

Senegal top court rejects president's bid to cut term

AFP

The petition. Macky Sall had petitioned the constitutional court to reduce his term of office by at least two years.

BY AFP

DAKAR. Senegalese leader Macky Sall said Tuesday the country's top court has rejected his proposal to cut his current presidential term by two years to five.

Sall had proposed 15 reforms in all, including limiting presidential terms to two mandates and expanding the powers of the national assembly and the constitutional council.

"On the implementation of reducing the mandate of the president, the constitutional council recommended that this should be scrapped," Sall said in a brief television address, referring to his ongoing term which is due to end in 2019.

But shortened presidential terms from then onwards and the other reforms will be put to a referendum on March 20, he said.

In March last year, Sall had said reducing his own mandate would set an example, making good on his election campaign pledge.

"We have to understand, in Africa too, that we are able to offer an example, and that power is not an end in itself," he said.

African nations where laws have been changed to the benefit of their incumbent leaders include Algeria, Angola, Chad, Djibouti and Uganda.

The United States and European Union have also criticised Rwandan President Paul Kagame's intention to run for a third term following a constitutional amendment.

SCRAPPED TERMS LIMITS

Country	Year
Uganda	2005
Rwanda	2015
Algeria	
Chad	2010
Djibouti	2005



Macky Sall (L) arrives in Abidjan, Ivory Coast recently. AFP PHOTO