

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Senegal Summary 30 June 2026

Prime minister Ahmadou Al Aminou Mohamed Lô announces Senegal's new cabinet on 1 June, despite ongoing tensions between President Bassirou Diomaye Faye (2024-present) and former prime minister Ousmane Sonko. The cabinet announcement leads to fracturing within the ruling Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef), which remains the dominant party in the Assemblée nationale (national assembly) which Sonko now heads. The two will face challenges in cohabiting the political space to avoid legislative inertia. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) conducts from 15-19 June its sixth mission to Senegal since Faye assumed power in April 2024, the first under the new government, but the mission ends without a programme agreed.

Lô appoints new cabinet

Prime minister **Ahmadou Al Aminou Mohamed Lô** announced Senegal's new cabinet on 1 June, despite ongoing tensions between President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** (2024-present) and former prime minister **Ousmane Sonko**. Sonko and Faye had met on 1 June to [discuss](#) the cabinet appointments but the **Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef)** – the political party of which Sonko is president and Faye a member – indicated that the two had disagreed. Pastef reported that it had made new proposals to Faye but that he did not agree, confirming that Pastef would not participate in the new government. Despite the statement, Lô's cabinet retained some Pastef members and allies who acted against the party's orders, including foreign affairs minister **Cheikh Niang**, economy, finance and planning minister **Cheikh Diba**, urban planning minister **Moussa Balla Fofana**, education minister **Moustapha Mamba Guirassy** and sanitation minister **Cheikh Tidiane Dièye**.

Diba, who is heavily involved in Senegal's negotiations with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, retaining his position despite the politicking surrounding the cabinet is a good sign, especially for the IMF and the sake of continuity. Diba's portfolio was also [expanded](#) to include the economy ministry, which Lô noted would help guide better policymaking.

Other key changes [include](#):

- **Yankhoba Diémé**, who served as land and air transport minister, was appointed armed forces minister;
- **Abdourahmane Diouf**, who served as environment and ecological transition minister, was appointed energy and petroleum minister, replacing **Birame Soulèye Diop**, who was not re-appointed to a ministerial role. Notably, Diouf is not a member of Pastef – unlike Diop – but was given what is a key portfolio given Senegal's burgeoning oil and gas sector. He is [reportedly](#) close to Faye and his high representative, **Aminata Touré**;
- **Serigne Gueye Diop** was appointed trade minister;
- Justice minister **Yassine Fall** was not re-appointed;
- Interior minister **Mouhamadou Bamba Cissé** was not re-appointed;
- Agriculture minister **Mabouba Diagne** was not re-appointed;
- Employment and training minister **Amadou Moustapha Ndieck Sarré** was not re-appointed;
- Civil service minister **Olivier Boucal** was not re-appointed;
- Youth and sports minister **Khady Diène Gaye** was not re-appointed;
- Culture minister **Amadou Ba** was not re-appointed, and was replaced by **Alpha Thiam** (also close to Faye);

- **Ibrahima Sy** remains health minister.

Despite members of Pastef remaining in government, the new cabinet ultimately does not have the full backing of the party. The new appointments have contributed to further political fracturing (see below) which will continue to impact the stability of the government.

... leading to political fracturing in the ruling party that could impact government

A few days after the new cabinet announcement, Fofana [announced](#) on 5 June that he would be leaving Pastef. This was done after Sonko [released](#) a statement criticising ministers who chose to join the government despite the party's directive that they would not take part in the new government. Sy also left the party.

Those who have not left the party have faced changes elsewhere. Pastef [confirmed](#) that Diémé would no longer serve as the party's coordinator in **Bignona (Casamance)**. This would have been a key party role as Sonko is from Casamance. A member of Pastef's executive committee told the [media](#) that the Pastef members who opted to return to the government had been removed from internal communication channels.

Sonko gave a press conference on 3 June after the government appointment, sharply [criticising](#) Faye and his decision. During the address, Sonko stated that Faye has no political legitimacy and that through its majority in the **Assemblée nationale** (national assembly) – with 130 of 165 seats – Pastef could collapse the government if it wished. Shortly after his dismissal as prime minister, Sonko was elected as national assembly speaker (*see ARC Briefing Senegal May 2026*). Sonko [added](#) that the country's best interests need to be prioritised, noting that if the government enters a "*crisis of dissolution and censorship, no one will come to Senegal to invest*". His threats were clear and remain a possibility.

Faye's presidential powers allow him to govern by decree for three months but this would put the party, cabinet, national assembly and Faye and Sonko at even greater odds. The two will have to cooperate in their respective spheres to ensure that the country does not enter a period of legislative inertia.

Notably, on 29 June, the national assembly [passed](#) a bill revising the balance of power between the executive and parliament. Pastef proposed the measure, which aims to strengthen the powers of the national assembly and the prime minister, and reduces the president's powers. Following its passage, justice minister **Moussa Sarr** confirmed that Faye would send the proposal to referendum. The opposition is [not in favour](#) of the proposal, calling it political revenge by Sonko for Faye removing him from his role. This is another indication that tensions between Faye and Sonko are continuing to play out.

IMF concludes another mission to Senegal with no programme agreed

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** [conducted](#) from 15-19 June its sixth mission to Senegal since Faye assumed power in April 2024, the first to take place under the new government, but the mission ended without any programme agreed. The IMF noted in its statement that the parties had [had](#) "*open and constructive technical discussions*" and that Senegal's authorities had committed to addressing vulnerabilities that led to issues such as the misreported debt data. The statement confirmed that talks are in progress about a new lending programme, as well as the policies and reforms to be supported by the new programme.

The IMF [highlighted](#) some positives during its mission, including that economic growth reached a strong 6.7% in 2025, driven by the hydrocarbons sector. The budget deficit has sharply declined from 13.4% of GDP in 2024 to 6.4% of GDP in 2025 as the government consolidated spending. However, the IMF warned that vulnerabilities and risk remain, citing the impact of the **Middle East** conflict on oil prices and thus, fuel subsidies.

A reported sticking point between the IMF and Senegalese authorities remains the issue of debt restructuring, a process that Sonko previously called a disgrace for the country to pursue. While Sonko is no longer involved in negotiations as prime minister, his opposition to the idea likely still holds weight. In addition, the reforms that Senegal needs to focus on to secure a new IMF programme – measures to address the misreporting issues, a plan to stabilise finances and a roadmap to manage its debt – would need to pass through the national assembly. Through this, Sonko still has a key role to play. It should be noted that while Faye has not been as vocal about debt restructuring as Sonko, he has also never indicated his support for it.

Diop [said](#) on state TV on 21 June that the government could be willing to restructure its debt but added no further details. However, the economy, finance and planning ministry on 22 June noted that Diop's statement was personal opinion without indicating whether it was in favour of restructuring.

Nevertheless, pressure remains on the government to reach an agreement as soon as possible. Debt servicing will [cost](#) the government 70% of state revenue in 2026, with external debt servicing costing over 50% of state revenue until 2028.

Planner

31 Oct – 13 Nov 2026 **Dakar (Senegal) Youth Olympic Games**
 2027 **(Senegal) Yakaar-Teranga** gas project set to begin production
 Jan 2027 **(Senegal)** Local elections

Chronology

29 Jun 2026 **Washington DC (United States)** *The Africa Report*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** Africa department director **Zeine Zeidane** highlights that greater transparency is essential to resolving debt crises, citing hidden debt and governance failures in **Senegal** and **Nigeria** as major obstacles to effective reform;

22 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. Following its latest mission to Senegal, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** commends the authorities for structural reforms in public finance and debt management that successfully reduced the global fiscal deficit from 13.4% in 2024 to 6.4% in 2025;

22 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. Former president **Macky Sall** publicly backs **United States (US)** President **Donald Trump's** initiatives to reform and modernise the **United Nations (UN)**;

22 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** concludes its recent mission to Senegal with a commitment to continue discussions regarding a new financial assistance programme;

16 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Senegal records a budget deficit of 1.4% of GDP in the first quarter of 2026, supported by strong growth in tax revenues;

16 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. **Canadian** mining company **Fortuna Mining** is moving closer to production at its **Diamba Sud** gold project in Senegal, marking a significant step toward bringing the mine into operation;

15 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Reuters*. **Assemblée nationale** (national assembly) speaker **Ousmane Sonko** softens his stance on debt restructuring ahead of discussions with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, shifting from his previous staunch opposition to advocate for a more pragmatic approach to the country's economic crisis;

14 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** secures a major diplomatic milestone with the official signing of an agreement for the **United Nations House**, a planned major regional **United Nations (UN)** headquarters that will consolidate 34 UN entities and house 2,400 employees in Dakar;

11 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** appoints **Alain Diouf** as a minister dedicated to monitoring and evaluating the 'Senegal 2050' national development plan;

9 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *The Edge Singapore*. **United States (US)**-headquartered **S&P Global Ratings** warns that Senegal's public finances are under severe pressure, noting that failure to secure a new **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** agreement will worsen long-term financing concerns;

7 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Sika Finance*. Senegal is preparing to meet upcoming debt obligations linked to its 2031 and 2037 **Eurobonds**, signalling proactive management of its external financing commitments;

6 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *France24*. The ruling **Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef)** holds its congress, re-electing former prime minister **Ousmane Sonko** as head of the party;

3 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *RFI*. President **Bassirou Diomaye Faye** appoints a new cabinet despite a boycott threat from his party, **Patriotes africains du Sénégal pour le travail, l'éthique et la fraternité (Pastef)**, following internal disagreements over the government's composition;

1 Jun 2026 **Dakar (Senegal)** *Senenews*. Newly appointed prime minister **Ahmadou Al Aminou Lo** unveils a new 30-member government cabinet, opting to retain key members, including **Cheikh Diba** as finance minister;

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