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State media announces on 14 September that incumbent president Abdelmadjid Tebboune (2019-present) won a second term with 84.30% of the total vote in the 8 September election. Tebboune is expected to continue his government's governing programme that has resumed lavish social spending, supported by increased energy revenues. BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) president Dilma Rousseff announces on 31 August that Algeria's membership to the institution has been approved.

Tebboune re-elected in landslide with 84.3%...

The electoral authority, **Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections (ANIE)**, announced on 7 September that the army-backed incumbent president **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (2019-present) had won the presidential election. ANIE head **Mohamed Charfi** told reporters in **Algiers** that according to initial results, of the 5,630,000 voters counted, 5,320,000 voted for the Tebboune, accounting for 94.65%, enough to avoid a second-round run-off.¹

Tebboune's challengers included **Abdelaali Hassani Cherif** of the **Islamist Movement of Society for Peace (MSP)**, who won 3% of the ballots, and **Youcef Aouchiche** of the **Front des Forces Socialistes (FFS)**, who won 2.1%.² Charfi also said that voter turnout in the election was 48%, higher than the record low of 40% registered in the 2019 polls when Tebboune won 58% of the votes.³ Tebboune came into power in 2019 against the backdrop of the **Hirak Movement**, which broke out in February 2019 and forced long-term president **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** (1999-2019) to step down.⁴ The movement ended in early 2020 due to the **Covid-19** pandemic and a government ban on protests.

The presidential candidates, including Tebboune, questioned ANIE's results, and in an unusual joint statement released on 8 September, described the results as vague and contradictory.⁵ They also said the announcement "*lacked the most basic information*" routinely released after other ballots.⁶ Cherif's campaign also said the government had forced electoral officials to inflate results and alleged ANIE failures to deliver vote-sorting records to candidates' representatives.⁷ The campaign's spokesperson, **Ahmed Sadok**, said the election was "*a farce*" and that Cherif had won far more votes than had been announced, citing their own tallies from regions.⁸

Aouchiche held a news conference where his campaign provided graphics that they said proved the results had been distorted and called the outcome a "*shameful and gross manipulation*".⁹ However, when announcing the results, Charfi said that ANIE, established in 2019 in response to demands from pro-democracy protests, had worked to guarantee transparency and fair competition among all candidates:

¹ Aljazeera, 8 Sep 2024; Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections, 7 Sep 2024

² Aljazeera, 8 Sep 2024

³ Bloomberg, 8 Sep 2024

⁴ France24, 21 Mar 2024

⁵ Ennahar, 8 Sep 2024

⁶ Ennahar, 8 Sep 2024

⁷ Reuters, 8 Sep 2024

⁸ Reuters, 8 Sep 2024

⁹ Africa News, 11 Sep 2024

“President Tebboune didn’t need this stuffing. We knew he’d be re-elected, but with these results, ANIE hasn’t done him any favours”.¹⁰

Due to the aforementioned issues, the two opposition candidates on 10 September officially filed a challenge against the provisional electoral results with the constitutional court.¹¹ APS announced on 14 September that the constitutional court had confirmed that Tebboune had won a second term with 84.30% of the total vote while Cherif received 9.56% and Aouchiche, 6.14%.¹² The final voter turnout reached 46.10%.¹³ While the constitutional court did not call Tebboune’s election victory into question, the major disparity and discrepancy between provisional and final results confirm suspicions of irregularities in the tabulation. Additionally, while the outcome of the polls was not in doubt, the level of participation was seen as gauging the legitimacy of Tebboune’s victory, with many saying that the low voter turnout and irregularities showed that he was not legitimately elected. Critics have also maintained that the election, which was initially scheduled for December, was held earlier than expected to sideline any serious challengers.¹⁴ A local source told **Africa Risk Consulting Briefing (ARC Briefing)**:

“Nobody in Algeria believes Tebboune won with 80%+. He tampered with the votes for the second time.”¹⁵

Several countries, including **China, Qatar, France, Turkey, the United States (US)** and **South Africa**, have congratulated Tebboune on his win, providing some much-needed credibility.¹⁶ US state department spokesperson **Matthew Miller** posted on **X** (previously **Twitter**) on 8 September commended the results of the presidential election and said his country values the US-Algerian partnership to promote regional and international peace.¹⁷

...what to expect in Tebboune’s second term

With his re-election confirmed, Tebboune is expected to continue his government’s governing programme that has resumed lavish social spending, supported by increased energy revenues.¹⁸ Tebboune pledged to increase pensions, unemployment benefits and public housing programmes, all of which he raised during his first term.¹⁹ The government has been able to fund its large social spending and wielded growing international clout after **Russia’s** invasion of **Ukraine** made Algeria a key alternative energy supplier for **Europe. Spain, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom (UK)** have become more dependent on Algerian gas while pivoting away from Russian supplies. Meanwhile, The sector has since grown in importance - Italy aims to support Algeria’s green-energy production, with plans to export it via subsea cables, with potential agreements with US-based companies **Exxon Mobil** and **Chevron** also in the works.

There’s no underestimating that the energy boom following the Ukraine war rescued Algeria’s economy, which was facing a looming and intractable crisis in early 2020.²⁰ The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** indicated at the time that Algeria was set to run a budget shortfall of 20% of gross domestic product (GDP), with a current account deficit worse than that of **Lebanon**, which had defaulted.²¹ The Covid-19 pandemic also stretched social spending, leading to speculation that Algeria,

¹⁰ Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections, 7 Sep 2024; Africa News, 11 Sep 2024

¹¹ Africa News, 11 Sep 2024; Reuters, 14 Sep 2024

¹² Algeria Press Service, 14 Sep 2024; Reuters, 14 Sep 2024

¹³ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024

¹⁴ Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections, 7 Sep 2024

¹⁵ ARC Source, Local Resident

¹⁶ Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 8 Sep 2024

¹⁷ US State Department, 8 Sep 2024

¹⁸ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024

¹⁹ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024

²⁰ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024; Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²¹ Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

despite having virtually no external debt, was looking for assistance from the IMF.²² However, this year, the IMF projects that Algeria will grow by 3.8% and has a “*broadly positive*” near-term outlook.²³

The government is offering cash handouts to the unemployed and pledging more affordable housing and interest-free loans for start-ups.²⁴ This social spending has become key as almost two-thirds of its 47 million population are under 30.²⁵ As long as Tebboune maintains subsidies and continues to raise pensions and wages, he will remain popular among large swatches of the population.²⁶ But this strategy could be jeopardised by a sustained fall in oil prices, which was the case between 1 to 2 September when oil posted its largest weekly drop in eleven months.²⁷ This could potentially create budget pressures for Algeria.

Tebboune’s electoral victory could also see him pursue other reforms, including easing the country’s reliance on energy receipts and opening up the country’s protectionist economy to more foreign investment. However, government reforms to diversify revenue, including opening up tourism and attracting more foreign investment, have been piecemeal, leaving the country vulnerable to sudden shocks.²⁸ Simultaneously, rising prices and limited opportunities have created immense economic pressures on millions of Algeria, pushing some to flee to Europe.²⁹ The economic difficulties faced by ordinary Algerians may have contributed to the low turnout during the election.³⁰ Protests have also been prominent through Tebboune’s first term, with the socio-economic crisis as the main factor for people’s discontent.³¹ Tebboune has tended to deal with these protests by adopting a tough approach using security forces, with several prominent dissidents jailed. This approach is expected to remain a key tactic in dealing with protestors during Tebboune’s second term.

With increased energy revenues Tebboune has managed to sustain social spending and maintain his government’s popularity by raising pensions, unemployment benefits, and housing programmes. However, his ability to balance social spending and reforms aimed at diversifying Algeria’s economy remains vulnerable to fluctuating energy prices, which could jeopardise these initiatives and lead to further socio-economic unrest. Lastly, being viewed as a lame duck in his final term could potentially bolster opposition to Tebboune, either within the security ranks or the broader population.

Algeria joins BRICS-led Bank...

BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) president **Dilma Rousseff** announced on 31 August that Algeria’s membership to the institution had been approved, making Algeria the institution’s ninth member.³² The BRICS group of developing countries - Brazil, Russia, **India**, China, and South Africa - developed the NDB in 2015 as a multilateral bank.³³ Egypt, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, **Bangladesh** and **Uruguay** were admitted as new members of the bank in 2021 as part of an expansion drive.³⁴ BRICS, founded in 2009, accounts for 25% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and is home to 40% of the world’s population. The bloc is often viewed as a rival to the **G7** and other **Western-led** blocs, as well as an ideological and economic counterweight to the **United States (US)** and its allies.³⁵

Algeria’s foreign ministry said on 1 September that membership in the NDB reflects the country’s stable macroeconomic indicators and resilience, strengthened by multi-sectoral reforms and its

²² Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²³ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024; Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²⁴ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024; Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²⁵ Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²⁶ Statista, 2 May 2024

²⁷ Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²⁸ Reuters, 14 Sep 2024; Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

²⁹ Morocco World News, 8 Sep 2024; Bloomberg, 7 Sep 2024

³⁰ Reuters, 9 Sep 2024

³¹ Morocco World News, 8 Sep 2024

³² China Global South Project, 1 Sep 2024; Reuters, 31 Aug 2024

³³ Reuters, 31 Aug 2024; Energy Capital Power, 4 Sep 2024

³⁴ Reuters, 31 Aug 2024; Energy Capital Power, 4 Sep 2024

³⁵ Morocco World News, 1 Aug 2022

recent classification as an upper-middle-income emerging economy.³⁶ Joining the NBD provides Algeria with an alternative institution to access resources for sustainable development projects. Algeria also hopes that joining the NBD lays the groundwork for its long-term goal of joining BRICS.

Algeria's application to join the BRICS bloc was rejected after the BRICS leaders on 24 August 2023 invited **Iran**, Saudi Arabia, **Ethiopia**, Egypt, **Argentina** and the UAE to join the bloc.³⁷ After joining the NDB, Algeria will likely continue pursuing entrance into BRICS and other global south-led institutions. By joining such multilateral institutions, Algeria can raise its global profile and more easily engage in economic opportunities with countries such as China and India.

Planner

2024 **(France)** President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** to visit France;

Dec 2024 **Vienna (Austria) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries+ (OPEC+)** meeting;

Chronology

16 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) South African Presidency. South African** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** congratulates President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** on his re-election;

16 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Club of Mozambique. Italian** prime minister **Giorgia Meloni** sends a message of congratulations to President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** on his re-election;

12 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Club of Mozambique. Mozambican** President **Filipe Nyusi** congratulates President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** on re-election;

10 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) AP News.** Opposition candidates **Abdellali Hassani Cherif** and **Youcef Aouchich** file appeals with the constitutional court to challenge the results of the election in which incumbent president **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** won with 94.7% of the vote;

9 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Africa News.** Floods in Algeria and **Morocco** kill more than 20 people have died and leave dozens missing;

8 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) France24.** Incumbent President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** is re-elected with 94.65% of the vote;

7 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Africa News.** The polling stations for the presidential election close, marking the end of voting and the start of ballot counting in the presence of the representatives of the three candidates;

5 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Algeria Press Service.** Foreign affairs minister **Ahmed Attaf** takes part in the 9th Summit of the **Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)** in **Beijing (China)**, in his capacity as the representative of President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**;

4 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Algeria Press Service.** Foreign affairs minister **Ahmed Attaf** arrives in **Beijing (China)**, for the 9th Summit of the **Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)** in his capacity as the representative of President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**;

3 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Algerian Foreign Ministry.** Foreign affairs minister **Ahmed Attaf** receives a phone call from **Saudi** counterpart, **Prince Faissal bin Farhan Al Saud**;

1 Sep 2024 **Algiers (Algeria) Algeria Press Service.** The members of the national community established abroad will begin voting on 2 September as part of the presidential election taking place on 7 September;

³⁶ Energy Capital Power, 4 Sep 2024; China Global South Project, 1 Sep 2024

³⁷ Morocco World News, 24 Aug 2023

28 Aug 2024 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa News*. Opposition figure **Fethi Ghares'** family reports plainclothes officers apprehended him at his home on Tuesday for interrogation without presenting a formal summons;

26 Aug 2024 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Electoral authority, the **Autorité Nationale Indépendante des Élections (ANIE)**, reminds voters of the procedures for proxy voting for the upcoming 7 September presidential election;

22 Aug 2024 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Algeria demands the immediate implementation of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** resolution on a ceasefire in **Gaza (Palestine)** to enable the start of a polio vaccination campaign in the Palestinian enclave, where the disease has been detected following the destruction of health infrastructures by **Israeli** forces;

21 Aug 2024 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. **Israeli** media report that Israel has perceived President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune's** offer to send aid to **Gaza** as soon as the borders between Egypt and the besieged Gaza Strip are open as a "veiled threat";

18 Aug 2024 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Anadolu Agency*. **Lebanon** says Algeria has offered to supply it with fuel to overcome its electricity crisis.

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