

Chahed nominates women and youth to new Tunisia government

In Tunisia, returning migrants find a ray of hope

Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid ousted in confidence vote

Defense Minister Farhat Horchani, Interior Minister Hedi Mejdoub and Foreign Affairs Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui would all maintain their portfolios in the new cabinet. The current transport, tourism, education and equipment ministers would keep their posts as well.

"All Tunisians are expecting from us," Prime Minister-designate Youssef Chahed said. "We have no right to let them down." Chahed, a member of the secularist Nidaa Tounes party, called on "all political parties and unions to take their responsibilities, support this government and put the country's interest ahead of any consideration."

Chahed, a 40-year-year-old agricultural sciences specialist and university professor, became prime minister after his predecessor [lost a confidence vote last month](#). He had served as a junior minister, handling the Fisheries portfolio.

Should parliament approve his government, Chahed would become Tunisia's youngest prime minister since the country's independence from France, in 1956.

New faces

The proposed cabinet, which parliament must approve, includes 26 ministers and 14 junior ministers, five of them younger than 35, from several political parties and independents.

Judge Ghazi Jeribi would become justice minister.

Fifty-five-year-old state bank director Lamia Zribi, one of eight women nominated to the new government, would become the finance minister. Chahed also chose a woman, Samira Merai, to head the Health Ministry.

Mohamed Trabelsi would lead the Social Affairs Ministry, and Abid Briki, a former union official, would become minister of public functions. Both men have close ties to a union that in the past has resisted austerity measures.