

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Guinea Summary 30 January 2026

Mamadi Doumbouya is sworn in as president on 17 January after predictably and comfortably winning the 28 December election. The ceremony and the presence of important delegations from the West African region and beyond marks the full return of Guinea in the international diplomatic arena, while the attendance of the African Development Bank president Sidi Ould Tal and messaging from the World Bank signs the availability of financial assistance. Doumbouya reappoints prime minister Oury Bah but the composition of the full cabinet is not yet known. Doumbouya also creates a separate structure intended to execute all projects and reforms related to the flagship Simandou2040 agenda, which is likely to cause friction in various government institutions. Compagnie du TransGuinéen (CTG) signs a maintenance contract with FYIA-Scoop, a Guinean company specialising in railway construction and maintenance.

Doumbouya sworn in as Guinea's president...

The inauguration ceremony of **Mamadi Doumbouya** as president took place in the **Conakry** on 17 January after he [won the 28 December election](#) with a very large majority of nearly 87%. Doumbouya has a constitutional mandate to rule for seven years, renewable once.

Among the invited [guests](#) who attended were **Gambia's** President **Adama Barrow** (2017-present), **Mauritania's** President **Mohamed El Ghazouani** (2019-present) **Senegal's** President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** (2024-present), **Sierra Leone's** President **Julius Maade Bio** (2018-present) and **Mali's** junta leader, General **Assimi Goïta** (2021-present), as well as [two presidents](#) who have developed very close personal ties with Guinea's new president – **Rwanda's** President **Paul Kagame** (2000-present) and **Gabon's** President **Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema** (2025-present). Doumbouya has admiration for Kagame's strongman tactics admires while Nguema's trajectory he has closely followed, from staging a coup to being elected president. The location of the inauguration was also symbolic. The stadium where the ceremony took place carries the name of the last Guinean leader who did the exact same thing - **Lansana Conté** staged a coup in 1984 and ruled uninterrupted, first as a military and then as a civilian president until his death in 2008.

The large number of these and other official representatives, including from **Equatorial Guinea**, **Ghana**, **France** and – importantly – **China**, signal that Guinea has succeeded in using Doumbouya's inauguration to mark its grand return to international acceptability. This achievement was also confirmed on 28 January when the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** (also represented at the ceremony) [restored Guinea's full membership](#) to the regional bloc. The **African Union (AU)** had also sent a representative after confirming on 23 January that it had lifted sanctions on Guinea.

Further confirmation that it would be business as usual going forward was the [presence](#) of **African Development Bank (AfDB)** president **Sidi Ould Tah**, who was received by Guinea's economy and finance minister **Mourana Soumah** on arrival. Further reassurance came from one of the **World Bank** directors for Africa, **Harold Tavares**, who [sent a message](#) to Doumbouya, vividly congratulating him and offering assistance to help Guinea develop its economy under the aegis of the government's flagship **Simandou2040** bundle of projects. Similarly, the **European Union** [declared](#) on 28 January that it would finance a raft of projects in infrastructure, education, health care and the environment.

However, it also appears that the [well-established pattern](#) of often violent abductions and disappearances established under the transitional regime are seemingly [set to continue](#) under the

elected presidency of Doumbouya. Two days after the inauguration, the opposition party **Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG)**, which is currently excluded from all electoral processes, reported the [failed abduction](#), by armed and masked men, of **Facinet Camara**, a member of the party's communications department. Having failed to get Camara, the men, who had broken into his home, abducted one of his children, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

... and largely re-appoints government

A presidential decree [issued on 26 January](#) re-appointed prime minister **Amadou Oury Bah**, a move was widely expected as Bah (68) had been the [de facto manager](#) for the presidential election campaign of Doumbouya, who rarely appeared in public to address rallies organised in his name. Bah, a trained economist and a veteran of Guinean politics, has led the government since February 2024 and is credited with [creating stability](#) and overseeing economic growth averaging 6% and helping to bring annual inflation down from close to 10% to less than 5%. These are important benchmarks in a country where just under half of the 15 million-strong population live [below the poverty line](#) and the food security situation remains fragile.

Doumbouya's published a second decree on 26 January outlining his new government, showing more continuity, in that he has left the government structure [intact](#), with 27 ministries and two government secretariats. All key ministries (defence, territorial administration and decentralisation, security and civil protection, mines and geology, economy and finance/budget and foreign affairs) plus all sector ministries remain in place.

Presidency creates new Simandou Strategic Committee

The presidency [issued a decree on 10 December 2025](#) creating a new structure that serves to maintain a key institution and its power base beyond the presidential election - the **Unité d'Exécution du Programme Simandou 2040** (Simandou 2040 programme execution unit) under Doumbouya's cabinet director and key ally, **Djiba Diakité**. The unit will, as per the 10 December decree, superimpose a project structure on the government that will serve to carry out the **Simandou2040** agenda. Presidential spokesman (also re-appointed after the election), General **Amara Camara**, [said](#) in a press conference on 16 January that the Simandou2040 agenda is expected to cost \$200 billion over the next 15 years and will be sub-divided into three five-year cycles.

The unit will answer directly to the presidency and will manage all projects and reforms related to the Simandou2040 agenda, which seeks to use the expected revenue from the Simandou iron ore extraction operation to transform the national economy and develop agriculture, industry, infrastructure, health care, education and digital technology. The decree gives the unit unprecedented powers over sector ministries, as [one of the key articles](#) in the decree makes explicit. Article 10 reads in part:

"The [Delivery] Unit is charged with executing the projects under the authority of the President of the Republic and the supervision of the Strategic Simandou Committee, with help from ministerial cells [smaller units inside the sector ministries]."

Project programming, study and planning, financing, execution, follow up, and risk assessment is all done in the delivery unit. The chosen model is that of what is [termed](#) 'programme budgets', which means that each individual project that falls under Simandou2040 will have its allocated budget. It is not yet clear but is likely that budget allocations to Simandou2040 projects will be done independently of the ministry in which any of the project cells is located.

One [positive reading](#) of the creation of the unit is that it may be able to address the bureaucratic challenges in the execution of projects and programmes for which Guinea is notorious. But another article (13) [discusses](#) identifying and resolving legal, technical and administrative blockades that affect the execution of the Simandou2040 projects, and if the sidelining of the existing government structure needed any more emphasising, the decree [also stipulates](#) that a general delegate will lead

the delivery unit, with an obligation to issue monthly progress reports, first to the Simandou Strategic Committee and then to the Council of Ministers.

Within the ministries, project execution cells will be positioned that answer directly to the delivery unit and not to the bureaucratic hierarchy inside the ministry. [One comment](#) hints at issues that will arise, namely fighting over finance, competencies, hierarchical structures, and span of control, as it mentions that the unit's direct link to the highest level of state is designed to "*short-cut the slowness of decision-making and impose a culture of performance and accountability*". The decree promises an organisational chart and a budget for the delivery unit within three months of publication, so no later than 10 March.

TransGuinée signs its first infrastructure maintenance contract with a local company

Compagnie du TransGuinée (CTG), a joint venture between Singapore-headquartered **Winning Simandou Consortium (WSC)** and Australia's Rio Tinto-led **Simfer** consortium, signed a contract on 13 January with Guinea-based **FYIA-Scoop** for the regular maintenance of its railway. CTG was created in 2022, alongside the government as a 15% stakeholder, and is [responsible](#) for building the infrastructure (railway and seaport) for taking the Simandou ore to market, principally **China**.

FYIA-Scoop was established in 2018 and is the only local company specialising in railways construction, maintenance and repair. The contract charges FYIA-Scoop with the task of regular railway maintenance, thus [assuring the security and reliability](#) of the mineral transports from the Guinean hinterland across the 620km railway to the port at **Forécariah**. The contract also illustrates the intention, on the part of both the government and the Simandou-related companies, to [promote local content](#) to the largest extent possible.

FYIA-Scoop has its main base in **Kamsar**, a major bauxite port. So far, the company has worked with the well-established **Compagnie des bauxites de Guinée (CBG)**, Guinea's oldest mining operation whose main facilities are in Kamsar, the **RusAl**-operated **Compagnie des bauxites de Dian-Dian (COBAD)**, and the now defunct **Guinea Alumina Corporation**, which the Doumbouya-led junta expelled from Guinea in August 2025. The new job signals a significant expansion of activities for FYIA-Scoop and recruitment has commenced.

Planner

2026 **(Guinea)** 4th **Guinea Investment Forum**

11 Nov 2026 **Kassa (Guinea) Simandou Summit**

Chronology

29 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Jeune Afrique*. **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** lifts its last economic and financial sanctions imposed on Guinea following the 2021 coup;

26 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Official data shows Guinea's bauxite exports rose 25% to 182.8 million metric tonnes in 2025, with 74% of shipments sent to **China**;

23 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africa News*. **African Union (AU)** lifts sanctions on Guinea following what it described as the successful organisation of the December 2025 presidential election, which resulted in former junta leader **Mamady Doumbouya**'s victory;

18 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Al Jazeera*. **Mamady Doumbouya** is sworn in as president;

18 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. **China** receives its first iron-ore shipment from **Simandou** in Guinea;

14 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Guinee Signal*. Guinea is preparing for the inauguration of President **Mamadi Doumbouya**, scheduled for 17 January, marking the official start of the Fifth Republic following his 28 December 2025 election victory

7 Jan 2026 **Gaborone (Botswana)** *La Prosperite*. **United States** adds Botswana, the **Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau** and **Namibia** to its list of countries whose citizens face new visa restrictions;

7 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Eyewitness News*. Junta leader **Mamady Doumbouya** will be sworn in as president on 17 January after winning the 28 December election with 86.7% of the vote;

5 Jan 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. The supreme court validates the outcome of the 28 December election, officially confirming **Mamady Doumbouya** as the winner;

31 Dec 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** election observation mission releases its report, commending the generally peaceful and orderly conduct of the 28 December election;

31 Dec 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Guinea's 2021 coup leader, **Mamady Doumbouya**, wins the presidential election with 86.72% of the vote, securing a seven-year mandate and formalising a return to civilian rule after reversing an earlier pledge not to run;

29 Dec 2025 **Conakry (Guinea)** *FT*. **United Arab Emirates**-headquartered **Axis International** confirms it has initiated a \$29 billion arbitration case before the **World Bank's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Dispute** over Guinea's alleged illegal revocation of its bauxite mining permit;

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