



# Elections in Africa 2024-2025:

Upholding Democracy Amid Challenges

# About Civichive

Civichive was established in 2017 as the innovation hub of BudgIT with the goal of developing new civic tech leaders and also creating an innovative virtual and physical space for partnerships and to support new civic tech organizations and strengthen the capacity of already existing NGOs in Nigeria In order to meaningfully impact the Nigerian civic tech space.

Our overarching goal is to stimulate citizens' interests around public data and trigger discussions towards better governance. We are committed to the principles of open data & governance, citizen participation, and data transparency.

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# Introduction



**This article examines the 2024 electoral events in Africa, highlighting significant developments in countries where elections were held or postponed and connecting these narratives with symbolic monuments that represent Africa's resilience and aspirations.**

Elections play a pivotal role in strengthening democracy, giving citizens the power to shape their governance and future. The year 2024 has proven to be a landmark year for democracy across Africa, with elections bringing both celebrations of progress and reminders of the challenges inherent in democratic processes. From historic leadership milestones to unexpected delays, African nations have demonstrated the resilience and diversity of their democratic journeys.

In 2024, 19 African countries planned to hold elections. Of these, 14 countries (Cameroon, Mali, Ghana, Senegal, Chad, South Africa, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Algeria,

Tunisia, Mozambique, Botswana, Mauritius, Somaliland, Namibia, South Sudan, Guinea Bissau, Guinea) successfully conducted their elections, while 5 countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Guinea Bisau, Guinea) postponed them.

Notably, four of the five countries that postponed their elections are located in the West African region. This article examines the 2024 electoral events in Africa, highlighting significant developments in countries where elections were held or postponed and connecting these narratives with symbolic monuments that represent Africa's resilience and aspirations.





# Part One





# Namibia: A Monumental Leap with a First Female President (November 27, 2024 )



Namibia imprinted its name in history by taking to the polls on 27th of November 2024 and electing its first female president, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, A 72 year old seasoned diplomat who won with 57% of the vote. This moment is celebrated across the continent as a victory for gender equity in leadership as the new president's leadership is expected to inspire generations and push for greater representation of women in African politics.

Her campaign resonated with themes of inclusion, economic empowerment, and sustainable development, striking a chord with a diverse electorate. Nandi-Ndaitwah was a member of the underground independence movement in Namibia in the 1970s. She was promoted from foreign minister to vice-president in February, after president Hage Geingob died while in office. Her Win cements the rule of South West People's Organization (SWAPO) party, which has held power for 34 years since the country became Independent in 1990.

It is however important to note that the 2024 elections followed repeated droughts and corruption scandals as the polls were held amid high unemployment and other economic hardships, especially among young people. Polling day was also marred by technical problems, such as a shortage of ballot papers and malfunctioning technical equipment. That led the election authorities to extend voting for three days in some polling stations. Several opposition parties claimed the extension was illegal. Amidst all, Namibia's success story serves as a beacon of hope and a call to action for nations still grappling with gender disparities in politics.



**Nandi-Ndaitwah was a member of the underground independence movement in Namibia in the 1970s.**



# Senegal: A Young Visionary Leader Takes the Helm



In Senegal, the election of one of Africa's youngest presidents captured global attention. Elected with over 54% of the vote in the first round on March 24th, 2024, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, candidate for the African Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (PASTEF) party, at the age of 44, became the youngest president in the country's history. Presented as an anti-system opponent, the man who was in prison until a few weeks before election embodies a new political era among young Senegalese.

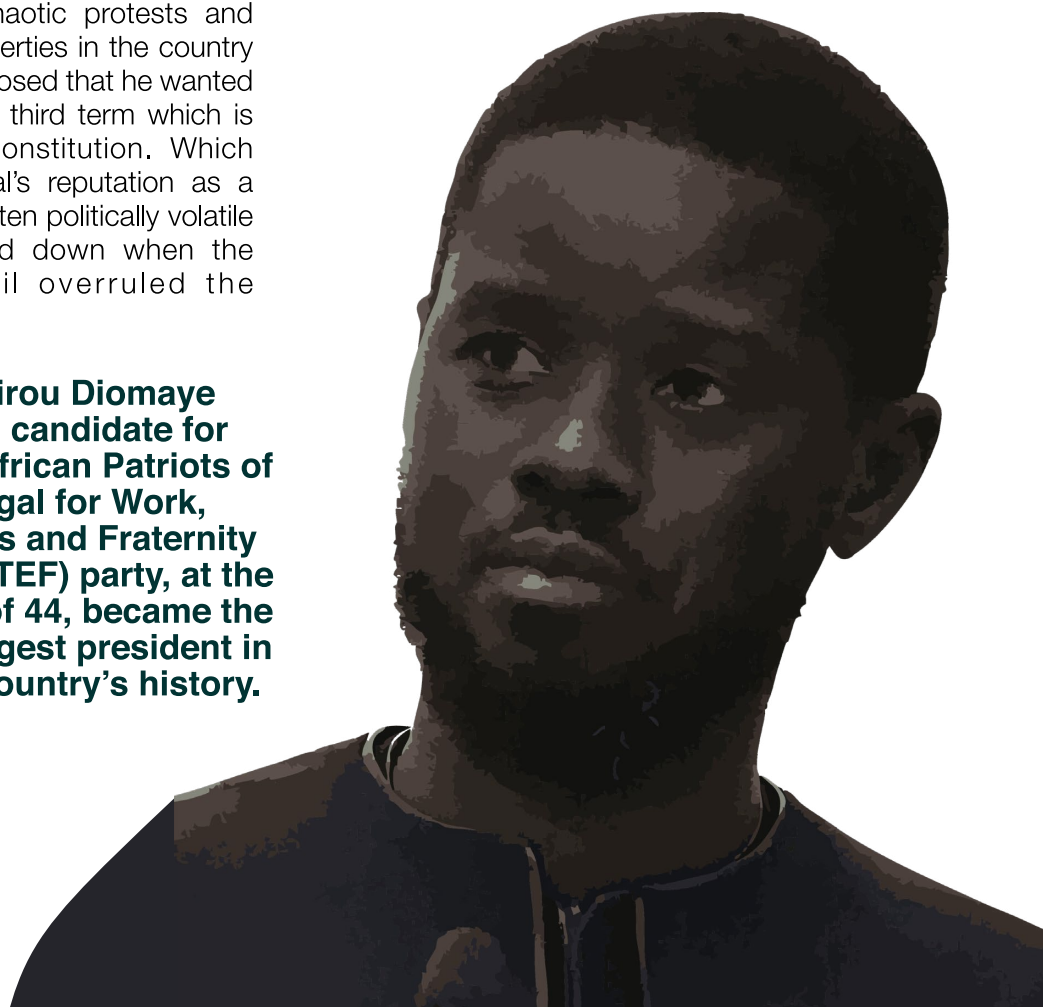
In the beginning of 2024, President Macky Sall announced that the presidential election set to hold in February will be delayed till the end of the year. This resulted in chaotic protests and destruction of public properties in the country as opposition parties disclosed that he wanted to extend his power to a third term which is against the country's constitution. Which invariably dented Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in an often politically volatile region. The protest died down when the constitutional council overruled the

postponement and led to the setting of March 24, 2024 as election day.

Bassirou's vision for a digitally advanced, economically robust, and socially inclusive nation resonated deeply with Senegal's youth, who turned out in record numbers to vote. As a towering symbol of hope and progress, it became a focal point for nationwide celebrations as the young president's agenda to modernize infrastructure and invest in education has further fueled hopes for transformative change.



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# Ghana's 2024 Election: A Shift in Power and Renewed Challenges



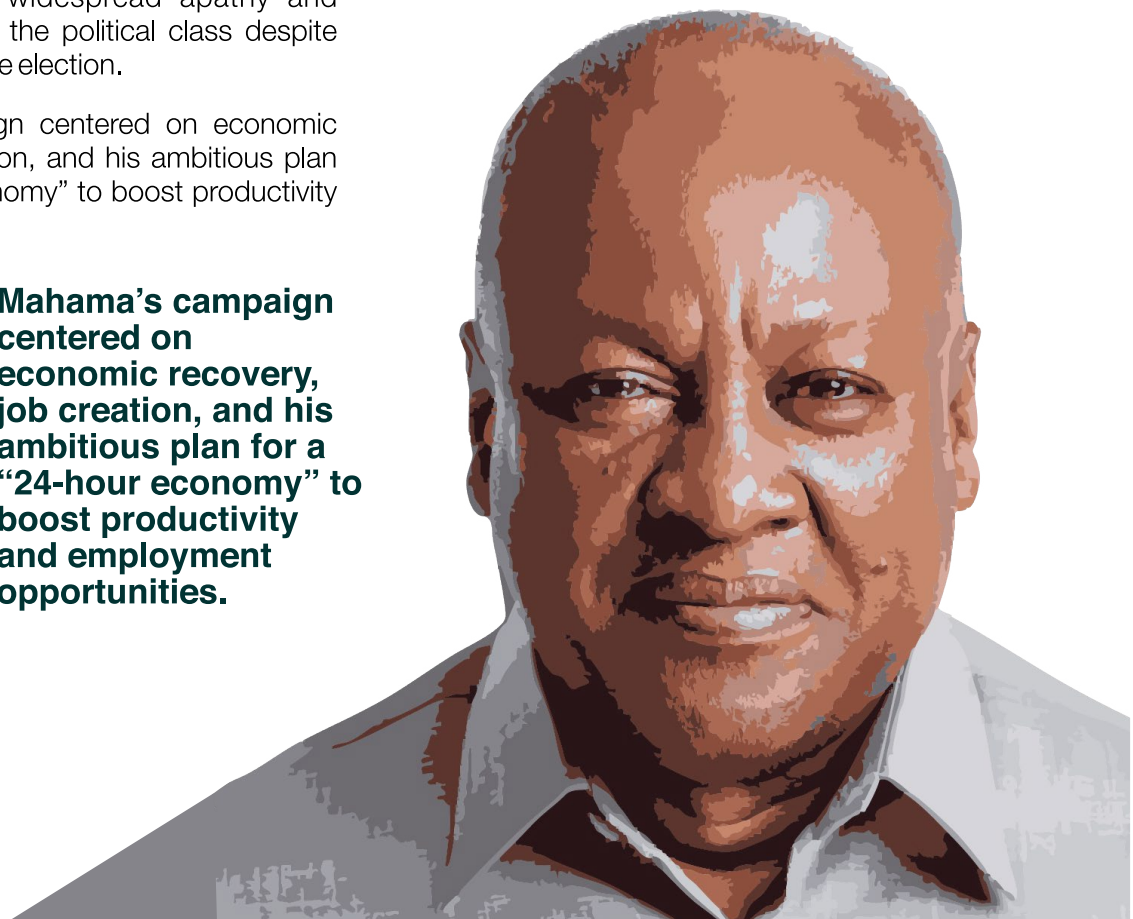
Ghana's 2024 presidential election marked the end of an era as President Nana Akufo-Addo reached the constitutional two-term limit, paving the way for a fresh contest between two familiar political figures. In the December 7 vote, former President John Mahama secured a decisive victory with 56.6% of the vote, defeating incumbent Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia and ending the New Patriotic Party's (NPP) eight-year hold on power. Mahama's National Democratic Congress (NDC) also dominated the parliamentary elections, giving him a strong mandate to govern. However, his return to the presidency comes at a time of severe economic hardship, with high inflation, youth unemployment, and public debt weighing heavily on the nation. Voter turnout dropped to 60.9%, reflecting widespread apathy and dissatisfaction with the political class despite the high stakes of the election.

Mahama's campaign centered on economic recovery, job creation, and his ambitious plan for a "24-hour economy" to boost productivity

and employment opportunities. His victory, along with the historic election of Ghana's first female Vice President, Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang, signals a moment of change in the country's political landscape. However, the post-election period has been marred by incidents of violence, with unrest in multiple regions and clashes between security forces and protesters. The swift response from Mahama and his opponents in condemning the violence underscores the urgency of maintaining Ghana's democratic stability. As Mahama takes office, his administration faces immense pressure to deliver on economic reforms, restore public trust, and reaffirm Ghana's role as a beacon of democracy in West Africa amid rising instability across the region.



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# South Africa's 2024 Election: A Watershed Moment for Democracy



South Africa's 2024 national and provincial elections, held on May 29, marked a historic turning point in the country's post-apartheid democratic journey. For the first time since 1994, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) failed to secure a parliamentary majority, garnering just 40.2% of the vote. This election, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of South Africa's first democratic polls, reflected widespread public discontent over economic stagnation, high unemployment, corruption, and deteriorating public services. With youth unemployment exceeding 50%, rolling power outages persisting for years, and crime rates soaring (130 murders and 80 rapes recorded daily in late 2023), voters decisively ended the ANC's decades-long dominance. The party, unable to govern alone, opted to form a government of national unity (GNU) with the Democratic Alliance (DA) and other parties, including the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the Patriotic Alliance (PA). On June 14, 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected by the National Assembly, but his leadership now hinges on complex coalition dynamics.

The election also saw the dramatic emergence of

former president Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) party, which capitalized on disillusionment within the ANC's traditional voter base to secure 14.9% of the vote. Zuma, despite legal troubles barring him from office, fueled tensions by rejecting the results, calling Ramaphosa's re-election a 'coup,' and filing legal challenges against the outcome. Although South Africa's Electoral Commission (IEC) maintained the elections were free and fair, isolated violent incidents and allegations of vote-rigging underscored the fragile state of the country's democracy. The ANC's loss of its majority represents a critical shift in South African politics, one that could either lead to political instability or signal a maturing democracy where power-sharing becomes the new norm. The GNU's success will depend on its ability to address the root causes of public frustration, including economic inequality and governance failures. How the incoming administration navigates these challenges will shape the future of South Africa's democratic stability and its role as a leader on the African continent.



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# Mauritania's 2024 Presidential Election: Stability Amid Controversies



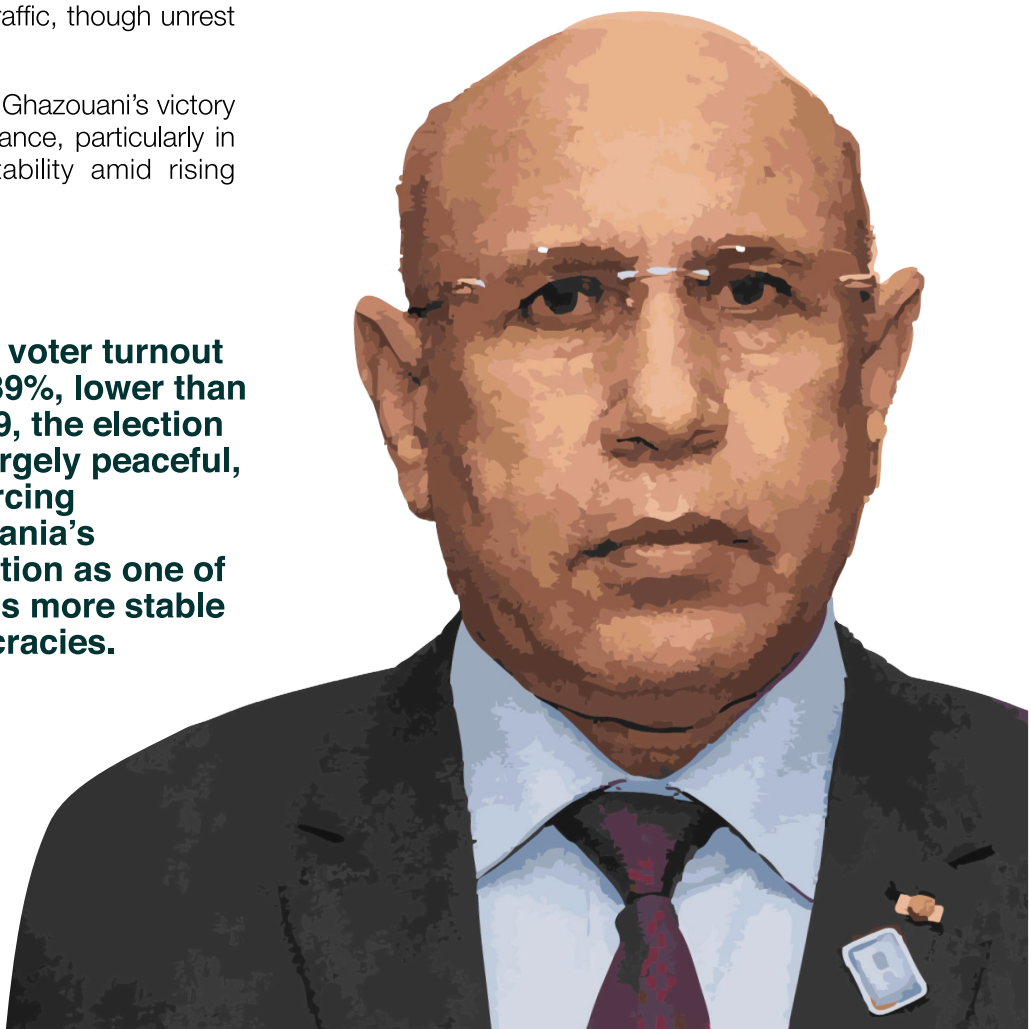
Mauritania's 2024 presidential election saw incumbent President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani secure a second term with 56.12% of the vote, according to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI). His closest challenger, anti-slavery activist Biram Dah Abeid, garnered 22.10%, while Hamadi Ould Sid' El Moctar of the Tewassoul party came in third with 12.78%. With a voter turnout of 55.39%, lower than in 2019, the election was largely peaceful, reinforcing Mauritania's reputation as one of Africa's more stable democracies. However, allegations of electoral irregularities emerged, with Abeid and his supporters rejecting the results, claiming manipulation by CENI. Protests erupted in the capital, Nouakchott, where demonstrators burned tires and disrupted traffic, though unrest remained contained.

Despite these controversies, Ghazouani's victory ensures continuity in governance, particularly in maintaining Mauritania's stability amid rising

insecurity in the Sahel. The country, set to become a gas producer, is poised for economic growth, with Ghazouani pledging investments in renewable energy, mining, and youth development. However, concerns over corruption, press freedom, and voter apathy remain, indicating that while Mauritania's democratic framework is intact, its resilience continues to be tested. The opposition's inability to mount a significant challenge highlights the fragile nature of political competition in the country, as Ghazouani embarks on a second term with both economic opportunities and governance challenges ahead.



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# Rwanda's 2024 Presidential Election: Kagame's Unchallenged Grip on Power



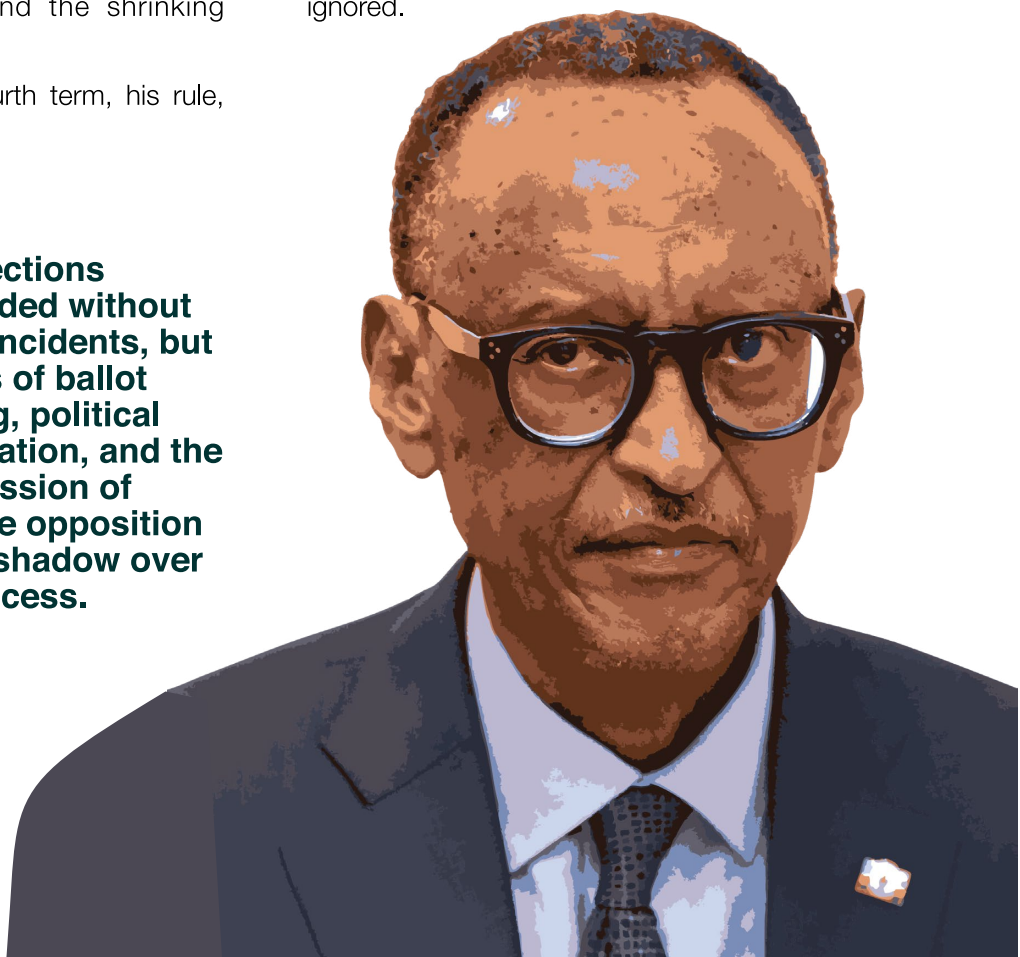
Rwanda's 2024 presidential election reaffirmed President Paul Kagame's dominance, with an overwhelming 99.18% of the vote. His only two challengers, Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party and independent Philippe Mpayimana, received just 0.5% and 0.32%, respectively, in a contest widely seen as a formality. Several opposition figures were barred from running, further cementing Kagame's control. The elections proceeded without major incidents, but reports of ballot stuffing, political intimidation, and the suppression of genuine opposition cast a shadow over the process. Voter turnout stood at an extraordinary 98.2%, reflecting both civic duty and the pressure many citizens feel to participate. International organizations, including Freedom House and Amnesty International, criticized the election's lack of competitiveness and the shrinking democratic space in Rwanda.

With Kagame securing a fourth term, his rule,

already spanning decades, continues with little room for dissent. His Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) further consolidated its dominance in parliament, leaving the opposition with minimal influence. While Kagame is credited with Rwanda's economic growth and post-genocide stability, critics argue that his administration relies on fear and repression to maintain control. Human rights groups decried the election as a reminder of Rwanda's restricted political environment, where opposition leaders face imprisonment, exile, or exclusion from the electoral process. As Kagame embarks on another term, concerns persist over his long-term succession plans and Rwanda's role in regional conflicts, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The future of democracy in Rwanda remains uncertain, as calls for greater political openness continue to be ignored.



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# Algeria's 2024 Presidential Election: A Victory Amid Controversy

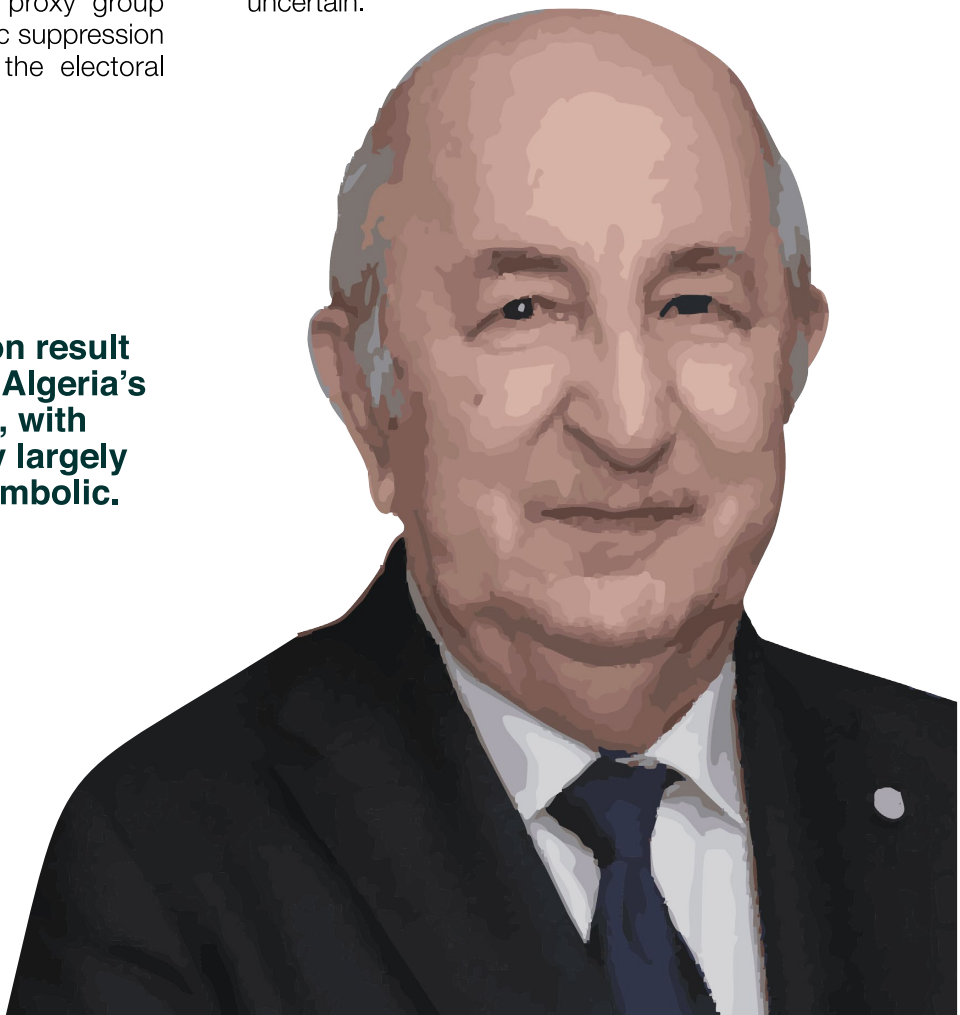


President Abdelmadjid Tebboune secured a second term in Algeria's 2024 presidential election with 84.3% of the final vote, following an initial count of nearly 95%. The election, marred by allegations of fraud, irregularities, and low voter turnout, reinforced the military-backed government's grip on power. Opposition candidates Abdelaali Hassani and Youcef Aouchiche challenged the results, denouncing the process as lacking credibility. Many opposition parties had boycotted the election, citing repression and manipulation by the ruling elite. The National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE) claimed a 48% voter turnout, but even Tebboune's own campaign joined the opposition in questioning the accuracy of participation figures. Reports of proxy group voting, ballot inflation, and systemic suppression further fueled public distrust in the electoral process.

Despite Tebboune's pledges to improve economic conditions and create 450,000 new jobs, widespread disillusionment with the political system remains. Protests erupted in several cities, demanding genuine political reforms, but the ruling elite showed little willingness to accommodate such calls. The election result reaffirmed Algeria's status quo, with democracy largely seen as symbolic. While the government touts economic growth fueled by oil and gas revenues, systemic issues such as corruption, political repression, and limited freedoms persist. International observers and human rights groups continue to call for greater political openness, but with the military firmly backing the regime, prospects for meaningful change remain uncertain.



**The election result reaffirmed Algeria's status quo, with democracy largely seen as symbolic.**



# Tunisia's 2024 Presidential Election: The Final Blow to Democracy?



Tunisia's 2024 presidential election marked a deepening of the country's democratic backsliding under President Kais Saied. With most opposition figures either imprisoned or disqualified, the elections lacked genuine competition.

Saied, who first came to power in 2019 as an anti-establishment candidate, has since consolidated control by dissolving parliament, ruling by decree, and silencing dissent. His landslide re-election with 90.7% of the vote was widely seen as a foregone conclusion, with opposition parties boycotting the process. Voter turnout stood at a historic low of 28.8%, reflecting public disillusionment with what many viewed as a predetermined outcome. The election further cemented Tunisia's shift from being the Arab Spring's democratic success story to an increasingly authoritarian state.

Despite widespread criticism from opposition groups and civil society, Saied remains defiant,

justifying his crackdown as a fight against corruption and political elites. His government has systematically weakened democratic institutions, ignoring court rulings and restructuring the electoral commission to serve his interests.

While the opposition continues to call for a return to parliamentary democracy, their influence has been severely curtailed. International observers, including the European Union, now face a dilemma in balancing concerns over Tunisia's democratic decline with ongoing migration and economic agreements. With Saied firmly in control, Tunisia's once-promising democratic experiment appears to be in its final stages, leaving little room for political pluralism or institutional checks on executive power.



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## Mozambique's 2024 Election: A Controversial Victory for FRELIMO



Mozambique's 2024 elections were marred by allegations of widespread fraud, vote tampering, and violence, casting doubt on the legitimacy of the ruling FRELIMO party's landslide victory. Daniel Chapo, the party's relatively unknown candidate, secured 71% of the vote, succeeding outgoing President Filipe Nyusi.

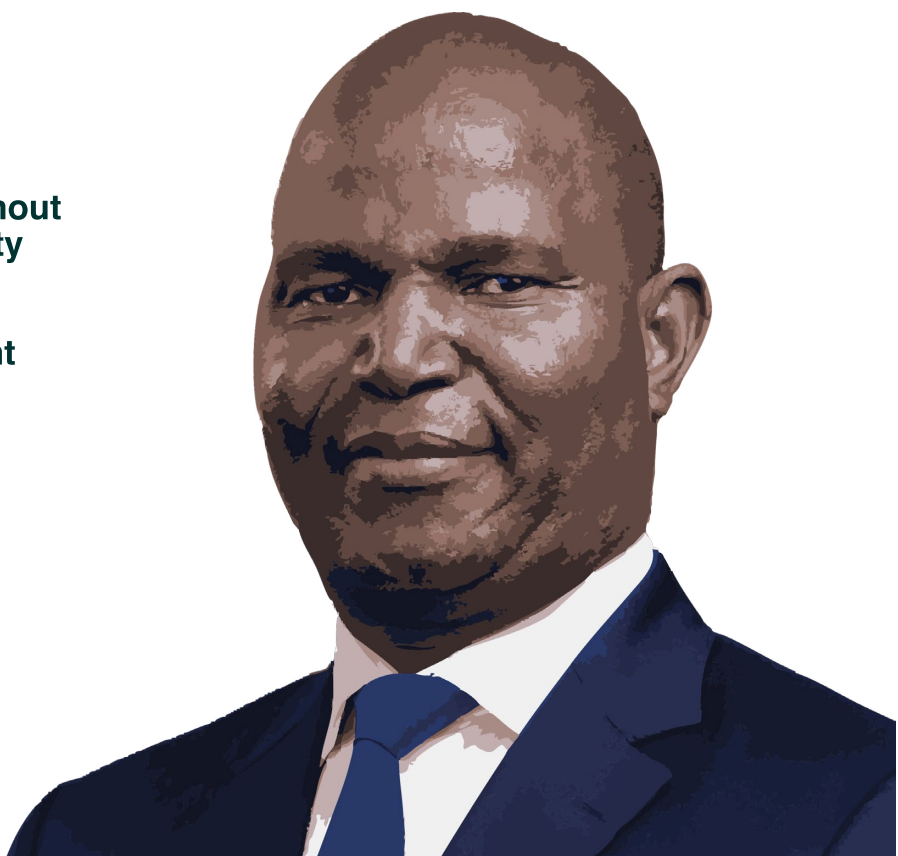
However, opposition parties, particularly Podemos and Renamo, rejected the results, citing electoral irregularities, intimidation, and politically motivated killings. The opposition's claims were reinforced by EU election observers, who noted vote count manipulations and unjustified alterations of election results. With voter turnout at 43%, security concerns and political disillusionment dampened participation. Protests erupted across the country, with demonstrators demanding accountability, but authorities responded with a heavy police presence and crackdowns.

Despite opposition resistance, FRELIMO tightened its grip on power, winning a parliamentary supermajority and control over all provincial governments. Political tensions remain high, as opposition figures continue to challenge the results and call for international oversight. The country's democratic institutions appear fragile, with concerns that electoral fraud and governance issues could exacerbate Mozambique's already precarious security and economic situation.

The insurgency in the north, high youth unemployment, and economic decline have fueled dissatisfaction, particularly among younger voters who are increasingly critical of FRELIMO's rule. As Daniel Chapo was sworn to office on 25th of January, 2025 as the president of the country, he pledged to shrink the size of the government by reducing the number of ministries, tackle youth unemployment and prioritise health and education.



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# Botswana's 2024 Elections: A Historic Shift in Power and Democratic Resilience



Botswana's 2024 general election marked a historic political shift as the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) lost its 58-year parliamentary majority. The Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition, led by Duma Boko, secured 36 of the 61 directly elected seats, enabling Boko to assume the presidency. The BDP's support plummeted to just four seats, reflecting widespread public discontent over economic mismanagement, corruption, and governance issues under former President Mokgweetsi Masisi. Voter turnout was high, exceeding 80%, demonstrating the country's strong democratic engagement. Despite concerns over the state's electoral body benchmarking with Zimbabwe's controversial system, the elections were largely transparent and competitive.

Botswana's democratic foundations remained intact, but the shift in power underscored growing demands for reforms. Calls for constitutional amendments, greater oversight

of government institutions, and increased economic opportunities dominated post-election discourse. The new administration pledged to tackle unemployment, corruption, and social inequalities, but economic constraints may hinder the fulfillment of these promises. While Botswana avoided major electoral controversies, the opposition's success signaled a maturing democracy where political competition is becoming more balanced. The country now faces the challenge of ensuring a smooth transition of power while maintaining its reputation as one of Africa's most stable democracies.



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# Mauritius 2024 Presidential Election: Stability Amid Controversies



Mauritius' 2024 general election delivered a historic political shift as the opposition coalition, Alliance of Change, achieved a resounding 60-0 victory, completely ousting the ruling Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) government. Led by Navin Ramgoolam, the opposition secured 61.38% of the popular vote, marking only the third time in the nation's history that a party has won all parliamentary seats.

The results reflected deep public discontent with the outgoing government, which had been in power for a decade under Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Political fatigue, corruption scandals, economic struggles, and growing concerns over democratic backsliding all contributed to the MSM's dramatic defeat. High inflation, the depreciation of the Mauritian rupee, and rising costs of living further fueled voter dissatisfaction, while a leaked wiretapping scandal just days before the election reinforced public demands for change.

Despite the turbulent political climate, the

election reaffirmed Mauritius' reputation as one of Africa's strongest democracies. While fears of electoral manipulation loomed due to irregularities in the 2019 election, the professionalism of the Electoral Commission ensured a transparent and credible process.

The transition to the new administration under Ramgoolam signals a pivotal moment for Mauritius, with pressing challenges ahead, including economic stabilization, restoring trust in key institutions, and addressing the country's growing drug crisis. With a history of political resilience, the island nation now faces the test of whether the new government can deliver on its promises and strengthen democratic governance.



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# Somaliland: A Test of Democratic Resilience Amid Political Uncertainty



Somaliland, often hailed for its relative stability in the Horn of Africa, faced significant political uncertainty in 2024 due to repeated election delays. The postponement of the presidential election, originally scheduled for 2022, fueled accusations that the ruling party was intentionally stalling the process to maintain power. This move sparked opposition protests and cast doubts on the territory's democratic commitments. However, despite these challenges, Somaliland remained functional as a self-declared democracy, avoiding the levels of instability that have plagued Somalia. The eventual election, held in November 2024, saw Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi of the opposition Waddani party secure a decisive victory with 64% of the vote, marking another peaceful transfer of power in the region's political history.

Beyond the electoral process, Somaliland's political trajectory in 2024 was shaped by its ongoing quest for international recognition. The

government's negotiation of a controversial deal with Ethiopia, which offered sea access in exchange for potential recognition, heightened tensions with Somalia and risked regional instability.

Somalia strongly opposed the agreement, viewing it as an infringement on its sovereignty, while Ethiopia's role in the deal deepened geopolitical rifts, drawing in regional players like Egypt and Eritrea. Meanwhile, Somaliland remained hopeful that the incoming Trump administration in the U.S. might reassess its diplomatic stance on the region. As Somaliland moves forward, its ability to balance internal democratic processes with external diplomatic ambitions will determine its long-term political and economic stability.



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# Part Two



# 2024 Postponed Elections: Challenges and Implications



**Countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, grappled with issues ranging from political instability to logistical inadequacies, delaying the democratic process.**

While some nations celebrated democratic milestones, others faced setbacks as elections were postponed due to logistical, security, or political concerns. Countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, grappled with issues ranging from political instability to logistical inadequacies, delaying the democratic process.

These postponements, though disheartening, underscore the importance of addressing systemic challenges to ensure free, fair, and timely elections. They also highlight the critical role of regional bodies, such as the African Union and ECOWAS, in supporting nations to uphold democratic principles amid adversity.



# Mali



Mali, a sparsely populated West African nation in the Sahel, features a vast arid landscape traversed by the Niger and Senegal rivers. The country, once a beacon of democracy in Africa, experienced a disruption in 2012 when a coup ended two decades of democratic rule. Although a civilian government was restored through democratic elections in 2013, ongoing security concerns led to another military takeover in August 2020. This coup resulted in the dissolution of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta's democratically elected government. Subsequently, Colonel Assimi Goita, the coup leader, was sworn in as Vice President of a transitional government the following month, with Bah Ndaw, a civilian, assuming the role of President.

The interim government in Mali agreed with ECOWAS to transition to civilian rule within 18 months, with legislative and presidential elections scheduled for February 27, 2022. However, a coup on May 24, 2021, led by

Goita, overthrew the existing government. Despite initial assurances to adhere to the February 2022 election timeline, Goita later announced a delay, citing the need for constitutional reforms.

The Malian military junta's failure to transition to democracy led to ECOWAS sanctions and a rescheduled election in February 2024. However, the junta again postponed the elections, citing technical reasons. This has resulted in a drastically reduced democratic space, with political opponents, independent civil society actors, and journalists facing intimidation, threats, arrest, and license revocation. The junta's pressure on the Malian media has made independent journalism difficult, with a push for "patriotic" news coverage.



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# Burkina Faso: Democracy on Hold: Navigating Transition in Uncertain Times



Burkina Faso, a landlocked West African nation formerly known as the Republic of Upper Volta, is a low-income country in the Sahel region. It shares borders with six countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo. With Ouagadougou serving as its capital and largest city, Burkina Faso encompasses a territory of 270,764 square kilometers. The country is heavily reliant on agriculture, which employs 80% of its workforce and is one of the poorest countries globally (World Bank, 2024).

Burkina Faso gained full independence from their colonial masters, France in 1960. Since then, the country has been a mirror of political instability, amongst other issues and military intervention has been inseparable from the affairs of Burkina Faso. The country has recorded the most coups in African history. The country has spent over 50 years under a military regime in almost 65 years of independence. The election that was supposed to hold July 2024 was supposed to be a means to transition into a civilian and democratic government.

In 2015, Burkina Faso experienced a historic moment with the election of President Roch Kaboré, marking the second time a civilian government had been established in the country. The election was widely recognized as the freest, fairest, and most competitive in Burkina Faso's history, introducing significant reforms. However, this period of civilian rule was abruptly ended in January 2022 by a coup led by Colonel Paul Henri Damiba. In response, ECOWAS intervened to facilitate a smooth transition back to civilian governance, and the Damiba regime agreed to a 24-month transitional period.

In September 2022, another military coup occurred and ushered in the 35-year old Ibrahim Traoré. Despite the agreement that was reached between the previous military leaders and ECOWAS, Traoré's regime had the notion of being in power without a fixed limit.



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In September 2022, another military coup occurred and ushered in the 35-year old Ibrahim Traoré. Despite the agreement that was reached between the previous military leaders and ECOWAS, Traoré's regime had the notion of being in power without a fixed limit. Almost a year after Traoré's coup, he made it clear on state media that the election was not a priority, security was. This statement led to the indefinite suspension of the election that was scheduled to hold July 2024. The junta's postponement of the 2024 general election identifies the totalitarian nature of Captain Ibrahim Traoré's regime where laws are applied

unconstitutionally and based on the preferences of the junta.

The indefinite suspension of elections in Burkina Faso was met with significant resistance from various sectors of society. Political parties, civil society organizations, and the general public expressed their disapproval and opposition to the suspension, despite the prevailing atmosphere of intimidation and the numerous reports of human rights violations.

This resistance underscored the strong desire for democratic processes and civilian rule within the country. However, the transition to civilian rule has been repeatedly hindered and delayed, leaving Burkina Faso in a state of severe destabilization. The political climate remains tense, and there is a risk of escalating conflict. This instability not only poses a threat to Burkina Faso's internal security but also has the potential to spill over into neighboring countries, either directly or indirectly. The situation in Burkina Faso, therefore, has implications for regional stability and security.



*Martyrs' / National Heroes Monument, Ouaga 2000 quarter, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso*

## South Sudan - A Fragile Peace and a Delayed Democratic Dream



South Sudan, the world's youngest country, has a nascent democracy and has yet to hold its first national elections. The country has been plagued by civil war and political instability since its independence in 2011, which has hampered efforts to establish a democratic system.

South Sudan gained independence in 2011 but two years later, fighting broke out between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his rival, Vice-President Riek Machar, which left hundreds of thousands dead. The 2018 peace deal, known as the Revitalized Agreement, ended the war.

The transitional government, formed after the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in 2018, has been working towards holding elections by the end of the transitional period, which has been extended multiple times. However, significant challenges remain, including the implementation of the R-ARCSS, the unification of the army, and the resolution of inter-communal conflicts. These challenges have raised concerns about the feasibility of holding credible elections in the near future.

The international community has been actively involved in supporting South Sudan's peace process and electoral preparations. However, the country's political future remains uncertain, and the success of its democratic transition will depend on the ability of its leaders to overcome the numerous challenges facing the nation.

In September 2024, the parties announced that the elections would be postponed to December 2026, and the transition period agreed under the accord would be extended by another two years to February 2027. South Sudan's political leaders may not face much international pressure given the current relative peace and the ongoing conflict in neighboring Sudan. The outbreak of war in April 2023 has led to an influx of over 830,000 refugees and returnees into South Sudan, which is more than 7% of the total population. This has coincided with increased hunger and a cholera outbreak originating at the northern border, with cases arriving from Sudan.



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# Guinea's Election: Delays, Tensions, and Democratic Hopes



Guinea, located on Africa's west coast with Conakry as its capital, is the largest of the three African countries sharing the name "Guinea." It possesses abundant natural resources, notably the world's third-largest bauxite ore reserves, and exports agricultural products like coffee, palm oil, rice, and bananas.

A military coup in September 2021, led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, ousted Guinea's first democratically elected president due to constitutional violations, including exceeding the two-term limit. The military junta, distinct in its operations, declined to join the alliance of military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

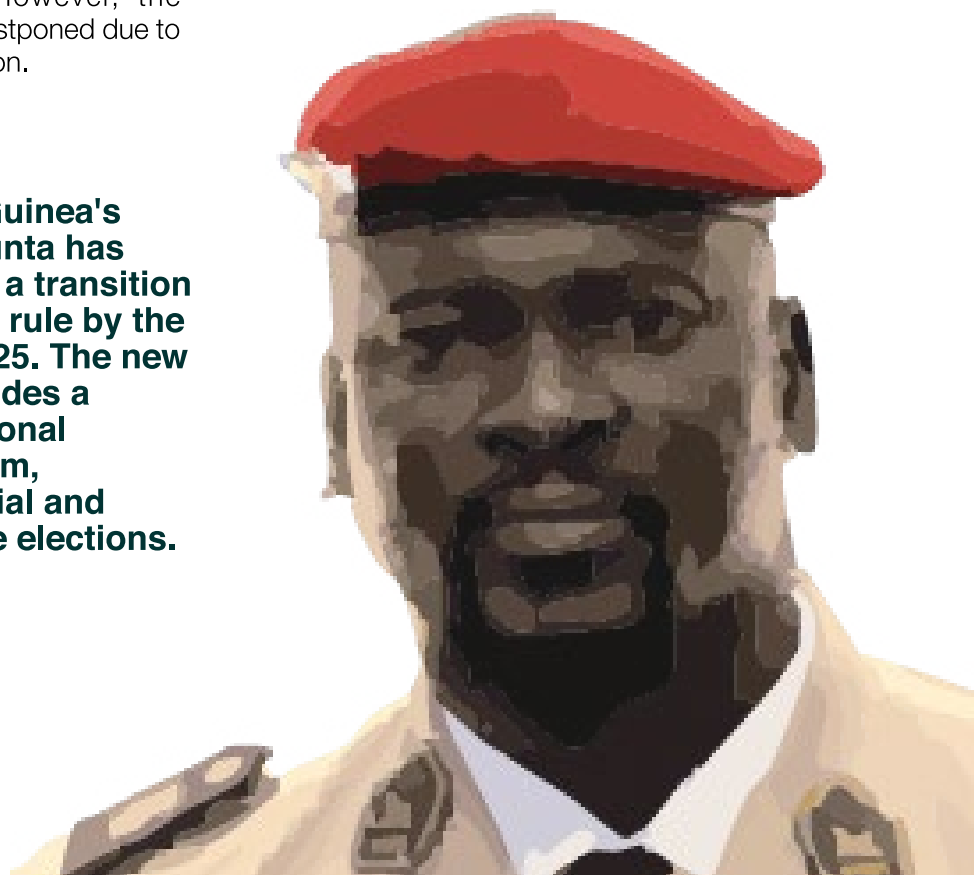
In 2022, the Guinean military junta agreed with ECOWAS to transition to a civilian government, implementing a 10-point roadmap and holding a presidential election by December 2024. Progress included calls for constitutional reforms and a population census. However, the December 2024 election was postponed due to delays in drafting a new constitution.

In 2025, Guinea's military junta has agreed to a transition to civilian rule by the end of 2025. The new plan includes a constitutional referendum, presidential and legislative elections. No specific dates have been set. Proposed constitutional changes include setting presidential term limits and addressing eligibility criteria for current junta members, which could allow them to participate in the upcoming elections.

Opposition groups, political parties, civil societies, and activists under "Forces vives de la Guinée" (FVG) protested the postponement, demanding a transparent timetable and an independent commission. The junta responded with mass arrests and intimidation of critics, maintaining media bans and limited internet access. International organizations, including ECOWAS, expressed concerns and urged a clear, transparent, and inclusive electoral process.



**In 2025, Guinea's military junta has agreed to a transition to civilian rule by the end of 2025. The new plan includes a constitutional referendum, presidential and legislative elections.**



# Guinea Bissau: Leadership at the Crossroads.



Guinea-Bissau, a West African country with a population of approximately 2 million, has a history of political instability and military involvement in governance. The country's economy is primarily agrarian, with the agricultural sector employing the largest percentage of the workforce.

The President of Guinea-Bissau, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, was elected in 2019 and assumed office in February 2020 without being sworn in by the Supreme Court. His actions and the political climate in the country have led to concerns and criticisms from opposition parties, civil society groups, and regional organizations like ECOWAS.

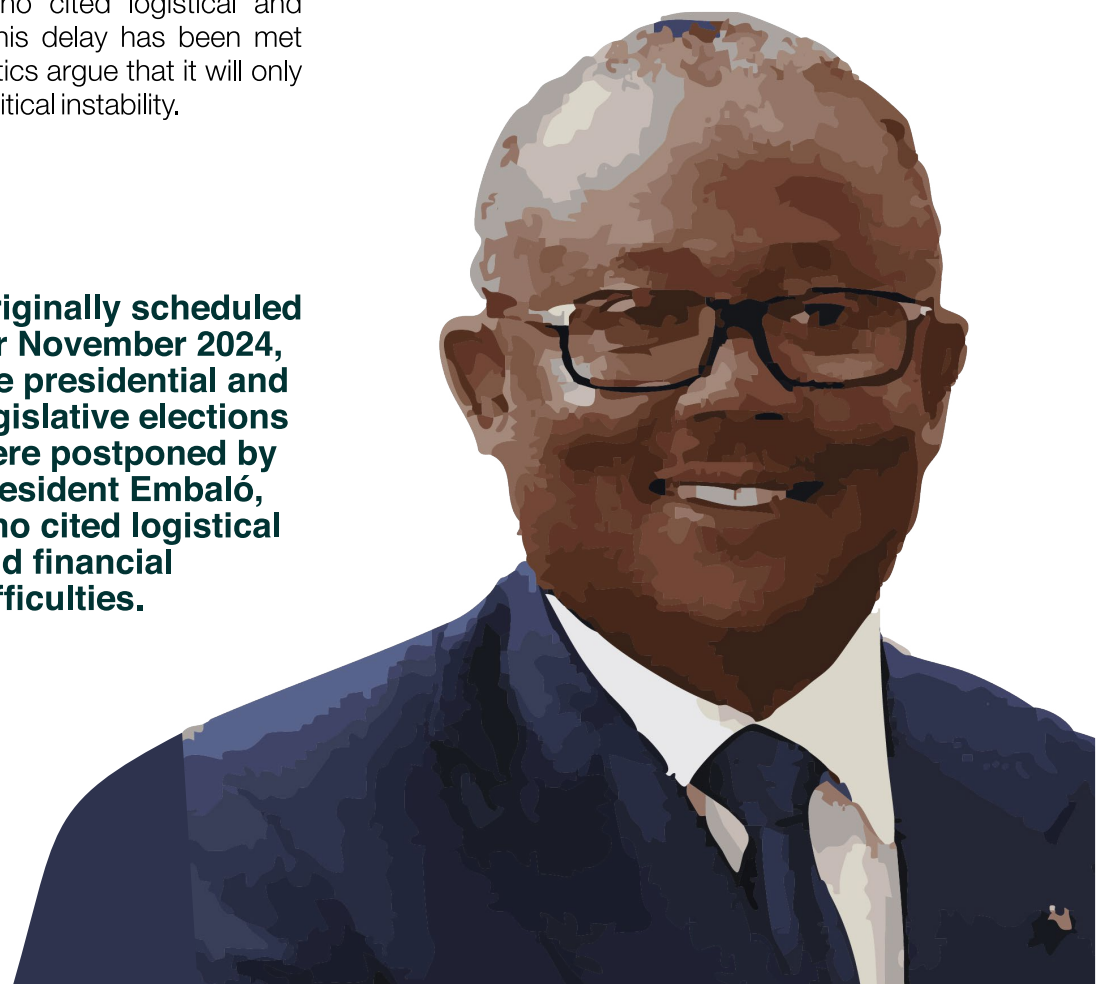
President Embaló, who cited logistical and financial difficulties. This delay has been met with opposition, as critics argue that it will only worsen the existing political instability.

In February 2025, President Embaló announced that the elections would be held in November 2025. While he is eligible for a second term, opposition groups contend that his tenure has already ended and accuse him of authoritarian tendencies and intentions to establish a dictatorship.

ECOWAS, the regional bloc, has been involved in mediating the political situation in Guinea-Bissau. However, President Embaló has threatened to expel ECOWAS delegates, accusing them of breaching the country's sovereignty. As a result, ECOWAS has suspended its peacekeeping mission, leaving the electoral disputes unresolved.



**Originally scheduled for November 2024, the presidential and legislative elections were postponed by President Embaló, who cited logistical and financial difficulties.**





# Part Three





# Looking Ahead: Elections in Africa in 2025



**Beyond these early-year elections, several high-stakes votes remain unconfirmed but are anticipated, including presidential and legislative elections in Burundi, Gabon, Malawi, Seychelles, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Tanzania, and the Central African Republic.**

The year 2025 will continue to shape Africa's democratic landscape with several key elections, though early signs suggest challenges in electoral administration. In Comoros, the legislative elections held on January 12 saw President Azali Assoumani's Convention for the Renewal of the Comoros (CRC) secure a dominant victory, winning 31 out of 33 Assembly seats. However, the process was marred by allegations of a lack of transparency, leading the opposition party, Juwa, to boycott the elections. Further controversy arose when the Supreme Court annulled results in four constituencies, prompting a re-run in late January and February.

Meanwhile, in Togo, the country's first-ever senatorial elections, originally scheduled for February 2, were postponed indefinitely

following recommendations from the Cadre Permanent de Concertation (CPC), a coalition of political parties advocating for better organization and broader participation. The delay underscores the complexities of Togo's evolving political framework, as 41 of the 61 Senate seats will be elected, with the remaining 20 to be appointed by the President.

Beyond these early-year elections, several high-stakes votes remain unconfirmed but are anticipated, including presidential and legislative elections in Burundi, Gabon, Malawi, Seychelles, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Tanzania, and the Central African Republic. Notably, Tanzania's elections will encompass multiple tiers of governance, including the Zanzibar presidency and local councils, while Cameroon is expected to hold both presidential and parliamentary elections in separate months.

# 2025 Africa Election Calendar

Date	Country	Type of Election
12, January, 2025	Comoros	Union Assemblies
2, February, 2025	Togo	Senatorial Elections (Postponed) & Presidential
12 April, 2025	Gabon	Presidential Elections
5 June, 2025	Burundi	National Assembly
16 September 2025	Malawi	President + National Assembly
27 September 2025	Seychelles	President + National Assembly

## Unconfirmed Dates

- ★ October 2025: Cameroon – President
- ★ October 2025: Côte d'Ivoire – President + National Assembly
- ★ October 2025: Tanzania – President + National Assembly  
+ Zanzibar House Of Representatives + Zanzibar President + Local
- ★ December 2025: Cameroon – Parliament + Local
- ★ December 2025: Central African Republic – Presidential + Parliament
- ★ 2025: Burkina Faso – President + Parliament
- ★ 2025: Egypt – Senate + House of Representatives
- ★ 2025: Equatorial Guinea – Senate + House of Representatives
- ★ 2025: Namibia – Local + Regional Councils
- ★ 2025: Tunisia – House of Councillors

# Conclusion



**In some nations, elections led to landmark political shifts, while in others, they reaffirmed the continuity of governance that highlighted shifting political dynamics.**

The 2024 electoral landscape in Africa was a mix of progress and postponements, reflecting the continent's evolving democratic journey. In some nations, elections led to landmark political shifts, while in others, they reaffirmed the continuity of governance that highlighted shifting political dynamics. It is notable to note that even where elections proceeded as planned, concerns over transparency, voter turnout, and the influence of external forces remained pressing issues.

As Africa moves forward this year, the lessons from the 2024 elections in Africa will shape future electoral processes, emphasizing the need for institutional resilience, transparent governance, and regional cooperation in safeguarding democratic norms especially those emerging from political crises or undergoing significant transitions.



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