



Africa Information & Monitoring Services

Cote d'Ivoire: Reporting on Major News Developments 19 January 2022

The following report highlights the threat by newspaper publishers to stop printing, COVID-19 update, the Government's countering violent extremism initiative, and 500 Ivoirian nationals in "irregular situation" in Equatorial Guinea. The report includes background information to add context to the news items.

POLITICS

President Alassane Ouattara Presides Over 19 January Council of Ministers

Further as available



<https://twitter.com/PPGouvCI/status/1483777966173736963>

ECONOMY

Newspaper Publishers Threaten To Stop Printing

According to media reports, the Ivoirian Newspaper Publishing Group (GEPCI) threaten to observe a "day without newspapers" on 24 January.

Background: The GEPCI is demanding the payment of approximately \$545,000 from Edipresse, a company responsible for newspaper sales in Cote d'Ivoire. The GEPCI also lamented the government's decision to stop subsidies to the publishers since 2018 and the 48 percent increase in publishing cost, among others.

HEALTH

COVID-19 Update as of 18 January

New cases: 162 positive of 3,550 samples (4.6 percent)

Total cases: 79,435

New recoveries: 406

Total recoveries: 75,298

New deaths: 2

Total deaths: 763

Active cases: 3,374

New vaccination doses: 15,786

Total vaccination doses: 7,855,476

Source: Ministry of Health

SECURITY

Prime Minister To Launch Countering Violent Extremism Program in North

Several Ivoirian media outlets reported that Prime Minister Patrick Achi on 22 January will launch a government program designed to counter violent extremism in northern Cote d'Ivoire. The program consists of a special fund amounting to \$460 million in favor of unemployed youth in the areas under terrorist threats and is part of the implementation of the government social program for the period of 2022-2024. The official launch of the program will take place in the northern localities of Tougbo and Kafolo.

Background: Experts say that terrorist movements have tried to recruit unemployed young men in the northern region by proposing the sum of approximately \$865 and a motorbike to each of the newly-recruited member. The government aims to boost its actions in the region through the youth insertion program, which targets 62,613 young people in six regions including Bagoue, Bounkani, Folon, Kabadougou, Poro, and Tchologo.

MIGRATION

More Than 500 Ivoirian Nationals in 'Irregular Situation' in Equatorial Guinea

Media reports said that more than 500 Ivoirian citizens are "in an irregular situation" and do not have passports in Equatorial Guinea. The reports blamed the situation on the Ivoirian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, especially regarding the renewal of passports for Ivoirians living in Equatorial Guinea. The Equatorial Guinean Government gave a three-month deadline to all foreigners in the country to regularize their situation.

Background: One of Malabo's biggest concerns is the fight against illegal migration. Rights groups, however, have often accused the Equatorial Guinean Government of violating the human rights of foreigners living in the country. Several Ivoirians reported in November 2021 that the Malabo authorities decided to control documents of foreigners, including passports and residence card, among others.