

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Senegal Summary 22 July 2021

The Mouvement pour la Défense de la Démocratie (M2D) organises protests against the possibility of President Macky Sall (2012-present) undertaking a third presidential term when his mandate ends in 2024 and against legislative amendments they claim aim to curtail civil liberties. The Assemblée Nationale (National Assembly) adopts the new Code Electorale (electoral code), which will apply to local elections on 23 January 2022, despite opposition criticism of the new framework. Australia-based Woodside Energy has completed the acquisition of Australian counterpart FAR Ltd's 14% participating interest in the \$4.2 billion Sangomar Offshore oil joint venture. Senegal has inaugurated the Centre de Données de Diamniadio (Diamniadio data centre), built by Chinese state-owned tech firm Huawei. A third wave of Covid-19 infections in Senegal is exacerbated by vaccine scarcity, the Delta variant and celebration of the Tabaski Muslim religious holiday.

Opposition and civil society groups organise anti-government protests

Resistance to President **Macky Sall** (2012-present) pursuing a third term is growing, alongside widespread condemnation of new legislative amendments that punish groups and individuals for involvement in terrorist activities. Opposition **PASTEF-Les Patriotes** president and MP **Ousmane Sonko** claims the recent amendments, which modify Senegal's penal code and criminal procedure code, are part of a plan to silence the opposition, curtail civil liberties, and pave the way for Sall to pursue a third presidential term when his current mandate ends in 2024.¹²

The **Mouvement pour la Défense de la Démocratie (M2D)**, a consortium of civil society organisations (CSO) and opposition parties, organised a demonstration on 23 June in capital **Dakar** to commemorate 10 years of its existence.³ Although M2D was only established in March in the wake of anti-government protests, many of its members belonged to the **M23** coalition, including CSO **Y'en a Marre**.⁴ M23 was created in 2011 to oppose a bill that would have enabled the president and appointed vice-president to be elected with only 25% of votes cast.⁵ The decision of former president **Abdoulaye Wade** (2000-2012) to run for an unconstitutional third presidential term resulted in M23 becoming an anti-Wade movement.⁶

During the 23 June demonstration, education trade unionist **Dame Mbodj** called on supporters to give Sall his first major defeat at the 23 January local elections, encouraging the opposition to unite to bring about regime change.⁷ **Frapp/France Dégagé** movement leader **Guy Marius Sagna** reiterated M2D's wish to prevent Sall from pursuing a third presidential mandate, which would violate the constitutional two-term limit.⁸ Sonko, M2D's most prominent leader and increasingly critical of Sall's rule following his arrest and subsequent release in March on allegations of rape and sexual assault

¹ Sud Quotidien, 23 Jun 2021

² L'Express, 25 Jun 2021

³ RFI, 23 Jun 2021

⁴ RFI, 23 Jun 2021

⁵ RFI, 23 Jun 2021

⁶ RFI, 23 Jun 2021

⁷ Sud Quotidien, 23 Jun 2021

⁸ Sud Quotidien, 23 Jun 2021

(see *ARC Briefing Senegal March 2021*), called on supporters to “prepare for battle” if Sall announces his candidature for the 2024 presidential elections:⁹

*“Ten years later, we are still firmly opposed to the violation of the constitution...Macky Sall is not entitled to a third term. He must leave.”*¹⁰

M2D supporters protested outside the **Assemblée Nationale** (National Assembly) on 25 June, clashing with members of the police and gendarmerie stationed outside the National Assembly.¹¹ The demonstration was in opposition to changes in the **Code Penale** (Penal Code) and the **Code de Procédure** (Criminal Procedure Code), which outline the punishment for involvement in terrorist activities and define what constitutes committing or being associated with a terrorist act.¹²

Ruling **Benno Bokk Yakaar** parliamentary group chairman **Aymérou Gningue** says the amendments will “strengthen the fight against terrorism”.¹³ However, the M2D claims the amended legislation aims to stifle opposition to President Sall.¹⁴ In terms of the modified laws,

- Acts of terrorism are punishable by life imprisonment;
- These include acts committed internationally in connection with an individual or collective enterprise, with the aim of intimidating the population and seriously disturbing public order.¹⁵

Police initially arrested 12 protesters as violence spread to the nearby **Université Cheikh Anta Diop**, making further arrests on 26 June.¹⁶ The M2D called on the state to release their “kidnapped” members.¹⁷ Sagna described the police as the “real epidemic in Senegal” and called on the state to assist those wounded in protests.¹⁸

United States (US)-based global advocacy organisation **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** supports the M2D in its opposition to the legislative changes.¹⁹ In a communiqué issued on 5 July, HRW suggested the amended legislation could interpret political speech and peaceful protests as “terrorist acts”, target union leaders and dangerously expand police surveillance powers. HRW called on the Senegalese government and parliament to amend the laws before they are enacted and ensure they meet international human rights standards. Senior HRW **Africa** researcher **Ilaria Allegrozi** acknowledged the government’s concerns about the growing influence of violent extremist groups in the **Sahel**, but cautioned that such laws should not infringe on human rights.²⁰

Justice minister **Malick Sall** expressed surprise at the protests, noting that the anti-terrorism law had been in effect since October 2016.²¹ Sall said the modifications to the law would provide safeguards against money laundering, terrorism financing and maritime piracy, amongst other illegal activities.²² However, in a press statement issued on 2 July, Sonko questioned why Senegal, “a haven of peace, suddenly feel[s] the need to adopt a law against terrorism?”²³ Sonko accused former **British** prime minister **Tony Blair** (1997-2007) of advising Sall to adopt the amendments and claimed that former **French** president **Nicolas Sarkozy** (2007-2012) was also interfering in Senegal’s domestic affairs.

⁹ Sud Quotidien, 23 Jun 2021

¹⁰ Africanews, 24 Jun 2021

¹¹ L’Express, 25 Jun 2021

¹² L’Express, 25 Jun 2021

¹³ L’Express, 25 Jun 2021

¹⁴ Africanews, 26 Jun 2021

¹⁵ L’Express, 25 Jun 2021

¹⁶ Africanews, 26 Jun 2021

¹⁷ RFI, 27 Jun 2021

¹⁸ RFI, 27 Jun 2021

¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, 5 Jul 2021

²⁰ Human Rights Watch, 5 Jul 2021

²¹ BBC, 28 Jun 2021

²² L’Express, 25 Jun 2021

²³ RFI, 2 Jul 2021

While Senegal has not experienced terrorist attacks like its **West African** counterparts, **Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger** and its northerly neighbour, **Mauritania**, it is leaving nothing to chance. However, the growing trust deficit between the M2D and the ruling coalition, coupled by Sall's unwillingness to declare whether or not he will be a candidate in the 2024 presidential contest, will only fuel more speculation regarding the government's intentions, even if they are well-meant.²⁴

National Assembly adopts electoral code amid opposition discord

The Assemblée Nationale adopted a new **Code Électorale** (electoral code), which will apply to local elections scheduled for 23 January 2022.²⁵ Despite noteworthy modifications, including universal direct suffrage to elect mayors and departmental councillors, the new legal framework has failed to satisfy the opposition.²⁶ MPs were summoned on 5 July to examine the electoral code after the council of ministers had approved it, to ensure that the law was approved and enacted by 23 July. The **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** requires that new electoral laws must be implemented at least six months before elections to which they apply.²⁷ The new code includes provisions discussed by the opposition and ruling coalition over the last two years following the political dialogue initiated by Sall in May 2019.²⁸ CSO **3D** executive director **Moundiaïe Cissé**, who participated in the dialogue, noted that universal direct suffrage at the local level would be adopted, while the "*parrainage*" or sponsorship law, would also be abolished for local elections.²⁹

Interior minister **Antoine Félix Abdoulaye Diome** defended the new electoral code before MPs on 12 July, highlighting key innovations such as the reinstatement of proportional lists and the use of universal direct suffrage for electing mayors and departmental councillors.³⁰ However, the opposition criticised the maintenance of two articles in the code relating to the political and civil rights of individuals with a criminal record.³¹ The two articles prevent their registration on the electoral roll and consequently their ability to stand as candidates in elections.³² This would apply to former Dakar mayor **Khalifa Sall** and former minister **Karim Wade**, who cannot stand for elected office due to past prison sentences, despite Sall granting them presidential grace and allowing them to leave prison.³³ Diome said the two articles were not on the agenda³⁴ while National Assembly vice president **Abdou Mbow** accused the opposition of being manipulative and not focusing on the 25 points of consensus in the new electoral code.³⁵ Diome is viewed as a hard line supporter of the president, and played a key role in the imprisonment of Sall and Wade.³⁶

Following the adoption of the new electoral code, leading opposition parties declared they would no longer participate in the political dialogue organised by Sall, accusing Sall of orchestrating the dialogue in a way that favours the ruling coalition.³⁷ They claim Sall has failed to institute a single vote, refused to undertake a full-scale audit of the electoral register, and is allowing the interior ministry to organise elections.³⁸ Senegal-based electoral expert **Ndiaga Sylla** describes the political dialogue as a waste of time and resources, given this outcome.³⁹

²⁴ ARC Senegal analyst

²⁵ Dakar Actu, 13 Jul 2021

²⁶ Dakar Actu, 13 Jul 2021

²⁷ RFI, 13 Jul 2021

²⁸ RFI, 8 Jul 2021

²⁹ RFI, 8 Jul 2021

³⁰ Dakar Actu, 13 Jul 2021

³¹ Jeune Afrique, 13 Jul 2021

³² Jeune Afrique, 13 Jul 2021

³³ RFI, 12 Jul 2021

³⁴ Dakar Actu, 13 Jul 2021

³⁵ RFI, 13 Jul 2021

³⁶ Jeune Afrique, 13 Jul 2021

³⁷ Jeune Afrique, 13 Jul 2021

³⁸ RFI, 8 Jul 2021

³⁹ Jeune Afrique, 13 Jul 2021

Senegal launches state of the art data centre

President Macky Sall inaugurated the **Centre de Données de Diamniadio** (Diamniadio data centre) on 22 June, an infrastructure project that the government hopes will house all Senegal's public administration and private sector data in a bid to attain "*data sovereignty*".⁴⁰ The project was coordinated by the **Agence de l'Information de l'Etat (ADIE)** (state information agency) and developed by **Chinese** state-owned telecommunications equipment and consumer electronics firm **Huawei**.⁴¹ Sall was joined by digital economy and telecommunications minister **Yankhoba Diatara**, China's ambassador to Senegal, **Xiao Chen**, and ADIE director general **Cheikh Bakhom** at the inauguration ceremony.⁴²

The data centre will store public administration data and aims to promote the growth of the digital economy.⁴³ It also aims to bolster security, reduce the cost of hosting state data and support the activities of private sector operators, especially owners of start-ups.⁴⁴ President Sall noted that the data centre will foster a "*great revolution for the digital sovereignty of our country*".⁴⁵

*"I'm instructing the government from henceforth, to migrate all state data and platforms to the data centre. We have to rapidly repatriate all national data hosted outside of the country."*⁴⁶

Sall hopes the data centre will improve access to public and private service, through the processing of administrative documents as well as the storage of data, noting that "*the entire administration must be connected*".⁴⁷ Sall intends the data centre to serve as a one-stop shop, which will also host an employment database.⁴⁸

Bakhom described the data centre as the largest data storage facility in West Africa, which will be the driving force behind Senegal's digital transformation.⁴⁹ The data centre is part of the "*Smart Senegal*" agenda,⁵⁰ which aims to create the necessary conditions for a viable digital economy by 2025.⁵¹ Bakhom said the centre will be connected to a 6,000-km optic fibre network, which will be completed in 2021.⁵² However, the centre's association with Huawei, which the US has accused of spying and technology theft, may make the project susceptible to criticism.⁵³

FAR Ltd completes sale of Sangomar shares to Woodside

Australia-based Woodside Energy has completed the acquisition of Australian counterpart **FAR Ltd's** 14% participating interest in the \$4.2 billion **Sangomar Offshore** oil joint venture.⁵⁴ This ends over a year of uncertainty regarding the status of cash-strapped FAR's participation in Senegal's largest petroleum exploitation initiative. Woodside announced on 7 July that it had paid the stipulated purchase price of \$45m for FAR's 15% stake in the **Rufisque Offshore, Sangomar Offshore** and **Sangomar Deep Offshore (RSSD)** joint venture.⁵⁵ Woodside included a working capital adjustment of \$167m, to reflect that the acquisition was effective 1 June 2020.⁵⁶ The final completion payment will amount to approximately \$126m after adjustments and remedying of FAR's defaults under the

⁴⁰ APS, 22 Jun 2021

⁴¹ Reuters, 22 Jun 2021

⁴² Financial Afrik, 22 Jun 2021

⁴³ Financial Afrik, 22 Jun 2021

⁴⁴ Sika Finance, 21 Jun 2021

⁴⁵ Quotidien Sud, 22 Jun 2021

⁴⁶ Reuters, 22 Jun 2021

⁴⁷ Quotidien Sud, 22 Jun 2021

⁴⁸ Financial Afrik, 22 Jun 2021

⁴⁹ Financial Afrik, 22 Jun 2021

⁵⁰ Financial Afrik, 22 Jun 2021

⁵¹ Sika Finance, 21 Jun 2021

⁵² Financial Afrik, 22 Jun 2021

⁵³ ARC Senegal analyst

⁵⁴ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

⁵⁵ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

⁵⁶ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

joint operating agreement.⁵⁷ The transaction also entails additional payments of up to \$55m contingent on future commodity prices and timing of first oil,⁵⁸ which is projected for 2023.⁵⁹ As a result of the transaction, Woodside now owns 90% of the RSSD evaluation area, with state-owned hydrocarbons firm **Société des Pétroles du Sénégal (PETROSEN)** in control of the remaining 10%.⁶⁰

FAR's sale of its share in the Sangomar project was a only a matter of time after it announced in April 2020 its intention to sell all or part of its stake in the concession (see *ARC Briefing Senegal May 2020*).⁶¹ This was followed by an announcement in June 2020 that it would default on its financial obligations in relation to the project, due to financial difficulties incurred by the global oil price shocks that began in March 2020 (see *ARC Briefing Senegal July 2020*).⁶² In November, FAR reported it had entered into a sales and purchase agreement for its interest in the Sangomar project with **India-based ONGC Videsh Vankorneft** (see *ARC Briefing Senegal November 2020*).⁶³ However, in December, Woodside exercised its pre-emptive rights over FAR's interest in the assets, to block the purchase offer (see *ARC Briefing Senegal December 2020*).⁶⁴ FAR subsequently committed to executing a sale and purchase agreement with Woodside to obtain the former's Sangomar assets in January, while in April, 97% of FAR shareholders approved the sale to Woodside.⁶⁵

Despite Woodside's decision to exercise pre-emptive rights and the finalisation of its share purchase from FAR, multiple firms showed interest in becoming shareholders in the Sangomar concession. In January, FAR received a \$210m all-cash takeover proposal from private investment firm **Remus Horizons PLC Ltd**.⁶⁶ According to FAR, the offer made by Remus, which is regulated by the **Guernsey (Channel Islands) Financial Services Commission (GFSC)**, was not a legally binding proposal.⁶⁷ However, FAR declared in April that it had received a letter from Remus stating its intention to abandon the plan to buy FAR's shares.⁶⁸ Lack of sufficient funds and the GFSC's suspension of Remus' private equity registration status were reasons advanced for this development. In February, **Russia-based Lukoil** made a similar non-binding purchase proposal, amounting to \$220m.⁶⁹ This was Lukoil's second attempt to purchase Sangomar shares, after Woodside had utilised its right of pre-emption in August, to block the sale of **United Kingdom-based Cairn Energy PLC's** 40% stake in Sangomar to Lukoil (see *ARC Briefing Senegal August 2020*).⁷⁰

The sale of FAR's stake in the Sangomar project, which has estimated reserves of 5 billion barrels of petroleum, is positive news for its development.⁷¹ Sangomar is Senegal's first commercially exploitable oil concession, and economic growth is projected to hit 13% in 2023 when production is expected to begin. Woodside intends to sell between 40-50% of its stake in the concession and will have agency to decide who takes over.⁷² In turn, the sale enables FAR to derive the necessary funds to pursue its exploration activities in its target markets of **Guinea-Bissau** and **The Gambia**.⁷³

⁵⁷ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

⁵⁸ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

⁵⁹ LeJocos, 29 Sep 2020

⁶⁰ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

⁶¹ Energy Voice, 30 Apr 2020

⁶² Jeune Afrique, 25 Jun 2021

⁶³ Offshore Energy, 7 Jul 2021

⁶⁴ Offshore Technology, 4 Dec 2020

⁶⁵ Reuters, 28 Apr 2021

⁶⁶ Oil and Gas Journal, 20 Jan 2021

⁶⁷ Oil and Gas Journal, 20 Jan 2021

⁶⁸ Agence Ecofin, 21 Apr 2021

⁶⁹ Reuters, 28 Apr 2021

⁷⁰ Offshore Engineering, 17 Aug 2020

⁷¹ LeJocos, 29 Sep 2020

⁷² Mining Weekly, 7 Jul 2021

⁷³ ARC Senegal analyst

Third wave of covid-19 infections hits Senegal

Senegal is in the midst of a third wave of **Covid-19** infections. The situation is exacerbated by the scarcity of vaccines, the presence of the so-called **Delta** variant, and the celebration of the **Tabaski** Muslim religious holiday. The health ministry reported on 11 July that from 5-11 July Senegal had recorded 2,407 new cases in its population of 16.3 million, with a positivity rate of 15.82%.⁷⁴ By comparison, from 27 June to 3 July, 864 new cases were registered in 13,075 tests conducted.⁷⁵ Senegal recorded its highest daily case total since the pandemic started on 14 July, with 733 cases.⁷⁶ The case increase contrasted with significantly lower numbers in April, May and most of June, when daily new cases averaged 50.⁷⁷ As a result, **World Health Organisation (WHO)** regional director for Africa, **Dr. Matshidiso Moeti** on 15 July declared Senegal one of 12 **African** countries that had seen a rapid rise in cases due to the Delta variant.⁷⁸ The **Comité National de Gestion des Epidémies (CNGE)** (national committee for epidemic management) announced that 30% of new infections originated from the Delta variant.⁷⁹ At time of writing, Senegal has recorded 54,820 cases, 44,354 recoveries and 1,256 deaths since confirming its first Covid-19 case on 2 March 2020.

President Sall has threatened to institute stricter measures to curb the spread of the virus, but to date has largely avoided this to avert social unrest.⁸⁰ Violent protests erupted in June 2020 and March 2021 against the negative economic impact of Covid-19 restrictive measures (see *ARC Briefing Senegal June 2020* and *March 2021*). As a result, the majority of restrictive obligations imposed throughout the course of 2020 are no longer in effect. Sall has nevertheless called on the population to be extra vigilant, practise physical distancing, wear protective masks and get vaccinated.⁸¹

Sall has also instructed that public events should significantly scale down.⁸² The **Syndicat National des Medecins (Sames)** (national union of medical doctors) had called on Sall to ban cultural, religious and political gatherings, in order to prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases.⁸³ The CNGE suggested on 15 July that the population celebrate the Muslim feast of Tabaski (**Eid al-Adha**) at home, rather than travel to their home regions, which could increase the risk of spreading the virus.⁸⁴ On 16 July, Sall announced on national television that he would be forced to close national borders and implement stricter measures if cases continued to rise and repeated the call for people to celebrate Tabaski at home.⁸⁵ The interior ministry declared the wearing of protective masks was henceforth compulsory in public and private spaces.⁸⁶ State-owned public transport firm **Dakar Dem Dikk** announced the suspension of its passenger service from 17 July.⁸⁷

Sall noted that Senegal has experienced difficulty in obtaining vaccines, so far limited to supplies from the **Covax** initiative and **Chinese**-manufactured **Sinopharm**.⁸⁸ Health minister **Abdoulaye Diouf Sarr** declared on 15 July that Senegal would receive an additional 500,000 vaccines.⁸⁹ In addition, the US Embassy in Senegal announced on 20 January that it would donate 151,200 doses of the US-manufactured **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine to the Senegalese government.⁹⁰ Diouf Sarr said the US

⁷⁴ Dakar Actu, 12 Jul 2021

⁷⁵ APS, 11 Jul 2021

⁷⁶ Jeune Afrique, 14 Jul 2021

⁷⁷ APS, 6 Jul 2021

⁷⁸ Dakar Actu, 16 Jul 2021

⁷⁹ Anadolu Agency, 15 Jul 2021

⁸⁰ ARC Senegal analyst

⁸¹ APS, 6 Jul 2021

⁸² APS, 6 Jul 2021

⁸³ Jeune Afrique, 14 Jul 2021

⁸⁴ Dakar Actu, 16 Jul 2021

⁸⁵ Africanews, 16 Jul 2021

⁸⁶ Dakar Actu, 17 Jul 2021

⁸⁷ Dakar Actu, 18 Jul 2021

⁸⁸ APS, 6 Jul 2021

⁸⁹ Africanews, 15 Jul 2021

⁹⁰ APS, 20 Jul 2021

donation is timely and will help Senegal achieve its goal of vaccinating 9 million people.⁹¹ As of 21 July, 621,311 people have been vaccinated.⁹²

Planner

7-9 Oct 2021 **Montpellier (France)** France-Afrique Summit;

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

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

23 Jan 2022 **(Senegal)** Municipal elections;

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

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

Chronology

17 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Africanews*. President **Macky Sall** suggests the possible closure of borders as Senegal experiences a surge in **Covid-19** cases;

16 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. **Programme de Résilience Economique et Sociale (PRES)** (economic and social resilience programme) head **François Ndiaye** says Senegal has mobilised 773.2 billion FCFA (\$1.3 billion) for its **Covid-19** relief fund out of a target budget of 1,000 billion FCFA (\$1.7 billion);

14 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. **Direction de la Protection des Végétaux (DPV)** (plant protection office) head **Abdoulaye Ndiaye** reports that mango production in the **Casamance** region created 12,000 jobs and generated 16 billion FCFA (\$28.7m) in export revenue in 2020;

12 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. **Woodside Energy Senegal B.V**, subsidiary of **Australia** based **Woodside Energy** and Senegal's state-owned hydrocarbons firm **Société des Pétroles du Sénégal (PETROSEN)**, will this week begin the drilling campaign for the wells of phase 1 of the development of the **Sangomar** offshore oil field, which is expected to produce its first barrels of oil in 2023;

11 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. Leading opposition parties have accused President **Macky Sall** of not respecting the terms of the political dialogue with the opposition that took place in 2019 and have promised to explore all necessary options to ensure they are implemented;

9 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. The **European Union (EU)** signs an agreement with the economy, planning and cooperation, and health ministries to make a €14m (\$16.6m) donation towards the first phase of Senegal's **Covid-19** vaccine production project which will be carried out by the **Institut Pasteur Dakar**;

7 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. Economy, planning and cooperation minister **Amadou Hott** signs a 19 billion FCFA (\$34.3m) loan agreement with **EximBank India** to finance electrification projects in the **Casamance** region;

7 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Offshore Energy*. **Australia**-based **Woodside Energy** has completed the acquisition of **Australia**-based **FAR Ltd**'s entire participating interest in the **Rufisque Offshore, Sangomar Offshore, and Sangomar Deep Offshore (RSSD)** joint venture;

7 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sud Quotidien*. President **Macky Sall** has launched construction of phase two of the **Parc Industriel Intégré de Diamniadio (Diamniadio integrated industrial park)**, which is

⁹¹ Ministère de la Sante et de l'Action Sociale, 22 Jul 2021

⁹² Ministère de la Sante et de l'Action Sociale, 22 Jul 2021

financed by a 60 billion FCFA (\$108.4m) loan from **China EximBank** and will be built by the Chinese consortium consisting of **Sichuan Road Bridge Group Co. Ltd** and **CGCOC Group Co. Ltd**;

3 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. Digital and economy minister secretary general **Isaac Sissokho** says the government has set a target of creating 35,000 jobs in the digital economy by 2035 and increasing its contribution to the economy to 300 billion FCFA (\$541.9m);

2 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Agence Ecofin*. The **African Development Bank (AfDB)** has approved a loan of €65m (\$77m) to Senegal intended to strengthen the mobilisation of internal resources, broaden the tax base and promote strategic reforms to attract more investment;

2 Jul 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Agence Ecofin*. The **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** (French development agency) has signed two financing agreements with Senegal respectively providing a €40m (\$47.3m) loan and €10m (\$11.8m) grant towards projects addressing climate change and local economic development in the **Delta River Valley**;

30 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Lejocos*. Finance minister **Abdoulaye Daouda Diallo** says Senegal's 2022 budget will amount to over 5,000 billion FCFA (\$9 billion), a twofold increase from the 2012 budget of 2,344.8 billion FCFA (\$4.23 billion)

28 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sud Quotidien*. Senegal and **France** have concluded a second agreement as part of the **Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)** for the suspension of 13.7 billion FCFA (\$24.8m) in debt payments owed to France from January to June 2021;

25 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. Economy, planning and cooperation minister **Amadou Hott** signs two financing agreements with the **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** (French development agency) worth 36 billion FCFA (\$65.4m), which will fund projects in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity protection

25 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Dakar Actu*. Leaders of the **Mouvement pour la Défense de la Démocratie (M2D)** civil society and opposition consortium have called on Senegalese authorities to release supporters they arrested following a 23 June demonstration to commemorate M2D's 10th anniversary of activism;

24 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Lejocos*. President **Macky Sall** launches the 206 billion FCFA (\$374.3m) **Projet pour la Promotion de la Gestion Intégrée et de l'Économie des Déchets Solides (PROMOGED)** (Project for the promotion of integrated management and the economy of solid waste), which aims to contribute to eradication of illegal dumping, which harms the environment, human health and economic activity;

23 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Reuters*. President **Macky Sall** says government will move all its data and digital platforms from foreign servers to a new **China**-backed national data centre with the aim of strengthening Senegal's digital sovereignty;

21 Jun 2021 **Dakar (Senegal)** *APS*. State-owned **Air Sénégal SA** director general **Ibrahima Kan** says the airline will commence flights between Dakar and **New York (United States)** from 2 September;

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