



EFF STATEMENT COMMEMORATING MALI'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sunday, 22 September 2024.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) commemorates Mali's Independence Day, honouring the spirit of resistance that has characterised Mali's history from the days of colonial domination to its modern resurgence.

Mali, once the heart of the great Mali Empire, was colonised by France in the late 19th century, a brutal process that sought to subjugate the proud people of a land that once thrived under leaders like Mansa Musa, the richest man to ever live. The Mali Empire was known for its wealth, cultural vibrancy, and advanced systems of governance. It was this rich history that France sought to erase through its violent occupation.

However, the Malian people never surrendered their dignity. The fight for liberation culminated in independence on September 22, 1960, under the leadership of Modibo Keita, Mali's first president, who sought to chart a socialist course for the newly independent nation.

Despite gaining formal independence, Mali was not free from its former coloniser. France continued to meddle in Mali's affairs, determined to maintain control over the nation's rich resources and political future. The most blatant form of this neo-colonialism was France's military interventions, disguised as counter-terrorism efforts, destabilising the region for its own gain. The French presence did little to bring peace, and instead, Mali suffered under a prolonged military occupation that served France's strategic interests, particularly in controlling the Sahel.

France's meddling was not limited to military affairs, economically, Mali was forced to use the CFA Franc—a colonial currency controlled by the French Treasury. Mali, along

with other West African nations, has had its economic sovereignty stripped, forced to rely on a currency that benefits French interests while plunging the people of Mali into poverty. France also exploited Mali's rich natural resources, with French companies extracting gold and uranium at the expense of the Malian people. These actions demonstrate that while France may have left Mali in name, its grip on the country's economy and resources persisted long after 1960.


However, today we salute the current bold leadership Mali, led by Colonel Assimi Goïta, which has expelled French troops and begun to reclaim its sovereignty from the grasp of neocolonialism. The current leadership, in alliance with Burkina Faso and Niger, has made monumental strides in charting a new course for Mali—one that prioritises the needs of its people over the interests of foreign powers. They have rejected the presence of French military forces, reclaimed control of their resources, and begun the task of rebuilding a nation free from imperialist influence.

The EFF stands in solidarity with the people of Mali and their leadership. As we commemorate Mali's Independence Day, we reaffirm our commitment to the total liberation of Africa from imperialism.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Leigh-Ann Mathys (National Spokesperson) 082 304 7572

Thato Lebyane (Media Inquiries) 078 563 1581

 communications@effonline.org
 <http://www.effonline.org>

 @EFFSouthAfrica
 @EFFSouthAfrica

 Economic Freedom Fighters
 @EFFSouthAfrica