

LV1

EPREUVES HARMONISÉES DU PREMIER SEMESTRE D'ANGLAIS

TEXT: High Cost of Living in Senegal

The Head of State of Senegal, announced a series of 11 decisions aimed at immediately reducing the prices of certain food products. But he and other actors in the sectors concerned are aware that the country will only be able to cope with the risks of shortages of certain products and rising prices if it is able to produce what it consumes.

Several actors who were at the ceremony of restitution of the consultations on the cost of living at the Palace welcomed the decisions taken by the Head of State for the reduction of the prices of certain basic necessities but also recalled a duty of vigilance. The President announced 11 decisions, which will be translated into 55 measures, leading to immediate reductions in the prices of consumer products and services. **These measures** will have 112 accompanying measures that will strengthen the policy to accompany food sovereignty.

A great number of actors realized that it was not only a question of the State taking measures and imposing decisions for the reduction of the prices of staple foods. It was also a question of ensuring that the local production does not suffer from the entry of certain products or that the policy of waiving taxes, intended to keep tariffs down, does not have a negative impact on public finances.

Referring to certain horticultural products such as onion and potatoes, the representative of Copasen, stated that the real problem of the country is the lack of storage infrastructure.

This problem leads to the fact that « post-harvest losses in Senegal are estimated at billions ». Huge quantities go to the bin and the State is obliged to fill by opening the borders to products coming mainly from European countries.

He assured that if producers had storage capacities, they would not only achieve the country's self-sufficiency in **these products**, but could even afford the luxury of exporting them to the sub-region. It is unfortunate that this problem is dragging on, because somewhere this lack of infrastructure is hampering progress in the horticultural sector. He revealed that the state had to spend about 6 billion francs a year on subsidies for quality seeds. And these seeds cannot be stored for long, at the risk of decomposition.

A somewhat different problem arises in the rice sector, where the cacophony between local producers and importers could not be calmed despite the presence of the Head of State. On that sector, it is, first of all, a question of improving the distribution channels of local rice and the strict control of imports, which, risks becoming even more difficult.

Adapted from <https://lequotidien.sn/high-cost-of-living-in-senegal>

I. Reading Comprehension (8marks)

A/ Consider the words in the brackets and find their synonyms in the indicated paragraphs. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5marks)

The measures taken by the Head of State to reduce the price of food products are largely (1) p2 (**accepted**) by the population. However, some shopkeepers don't want to apply these measures on the ground that they don't accept to sell at a loss. For this reason, they decided not to sell some (2)p3 (**essential**) foods. This leads to the (3) P4 (**shortage**) of products like sugar, rice.....

B/ Complete the table below with adequate information from the text. (0.5 x 4 = 2marks)

Food Production	
Two local products	Two problems encountered
4.....	6.....
5.....	7.....

C/ All these statements are true. Justify them with specific passages from the text. (1 x 2 = 2marks)

Sentence	True	Justification
8. To compensate for production losses the government has to open the frontiers to foreign products.	True
9. The government subventions amounted to six billions every year.	True

D/ Find in the text the English equivalent for the sentence below (1 x 1 = 1mark)

French sentence	English equivalent in the text
10. "Au Senegal les pertes après les récoltes sont évaluées à coup de milliards"

E/What do the underlined words refer to in text? (0.5 x 3 = 1.5marks)

11. These measures (paragraph 2):

12. This problem (paragraph 4):

13. These products (paragraph 5):

II. Communicative Competence (6marks)

F/ Match each sentence below with the right notion from the box. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5marks)

a- impossibility b- condition c- possibility d- advice e- incapacity
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Sentences	Notions
14. The cacophony between local producers and importers could not be calmed.
15. Senegal can only reach self-sufficiency if it is able to produce what it consumes.
16. The distribution channels of local rice should be improved by a strict control of imports.

G/ Word derivation: Complete the passage with the appropriate form of the words in brackets. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5marks)

The international conjuncture has (17).....(**profound**) affected Senegalese national economy. Indeed, life, is becoming harder and harder. As a result, the Government has decided to alleviate the (18)..... (**to suffer**) of the population. They have taken series of measures in order to (19).....(**increasingly**) Senegalese purchasing power.

H/ A journalist is asking Aly, a trader, questions about the new measures on price reduction. Complete the interview with right verb forms and tenses. (0.5 x 6 = 3marks)

Journalist: Hello, Sir! You ⁽²⁰⁾ (**to attend**) the meeting on the reduction of the cost of living at the Palace, didn't you?

Aly: No, ⁽²¹⁾ But we were represented by our trade union.

Journalist: ⁽²²⁾ (**you/to agree**) with the new measures taken by the President for the reduction in prices?

Aly: No, I don't because we have stocks of goods that we ⁽²³⁾ (**buy**) before the announcement of the decisions.

Journalist: So, ⁽²⁴⁾ (**you/to sell**) your products to the previous prices?

Aly: No, I'm not. I'll respect the State's decisions and I hope all fellow traders ⁽²⁵⁾ (**to follow**) my steps for the good of all citizens.

III. WRITING: Choose only one topic and write about 150 words (6marks)

Topic 1: "Senegal can only reach self-sufficiency of certain products and services if it is able to produce what it consumes." Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

Topic 2: Moussa refuses to apply the new prices on products in his shop. Aly, his fellow trader, is trying to convince him to accept the state's measures. Write down their conversation.

Good Luck !