

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Guinea Monthly Briefing May 2026

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*The **Génération pour la modernité et le développement (GMD)** movement and an allied political party, the **Union pour un mouvement Populaire (UPM)**, are set to dominate the legislative and municipal elections, which will take place on 31 May. Government and United Arab Emirates-headquartered Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) reach an agreement over the compensation Guinea will pay for having expelled EGA's subsidiary from the country and expropriating its assets, as well as the resumption of bauxite deliveries to EGA's own refinery in Abu Dhabi. The deal avoids lengthy and costly procedures at the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The Moroccan subsidiary of France's VINCI energy conglomerate starts work on a 50MW solar power plant and will also expand and modernise infrastructure in a series of France-supported projects.*

Preparations for municipal and legislative elections move forward

Elections for municipal representatives and members of both houses of parliament - the restored **Assemblée nationale** and a new **Sénat** - will take place on 31 May [without](#) any of the major traditional political parties participating. A [ministerial decree](#) dated 7 March listed exiled former president **Alpha Condé's** (2010-2021) **Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée (RPG)**, former prime minister **Cellou Dalein Diallo's** **Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG)**, and former prime minister **Sidya Touré's** **Union des forces républicaines (UFR)**, as among 40 political parties the territorial administration and decentralisation ministry had declared [dissolved](#). **Mouvement Démocratique Libéral (MoDeL)**, a relatively new party whose leader, **Aliou Bah**, is in prison for exposing the lack of transparency surrounding the **Simandou** iron-ore mine, has also been excluded.

The provisional list of political parties allowed to participate, which the **Direction Generale des Elections (DGE)** (general directorate of elections) **Djenabou Touré** [made public](#) on 16 April, contains 21 names, with only the **Bloc libéral** of the veteran politician, **Faya Milimouno**, and the **Front démocratique de Guinée** of failed presidential candidate, **Abdoulaye Yéro Baldé**, as candidates with a sufficiently recognisable national profile. The exclusions are [likely](#) to pave the way for the **Union pour un mouvement Populaire (UMP)** to dominate. UPM is a new party under the twin leadership of **Boubacer Siddighy Diallo** and **Dansa Kourouma**, who served as president of the **Conseil national de transition (CNT)** (national transitional council) and is a staunch ally of President **Mamadi Doumbouya** (2025-present).

Doumbouya is among the rare Guinean presidents not attached to a political party that either carried him to power, like independence leader **Ahmed Sékou Touré's** (1958 – 1984) **Parti démocratique de Guinée (PDF)** and Condé's RPG, or was created by a sitting autocrat like former General **Lansana Conté's** (1984 – 2008) **Parti de l'unité et de progrès (PUP)**. Significantly, even though neither of these old historical parties play any role of importance in the current political landscape, the ministry [dissolved](#) them anyway.

Formally, Doumbouya is not associated with the political movement, **Génération pour la modernité et le développement (GMD)**, and it does not appear on the official list of political parties. However, GMD representatives have been working closely with the UPM leadership and the combination has been organising [campaign rallies](#) in **Conakry** and elsewhere. Given the means at their disposal, it is realistic to expect them to do well in the election.

The work any future legislature will do has already been rigidly framed by the **Simandou2040** agenda the CNT adopted just before the end of its life as a transitional parliament (*see ARC Briefing Guinea Mar 2026*). As a result, the incoming elected parliament will occupy itself with working out the details of Simandou2040; a GMD-UMP majority will make this task easier and this is what both groups are working [toward](#).

Government and Emirates Global Aluminium settle

The government and **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**-headquartered **Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)**, parent company of the now defunct **Guinea Alumina Corporation (GAC)**, announced on 6 May that they had reached a settlement agreement over the government's [decision](#) to end EGA's right to extract bauxite from the country and transport it to its refinery in **Abu Dhabi**. The **Simandou Strategic Commission** made the announcement of the amicable [agreement](#) that puts an end to months of wrangling between the two parties, avoiding a potentially costly dispute settlement.

The government revoked EGA's licence when the former junta concluded that GAC was violating Guinea's **Mining Code** for failing to complete a promised alumina refinery on time. EGA threatened to sue for an undisclosed sum but both parties accepted [mediation](#), which **Louis Degos**, president of the **Paris Bar Association**, oversaw.

The agreement settles two difficult issues: the restoration of bauxite deliveries to EGA's alumina refinery and the government's undisclosed payment for the GAC assets the government seized and transferred to the state-run **Nimba Mining Company**, which it created to replace GAC. No official announcement has been released, but [some reports](#) say that the amount is approximately \$300m. [Critics](#) say that Guinea is paying a high price for its decision, while others [argue](#) that this settlement avoids far more costly mediation efforts through the **International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**, especially given the fact that there are at least two other cases before the ICSID, including the \$28.9 billion claim the Emirates-based bauxite miner **Axis Minerals** has brought against Guinea, which may be a lot more difficult to solve through mediation.

Guinea remains ambitious in its quest to construct more refineries and have value added domestically, since alumina fetches [four to five times](#) the world market price in comparison to bauxite. The government told bauxite miners in April 2022 that it expected concrete plans for the construction of alumina refineries, and so far, three seem to be taking shape. [The latest](#) is a contract with the **Aluminum Corporation of China Limited (Chalco)** for a 1.2 million tonne per annum refinery in **Boffa**, on the Atlantic coast. The announcement, made public on 24 May, comes after earlier reports of China's **State Power Investment Corp** and the **Singapore**-headquartered **Winning Consortium Alumina Guinea** both building refineries with capacities of 1.2 million tonnes per annum. Nimba Mining Company has also announced its own for 2030. Guinea has one functioning refinery, a 700,000 tonne per annum facility in **Fria**, which the **Russian** aluminium producer **RusAl** owns and runs. Doumbouya [has said](#) he wants five such refineries by 2030, which is looking likely but there is no commentary around the possible glut on the world market it could create.

Notably, at least [one report](#) highlighted the oddity of the announcement on the Guinean side. The geology and mines ministry or the economy and finance ministry did not announce the deal, but rather the Simandou Strategic Committee under the presidency of Doumbouya's cabinet director and close confidante **Djiba Diakité**, thereby confirming his position as the de facto mines minister of Guinea.

Cegelec to modernise Guinea's electricity grid and build a solar power plant

Cegelec, a [subsidiary](#) of the **French** energy conglomerate **VINCI**, has concluded a [contract](#) with Guinea's government for the [construction](#) of a 50MW solar power plant, with works expected to cost €186m (\$216.54m). Work commenced in April and will include the construction of an enlarged grid of Very High Tension line. **VINCI Energie Guinée** will carry out the project, expected to take two-and-a-half years.

With what VINCI [describes](#) as “support from the French authorities”, these projects represent tangible steps towards modernising Guinea’s dilapidated power grid, expanding it into the country’s interior, where there are regions that have never been connected to an electricity grid. The project will also increase the capacities of the 600-strong Guinean workforce that will be involved in its execution.

The start of the projects comes at a time when Guinea – and in particular its capital, Conakry – is once again facing long series of planned [power cuts](#), owing to a long-standing lack of capacity at the utility **Électricité de Guinée (EDG)** to provide reliable electricity, especially in the hot season that runs from February to June. These problems have been structural since independence, even when in a relatively short period of time, largely under Condé’s presidency, the opening of the **Kaleta** and **Souapiti** dams resulted in a net [increase](#) in the percentage of the population with access to electricity, from 35% in 2015 to 51% in 2023.

However, far more needs to be done and there are [programmes](#) in place with financial support from – among others - the **World Bank** (a \$132.2m [credit line](#)) and the **European Investment Bank**. While the Cegelec/VINCI solar and grid expansion projects are certain to increase access to electricity, the structural problems at EDG (under-invoicing, poor general infrastructure, lack of transparency, significant electricity leakages and theft) will continue to hinder efficient and reliable delivery until these are addressed (*see ARC Briefing Guinea Sep 2025*).

Planner

31 May 2026 **(Guinea)** Local and legislative elections

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

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

Chronology

22 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Miningmx*. **China**-headquartered **Aluminum Corp. of China (Chalco)** confirms plans to build a \$1 billion 1.2 million tonne a year alumina processing plant in Guinea;

21 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Mining Review*. **Canada**-headquartered **Sanu Gold** is preparing to launch a combined 10,000m air core and reverse circulation drilling campaign across its **Daina** and **Bantabaye** gold projects in Guinea;

16 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinea*. On the sidelines of the **Africa CEO Forum** in **Kigali (Rwanda)**, President **Mamadi Doumbouya** and **Rwanda’s** President **Paul Kagame** meet to reinvigorate and accelerate bilateral cooperation across strategic sectors like infrastructure, agriculture, and innovation;

14 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinea*. During the **Africa Forward Summit** in **Nairobi (Kenya)**, President **Mamadi Doumbouya** meets with his **Ivorian** counterpart, **Alassane Ouattara**, who praises the swift economic and structural reforms achieved in Guinea;

14 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Vision Guinea*. Speaking at the **Africa Forward Summit** in **Nairobi (Kenya)**, President **Mamadi Doumbouya** declares Guinea a secure investment destination and advocated for an Africa focused on economic diversification and local resource processing rather than raw material supply;

7 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Mining operations at blocks one and two of **Simandou** resume after workers end their strike;

6 May 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Workers at blocks one and two at **Simandou**, which **Baowu Winning Consortium Simandou (BWCS)**, a **China-** and **Singapore-**backed joint venture led by China’s Baowu, have reportedly been on strike for a week over a pay dispute;

28 Apr 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Mines ministry data shows bauxite output increased by 25% in the first quarter of 2026 to 60.9 million tonnes;

27 Apr 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. **French** group **Cegelec**, via its subsidiary **VINCI Energies Guinee**, secures a \$216.39m contract to modernise Guinea's national grid and construct a 50 MWp photovoltaic solar plant;

22 Apr 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Bloomberg*. An investigation by **Washington, D.C. (United States)**-based **The Sentry** reveals that **Russia** is expanding its military logistics network in **West Africa** by utilising the port of Conakry in Guinea as a strategic transit hub;

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