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Macron appoints François Bayrou as French PM amid political crisis



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French President Emmanuel Macron has named centrist François Bayrou as the new prime minister, aiming to resolve ongoing political instability. Bayrou, 73, leader of the MoDem party and a seasoned mayor from southwestern France, emphasized the need for national reconciliation.

Bayrou replaces Michel Barnier, who was ousted just nine days ago after a brief three-month tenure. This appointment marks Macron's fourth prime ministerial change this year as he struggles with political deadlock following snap parliamentary elections in the summer. A recent poll indicates 61% of French voters are concerned about the nation's political gridlock.

While some allies praised Bayrou's appointment, critics from the left expressed skepticism. Socialist leader Olivier Faure confirmed his party would remain in opposition, accusing Macron of favoring his inner circle. Far-left leader Manuel Bompard called the process a "pathetic spectacle," and Socialist regional leader Carole Delga likened it to a "bad movie."

Macron's decision reportedly came after intense negotiations at the Elysée Palace, where Bayrou allegedly threatened to withdraw his party's support if not chosen. Macron had initially considered another ally, Roland Lescure, according to *Le Monde*.

Bayrou's primary task will be to restore stability and navigate through political challenges as Macron's presidency continues until 2027.