³ **Aliou Sané**, president of civil society group **Y'en a Marre** (loosely translated as “enough is enough”), accuses the government of recruiting “*nervis*”, a term used to describe urban delinquents, to torture protesters.³⁴

There is a strong belief in opposition and civil society circles that the ruling coalition has framed Sonko and is using the judiciary to fight a political battle against him.³⁵ Sonko’s rise to prominence in Senegal’s political scene has made him a thorn in the side of the ruling coalition. Formerly a tax inspector, he was dismissed from the public service in August 2016 for making antagonistic comments about public officials. He became an MP in 2017 and placed third in the February 2019 presidential election, obtaining 16% of votes (see *ARC Briefing Senegal March 2019*). His anti-establishment political stance has made him popular, especially amongst Senegalese youth.³⁶

Sonko is best known for his anti-corruption stance and calls for greater transparency in the management of state funds and natural resources.³⁷ He has gained popularity for exposing high-level corruption amongst well-placed Senegalese using offshore tax havens to evade taxes. His popularity increased when he revealed corruption in the extractive sectors, notably the alleged involvement of President Sall’s younger brother, **Aliou Sall**, in a 2016 corrupt oil concession deal.³⁸ In October 2018 he accused the former director of land titles, **Mamour Diallo**, of embezzling 94 billion FCFA (\$173.6m) in what was dubbed “*l’Affaire de 94 milliards*”.³⁹

Sonko has been a notable critic of the role of foreign private sector operators in Senegal, especially **French** firms, which he claims do not pay taxes and operate in a neo-colonial manner against Senegal’s interests.⁴⁰ His criticism of Senegal’s continuing use of the CFA Franc has earned him the label of populist.⁴¹ **Université Gaston-Berger (St. Louis)** lecturer and researcher **Moussa Diaw** says Sonko’s adherence to **pan-Africanism** has also increased his political appeal.⁴²

Sonko would not be the first politician to see his political career founder on the rocks of trumped-up criminal allegations. Former minister **Karim Wade** and ex-Dakar mayor **Khalifa Sall** were both prevented from running for office after being convicted, and later granted amnesty, for crimes they were alleged to have committed.⁴³ Sonko, who is a serious candidate for the 2024 presidential elections, would experience the same fate if found guilty of the charges against him.⁴⁴ Sall’s opponents

²⁹ APS, 8 Mar 2021

³⁰ APS, 8 Mar 2021

³¹ Le Point, 13 Mar 2021

³² Dakar Actu, 10 Mar 2021

³³ Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

³⁴ Jeune Afrique, 5 Mar 2021

³⁵ Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

³⁶ **Université Gaston-Berger (St. Louis)** lecturer and researcher **Moussa Diaw** quoted in Le Monde, 9 Feb 2021

³⁷ RFI, 28 Jan 2019

³⁸ Jeune Afrique, 17 Dec 2018

³⁹ RFI, 20 Apr 2019

⁴⁰ Jeune Afrique, 17 Dec 2018

⁴¹ Jeune Afrique, 17 Dec 2018

⁴² RFI, 3 Mar 2021

⁴³ Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

⁴⁴ Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

claim the president is laying the foundation to pursue a third presidential term despite the constitution not allowing this.⁴⁵

Despite the serious nature of the allegations against Sonko, there is a widely held perception that the Senegalese judiciary is not independent and that Sonko will not receive a fair trial.⁴⁶ The protests have put the government in a difficult situation and reinvigorated the opposition's ability to mobilise its sympathisers.⁴⁷ Prominent civil society organisations such as Y'en a Marre and **Frapp-France Dégage** form part of the M2D, which also includes political parties such as PASTEF, **Agir** and the **Forces Démocratique du Sénégal (FDS)**.⁴⁸ The sustained growth of the M2D could enable it to play the same role that the **M23** coalition did in 2011/12 to prevent former president **Abdoulaye Wade** (2000-2012) from undertaking a third term in 2012.⁴⁹

Sonko has attempted to profit from the current momentum and is making concerted efforts to unite the opposition. During a 17 March press conference, he was joined by Khalifa Sall, who pledged his support for the embattled MP.⁵⁰ Sonko urged fellow opposition leaders to unite behind Khalifa Sall in order to prevent President Sall from establishing a political monopoly.⁵¹ Former president Wade, leader of the opposition **Parti Démocratique Senegalais (PDS)**, has also expressed support for Sonko.⁵² The next three years will fundamentally define Sall's political legacy.⁵³

President Sall announces creation of youth empowerment programmes

Addressing the underlying anger against Covid-19-induced economic hardship and youth unemployment, President Macky Sall has instructed his cabinet to fast-track the mobilisation of finances for implementation of the 350 billion FCFA (\$634.1m) **Programme d'Urgence pour l'Emploi et l'Insertion Socio-Économique des Jeunes (PUEISE-Jeunes)** (emergency youth employment and socio-economic placement programme).⁵⁴ The PUEISE-Jeunes is a financial assistance package that aims to support employment and training initiatives focused on women and youth.⁵⁵ According to the **Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD)** Senegal registered a 16.8% unemployment rate in 2019.⁵⁶

Employment and vocational training minister **Dame Diop** said in November that the number of formal jobs in Senegal had increased from 37,000 in 2012 to 65,000 in 2019.⁵⁷ Youth minister **Nene Fatoumata Tall** said the government had provided financial assistance to 95,000 youth entrepreneurs, which had indirectly benefited an additional 105,000 individuals.⁵⁸ President Sall also announced the creation of the **Conseil National pour l'Insertion et l'Emploi des Jeunes** (council for youth placement and employment) in November to help youths find work opportunities centres (see *ARC Briefing Senegal December 2020*).⁵⁹

Nevertheless, Sall has been accused of not doing enough to address popular economic concerns. Although Senegal avoided recession in 2020 by recording 1.5% gross domestic product (GDP) economic growth,⁶⁰ the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** reports that Senegal's poverty rate increased from 38% in 2019 to 40% in 2020, with 85% of households suffering income loss as a result

⁴⁵ Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

⁴⁶ RFI, 4 Mar 2021

⁴⁷ RFI, 4 Mar 2021

⁴⁸ Jeune Afrique, 19 Mar 2021

⁴⁹ RFI, 11 Mar 2021

⁵⁰ Dakar Actu, 17 Mar 2021

⁵¹ Dakar Actu, 17 Mar 2021

⁵² Dakar Actu, 7 Mar 2021

⁵³ Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

⁵⁴ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁵⁵ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁵⁶ Sika Finance, 11 Mar 2021

⁵⁷ RFI, 25 Nov 2020

⁵⁸ RFI, 25 Nov 2020

⁵⁹ Agence Ecofin, 9 Dec 2020

⁶⁰ Lejocos, 12 Mar 2021

of the pandemic.⁶¹ More than 80% of Senegalese are employed in the informal economy and were negatively impacted by the restrictive measures to curb the spread of Covid-19, which severely curtailed economic activity.⁶²

The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** predicts that Senegal's economy will grow by 5.1% in 2021, 6% in 2022 and 13% in 2023. However, many Senegalese feel they are not seeing the fruits of the country's economic growth and that foreign private sector operators have benefited from growth to the detriment of national economic operators.⁶³ The recent protests targeted French firms, which number 250 in Senegal and have created an estimated 30,000 jobs, amid a perception that Sall has given them significant privileges such as tax breaks.⁶⁴ The commerce ministry reported that 21 shops of France-based retail company **Auchan**, were vandalised, along with 12 service stations belonging to France-based petroleum company **Total** and several kiosks owned by France-based telecoms firm **Orange**.⁶⁵

Sall outlined the terms of the new programme during a 10 March council of ministers meeting.⁶⁶ The PUEISE-Jeunes will be operational from 2021-2023, with financial allocations amounting to 150 billion FCFA (\$271.7m) in 2021 and 100 billion FCFA (\$181.1m) respectively in 2022 and 2023.⁶⁷ The budget of the **Plan d'actions Prioritaires Ajusté et Accélééré (PAP2A)** (adjusted and accelerated priority action plan) will be revised to procure funds to finance the first phase of the PUEISE-Jeunes.⁶⁸ Sall added that public sector recruitment aimed to support existing youth employment programmes and encouraged the private sector to develop similar initiatives to support youth employment and job creation.⁶⁹ Sall announced the imminent establishment of 45 departmental professional training centres and youth and citizenship centres.⁷⁰

Sall has instructed the employment and youth, and finance and budget ministers to work together towards the organisation of the first Conseil National pour l'Insertion et l'Emploi des Jeunes meeting, to take place by 10 April.⁷¹ Local councils and territorial planning minister **Oumar Gueye** said the 350 billion FCFA (\$634.1m) plan would be executed "*with utmost diligence*".⁷²

In addition, agriculture and rural equipment ministry secretary general **Pape Malick Ndao** presented the **Agri-jeunes Tekki ndawni** project on 15 March.⁷³ The project is a 54 billion FCFA (\$97.8m) initiative aiming to facilitate the socio-professional integration of more than 45,000 rural young people from eight regions in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector over a six-year period.⁷⁴ The project, which has received funding from the AfDB, will be implemented in the areas of **Diourbel, Fatick, Kaolack, Louga, Sedhiou, Thiès** and Ziguinchor.⁷⁵

However, there is scepticism about the potential effectiveness of youth employment measures. The government has created several institutions and structures over the last 15 years dedicated to this objective, without obtaining tangible results. These include the **Direction de l'Emploi** (employment directorate) and the **Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes (Anej)** (national agency for youth employment). There are also several agencies working indirectly in this area, such as:

⁶¹ IMF, 18 Jan 2021

⁶² Al Jazeera, 9 Mar 2021

⁶³ The Continent, 13 Mar 2021

⁶⁴ Jeune Afrique, 9 Mar 2021

⁶⁵ Jeune Afrique, 9 Mar 2021

⁶⁶ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁶⁷ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁶⁸ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁶⁹ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁷⁰ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁷¹ Sud Quotidien, 11 Mar 2021

⁷² Teranga News, 12 Mar 2021

⁷³ APS, 15 Mar 2021

⁷⁴ APS, 15 Mar 2021

⁷⁵ APS, 15 Mar 2021

- **Agence de Développement et d'Encadrement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (Adepme)** (agency for development and supervision of SMEs);
- **Agence Nationale pour la Promotion des Investissements et des Grands Travaux (Apix)** (national agency for the promotion of investments and major works);
- **Agence d'Exécution des Travaux d'Intérêt Public (Agetip)** (agency for execution of works of public interest);
- **Agence Nationale d'Insertion et de Développement Agricole (Anida)** (national agency for integration and agricultural development);
- **Agence pour la Promotion et le Développement de l'Artisanat (Apda)** (agency for the promotion and development of crafts).⁷⁶

Diop admitted during a plenary session of the national assembly on 8 December that 200,000 Senegalese youth enter the job market annually without skills and qualifications.⁷⁷ Diop acknowledged the need to assess the availability and quality of vocational training centres (see *ARC Briefing Senegal December 2020*).⁷⁸

Senegal obtains 25% stake in tollgate motorway

The Senegalese government and France-based construction firm **Eiffage** have reached an agreement to renegotiate the contract for the concession of the **Dakar-Aéroport international Blaise Diagne (AIBD)** toll motorway.⁷⁹ The new terms include the decision by Eiffage to cede 25% of its controlling stake in the concession to the Senegalese government and increase the annual state fee (royalty) attributed to the government, amongst others.⁸⁰ While talks regarding the renegotiation of the contract started in 2019, the recent anti-government protests may have created a sense of urgency to conclude the negotiations.⁸¹

The cabinet revealed in a communiqué on 17 March that the government had become a shareholder in the toll motorway, known as the "**Autoroute de l'Avenir**".⁸² The contract was signed on 16 March in the presence of infrastructure, land transport and accessibility minister **Mansour Faye** and **Société Eiffage de la Concession de l'Autoroute de l'Avenir (SECAA SA)** CEO and chair **Gérard Sénac**.⁸³ SECAA SA manages the toll motorway concession. Senegal paid 19 billion FCFA (\$34.4m) to obtain the 25% share and will receive a state fee representing 2% of annual turnover.⁸⁴ Senegal will also receive an average of 800m FCFA (\$1.4m) per year as a result of this clause.⁸⁵ The previous contract allocated 1,000 FCFA (\$1.8m) annually, with the new profit sharing agreement taking immediate effect.⁸⁶ Other major contractual changes include the application of a price freeze on tollgate prices and the extension of Eiffage's concession from 30 to 35 years.⁸⁷

Eiffage completed the first phase of the 90 km Dakar-AIBD toll motorway in 2013. The motorway has significantly reduced travel time between the AIBD, which became operational in 2017, and Dakar.⁸⁸ The project was executed through a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** agreement. Criticism of the agreement included claims that the terms of the contract were not beneficial to the state, with high toll charges and low royalties paid to the state.⁸⁹ The recent protests accused the government of

⁷⁶ Sud Quotidien, 13 Mar 2021

⁷⁷ Agence Ecofin, 9 Dec 2020

⁷⁸ Agence Ecofin, 9 Dec 2020

⁷⁹ Agence Ecofin, 19 Mar 2021

⁸⁰ Agence Ecofin, 19 Mar 2021

⁸¹ ARC Senegal Analyst

⁸² Financial Afrik, 17 Mar 2021

⁸³ Financial Afrik, 17 Mar 2021

⁸⁴ Agence Ecofin, 19 Mar 2021

⁸⁵ Agence Ecofin, 19 Mar 2021

⁸⁶ Agence Ecofin, 19 Mar 2021

⁸⁷ Financial Afrik, 17 Mar 2021

⁸⁸ Le Point, 17 Mar 2021

⁸⁹ Le Point, 17 Mar 2021

enabling foreign private sector actors to operate at expense of Senegalese interests.⁹⁰ Apix director general **Mountaga Sy** says the new terms will allow local private sector actors to be involved in work related to the motorway.⁹¹ Senegal's new PPP law requires 34% of local participation in PPP's.⁹²

Planner

2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** Municipal elections (TBA);

2021 7th **Forum International de Dakar sur la Paix et la Sécurité** (Dakar International Forum for Peace and Security (TBA);

2021 **Turkey-Africa** Summit (TBA);

Jul 2021 **Montpellier (France)** France-Afrique Summit;

2022 **Sangomar** offshore oil field: production of crude oil set to begin

2023 **Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA)** offshore gas field: production of natural gas set to begin.

Chronology

22 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Senegal-based firms **Senegal Supply Base** and **ELTON** have won the contracts to carry out logistics support activities and the distribution of petroleum products at the **Port Autonome de Dakar**;

20 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. Researchers at local think tank ENACT; **Mouhamadou Kane** and **Mamdou Abdoul Wane** publish a report suggesting that the activity of Koranic school teachers forcing children to beg on the streets generates an estimated 5 billion FCFA (\$9m) annually;

17 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Point*. **France**-based civil engineering construction company **Eiffage** has agreed to cede 25% of its control of the **Dakar-Aéroport international Blaise Diagne (AIBD)** toll motorway, the "*Autoroute de l'Avenir*", to the Senegalese state for 19 billion FCFA (\$34.5m);

16 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Quotidien*. Senegal raises 82.2 billion FCFA (\$149.4m) through a treasury bond issue on the **West African Economic Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market;

15 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Quotidien*. Agriculture and rural equipment ministry secretary general **Pope Malick Ndao** announces the creation of a 54 billion FCFA (\$98.1m) project, which aims to provide socio-economic opportunities for 45,000 rural-based youths over the next six years, across different economic domains;

12 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. Opposition and civil society consortium **Mouvement de Défense de la Démocratie (M2D)** cancels a planned anti-government protest in Dakar scheduled for 13 March, but calls on President **Macky Sall** to respect the electoral calendar and organise municipal, legislative and presidential elections in 2021, 2022 and 2024 respectively;

11 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Quotidien*. President **Macky Sall** reiterates during a cabinet meeting that budget adjustments will be made in order to fulfil his promise of allocating 350 billion FCFA (\$636.5m) from 2021-2023 towards initiatives that support women and youth;

11 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Teranga News*. Economy, planning and cooperation minister **Amadou Hott** reports Senegal experienced 1.5% economic growth in 2020 compared to the initially projected figure of 0.7%;

⁹⁰ ARC Senegal analyst

⁹¹ Financial Afrik, 17 Mar 2021

⁹² APS, 22 Feb 2021

10 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. **Amnesty International Senegal** calls on the government to undertake an “*independent and credible*” investigation following protests that left an estimated 11 people dead;

10 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Le Soleil*. President **Macky Sall** declares a national day of mourning on 11 March for those who lost their lives in protests triggered by the detention of opposition leader **Ousmane Sonko** on 3 March;

8 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. During an address to the nation, President **Macky Sall** calls for the pursuit of dialogue and consultation following violent protests against the arrest of opposition **Pastef** MP **Ousmane Sonko** that have caused an estimated eight deaths;

8 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. Opposition **Pastef** MP **Ousmane Sonko** is charged with rape and released on bail under judicial supervision;

7 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. State mediator **Alioune Badara Cissé** and the **Caliph General** of the **Mourides Muslim Brotherhood** call on President **Macky Sall** to listen to the grievances expressed by youth, following days of protests in the wake of opposition **Pastef** MP **Ousmane Sonko's** arrest related to allegations of rape and causing public disorder;

5 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Agence Ecofin*. **Africa50**, a pan-African investment platform dedicated to infrastructure development, and **West-Central Africa**-focused investment bank **Oragroup** announce the establishment of a bridging loan of 50 billion FCFA (\$90.3m) to fund the completion of the 120 MW **Malicounda** power plant;

3 Mar 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *AA*. Senegal receives an additional 324,000 doses of the **United Kingdom**-manufactured **AstraZeneca/Oxford** vaccine through the **World Health Organization (WHO)**-coordinated **COVAX** initiative;

26 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. Senegal's largest telecommunications provider, **Sonatel**, says it registered 10 million mobile phone subscribers by the end of 2020;

26 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Senegal raises 82.2 billion FCFA (\$150.7m) through its first issue of the “*obligation de relance*” (ODR) (stimulus bond) on the **West African Economic Monetary Union (WAEMU)** regional financial market;

26 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *European Investment Bank*. The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** has formalised an agreement to provide 75 billion FCFA (\$137.5m) in financial support to Senegal, which will go towards water and waster management;

26 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sud Quotidien*. The **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) votes to lift the parliamentary immunity of embattled MP and opposition **Pastef** president **Ousmane Sonko**, who is accused of committing rape and threatening to kill a female beauty parlour employee;

26 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. During the opening of the **United Kingdom-Senegal Investment Forum**, economy and planning minister **Amadou Hott** says Senegal aims to produce 30% of its medication locally by 2030;

24 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. Health minister **Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr** launches Senegal's **Covid-19** vaccination campaign, in which 200,000 doses of the **China**-manufactured **Sinopharm** vaccine will be distributed in the first phase;

22 Feb 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. The **Assemblée Nationale** (national assembly) adopts a law that requires 34% local participation in **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)**; the economy and planning ministry says PPP contracts could amount to 2,113 billion FCFA (\$3.9 billion);

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