



# WEST AFRICAN DEMOCRACY AND RESILIENCE DIGEST

*week 09*



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# West African Democracy and Resilience Digest



To support good governance, democracy and sustainable development in West Africa, The Abuja School of social and Political Thought takes a look at the activities in the region...

Here is a round up of your bi-weekly Democracy Digest, a quick summary of some important events from West African countries to note today

## INTRO

# NIGERIA



## Armed men killed at least 13 farmers

Armed men killed at least 13 farmers during an attack in north-central Nigeria, a local official said Thursday. Akilu Isyaku, a local government official, told the local radio station Crystal FM that herders and kidnappers are suspected in the attack. He suggested the farmers were killed for providing information to intelligence agencies about the movements of the gunmen. (<https://shorturl.at/JlBE6>)

The Islamic Movement in Nigeria, popularly known as Shi'ites, has alleged that the police attacked the peaceful Arba'een symbolic trek in Wuse, Abuja, killing and injuring many of the mourners. This was as the police, in a quick reaction, also accused the IMN of carrying out an unprovoked attack on its personnel, killing two policemen and critically injuring three others, who are currently in the hospital battling for life. The Shi'ites, on Sunday, held the Arba'een walk, the ceremonial trek that marks the end of a 40-day mourning period of the death of the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Imam Hussain. (<https://shorturl.at/FgPsn>)

President Bola Tinubu may have started moves to win back the support of northern leaders and those aggrieved with his administration. Close aides to the President told Sunday PUNCH several initiatives were being implemented and new ones created. While insisting that the President was not afraid of any political or pressure group, the sources said the plan was to counteract the recent actions of some northern leaders opposed to his reelection in 2027. Some Northern politicians had expressed discontent with the Tinubu administration, citing what they described as unfair policies and marginalisation. (<https://shorturl.at/4F7ME>)

Tinubu to inaugurate N178bn Onne terminal next week, The President, Bola Tinubu, will officially inaugurate the upgraded West Africa Container Terminal in Onne, Rivers State, next week Wednesday, the terminal operator disclosed in a statement o

Sunday. According to the statement, the unprecedented upgrade project valued at \$115m, approximately N178.2bn, commenced at WACT in 2021. The Managing Director of WACT, Jeethu Jose, remarked that the completion of the upgrade marks a significant milestone in the history of Nigerian ports. (<https://shorturl.at/tuPs0>)

Representatives of state governments at the last Federation Accounts Allocation Committee meeting have bemoaned the decision by the Federal Government to save additional revenue for the payment of the new minimum wage. This development, which affected their revenue distribution from the federation committee, was received with opposing views when an update on statutory allocation showed that the government transferred a sum of N200bn into the non-savings account at the August FAAC meeting, making a total of N595bn. The Commissioners of Finance, Akwa Ibom, Dr Linus Noah; Delta, Okenmor Tilije and Ekiti, Akintunde Oyeboode raised the observation at the last FAAC meeting held August 16, 2024, minutes of which our correspondent obtained. At the meeting, it was learnt the committee distributed a total sum of N1.36tn to the three tiers of government, N1bn less than N1.35tn shared in June. (<https://shorturl.at/Hlu76>)

Tinubu returns to Nigeria after brief work stay in France. President Bola Tinubu has returned to Nigeria after a three-day work stay in France. The Airbus A330 conveying the President touched down at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, at about 2:25 am Friday, The PUNCH learnt. The president had cut short his trip to swear in the new Chief Justice Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, at the Council Chambers of the State House. Tinubu had departed Abuja for France on Monday for what the presidency described as a "brief work stay". (<https://shorturl.at/EmXv3>)

# GHANA



## African Union addresses integration issues at Ghana conference

African Union addresses integration issues at Ghana conference: The African Union convened in Ghana on Sunday to address issues related to African integration and to establish a unified stance before engaging with the G20 and UN. Mauritania's President and current African Union Chair, Mohamed Cheikh Ghazouani, urged for the acceleration of the African integration process. He stressed the importance of expediting economic integration to support the continent and fulfill the aspirations of African citizens. (<https://shorturl.at/GEILD>)

Ibrahim Mahama threatens to sue Manasseh, demands apology for reputational damage in new book, The Chief Executive Officer of Engineers & Planners Limited, Mr Ibrahim Mahama, has demanded an immediate retraction and unqualified apology from investigative journalist Manasseh Azure Awuni. This comes after Mr Awuni in his latest book, "The President Ghana Never Got," stated that the Universal Merchant Bank (UMB), formerly State-owned Merchant Bank, generated uproar in 2013 when it was sold to a private equity firm, Fortiz. (<https://shorturl.at/5knBR>)

THE AngloGold Ashanti, Obuasi Mine, has partnered Absa Bank Ghana to promote the businesses of 40 selected female entrepreneurs in Obuasi in the Ashanti Region. The initiative aims to empower women by enhancing their online business capabilities and developing a supportive community for growth and collaboration.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on the 15th of August 2024 inaugurated the Bolgatanga Regional Rehabilitation project in the Upper East Region to boost health care delivery. The US \$52 million project which received funding support from the Saudi Arabia government is a four-storey building with 39 apartment flat accommodation for hospital staff. (GhanainTimes)

# NIGER



## Ministerial reshuffle in Niger and dismissal of the Minister of Oil

After several days of disruption due to flooding, the reopening of the Niamey-Dosso (RN1) axis marks the end of the fuel shortage that paralyzed the capital. The work carried out in record time has not only restored traffic, but also helped to restart the supply of gas stations, thus relieving users and revitalizing the local economy. The Minister of Transport and Equipment, Colonel-Major Salissou Mahaman Salissou, officially relaunched traffic on Thursday on the Niamey-Dosso (RN1) axis, which has been cut off since last week due to heavy rainfall in the Niamey region.

(<http://news.aniamey.com/h/120979.html>)

**Ministerial reshuffle in Niger and dismissal of the Minister of Oil: The reasons for a dismissal**

According to credible sources, the Minister of Oil was a minister on probation, because his mismanagement did not date from today. It would seem that the straw that broke the camel's back came mainly from the process of designating the company to which the construction of the Dosso petrochemical complex should be entrusted. The committee set up for this purpose would have made its classification, but according to the information, against all expectations, it would have preferred to entrust the contract to another company, this at a time when the CNSP and its government are fighting to put in place the solid

foundations for an economic take-off of the country and allow, in doing so, a return to the true values that have, for years, defined the Nigerien man. (<http://news.aniamey.com/h/120972.html>)

Prime Minister meets with Acting Executive Secretary of Liptako Gourma States Integrated Development Authority. The Prime Minister of the Transition, Mr. Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, met this Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at his office, with the Acting Executive Secretary of the Integrated Development Authority of Liptako Gourma States (ALG), Ms. Hawa Aw on a working visit to Niger. The community project for the stabilization of the Sahel implemented by the Liptako Gourma authority in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger was at the center of the meeting. According to the Acting Executive Secretary of the ALG, "the objective of this meeting is to see how we can move forward in the implementation of this project. (<http://news.aniamey.com/h/120947.html>)

# MALI



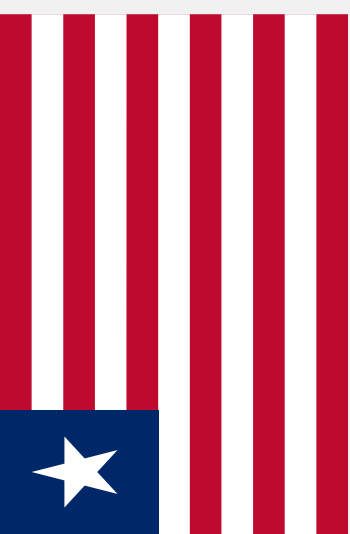
## Drone strikes kill 15 civilians in Mali

Drone strikes kill 15 civilians in Mali: At least 15 civilians including children were killed Sunday by drone strikes in Mali's north, where the army and its Russian allies are fighting separatists and jihadists, local sources said. The separatists blamed "the army of the Malian junta and Russian mercenaries from the Wagner group" for the strikes at Tinzaouatene, near Algeria, giving a provisional death toll of 21 civilians, including 11 children. Tinzaouatene was the site of a major late July battle in which the mainly Tuareg-led separatists claimed to have inflicted a serious defeat on the Malian army and Wagner. (<https://shorturl.at/BQ8Cs>)

Ukraine is losing the plot in Africa: On August 5, the government of Mali announced its decision to cut diplomatic ties with Ukraine, citing a Ukrainian official's boastful admission that Kyiv provided Malian rebels with crucial intel for a rebel assault that killed many Russian Wagner Group mercenaries and Malian soldiers.

The northern Tuareg rebels claimed responsibility for the deaths of at least 84 mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers over three days of fighting in late July in what proved to be Wagner's heaviest defeat since its controversial 2021 entry into the Sahel conflict on the side of the Malian government. (<https://shorturl.at/5SGXf>)

# LIBERIA



Confrontation Between Police, CDCians Linked to GAC, LACC Audit Reports: Liberia's Information Minister, Jerolinmek Piaah, has linked the confrontation between the Liberia National Police and partisans of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) to the General Auditing Agency (GAC) and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission's (LACC) audit reports. Piaah, at the ministry's press briefing, accused officials of the CDC who have been accused by the GAC and LACC of corruption and inciting partisans to cause tension. The LACC does an investigation and charges are brought against people. What do we see — press conferences, vowing resistance? Resisting what, we don't know. "When the very LACC says 'this person is a person of interest, we are doing an investigation, and they have to answer some questions'; what do you see? They mobilize militants to escort them to the investigation ground. When the GAC conducts an audit of the Central Bank and an action is taken initially, as the investigation goes deeper, you hear [about] agitation and witch hunting. (<https://shorturl.at/V0aDm>)

Sen. McGill Faces LACC's Probe over Payroll Padding: The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) has requested Margibi County Senator Nathaniel McGill to provide information regarding ongoing investigations into allegations of payroll padding from his time as Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. The LACC's inquiry focuses on claims of improper management of a Supplementary Payroll containing 728 names, established outside the Civil Service Agency's (CSA) framework during Senator McGill's administration of the Office of the President of Liberia. The commission alleges significant irregularities and administrative misconduct in the creation of this payroll under McGill's direction. The payroll was reportedly created outside the framework of the Civil Service Agency during Senator Nathaniel McGill's time as Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. The LACC has invited Senator McGill to provide

information to aid in the investigation and advised him to bring relevant documents and legal counsel. In a communication addressed to Senator Nathaniel McGill, dated August 16, 2024, the LACC states that details of the allegation reveal that the supplementary payroll containing 728 names was created outside of the CSA framework during the tenure of Senator McGill, as Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. (<https://shorturl.at/tbIPC>)

What Triggered CDC's Protest? Was it to shield indicted ex-officials, drug cartels, or was it an expression of genuine discontent? Corruption and crime, which have been associated with humankind from time immemorial, have a way of fighting. Organized crimes are even more deadly in fighting back," said a veteran security officer who spent over 30 years serving in both the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the National Security Agency. The veteran officer, who asked not to be named for security reasons, told the Daily Observer on Thursday that the government should be preparing adequately to absorb the feedback and effects of the robust corruption fight with the indictments of key former officials and the war waged against the proliferation of drugs or illicit substances in the country. Corruption has a way of fighting back and those who are being indicted by this government from the immediate past regime will fight to their last breath," he said. "The drug cartel will also fight back and they will use every means possible to do so. President Boakai and his men should brace themselves for this long haul. (<https://shorturl.at/v33y1>)

# IVORY COAST



## Ivory Coast increases support for cocoa exporters

Ivory Coast increases support for cocoa exporters, say sources: ABIDJAN, Aug 23 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's government will increase its support for small local cocoa exporters to help them more than double their annual purchasing volumes, two government sources said on Friday. Ivorian exporters, which have been struggling to secure financing from local banks due to financial difficulties, have to compete with financially secure international players. Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa grower, produced on average 2.2 million tons of beans over the past three years with big multinationals accounting for around 80% of purchases and exports. At the start of the new cocoa season in October, the government will grant small exporters subsidies of 10 billion CFA francs (\$16.75 million) per year over the next four years to help them increase the purchasing volumes to 500,000 metric tons. The government used to grant around 3 billion CFA francs per year. This amount allowed exporters and cooperatives buying and exporting cocoa beans to reach between 150,000 and 200,000 tons per season. (<https://shorturl.at/guYuw>)

# SENEGAL



## Preparation for the Magal pilgrimage

In preparation for the Magal pilgrimage in Touba on August 23, 2024, Senegalese authorities have implemented enhanced health measures to combat the spread of mpox (formerly known as monkeypox). With the expected arrival of millions of pilgrims, including many from abroad, around 6,000 healthcare professionals have been mobilized. Given the recent increase in mpox cases in Africa, the focus is on rapid detection. Dr. Mamadou Dieng, the regional health director of Diourbel, outlined the measures in place, including the training of surveillance teams and the deployment of testing equipment at multiple sites. In total, 186 sites have been set up where pilgrims can seek help if they show symptoms. The Institut Pasteur will handle testing, and quarantine zones have been established. Dr. Dieng also emphasized the importance of personal responsibility, urging pilgrims to wash their hands, avoid close contact, and wear masks in crowded areas. While these measures may be challenging to follow, they are crucial for preventing the spread of the disease. (<https://shorturl.at/fjp9x>)

# GAMBIA



## GAM-PETROLEUM EXPLAINS ROLE IN STORAGE OF RUSSIAN OIL UNDER INVESTIGATION

GAM-PETROLEUM EXPLAINS ROLE IN STORAGE OF RUSSIAN OIL UNDER INVESTIGATION: Yesterday was the turn of the national fuel storage company Gam-Petroleum in the National Assembly inquiry into allegations of bribery and tax evasion by three companies, Apogee FZC, Creed Energy Limited and Ultimate Beige Logistics, suspected of importing and selling petroleum products in The Gambia worth \$30m without paying taxes. The product was in a Russian ship in the Atlantic Ocean before it was brought to The Gambia. Appearing before the enquiry, General Manager of Gam Petroleum Yero Jallow, began by the telling NAMs that his company had a deposit agreement with Apogee to store their products at the depot as they would for any trader with the right products.

NPP Kartong, Julangel ward chairmen quit: Ebrahima Baldeh, the chairman of the ruling National People's Party for Julangel Ward, has joined NPP's bitter local rival in the area, the opposition Gambia Democratic Congress. He said he took the decision because of poor leadership and difficult living conditions in the country. Mr Baldeh said despite hailing from the same village with President Barrow, he felt it necessary to resign. In a letter seen by The Standard, Mr Baldeh wrote: "I am writing to formally resign from the National People's Party (NPP) effective immediately. This decision has not been easy, as I have valued the principles and goals of the party throughout my membership. However, after much reflection, I have decided to pursue a different path that better aligns with my current views and aspirations. He said the NPP is not working in the interest of the Gambian people. (<https://shorturl.at/z7lG1>)

# SIERRA LEONE



## Concerns over mPox spread in Africa

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance continues to be deeply concerned about the escalating mpox emergency on the African continent. We welcome recently announced measures by our partners at the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO) which will help create an enabling environment in support of a comprehensive region-led response, and the joint partners in emphasizing the importance of international coordination following a declaration of a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security by Africa CDC and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by WHO. (<https://shorturl.at/OWG4q>)

Sierra Leone's Women Farmers Use a Custom Called Bora to Access Land - but It's Making Them More Vulnerable: Bora - a type of thank you gift - is a Sierra Leonean custom of respect that is often used in relation to land. For instance, informal farmers pay bora to landowners to be able to farm on their land. But bora has changed over the years and is having a negative impact on women, who are responsible for much of the west African country's farming. In Sierra Leone, land ownership - and therefore use of land for farming - vests in men. (<https://shorturl.at/OjNhs>)

# WEST AFRICAN DIGEST



*Thank you for reading!*

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