

### SENEGAL'S VAIN EFFORTS

Senegal continually plummets in the annual ranking. It lost 32 places from 146th position in 2007 to 178th out of 189 countries in 2014. President Macky Sall complained that the 2014 ranking did not take into account the reforms implemented in 2013, such as the suppression of transaction authorization, revision of the Code of Civil Procedure to improve investor protection, or further property transfer facilitation.<sup>1</sup> These new reforms, likely to be praised by the World Bank, favor land grabbing in Senegal, a country where large-scale land deals have become increasingly frequent in the recent years.

### DOING BUSINESS REFORMS IN SENEGAL

World Bank's Doing Business ranking is taken very seriously by the Senegalese government which is determined to improve its performance on the index.<sup>2</sup> Its efforts are evidenced by the "good reforms" implemented in the country including:

- ✓ In 2014, Senegal made transferring property easier by reducing the tax on the transfer from 15 to 10%.
- ✓ In 2009, Senegal introduced time-limits at the Land Registry and at the Directorate of Taxes and Property to facilitate property transfer. These measures have reduced the time required to obtain title deeds.

### THE WORLD BANK ACTIVELY PROMOTES NEO-LIBERALISM IN SENEGAL

Since the late 1980s, the World Bank has influenced the Senegalese public policy at the expense of households' livelihoods with the mantra "Less State, Better State." The proportion of structurally poor households in Senegal rose from 39% in 1994 to 60% in 2010.<sup>3</sup> The Doing Business ranking of the country since 2007 has pushed for even more withdrawal of public and social action, and instead, promoted economic liberalization and trade facilitation. The latter trade area early on has benefited from the Bank's "Business Climate" team analysis and advice.<sup>4</sup> Thus, trade facilitation is Senegal's area of excellence. Despite its low score in the overall Doing Business ranking in 2014, Senegal remained positioned 3rd in the "trading across borders" category in Sub-Saharan Africa region (80th worldwide and ahead of India and Russia).<sup>5</sup> Through this good notation, the World Bank rewarded the country's efforts in the "dematerialization of procedures"<sup>6</sup> in cross-border trade and the lowering of tariffs for investors.

### WORLD BANK'S AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND LAND GRABBING IN SENEGAL

Promoting agribusiness at the expense of smallholder agriculture, the World Bank initiated important projects such as the Program for the Development of Agricultural Markets in Senegal (PDMAS), designed primarily to stimulate investment and public-private partnership for market-oriented innovation in agriculture. In 2014, international year of family farming, the Bank launched the PDIDAS project (Integrated and Sustainable Agricultural Development Program in Senegal) with \$80 million funding to promote agribusiness development over 10,000

hectares of the Lake Guiers and Ngalam region. This funding was attributed despite continual increase of major large-scale land acquisitions in the region of the Senegal River Valley. At least 657,753 hectares, 16% of Senegal's arable land, were awarded to 17 companies between 2000 and 2011.<sup>7</sup> One of the latest projects, run by the international conglomerate Senhuile-Sénéthanol, has acquired 20,000 hectares for export-oriented agriculture, at the expense of 9,000 herders and farmers who depend on the land for their livelihoods.<sup>8</sup>



## ENDNOTES

- 1 Diouf Saliou, *Doing Business : Macky Sall désapprouve le classement du Sénégal*, Jeune Afrique, 4 novembre 2013.
- 2 *Classement Doing Business (les performances du Sénégal)*, Conseil Présidentiel de l'investissement. [http://www.cpi-senegal.com/sites/default/files/docs\\_focus/classement\\_doing\\_business\\_senegal.pdf](http://www.cpi-senegal.com/sites/default/files/docs_focus/classement_doing_business_senegal.pdf) (accessed March 3, 2014).
- 3 Diallo Fatoumata L., Hamani Ounteni Moussa, *Tendances de la pauvreté au Sénégal entre 1994 et 2001 : une approche multidimensionnelle basée sur les ensembles flous*, CRES, UCAD, 2010. Fall Abdou S. (dir); *Les dynamiques de la pauvreté au Sénégal, Pauvreté chronique, pauvreté transitoire et vulnérabilités*, Policy Brief LARTES National Studies, 2010. [http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/publication\\_files/Pauvret%C3%A9%20chronique%20Senegal.pdf](http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/publication_files/Pauvret%C3%A9%20chronique%20Senegal.pdf), (accessed February 27, 2014).
- 4 Diagne Ibrahima, *Developing a single window to facilitate trade in Senegal*, Investment Practice n°59835, World Bank Investment Climate Advisory Service, 2010. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/10502/598350Brief01p158300BoSenegalnote11.pdf?sequence=1>, (accessed March 2, 2014).
- 5 World Bank, Doing Business rankings. <http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings> (accessed February 26, 2014).
- 6 Sow Bouba, Commerce extérieur: La dématérialisation des procédures expliquée aux utilisateurs du système, Le Soleil, 9 décembre 2013.
- 7 Diop Ndeye M., Diaw Mamoudoun, Diallo Chérif H., Kanoute Amadou C. (dir), *Accaparement des terres en Afrique de l'ouest, Exporter ou Nourrir les populations : impact sur les consommateurs ruraux*, CICODEV Afrique 2011. [http://www.hubrural.org/IMG/pdf/accaparement\\_des\\_terres\\_rapport\\_diokoul\\_1sur2.pdf](http://www.hubrural.org/IMG/pdf/accaparement_des_terres_rapport_diokoul_1sur2.pdf), (accessed March 3, 2014).
- 8 Word Jettie, Surrendering Our Future: Senhuile-Senethanol Plantation Destroys Local Communities and Jeopardizes Environment, Oakland Institute, February 2014. <http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/land-deals-africa-senegal>, (accessed March 5, 2014).

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Photo: Local farmers cultivate their small family plots outside the Ndiael borders. © Enda Pronat



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