LIMA - President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has confirmed that he will not run for a fifth term in office. The move, announced on state media from Algeria’s capital Algiers, followed a cabinet meeting last week of the 15-member Assembly of the Democratic National Front for Progress and Development to discuss constitutional amendments.

Bouteflika, in power since 1999, was first elected in 1995. He faces growing pressure to resign from political opponents, the military and the population.

In the past few days, more than a million people have poured into the streets of Algiers demanding Bouteflika step down. Some are demanding a constitutional change that would end the president’s power to name the prime minister.

He first sought to please the protesters by promising to resign, but later denied making such a promise. Bouteflika’s political allies are expected to push for constitutional amendments to prevent him from seeking a new term.

The National Constitutional Union (UCN), one of the country’s largest political parties, has called for early presidential elections to be held within 90 days. The UCN’s leader, Abdelkader Ben Moussa, said the move is needed to prevent a constitutional crisis.

Analysts say the president’s decision is likely to provoke a political crisis. Bouteflika’s opponents have long accused him of corruption and lack of transparency. They have criticized his government’s handling of the economy, which has been hit by the fall in oil prices.

Bouteflika’s government has faced growing criticism over its handling of the economy, which has been hit by the fall in oil prices. The country’s economy is strongly dependent on oil and gas exports, which have accounted for more than 95% of the government’s revenues.

The government has implemented austerity measures, including cuts to health and education spending, to reduce its budget deficit. However, these measures have been met with protests and a lack of support from the public.

Bouteflika’s decision may also affect the stability of the country’s military, which has played a key role in maintaining the president’s power. The military has been known to support Bouteflika, but it has also been involved in political intrigue and corruption.

The decision could also have implications for the region. Algeria is considered a key player in the Middle East and North Africa, with a strategic location that makes it an important player in regional politics.

Bouteflika’s decision to not run for a fifth term is likely to be seen as a victory for his opponents, who have been calling for his resignation for years. The decision could also pave the way for a more democratic and stable government in Algeria.

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With the departure of Bouteflika, it is expected that a new government will be formed. The future of Algeria remains uncertain, with many questions about the country’s political and economic future.

The government will need to address this crisis by implementing political and economic reforms, including reducing corruption, improving the economy, and ensuring the protection of human rights.

This is likely to be a difficult task, as the country faces a range of challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and political instability. The government will need to work closely with its international partners, including the United States and Europe, to address these challenges.

Overall, the next few months in Algeria will be critical, as the country faces a major political and economic crisis. The fate of Algeria is in the hands of its new leaders, who will need to demonstrate strong leadership and a commitment to democracy and human rights.

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