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Cablegate: Senegal's Ruling Party Steals Local Election in Mbane

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SUBJECT: Senegal's ruling party steals local election in Mbane

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) The Court of Appeals in Dakar recently overturned the results of local elections in Mbane located in Northeast Senegal. A leading opposition leader Aliou Diack has been officially replaced by a member of the ruling party following the court's decision. Although the court has justified its verdict citing voter intimidation, opposition leaders believe it is a ploy to cover-up the implication of ruling party members in illicit land deals. The situation in Mbane remains tense as local opinion remains highly opposed to the court's decision. The opposition has taken the step of challenging these results in the Supreme Court. End Summary.

Voter Intimidation or Fabrication

2. (SBU) After only three months in power, Bennoo opposition leader Aliou Diack has been officially replaced by a member of the ruling SOPI party coalition, Mamadou Cire Diallo. The Court of Appeals based in Dakar reached this decision based on alleged voter intimidation in five rural villages. The cancellation of results has allowed the ruling party to claim victory in the highly coveted constituency. No polling station irregularities were reported during the March 22 local elections from opposition or ruling party representatives. When results were officially declared however, the defeated ruling party candidate for Mbane took the case to court saying, "It has been reported to us that a lack of security in the polling stations in Ndombo resulted in storming of a polling station and many voters being deprived access to their voting precincts."

The Plot Thickens

3. (SBU) The ruling parties (SOPI) application to the court requested for new elections to be held within those five villages. The court however, ultimately provided them with much more than they had demanded by overturning 1,023 opposition votes (Bennoo) against 197 votes for the ruling coalition (SOPI). This court decision also went against a memorandum produced by the Ministry of Interior (organizer of elections in Senegal) who stated that "The alleged insecurity that might have prevented voters to exercise their rights is not proven. And considering that voting is not mandatory in

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Senegal, no candidate can deem that they have sustained a prejudice resulting from this situation."

Secret Land Deal

4. (SBU) The court decision seems to have been motivated by the desire of senior GOS official's interested in having a local government which protects their own interest. The ousted opposition official Aliou Diack had begun the process of reviewing all land allocation deals within the district. Since coming to power in 2000, the ruling coalition is alleged to have lavishly doled out large plots of land to senior leaders of the ruling party, including senior civil servants in the military and legal system.

The Alleged Cover-up

5. (SBU) During one of its first meetings the opposition council decided to cancel the allocation of 20,000 hectares of land to a obscure bio-fuel company named "Plantation Vert" (Green plantation). Allegations have surfaced that President Wade himself is the owner of the company. Mbane's ruling party leaders have also allegedly allocated more land than is available in the community. Between 2000 and this year, over 202,000 hectares had been allocated in Mbane which is 42,000 more then the total within the district.

All the President's Men

6. (SBU) The list of alleged beneficiaries includes the Prime Minister, Souleymane Ndiene Ndiaye, Zacharia Diaw (President Wade's Cabinet Director), President of the Senate Papa Diop and several other prominent GOS officials; including Abdoulaye Fall, head of the National Gendarmerie. The head of the departmental court of Dganana, Judge Madicke Diop who has played a key role as chair of the local electoral committee, is also one of the beneficiaries. Leading opposition parties have continued to challenge the decision and have appealed to the Supreme Court.

COMMENT

7. (SBU) The situation in Mbane remains rather tense as the opposition fights to have the court decision overturned. The ruling SOPI coalition appears to have succeeded in rigging the election in its favor. Until the appeal goes through and a final

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court decision is made the situation will continue to be volatile.

END COMMENT.

SMITH

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- Ministry of Health - NZMAT deployment to Fiji
- MetService - Tropical air brings warm temperatures - Hot temperatures and humidity during Winston handover - MetService News Release - Keeping an eye on the tropics
- BusinessDesk - Tower puts maximum bill for Winston in Fiji at \$7.2 mln
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community - Cyclone Winston: Pacific Community offers assistance to Fiji
- United Nations - Statement on Fiji, Tropical Cyclone Winston
- European Union - EU Emergency Assessment Expert Arrives in Fiji
- Save The Children - Emotional scars for Fijian children could take years to heal - Children may still be out of school in Fiji next week - The Night Cyclone Winston Barrelled through Fiji
- Oxfam - Oxfam water & hygiene expert reports back from Fiji - Water high priority in Cyclone Winston response - Fiji Government trying to contact Cyclone Winston blackspots - Ferocious Cyclone Winston Tears through Fiji - Tonga braces for Cyclone Winston: Zika virus complicates
- UNICEF - Over 40% of Fiji's children affected by Cyclone Winston - Evacuation centres following Cyclone Winston in Fiji - UNICEF scaling up support for children across Fiji - UNICEF Pacific urgently responding to Government appeal - UNICEF's concern for children in Fiji increasing - UNICEF NZ launches appeal and readies supplies - UNICEF NZ: Cat 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston Rips through Fiji
- NZ Red Cross - Red Cross Increases Emergency Aid to Fiji - Red Cross Responds to Cyclone Winston in Fiji - Red Cross Volunteers Responding After Cyclone Winston - Red Cross Responds to Cyclone Winston in Fiji
- Tearfund - Tearfund Appealing for Donations for Fiji
- Rotary NZ - An Undaunting Prospect - Rotary Appeal For Cyclone Winston
- YachtAid - YachtAid Global mobilizes to aid Fiji
- Habitat for Humanity - Habitat-built home a solid refuge in Cyclone Winston - Emergency shelter vital to help families in Fiji
- Christian World Service - CWS appeals for Fiji
- Caritas Aotearoa - Fiji Devastation: "worse than we could ever have imagined"
- UN Women - Women in Fiji need somewhere to turn, support
- NGO Coalition on Human Rights - Coalition commends disaster response efforts
- ANZ Bank - ANZ announces relief package
- Spark NZ - Spark to Credit Cost of Calls to Fiji
- Vodafone NZ - Local expertise invaluable as engineers travel to Fiji - Vodafone Foundation deploys Instant Network to assist Fiji - Emergency Support Offered to Fiji to Assist in Recovery
- Auckland Council - Mayoral Fund poised to assist after Cyclone Winston - Cyclone Winston - has Auckland dodged a bullet?
- Countdown - Donate to Oxfam's Cyclone Winston Appeal at Countdown
- MWH Global - Kiwi Engineers 'heartbroken' over Fiji devastation
- Palmerston North City Council - Relief fund set up for victims of Cyclone Winston
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TV3 Video - Fiji doctor predicts disease outbreak after Winston - Navy vessels prepare for Fiji departure - More aid on its way for Fiji - Fears for children in Cyclone



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The PREVENT

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Most of these people were reportedly brought to Australia from Nauru to receive medical treatment and are in a fragile physical and mental state. The group includes more than 12 women and at least one child who have allegedly suffered sexual assault or harassment while in Nauru. The group also includes 37 children born in Australia. [More >>](#)

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- Amnesty International - High Court decision prolongs agony faced by asylum seekers
- *Out-Link* - Churches offer sanctuary to asylum seekers facing deportation to Nauru | Australia news | The Guardian
- *Out-Link* - These are the 37 babies being sent to live in the camp that John built | First Dog on the Moon | Opinion | The Guardian

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[United Nations - UN Statement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - Statement From Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Iran](#)
 [TV3 Video - Iran's economic sanctions lifted](#)

- **Image** via 2008 Gordon Campbell - The plans to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities

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