Quick Fact Sheet

- **Type:** Bicameral Parliament
- **National Assembly (Lower House)**
- **Senate (Upper House)**
- **Total lawmakers:** 280
- **Number of MPs:** 180
- **Number of Senators:** 100
- **Current Speaker (Lower House):** Cavayé Yéguié Djibril
- **Election method:** Direct universal suffrage
- Term length: 5 years
- **Legislative elections last held:** February 2020
- **Mandate recently extended** to March 2026

Sources to prioritise

Primary

- Parliamentary order paper
- Committee reports
- Official documents (where available)
- Daily briefings by Communications unit

Secondaryon:

- Policy analysts
- Civil society organisations
- Budget experts
- Constituency voices

Field voices

- Market traders
- Youth groups
- Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs)
- Local councils.

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Unusual Story Angles to Cover

Attendance vs Representation (The Empty Seat Story)

- Attendance patterns
- MPs who rarely speak during plenary
- Committee participation records
- Sitting time versus constituency engagement claims

The Legislative Graveyard

- Which bills from previous sessions remain pending?
- How long do laws take from tabling to adoption?
- Are adopted laws being implemented by stakeholders?

Gender and Generational Lens

- Speaking time by gender
- Youth representation versus youth policy rhetoric
- Committee leadership by age group and gender
- Substantive vs ceremonial roles for women MPs

2025

Unusual Story Angles Cont'd

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Language Dynamics in Parliament

- Use of English vs French in debates
- Translation delays or complaints
- Procedural language disputes
- Regional sensitivities in legislative discussions

Cost of Parliament

- Annual parliamentary budget
- Allowances and benefits structure
- Cost per sitting day
- Spending versus legislative output

Digital Transparency Scorecard

- Are plenary sessions streamed?
- Are committee reports publicly available?
- How accessible is parliament and MPs to the digitalisation drive?
-

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Common Reporting Pitfalls

Avoid:
- ❌ Event-only coverage ("Parliament opens…" and stops there)
- ❌ Copy-paste of official speeches
- ❌ Treating speculation as fact
- ❌ Ignoring committee work
- ❌ Over-reliance on political party talking points
- ❌ Missing citizen impact angle

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Quick Checklist

Before publishing, confirm:

- ✅ Bill name and number verified
- ✅ Quotes properly attributed
- ✅ Speculation clearly labelled
- ✅ Citizen impact included
- ✅ Opposition and ruling party voices balanced
- ✅ Data cross-checked
- ✅ Minority or marginalised groups covered

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