

## Politics

**21**

MAY  
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### **Benin Tactical: President Talon's inauguration slated to take place at Porto-Novo's Charles de Gaulle Stadium on May 23; maintain vigilance**

#### **Please be advised**

- Reports citing government spokesman Minister Alain Orounla indicate that President Patrice Talon is to be sworn in for his second term at the Charles de Gaulle Stadium in Porto-Novo on May 23.
- Sources from May 20 also indicate that the inauguration will not be attended by external guests, including foreign heads of state. Attendees will reportedly include members of the government, deputies, dignitaries, and religious leaders.
- Sources from May 19 indicate that the Beninese military is on high alert in anticipation of violence on the day of Talon's inauguration.



#### **Assessments & Forecast**

1. President Talon's inauguration takes place amid heightened tensions over the authorities' suppression of dissent after two protesters were killed by security forces during nationwide

protests that took place ahead of the April 11 presidential election. Protesters denounced the president's alleged undemocratic disqualification of opposition candidates as well as the arrest of opposition figures including disqualified Democrats candidate Reckya Madougou. Tensions were exacerbated in the opening weeks of Talon's second term with arrests of opposition figures on terrorism charges for their alleged involvement in the election violence.

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## **Recommendations**

Those operating or residing in Porto-Novo on May 23 are advised to maintain heightened vigilance in the vicinity of the Charles de Gaulle Stadium throughout the day in light of the presidential inauguration.