

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Prime minister Amadou Oury Bah requests copies of all contracts concluded by all ministries since 5 September 2021 in an effort to promote transparency of government expenditure. The government is in talks with Switzerland-headquartered Glencore over new investments in another alumina refinery, as three refineries are under construction and a further two are planned. Teachers' unions threaten strike action, prompting the government to launch new talks on how to implement an accord it signed with the teachers' unions in January, which was the outcome of a previous strike.

Government's transparency and centralisation drive continues

In a letter dated 17 August, prime minister **Amadou Oury Bah** [demanded](#) the submission of copies of all contracts his ministries have concluded with outside entities since 5 September 2021, the date of the coup that brought President **Mamady Doumbouya** (2025-present) to power. The contracts had to be [submitted digitally](#), ranked by year and accompanied by a summarising spreadsheet. The ministers had 48 hours to get this done and they [reportedly complied](#) with both the demand and the time-delay. The centralised documents [were to go](#) to the presidency. In his letter, Bah pointed out that he was acting on Doumbouya's direct orders, who had also fired ministers for alleged corruption in August (*see ARC Briefing Guinea Aug 2026*).

A government spokesman, **Moussa Moïse Sylla**, who presented the prime minister's letter to the media, [said](#) that this was a "normal administrative procedure" aimed at creating visibility with regards to government expenses. He emphasised that no minister was being singled out for scrutiny but rather that the exercise was part of broader efforts towards creating [transparency](#) and [traceability](#) of government expenditure. Sylla added that it fell within the framework of ongoing digitisation and modernisation of the country's administration, aimed at improving and accelerating administrative procedures.

The national coordinator of NGOs in Guinea, **Mamadou Saliou Barry**, concurred with the broad objectives of the exercise but [added](#) that it would have been better to concentrate efforts on current ministers and not include their various predecessors, which would, in his view, have provided a clearer picture of progress made towards maximum transparency. However, critics [noted](#) that the presidential order fitted within an established pattern of centralisation and, by extension, of increased control, presented as efforts to modernise the state.

Government in talks with Glencore over investments into a new alumina refinery

Guinea's government [is in talks](#) with Switzerland-headquartered commodities trader **Glencore** with the aim of having Glencore invest in another alumina refinery and an adjacent power station. The talks follow a \$300m financing and marketing [deal](#) between Glencore and **Nimba Mining Company**, the state-owned entity that took over the assets of **Guinea Alumina Corporation (GAC)**. GAC is the former Guinean subsidiary of Dubai-based **Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)** that government ordered to leave the country in 2025, for failure to build an alumina refinery on time.

The deal between Glencore and Nimba [allows](#) the former an annual bauxite offtake of 12 million tonnes per annum (tpa) over a five-year period but according to mines and geology minister, **Bouna Sylla**, this agreement forms the basis for a more comprehensive partnership with Glencore that would encompass investments in refining and energy.

There is, at present, no agreement between Glencore and the government concerning a refinery but there are other refinery projects in various stages of development. The [first alumina refinery](#) has been working since the early 1960 in **Fria**. It was originally built by the **Soviet Union** and is currently owned by **Russia's RusAl**. It has a capacity of 700,000tpa of alumina but struggles to reach that level of production.

A second is [currently under construction](#) under the ownership of **China's State Power Investment Corporation (SPIC)**. Work at the \$1.02 billion project near the town of **Boffa** began in March 2025 and upon completion in June 2028, the SPIC refinery will produce 1.2 million tpa of alumina and employ 600 people. SPIC [is building](#) its own 250MW power station.

The **Singapore**-headquartered **Winning Consortium Alumina Guinea (WCAG)** [will produce](#) 1.2 million tpa of alumina by mid-2028 from its refinery near **Boké**. There are [reports](#) that WCAG will have its own 300MW thermal power station but there is no official confirmation of this.

Construction of the fourth alumina refinery, owned by the Chinese state-owned **Chinalco** subsidiary **Chalco** also [began](#) in Boffa in June 2026. Chinalco [is](#) investing \$1.68 billion into this project, which, on completion will produce 1.2 million tpa of alumina, provide direct employment to 1,000 people and indirect employment to 12,000 more. Technical education is also an integral part of the projects, which also includes the construction of an engineering school in Boffa.

A fifth refinery [is in preparation](#) at **Compagnie des bauxites de Guinée (CBG)**, the country's oldest bauxite exporting company whose owners are the Guinean state and the **HALCO** consortium that includes **Australia's Rio Tinto, United States (US)**-headquartered **Alcoa** and **Guernsey**-headquartered **Dadco Alumina**. Work on this project should begin at the end of 2026. Notably, CBG will - as per an agreement with the government concluded in **France** in August - [send bauxite](#) to EGA in Dubai, replacing the supplies that were originally planned to come from GAC's mining operations. Nimba will also develop [its own refinery](#) over time, which would then be Guinea's sixth.

Guinea [overtook Australia](#) as the world's largest bauxite exporter in 2023; in 2025 it exported 182.8 million tonnes of bauxite. However, bauxite is the extreme lower end of the bauxite-alumina-aluminium value chain, while alumina increases the value in-country by seven and aluminium fetches up to 50 times the price of bauxite. In 2023, Doumbouya [told](#) the heads of all bauxite mining operations working in Guinea that he expected refineries to be built, reminding them that up to then no fewer than nine companies had promised to build these facilities but never did. This is set to change.

However, refineries have a [very high energy demand](#) (200MW per facility at least), which Guinea is currently unable to meet, even after the **Kaleta** and **Souapiti** hydropower dams that were constructed in the 2010s and together produce just under 700MW of electricity [or 80% of Guinea's electricity needs](#), excluding the refineries. Only SPIC has made a firm and officially confirmed commitment to building its own power station, none of the others have.

A further risk is continued over-dependence on **China**, which is financing in whole or in part three of the refineries currently under construction (SPIC, WCAG, Chalco) and [continues](#) to be the market of choice for 70% of Guinea's raw bauxite exports, a situation that is unlikely to change once the new refineries come onstream. The Glencore deal can be seen as an attempt to reduce Guinea's near-total reliance on China as its principal export market for both bauxite, future alumina production and iron ore. Finally, as newly produced alumina is expected to enter the market between 2028 and 2030 (at the latest), an extra supply of an estimated five to six million tonnes of alumina is almost certain to cause a glut and a drop in prices.

Teachers' unions threaten further strike action

At a press conference held in Conakry on 21 September, Guinea's three teachers' unions **SLECG Syndicat libre des enseignants et chercheurs de Guinée (SLECG)**, **Syndicat national de l'éducation (SNE)** and **Fédération syndicate professionnelle de l'éducation (FSPE)** threatened

industrial action, [condemning](#) what they perceive to be the government's failure to keep to the terms of an agreement all parties had reached on 3 January 2026, which was supposed to serve as framework for status, [working conditions](#) and remuneration of Guinea's teachers, the bulk of whom work in primary and secondary education. Strike action [may jeopardise](#) the new academic year, planned to begin on 5 October.

The immediate trigger for the unions' reaction was a public [declaration](#) by civil service minister **Faya François Bourouno** confirming that 6,000 individuals would be newly recruited into Guinea's teaching profession. According to SLECG leader, **Aboubacar Soumah**, this new recruitment drive is [a violation](#) of the January agreement, which held, among other things, that 4,500 teachers, already identified, registered and tested would be hired to teach in schools in localities where they were needed throughout the country. The unions maintain that the new recruitment drive does not take these 4,500 teachers into account, when they [should be prioritised](#) in the new hiring round, as per the agreement.

The issue arises from a much older unresolved problem, when the teachers' unions complained that of the 14,500 teachers properly registered and evaluated, only 10,000 were retained, leaving 4,500 in uncertainty – an issue the January agreement was finally set to resolve. The minister's announcement, in the view of the unions, [does not honour](#) that agreement.

Added to this are [similar grievances](#) about [unpaid salaries](#) (according to some reports these go back as far as two years), the state's failure to recruit teachers who come from the various vocational training centres that prepare them for their jobs and the uneven distribution of teachers in different parts of the country, disadvantaging the rural areas even when teachers who were posted in remote areas have actually remained in their posts; they are simply not given enough colleagues to keep a school running.

Bah, sensing the seriousness of the strike threat as the academic year is about to begin, invited the unions for urgent talks in the morning of 24 September. SNE general secretary and spokesman for the three unions, **Michel Pépé Balamou**, [told local media](#) that the prime minister was "receptive" to the concerns the unions expressed and had given instructions to the civil service ministry to meet with union representatives that same day, in order to discuss the grievances and find a middle ground.

Balamou [confirmed](#) that the unions prefer dialogue to confrontation. [New negotiations](#), facilitated by the **Conseil national du dialogue** (national dialogue commission) were programmed for 28 September, in the hope that classes would begin on time. However, the unions [maintain](#) that their strikes have been suspended, not called off and [continue to say](#) that a good start to the next academic year depends on the government respecting the January agreements.

Guinea's education sector has a long and troubled history dating back to the early 1960s, when the state dictated the contents of the school curriculum to long-standing neglect under subsequent governments, leading to poor quality education, numerous teachers' strikes over pay, working conditions, legal status and career prospects.

Planner

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

14-20 Dec 2026 **Conakry (Guinea) Inter-Bieguip 2026**, a multidisciplinary music, fashion and visual arts events aimed at promoting the creative industries and attract business

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

Chronology

23 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Business Insider Africa*. Government awards **United States (US)**-headquartered rail company **Wabtec** a contract worth over \$700m to maintain and support locomotives operating on the **Transguinée Railway**, taking the value of its business linked to the **Simandou** iron-ore project above \$1.2 billion;

- 21 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Republique de Guinée*. President **Mamadi Doumbouya** departs Guinea for **New York (United States)** to attend the 81st **United Nations (UN) General Assembly**, with the presidency highlighting efforts to strengthen diplomatic and economic cooperation with international partners;
- 19 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Conven*. **Sierra Leone** and Guinea agree on a six-point package to strengthen border security, regularise cross-border workers and traders, improve consular protection, and facilitate lawful trade and movement between the two countries;
- 17 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *APA News*. President **Mamadi Doumbouya** meets a delegation from **Russian** aluminium producer **Rusal** to discuss the local processing of mineral resources and the strengthening of cooperation between Russia and Guinea;
- 17 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africanews*. Media regulator, **Haute Autorité de la Communication (HAC)**, issues a formal warning to **French** broadcaster **France 24**, accusing it of using an inappropriate term to describe President **Mamadi Doumbouya**, after referring to him as a "putschist president";
- 16 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Jeune Afrique*. Media regulator, **Haute Autorité de la Communication (HAC)**, withdraws the accreditation for French-headquartered **Jeune Afrique's** local correspondent, **Diawo Barry**, without mentioning why;
- 14 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Sika Finance*. The **Banque d'Investissement et de Développement de la CEDEAO (BIDC)** (ECOWAS bank for investment and development) commits €270m (\$315m) to Guinea to finance projects in health, road infrastructure and energy;
- 14 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Reuters*. Guinea is discussing broader investments with **Switzerland**-headquartered **Glencore** in alumina refining, energy and other strategic projects following a more than \$300m bauxite pre-financing and offtake agreement signed last week;
- 13 Sep 2026 **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)** *Fratmat*. President **Alassane Ouattara** meets **Guinea's** President **Mamadi Doumbouya** to reaffirm strong bilateral relations and discuss expanding cooperation in economic, commercial, political, security and training sectors;
- 3 Sep 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Guinee News*. President **Mamadi Doumbouya** meets with **Gambia's** President **Adama Barrow** to discuss bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, security, transport, energy and culture, as well as regional integration and stability;
- 28 Aug 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Africanews*. **France** joins calls for a transparent and independent investigation into the discovery of a mass grave in Guinea's southwestern **Forécariah** prefecture;
- 25 Aug 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *RFI*. Survivors of the **Dar es Salam** landfill collapse in Conakry say authorities ignored their warnings that the rubbish dump was precarious;
- 24 Aug 2026 **Conakry (Guinea)** *Al Jazeera*. A landslide causes a collapse at the **Dar-es-Salaam** landfill in Conakry, killing at least 30 people;

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