



## The News

**December 18th, 12pm ©**

*by Emma Phillips*

The council president of the département of Mayotte has written to François Bayrou to ask the prime minister to declare a state of natural disaster on the islands. The département council is also requesting that a state of emergency be declared after cyclone Chido hit Mayotte last weekend, leaving devastation in its path. With Mayotte now facing food shortages, 120 tons of food will be handed out today on the two main islands.

François Bayrou is continuing his consultations with elected officials in the Assemblée Nationale ahead of forming a government. This morning, the prime minister met with outgoing minister of the interior, Bruno Retailleau for an hour. Mr Retailleau has said that he wishes to remain in government, as long as certain guarantees can be put in place, especially regarding immigration. The prime minister is now meeting with former head of the Républicains party, Eric Ciotti, who is now head of the right-wing party, Union des Droites pour la République.

Nicolas Sarkozy will receive the final decision from France's highest court, the Court of Cassation, this afternoon in what became known as the wiretapping case. Sarkozy's appeal of his conviction for corruption and influence peddling was already rejected by a court of appeal in 2023. Now, not only does he risk having to wear an electronic tag, if the three-year sentence is upheld, he may have to serve one year in prison with the other two suspended. Sarkozy would be the first former head of state to serve a custodial sentence.

A white march will be taking place in Lone-Plage this afternoon in memory of last weekend's five murder victims. A 22-year-old has become the main suspect after he turned himself into the police and admitted to killing a businessman, two Iranian migrants and two private security guards. He has been charged with murder.

And finally, the online platform Parcoursup is open again from today for students entering higher education to make their applications. Applicants will be able to pick from the 23,000 courses available and can submit their choices from January 15<sup>th</sup>.