

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Guinea Monthly Briefing October 2025

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#### Guinea Summary 23 October 2025

*Guinea will hold presidential and legislative elections on 28 December, which will likely see the extension of the presidency of junta leader Mamadi Doumbouya (2021-present). The opposition has severely criticised the organisation of the elections and some parties are contemplating a boycott. Rioting at the Weily Gold Mine site in Siguiri Regions leads to two deaths, extensive damage and 60 arrests. Observers point out that developing critical mechanisms to address local grievances will prevent violence. The junta promises to deliver access to electricity for all Guineans by 2030, a nearly impossible task to fulfil, given the long-standing structural problems in the country's electricity sector.*

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#### Elections to be held on 28 December

In a decree read on national television on 27 September, junta leader General **Mamadi Doumbouya** (2021-present) announced presidential and legislative elections will take place on 28 December. The [announcement](#) follows shortly after the results of the 21 September constitutional referendum showed overwhelming support - officially over 89% - for the new Constitution. It [replaces](#) the **Transitional Charter** and prepares [the way](#) for Doumbouya to be elected for two consecutive seven-year terms. One of the [innovations](#) the new Constitution introduces is that individuals may present themselves as independent candidates, without affiliation to a political party. Doumbouya, a military man with a career in, among others, the **French Foreign Legion**, is not attached to any political party. Should he win in December, which he is widely expected to do, he can govern until early 2040.

[Observers](#) also point out that the referendum makes it possible to normalise relations between Guinea and the international community, including regional bodies such as the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** and international donors. This offers renewed access to the formal diplomatic channels - informally these may have continued but officially Guinea has been out. Normalised relations will also offer Guinea access to ECOWAS's international connections and its efforts towards greater security in the region, including tracking, and hopefully preventing, terrorist financing, which has become increasingly key with the spread of jihadists across the region.

Preparations for the December polls have already begun. A [new electoral law](#) has been in place since 27 September but its contents remain unknown. During the transitional period, Guinea has not had a Parliament but a **Conseil National de la Transition (CNT)** (national transitional council). Normally, the CNT publishes the laws it passes on the **Journal Officiel** and on its own website, but has [not done so](#) with regards to the new electoral law. The opposition **Mouvement démocratique libéral (MoDeL)** has [denounced](#) the way the CNT adopted the law and accused the CNT of having done so covertly. The opposition **Bloc libéral** has called the adoption of the electoral law [illegal](#). (MoDeL's leader, **Aliou Bah** is in jail for highlighting what he and the party consider government misrepresentations of the benefits to Guinea of the giant **Simandou** iron ore extraction project.)

The new **Direction Générale des Élections (DGE)** (general directorate of elections), created in a July 2025 presidential decree, has approved that a total of well over [120 political parties](#) can organise and campaign in the country, with the exception of the **Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée (RGG)** of deposed president **Alpha Condé** (2010-2021) and the **Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG)** of former prime minister **Cellou Dalein Diallo**. Both men remain in exile. By contrast, the DGE has given **Union des forces républicaines** of another former prime minister, **Sidya Touré**, the green light; Touré [has indicated](#) that he will run for president in December.

DGE director, **Djénabou Touré**, has also announced that already [16 individuals](#) have come forward with the intention to take part in the presidential elections as candidates. So far, Doumbouya is not among them but [well-orchestrated campaigns](#) have sprung up, [urging him to run](#). However, candidates will only be allowed to run if and when they have paid [a deposit](#) and received popular [endorsements](#), the conditions for which are, according to some potential candidates, [extremely difficult to fulfil](#). Individuals in local and regional administrative units throughout Guinea must provide endorsements, although the conditions have not yet been fully defined.

The DGE has [installed](#) two commissions: one will receive and validate the endorsements and one will establish the height of the deposit. Civil society and political parties have [heavily](#) criticised DGE, since it falls under the remit of the territorial administration and decentralisation ministry and is therefore [not independent](#) from the executive branch of government, as stipulated in the just-adopted Constitution. Some have already made allusions to a possible [boycott](#) of the entire electoral process.

### Riots at the Weily gold mine kills two people

Riots on 4 October at the site of the privately-owned **Weily Gold Mine** near **Niagasolla (Sigiri Region)** left two people dead and caused extensive damage to property. A [furious crowd](#) invaded the area, burnt ten minibuses and two pickup trucks and ransacked offices. Sigiri's public prosecutor **Ibrahim Camara** said that the authorities [made 60 arrests](#) and that those detained would face trial soon.

The riots followed an earlier incident on 24 September, when [17 individuals](#) were detained for violence and vandalism, likely the result of artisanal miners being prevented from trespassing or arrested while doing so. The 4 October riots were the result of members of the community returning to the mine's site and demanding their release and return.

The incidents point at structural issues in the relations between formally recognised industrial mining houses and artisanal mine operations. Sigiri sits on what is arguably the richest gold seam in Guinea where, [several mining houses](#), including Weily and **South Africa**-headquartered **Anglo Ashanti**, are engaged in industrial gold mining. However, across the country, an estimated [250,000 people](#) work in the artisanal gold mining sector with a very significant concentration in the Sigiri area. The sector is extremely damaging to the environment as a result of widespread use of [mercury](#) to release the gold. In pursuit of more gold, artisanal miners are frequently accused of encroaching on officially recognised industrial mining sites.

Some [attempts](#) at regularisation of the artisanal sector have been made but application remains extremely weak. The key figures here tend to be local informal leaders who designate [locally recognised bodies](#) that regulate artisanal mining. Formal civil administration structures, generally speaking, do not enjoy the respect of the local populations. [The state](#) is often seen as the entity that prohibits artisanal mining and expels people from sites they have developed. The same applies to the latest ban that the junta [announced](#) on 1 July 2024 and which miners at Sigiri [received](#) extremely badly.

To prevent future problems and tensions from erupting into violence, [observers](#) tend to point at solutions that are already known but not applied. These include continuing dialogue between mining houses and the surrounding communities, more local employment and rapid and effective dispute settlement mechanisms that can address problems before they spiral out of control.

### Guinea will not meet a promised 2030 deadline of electricity for all

On 24 September, the junta made a [pledge](#) in response to a **World Bank** and **Africa Development Bank (AfDB)**-funded [international initiative](#) to guarantee access to electricity for all by 2030. However, the pledge [bears](#) the hallmarks of a political stunt, rather than a set objective as the problems besetting Guinea's electricity sector are structural, long-standing and deep.

Currently, [access](#) to electricity in Guinea, according to the government's own admission, stands at 46%, with parts of the **Forest Region** and **Haute Guinée** never having had electricity at all. Guinea's

population stands at an estimated 15 million. Power cuts are frequent and take hours, sometimes days to fix. This has been the structural situation in the country since independence and has never been fundamentally addressed. The [opening](#) of the 240 MW **Kaleta** and 450 MW **Souapiti** dams under Condé – and the current construction of the new 300 MW **Amaria Dam** - fulfilled old promises and have brought some relief. However, they have also brought severely adverse financial consequences to the government, as it signed deals with **China International Water and Electric (CWE)**, the company that built the dams, that have been described as “*stranglehold contracts*”, where the financial benefits go to CWE at the expense of everyone else.

The junta’s announcement follows the World Bank’s [approval](#) of a \$132.2m credit line to Guinea, aimed at improving or creating access to electricity for 1.52 million Guineans, among whom almost one million first-time users, still leaving more than 6.5 million Guineans without electricity. The credit line is part of a larger programme worth \$271.8m, which the **European Investment Bank** also supports.

The objectives for Guinea under the World Bank’s financing [agreement](#) highlights several issues with the ailing sector. Central to all this is the utility, **Électricité de Guinée (EDG)**, the governance of which has always been opaque. EDG under-tariffs its end users and suffers vast electricity losses owing to its bad distribution systems and rampant electricity theft. Its [infrastructure](#) is poor and outdated, which means that even when more electricity is generated, the distribution system will fail the end users. Its collaboration with the **French** energy conglomerate **Veolia** has brought some relief but the deficiencies remain numerous and structural, requiring private and public investments.

A central aggravating issue that hampers improvements is Guinea’s extremely poor regulatory environment. The 2024 edition of the annual [Electricity Regulatory Index](#) of the AfDB puts Guinea [near the bottom](#) of the countries in terms of regulatory quality. Sound regulation is a prerequisite for a performing electricity sector, as it facilitates transparent communication with clients (this includes the key issue of devising tariffs and clear rules for collection) but also the use of renewables that will be vital for the sector going forward and the development of off-grid systems using private capital. Developing renewables and using private capital were previously banned under colonial era legislation. Guinea is yet to make progress in improving its regulatory environment.

## Planner

28 Dec 2025 (**Guinea**) Presidential and legislative elections

2026 (**Guinea**) 4<sup>th</sup> **Guinea Investment Forum**

## Chronology

20 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Media Guinee*. Citizens clash in **Morodou (Kankan Region)** over the alleged embezzlement of 425 grams of community gold, leading to four injuries and material damage;

17 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. **Australia**-headquartered **Rio Tinto** has reportedly stockpiled two million metric tonnes of high-grade iron ore at **Simandou** for a mid-November shipment, the first from the mine;

11 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. Director general of elections **Djenabou Touré Camara** installs the members of the financial commission and the commission in charge of receiving and validating sponsorships ahead of the 28 December presidential election;

10 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Mining Weekly*. **Siguri Region** prosecutor **Ibrahima I. Camara** says the state has charged 60 people with arson, theft and murder after a deadly riot at the privately-owned **Weily Mining** site;

9 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Director general of elections **Djenabou Touré Camara** announces that 50 political parties’ candidates and 16 independent candidates will run in the 28 December presidential election;

9 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Prime minister **Bah Oury** emphasises the need for peaceful, respectful and democratic presidential and legislative elections in December, stressing the need to consolidate recent progress to ensure the elections strengthen national unity and advance governance reform;

6 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Agence Ecofin*. **Australia**-headquartered **Predictive Discovery** and **Canada**-headquartered **Robex Resources** announce their merger, which is expected to create a \$1.5 billion joint venture and create one of Guinea's leading gold producers;

3 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Mining Weekly*. **Canada**-headquartered **Fortuna Mining** and **Australia**-headquartered **DeSoto Resources** sign a binding heads of agreement to establish an exploration alliance and joint venture across Guinea's **Siguiri** basin';

2 Oct 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Miningmx*. **Chinese**-backed mining venture **Winning Consortium Simandou** confirms it has halted operations at its Simandou iron ore deposit following a workplace incident that killed three foreign workers;

29 Sep 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinee*. Junta leader **Mamadi Doumbouya** confirms at the validation meeting of the **National Energy Pact** with 16 other **African** countries that Guinea is committed to achieving universal access to reliable, clean and affordable electricity by 2030;

29 Sep 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Jeune Afrique*. President **Mamadi Doumbouya** announces the presidential election will take place on 28 December;

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