

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Algeria Summary 29 September 2025

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (2019-present) announces a major cabinet reshuffle on 14 September, appointing Sifi Ghrieb as prime minister and unveiling a restructured government. Algeria is reportedly preparing to launch its first-ever sovereign sukuk in early November, aiming to raise \$2.3 billion. Mali's prime minister, General Abdoulaye Maïga, says in a statement on 4 September that Mali has taken Algeria to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing Algeria of aggression after it shot down one of Mali's military reconnaissance drones in April.

President Tebboune reshuffles government

President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (2019-present) [announced](#) a major cabinet reshuffle on 14 September, appointing **Sifi Ghrieb** as new prime minister and unveiling a restructured government. Ghrieb, formerly the industry minister, had been serving as acting prime minister after Tebboune dismissed **Nadir Larbaoui** on 28 August, without giving any reason for his departure. Ghrieb's appointment was confirmed alongside the formation of a new cabinet made up of 34 ministers, including 10 newcomers, and three state secretaries.

Besides the prime minister, one of the most [notable changes](#) is in the energy sector, which has been split into two distinct portfolios. **Mourad Adjal**, previously the head of state-run utility **Sonelgaz**, was named energy and renewable energy minister, while **Mohamed Arkab**, who had overseen the energy ministry, now leads the newly created hydrocarbons and mines ministry.

Despite the shake-up, the presidency said that several key figures retained their positions, including the finance, trade, and foreign affairs minister. Following the reshuffle, Algeria's complete cabinet, as [shared](#) by its government, is listed below:

Minister name	Position
Ahmed Attaf	Foreign affairs minister
Saïd Chanegriha	Defence minister, chief of staff of the People's National Army (PNA)
Mohamed Arkab	Hydrocarbons and mines minister
Brahim Merad	State services and local authorities minister
Saïd Sayoud	Interior minister
Lotfi Boudjema	Justice minister
Abdelkrim Bouzerd	Finance minister
Kamel Baddari	Higher education and scientific research minister
Mohamed Seghir Saadaoui	National education minister
Mohamed Esseddik Ait Messaoudene	Health minister
Abdelmalek Tacherift	Mujahideen and rightsholders minister
Yahia Bachir	Industry minister
Ouacim Kouidri	Pharmaceutical industry minister
Yacine El-Mahdi Oualid	Agriculture, rural development and fisheries minister
Mourad Adjal	Energy and renewable energy minister

Kamel Rezig	Foreign trade and export promotion minister
Amel Abdellatif	Domestic trade and national market regulation minister
Mohamed Tarek Belaribi	Housing, urban planning, cities and national planning minister
Youcef Belmehdi	Religious affairs and wakfs minister
Malika Bendouda	Culture and arts minister
Mustapha Hidaoui	Youth minister
Sid Ali Zerrouki	Post and telecommunications minister
Noureddine Ouadah	Knowledge economy, start-ups and micro-enterprises minister
Zoheir Bouamama	Communication minister
Nacima Arhab	Vocational training and education minister
Abdelkader Djellaoui	Public works and basic infrastructure minister
Taha Derbal	Hydraulics minister
Abdelhak Saihi	Labour, employment and social security minister
Houria Meddahi	Tourism and handicrafts minister
Soraya Mouloudji	National solidarity, family and women's affairs minister
Kaoutar Krikou	Environment and quality of life minister
Walid Sadi	Sports minister
Nadjiba Djilali	Relations with parliament minister
Mohamed Abdenour Rabehi	Wali of the governorate (wilaya) of Algiers
Sofiane Chaib	Secretary of state to foreign affairs minister, in charge of the national community abroad
Bakhta Selma Mansouri	Secretary of state to foreign affairs minister, in charge of African affairs
Karima Bakir	Secretary of state to hydrocarbons and mines minister
Yahia Boukhari	Secretary general of the government

The reshuffle underscores a mix of stability and renewal within Tebboune's administration. The changes also come at a pivotal moment for Algeria, a crucial natural gas supplier to **Europe**, that is also working to diversify its economy amid ongoing social and economic pressures. By redistributing responsibilities, especially within the energy sector, the presidency appears intent on balancing Algeria's traditional reliance on hydrocarbons with an expanded focus on renewable energy and economic diversification.

Algeria set for inaugural \$2.3 billion sovereign sukuk issuance...

Algeria is reportedly [preparing](#) to launch its first-ever sovereign sukuk, also known as an Islamic or Sharia-compliant bond, in early November, aiming to raise \$2.3 billion. The sukuk will carry a fixed annual lease return of 6% and will be paid to investors for a term of seven years. The issuance, which will be open exclusively to Algerian investors at home and abroad, will run for a two-month subscription period beginning 2 November. Foreign investors will not be eligible to participate. By limiting access to nationals, the government is looking to tap into domestic and diaspora savings that often remain outside the conventional banking system.

Officials [view](#) the sukuk as a milestone in Algeria's financial reform agenda. It is expected to broaden its financing tools, boost the role of Islamic finance and offer a new channel for public investment, while also reducing reliance on oil and gas revenues. The move also comes against the backdrop of mounting fiscal pressures, with the budget deficit surging more than 250% to 4.9 trillion dinars (\$37 billion) in 2024, and could help strengthen public finances. The [World Bank](#) reported that Algeria's budget deficit in 2024 widened to 14% of GDP, its highest level since 2015. The sharp rise stems from

a mix of factors, including weaker hydrocarbon revenues following OPEC+ production cuts, higher public spending on wages and subsidies, elevated import bills and deeper structural rigidities in the fiscal system. These combined pressures have stretched state finances even as the government pushes ahead with reform.

Mali takes Algeria to the ICJ for downing its military drone

Mali's prime minister, General **Abdoulaye Maïga**, [said](#) in a statement on 4 September that Mali has taken Algeria to the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, accusing Algeria of aggression after it shot down one of Mali's military reconnaissance drones in April. Maïga said that Algeria deliberately downed its drone along their shared border on the night of 31 March to 1 April in **Tinzaouaten/** (also called **Tinzawatène**) in the **Kidal Region**, alleging that the downing was targeted at hindering efforts of the **Forces Armées Maliennes (FAMA)** (Malian armed forces) in their fight against terror groups. Maïga said in the statement that,

"This blatant aggression...is the culmination of a series of hostile acts and malicious actions, repeatedly denounced by the Malian authorities."

Maïga further described the incident as a hostile act and violation of the principle of non-use of force, adding that Mali had repeatedly asked Algeria to provide evidence that the drone had violated Algerian airspace but had received no response. In April, Malian junta ruler, **Assimi Goïta** (2021-present), also called the downing of the drone an act of aggression and summoned Algeria's ambassador over the incident (*see ARC Briefing Algeria Apr 2025*). Mali's junta subsequently decided to recall its ambassador to Algeria on 6 April. **Niger** and **Burkina Faso's** juntas, which together with Mali formed the **Alliance des États du Sahel (ASE)** (alliance of Sahel states), also recalled their envoys on the same day. The AES in a statement published on 6 April condemned Algeria and said the downing of the drone was a "*irresponsible act*" that violated international law.

Algeria and Mali had both closed their airspace to each other on 7 April, escalating the diplomatic rift. Algeria's defence ministry said in a statement that the government had taken the decision to close its air navigation from or to Mali after the country had repeatedly violated its airspace (*see ARC Briefing Algeria Apr 2025*). The foreign affairs ministry also said that the drone was downed after it violated Algerian airspace and adopted "*an offensive trajectory*". The ministry further criticised the Malian junta's dependence on foreign mercenaries to try and secure its country.

The ICJ [said](#) in a press release on 19 September that Mali's application for a case against Algeria could only proceed if Algeria accepts the court's jurisdiction, and that no action will be taken in proceedings until then. The ICJ noted further that since Algeria has not given the **World Court** automatic jurisdiction for any disputes with other **United Nations (UN)** members, it had sent Mali's claim on to the Algerian government. It is very unlikely that Algeria will grant the ICJ jurisdiction over the case, particularly given that its government said the downing was targeted at protecting its airspace.

The drone incident and Mali's subsequent ICJ case filing further increase existing diplomatic tensions between Algeria and its southern neighbours, including Mali. Mali has been struggling with conflict since the 2010s after a loose alliance of primarily ethnic **Tuareg** separatists and Islamist jihadist fighters with communal ties to Algeria and **Libya** captured large swathes of the north in 2012. Algeria once served as a key mediator in the between Mali and Tuareg rebels but the two countries have grown apart since the military coups in 2020 and 2021. **Russian** paramilitary, **Wagner Group**, deployed its forces to Mali in 2021 to help stabilise the country, further expanding Russia's influence in the region.

Algeria also remains highly concerned about the security in the region. Algeria and Mali share a 1,400km border and there are concerns that continued instability in Mali could lead to a power vacuum, a rise in militias, displaced persons and refugees and overall greater instability in the region.

Planner

2025 (Algeria) Algeria and France to suspend 2013 French-Algerian visa pact

2025 **(Algeria)** Algeria set to reach deal with **United States (US)**-headquartered **Exxon** and **Chevron**

2026 **(Algeria)** National assembly elections

Chronology

29 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Tech News Africa*. Foreign affairs ministry has officially launched '**DZ Travellers**', a new digital platform designed to support Algerian citizens traveling abroad;

26 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *APA News*. Foreign minister **Ahmed Attaf** is holding a series of bilateral meetings at the **United Nations (UN)** in an effort to restore Algeria's image, strained by tensions with several of its neighbours and international partners;

26 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *HRW*. **United States**-headquartered **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** says Algerian authorities should end excessive control over civil society groups and parliament should enact a new associations law based on international human rights standards;

24 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Times Live*. **European** traders say Algeria's state grains agency **OAIC** has bought about 500,000 metric tonnes of milling wheat in an international tender that closed on 23 September;

20 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Foreign minister **Ahmed Attaf** signs the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea** which concerns the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

19 Sep 2025 **Bamako (Mali)** *Reuters*. **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** says Mali's application for a case against neighbouring **Algeria** over the shooting down of a Malian military drone can only proceed if Algeria accepts the court's jurisdiction;

18 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Anadolu Agency*. Algeria warns the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** that it risks repeating past failures to prevent genocide after the **United States (US)** vetoed a resolution for the sixth time, backed by 14 of its 15 members, calling for urgent ceasefire in **Gaza**;

17 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. **United States (US)** General **Michael Tudor**, head of **Special Operations Africa (SOCAFRICA)**, visits Algiers to promote regional security cooperation;

14 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** appoints members of his new government under the leadership of prime minister **Sifi Ghrieb**, with cabinet key figures including **Ahmed Attaf** as foreign affairs minister, **Mohamed Arkab** as hydrocarbons and mines minister, and **Saïd Sayoud** as interior minister;

12 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. **African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)** president **Benedict Oramah** announces that the bank is ready to support energy projects led by Algeria to advance African economic integration, including initiatives backing the **Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline** and regional electricity interconnection projects;

10 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Times Live*. Algeria asks the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** to meet after **Israel** carried out an attack on **Hamas** leaders in **Qatar**;

9 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. At the **4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025)**, **Algerian Qatari Steel (AQS)** signs four export contracts worth \$420m to supply its products to **African** countries;

7 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Al24*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** signs six agreements on various areas of bilateral cooperation with **Mozambique's** President **Daniel Chapo**;

6 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Domestic trade minister **Tayeb Zitouni** meets with **Tunisia's** trade and exports minister, **Samir Abid**, to discuss bilateral cooperation;

5 Sep 2025 **Bamako (Mali)** *RFI*. Mali's ruling junta files a case against **Algeria** at the **International Court of Justice**, accusing the country of "*premeditated destruction*" of a Malian military reconnaissance drone;

4 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** opens the **4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025)** in Algiers, with several **African** heads of state, delegations and senior officials in attendance;

4 Sep 2025 **N'Djamena (Chad)** *Jeune Afrique*. President **Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno** arrives in **Algiers (Algeria)** for his first visit since taking power, meeting counterpart **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** in a bid to revive dialogue strained by Chad's alignment with **Morocco** on the **Western Sahara** issue;

2 Sep 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Interim prime minister, **Sifi Ghrieb**, visits the **Pins Maritime Exhibition Palace** to review final preparations for the **4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025)**;

28 Aug 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Reuters*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** removes prime minister **Nadir Larbaoui** and appoints industry minister **Sifi Ghrieb** as the acting prime minister;

27 Aug 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. The foreign ministry summons **France's** chargé d'affaires to protest a statement from the French embassy on visa procedures;

26 Aug 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Foreign affairs ministry official, **Selma Bakhta Mansouri**, states that Algeria is reinforcing its role as a key player in **African** integration through diplomatic and economic initiatives, such as the **African Union** summits and **African Continental Free Trade Area**, aimed at promoting continental unity and development;

23 Aug 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. Foreign affairs ministry strongly condemns what it calls a genocidal war in **Gaza** and denounces the use of starvation as a weapon of war by **Israel**;

17 Aug 2025 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Algeria Press Service*. State-owned hydrocarbon development agency, **Agence Nationale pour la Valorisation des Ressources en Hydrocarbures**, and **United States (US)**-based **Occidental Petroleum** sign two agreements to conduct studies on the hydrocarbon potential of two exploration blocks;

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