

**Mali names Microsoft Africa chief as interim PM**  
**Reuters**  
**April 17 , 2012**

BAMAKO, April 17 — Mali authorities have named Cheick Modibo Diarra, Microsoft Corp's chairman for Africa, as interim prime minister charged with helping to restore civilian rule to the West African country after last month's coup.

The appointment of Diarra, a former NASA astrophysicist, was announced today in a statement read out on state television. — Reuters

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