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A New Government

Dialogue

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Finance Minister Henri Marie Dondra was appointed as prime minister a day after Firmin Ngrebada announced his resignation.
- On 23 June 2021, a new cabinet was announced. The Minister of Public Security, General Henri Wanzet Linguissara, his colleague in National Defence, Marie-Noëlle Koyara, Communication Minister Ange-Maxime Kazagui, as well as Justice Minister Flavien Mbata were replaced. Claude Rameaux Bireau, a nephew of President Faustin Archange Touadéra, was appointed as the new Minister of National Defence and Army Reconstruction. Controller General of Police Michel Nicaise Nassin, was appointed as Public Security Minister. Both the police and the gendarmes are reportedly dissatisfied with Nassin's appointment because he is regarded as incompetent and arrogant.
- The new Mines Minister, Rufin Benam-Beltoungou previously served as adviser on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources to the Presidency. Canadian company Axmin commented that Benam-Beltoungou's appointment is good news for the company, which is involved in a legal tussle about its exploration licences, which was later awarded to a Russian company.
- On 30 June 2021, a 'republican dialogue' organising committee was created by presidential decree. The committee is under the direct control of Touadéra. Representatives of the opposition and civil society are unhappy with the composition of the committee, saying they are underrepresented.
- The United Nations (UN) Special Representative for CAR, Mankeur Ndiaye, expressed serious concern at the military counter-offensive by the country's

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



- security forces and Russian instructors, saying that violations of human rights and international law allegedly committed by CAR forces and other personnel have never equalled those recently detailed by MINUSCA.
- The CAR is in a desperate humanitarian situation. More than half of the nearly five million inhabitants need help, with 1.8 million in acute humanitarian need, the head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Action in the CAR, Vedaste Kalima, said.
- The World Bank on 23 June approved a new \$50 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA) to strengthen human capital and the empowerment of women and girls in the CAR. On 29 June, the World Bank approved a new \$50 million grant to boost food production and build the resilience of food insecure smallholders and households.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF have warned that at least 80,000 children under the age of five are currently at risk of severe acute malnutrition – a 29% increase compared to earlier projections for 2021.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), from 3 January 2020 to 13 July 2021, there were 7,142 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 98 deaths. As of 13 July 2021, a total of 89,608 vaccine doses have been administered.
- CAR has been ranked as the 155th most peaceful country in the world (1=most peaceful; 163=least peaceful) by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in its Global Peace Index (GPI), published in June 2021, rating its state of peace as very low, the same as in the 2020 report.
- The UN Panel of Experts said that in spite of former president François Bozizé’s efforts to provide leadership, the Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC) remained a loose network with each group operating largely independently, including with regard to armament acquisition and funding activities.



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- There were 267 incidents affecting humanitarian workers in the first six months of 2021, compared to 192 during the same period in 2020.
- Rebels of the UPC killed seven people in coordinated attacks on army "checkpoints and camps" in the city of Alindao, MUNISCA spokesman Abdoulaziz Fall said on 30 June 2021.
- The World Bank said in its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that the economy is projected to grow by 0.7% in 2021, a downward revision from projected growth of 3.2% in its January 2021 GEP report.
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) 2021 World Investment Report (WIR), published on 21 June 2021, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2020 was US\$35 million, up from US\$26 million in 2019.
- Angola's President Joao Lourenço, on 23 June 2021, called on the United Nations Security Council to lift the arms embargo on the CAR.
- Henri Marie Dondra wants to revive the economy with France as a "strategic partner".

