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**Corpus :**

President Macky Sall has inaugurated Senegal's new Museum of Black Civilisations in the capital, Dakar. [It follows calls from Senegal and other African nations for France to return art it looted during the colonial era](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-africa-46342363?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=5bfe5bb1d3f33d0665172e1e%26Senegal%20demands%20return%20of%20looted%20art%262018-11-28T10%3A28%3A17%2B00%3A00&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:asset:c2f020c5-b707-4fe4-9314-2042e465aca2&pinned_post_asset_id=5bfe5bb1d3f33d0665172e1e&pinned_post_type=share).

Among the first temporary exhibitions to be shown is work from artists from Mali and Burkina Faso as well as from Cuba and Haiti.

After decades of inaction, construction was finally made possible after a $34m (£27m) Chinese investment. The idea of establishing the museum dates back more than 50 years, to Senegal's late poet-president, Léopold Sédar Senghor.

Along with Martinican writer Aimé Césaire, Senghor was a creative force behind the philosophy of Négritude, which opposed the imposition of French culture on colonies in Africa and the Caribbean.

The museum will not be a commemorative monument, its director says, but rather a creative laboratory to help shape a continent's sense of identity. It is expected to open to the public in the coming weeks.

"This museum is a step forward for us," Amadou Moustapha Dieng, a Senegalese arts journalist, told the BBC.

"I know there are important relics which I'm not able to see unless I go abroad, but now [with] this space, we can get back the relics and Africans can come here now and see this was their history."

The Museum of Black Civilisations has changed the landscape of downtown Dakar. Built in a circular shape, the architecture was inspired by traditional homes typical to southern Senegal

In November an experts' report, commissioned by France's President Emmanuel Macron, recommended that African treasures taken without permission be returned to their countries of origin.

Senegal's Culture Minister Abdou Latif Coulibaly told the BBC he welcomed the French report as "every piece from Senegal is in France".

The museum's bosses hope they will "be able to turn Senegal into an intellectual and cultural capital of the black world".

For years, Dakar has been aiming to position itself as a cultural capital in the region. With President Macky Sall running for re-election in 2019, the government is hoping that the opening of the museum will help it achieve the goal.

**Reflexion:**

First and foremost, I believe the construction of this Museum is essential for Africans, a people who have witnessed so much injustice and endured it with the knowledge that their ancestries left no trace of civilization. It could serve as a reference for ancient Africa studies hence the relics contain so many archaeological facts.

It also cemented the idea that modern day France acknowledges their transgression and these steps are one of the necessary steps, to return stolen relics and artefacts.

The appropriateness of the name is something worth commenting on because it is common knowledge that the imperial France did not colonize Senegal alone but several other countries. A typical example would be the Gambia, even though it is now considered anglophone, it was once or twice a French colony. Therefore, I believe the name promotes sense of belongingness to anyone from Africa.

Internationally, Senegal could be more visible to the outside world than ever due to the presence of this museum. It is agreeable that Senegal is qualified to host such an auspicious museum.

(150 words)