

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Constitution revision: ONPLC to play monitoring role

ALGIERS - The head of the National Body for Prevention and Fight against Corruption (ONPLC) Tarek Kour affirmed that the amendments proposed as part of the draft revision of the Constitution, on the missions of this body, are “fundamental” inasmuch as ONPLC, which is currently a simple consultative body, will have a monitoring role.

By virtue of the revision of the Constitution that will be submitted to referendum on 1 November 2020, ONPLC will have a new appellation which is “the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption,” which will enable it “to accomplish its monitoring missions, in addition to its consultative role, and to contribute “efficiently and seriously” to the fight against all forms of corruption, Kour told APS.

The proposed amendments will govern the relation between the body and the different players in terms of fight against corruption.

In this regard, Kour stressed the key role that can be played by the civil society in the strengthening of the national efforts in terms of prevention and fight against corruption, as it is one of “supports of the national transparency system,” calling on all the society’s players to contribute responsibly to the prevention and fight against corruption to “lay the foundations for the new Republic” that we all hope to build.

The organization of a national seminar on the role of the civil society in the fight against corruption, scheduled on Monday at the International Centre of Conferences (CIC) Abdelatif Rahal will be “a platform of debates and exchange of views on the role that the civil society could play in the efforts of prevention and fight against corruption.”

Referendum on Constitution amendment: Transparency, impartiality conditions met

ALGIERS - All the conditions are met to ensure the “transparency and impartiality” of the referendum on the draft constitution amendment on the 1st November 2020, said Monday chairman of the National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE) Mohamed Charfi.

The conditions of holding the referendum “will be the same as those in which the presidential election of 12 December 2019 was held, marked by transparency and impartiality,” affirmed Charfi to the National Radio, underlining that the necessary material and logistical means have been mobilized to hold this referendum in “serenity and regularity.”

“We will follow the same organization and the same procedures with the possibility that ANIE’s head follows in real time the election thanks to the videoconference network implemented on this occasion. It will enable a greater responsiveness and immediate handling of possible problems that may arise on this day,” he added, calling on the young people to participate in the supervision of the polling stations and to be observers during the election.

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While broaching the referendum campaign which starts next Wednesday, Charfi affirmed that the means of expression “are open to those who are in favor and those who are against the draft amendment of the Constitution,” pointing out that this step “reflects the new dynamic initiated since the presidential election of 12 December 2019 for the establishment of “the new Algeria.”

In his reply to a question on a possible participation of international observers, he considered that “a State which calls upon international observers doesn’t fully exercise its sovereignty,” underlining that “this undermines the national sovereignty.”

Civil society, "first defender" of constitutional amendment bill

ALGIERS - The advisor to the president of the Republic for Associative Movement and National Community Abroad, Nazih Berramdane, said Monday, in Algiers, that the civil society is the "first defender" of the constitutional amendment bill, to be submitted to referendum on November 1st.

Given the "important position" it occupies within the constitutional amendment bill, civil society with its different actors "is at the forefront, and becomes the first defender of the constitutional amendment," said Berramdane in his address to the national symposium on the role of civil society in the fight against corruption.

The constitutional amendment bill emphasizes the importance of civil society, starting with the preamble which "involves the civil society and the Algerian community abroad in the management of public affairs," he said.

It includes "six articles that constitutionalize the role of civil society and give it the place it deserves, in addition to the creation of the National Observatory of Civil Society, one of the urgent demands of its various actors."

The adviser of the president of the Republic welcomed the various actors of civil society's "growing confidence" in the institutions of the State, especially after the recently approved facilitations and the embodiment of the principle of participatory democracy.

He added that the symposium, organized by the National Body for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption (ONPLC), enshrines the expected participation between civil society actors and state institutions."

Berramdane considered that the indicators of this participation "have become a tangible reality, reflecting one of the most important commitments of the President of the Republic.

President Tebboune had promised to promote civil society as a partner of the State institutions in the management of public affairs."

Energy: Algeria attaches special importance to nuclear safety

ALGIERS - Algeria attaches special importance to the physical protection of nuclear facilities and the safety of radioactive sources, Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar said in Algiers.

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In an opening address at the Information Day on Physical Protection of Nuclear Installations and the Safety of Radioactive Sources, organized by the Commission for Atomic Energy, Attar said that Algeria, in line with its international obligations and commitments, attaches "special importance" to these various aspects of nuclear safety.

To this end, he encouraged the Commissioner office's initiative through the training centre and safety support.

In this respect, he mentioned training actions in the field of nuclear safety "provided to the relevant bodies and operators at the national level. He also cited the office's contribution to the activities of the international network of nuclear safety centers at the international level, and whose efforts we support."

The Minister of Energy, in a press briefing on the sidelines of the meeting, stressed that the country has facilities, laboratories and executives that are active in a field where nuclear radiation is present. He underlined the need to raise awareness among all personnel operating in nuclear installations or near radiation sources.

Draft amended Constitution meets requirements for building modern state

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune said on Monday in Algiers that the draft amendment to the Constitution submitted to a referendum on November 1st "meets the requirements for building a modern state" and "responds to the demands of the people to exercise true democracy."

The President of the Republic sent a message to the International Forum on "The Constitution in the service of the citizen: the major lines of constitutional amendment", read on his behalf by advisor for legal and judicial affairs, Boualem.

He said that "the draft amendment to the Constitution falls within the requirements of building a modern state and meets the demands of the blessed popular movement Hirak. Besides, it responds to the people's demands to exercise true democracy. Therefore, I have been keen to enable the sovereign people decide about this important document in order to build a new Algeria, which must be based on the foundations of democracy and good governance, far from the past practices."

The amendment of the Constitution "is an important milestone in compliance with my commitment to respond to the people's demands that were expressed during the blessed and original popular movement Hirak."

It also part of the "promises I am achieving in sincere will and good faith, in accordance to a clear and realistic strategic vision."

After recalling his pledge "before the people to build a new Algeria," the President of the Republic affirmed that amending the Constitution "falls within this endeavor as the State's fundamental law embodies the solid and basic structure for building a new Republic."

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For a "consensual" constitution, the draft amendment has been subject to enrichment and large-scale debate, allowing various components of the society, institutions, political parties and actors of civil society to discuss it "for more than four months, despite the health crisis caused by the Coronavirus epidemic in our country and in the world," said President Tebboune.

COOPERATION

Anti-corruption: National seminar on civil society's role opens

ALGIERS - The national seminar on the civil society's role in the fight against corruption, organized by the National Body for Prevention and Fight against Corruption (ONPLC), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), kicked off on Monday at the International Centre of Conferences (CIC) Abdelatif Rahal, in Algiers.

This seminar, organized under the theme "civil society, a key partner in the fight against corruption," is marked by the participation of representatives of the associative movement, professional organizations, teachers-researchers and journalists, in the presence of the Advisor to President of the Republic in charge of Civil Society and National Community Abroad Nazih Berramdane and Advisor to President of the Republic in charge of religious associations Aissa Belakhdar.

This meeting will constitute a platform for debating and exchanging views on the role of the civil society in the prevention and anti-corruption efforts, to be one of the bases of the national systems' integrity.

As part of its contribution and support to the civil society's capacities in the fight against corruption, ONPLC will organize a training session on 6 and 8 October 2020 for the associations working in the field and prevention against corruption and all related fields.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Centre port construction costs between 5 to 6 billion dollars USD

ALGIERS – Minister of Transport Hani Lazhar on Monday said that the cost of Cherchell centre port construction would range between 5 and 6 billion dollars, according to a first estimate of the project.

Answering a question from APS during the National Radio Forum, Hani said that the cost of the project of El Hamdania Center Port (Churchill) will be connected to the railway line, extending to the capitals of African countries located at the southern borders of the country.

This strategic infrastructure of national maritime trade will handle 6.5 million containers and 25.7 million tons of goods per year, he continued.

During last Augusts' Council of Ministers meeting, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune ordered the intensification of contacts with the Chinese partner in charge of the construction works.

Djelfa: promising prospects for cereal farming

DJELFA (Algeria) - The irrigated areas have experienced "unprecedented" expansion in recent years in Djelfa, which resulted in a "qualitative" leap in the local agricultural sector, notably cereal farming.

The growing irrigated area has greatly contributed to increasing the yields of agricultural production, particularly in the cereal sector. The average yield per hectare has more than doubled from 30 quintals per ha to 60 or even 70 quintals / ha, thanks to the use of different modern irrigation systems.

Mustapha, a veteran farmer from the south of the province used a sprinkler irrigation system to increase the productivity of his farm. This experience has "given positive results (in terms of yield), during the past agricultural seasons," he testified.

He said that he fortunately doesn't "rely" on seasonal rains. According to him, the results of the sprinkler irrigation system "are visible and translate into improved yields per hectare and therefore production which has doubled over the years. The use of irrigation has also enabled him diversify crops, apart from so-called rainfed crops," said the farmer.

Creation of public company to manage domestic air transport

ALGIERS - Minister of Transport Lazhar Hani announced Monday in Algiers the creation of a public company to manage domestic air transport to ease the pressure on national airline "Air Algérie" which will specialize in international flights, affirming that the opening up of private investment in transportation sector, including air transport, is "a political decision" dictated by the economic changes underway.

The Government's decision to create a public domestic air transport company "will allow optimal management of passenger transport throughout the national territory" the minister told the national radio, adding that "Air Algérie is currently not capable of covering all the 36 internal airports."

Hani also announced the reduction of the number of Air Algérie sales agencies abroad. He explained that "agencies incur significant costs, which are not really necessary in view of technological progress and the Internet. Only the airline's offices at foreign airports will be maintained."

Affirming that the sector will open up "domestic and foreign air transport to private investment, in addition to land and maritime transport ", the Minister stressed that this approach will be carried out in accordance with "a well-established specifications."

The "opening of investment in the transport sector, all segments combined, is a political decision dictated by economic reforms," he added.

The Government is reviewing the sector policies as part of a new socio-economic approach, dictated by the domestic and external mutations.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

UN General Assembly: Boukadoum presents Algerian experience in achieving gender equality

ALGIERS - Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum presented the Algerian experience in achieving gender equality in a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women.

Algeria “which remains committed to ensuring ‘that no one will be left behind’ in terms of sustainable development, notably the 5th objective which is aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and young girls by 2030, has enshrined in all the national legislations the principle of non-discrimination and equality between citizens in Algeria, in accordance with the international agreements,” said Boukadoum in a speech by video conference.

This step “was achieved on the ground thanks to the reactivation of women’s political empowerment mechanisms, from now on a principal player in decision-taking, through their strong participation in the elected assemblies and their access to responsibility positions, in addition to the ongoing encouragement for compulsory education, especially as more than 65% of university graduates are women,” he added.

Algeria “works for the promotion of equality between men and women in labor market and to reach economic opportunities. These objectives have been included in the draft revision of the Constitution that will be submitted to popular referendum in the beginning of November 2020,” he stressed.

Concerning the prospects of promotion of women’s position, Boukadoum said that “they were approved in accordance with the Government’s action plan for 2020, which aims at achieving the gender equality objective in various fields, in line with our national principles, in addition to the empowerment of women and their participation in the socio-economic development.”

For Boukadoum, Algeria “grants a special interest to women as peace factor, both at the African and international levels, through the implementation of the African Union 2063 Agenda, the African Decade for Women (from 2010 to 2020), and by continuing achieving the objectives related to the Beijing Action Programme and the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030.”

The minister reiterated “Algeria’s support to this meeting’s conclusions to serve the UN objectives and principles and our common agenda for women’s promotion and empowerment.”

International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: Boukadoum partakes in high-level meeting

ALGIERS - Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum took part, by videoconference, in a high-level meeting of the United National General Assembly, to celebrate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, said on Sunday the Ministry in a communiqué.

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In this meeting, the minister reviewed Algeria's efforts in this field, by notably adopting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons during the presidency, by Algeria, of the 1st General Assembly Commission in 2017, as well as within the framework of the co-presidency with Germany of this 11th Conference in order to facilitate the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Minister also pointed out that Algeria "is still suffering from the disastrous effects on human beings and environment because of the nuclear explosions on its territory during the colonial era, and was among the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

The high-level meeting allowed "the participants to stress the need to complete the process of total elimination of nuclear weapons in order to preserve international peace and security," concluded the communiqué.

Defense Ministry denies allegations on so-called presence of National Army in Malian locality

ALGIERS - The Ministry of the National Defense has categorically denied on Monday, in a communiqué, some "tendentious allegations" formulated by Malian parties and circulated by some Malian media outlets, reporting an alleged presence of the units of the People's National Army in the Malian bordering locality of In Khalil.

"Following some allegations formulated by Malian parties and circulated by some Malian media outlets, reporting an alleged presence of the units of the People's National Army in the Malian bordering locality of In Khalil and that a part of the Malian territory has been annexed to the Algerian Army. The Ministry of the National Defense categorically denies these tendentious allegations," said the source.

In this regard, the National Defense Ministry underlined that "these allegations were made following a technical mission carried out by experts coming under the geographical and remote sensing department of the People's National Army, accompanied by a security and protection detachment inside the national territory, to check the limits of the Algerian-Malian borderline and near the Malian bordering locality of In Khalil, and that this technical mission completed its works on 21 September 2020 before leaving the scene without recording any incidents."

"It is important to point out that Algeria, which has always made sure to secure its national borders, notably in the light of the instability in the Sahel region, reiterates its full commitment to respecting the States' sovereignty and the principle of inviolability of borders, notably with a brotherly country like Mali, in accordance with the provisions of the boundary Convention of 8 May 1983 signed between the two countries, and also reaffirms its commitment to establishing the principles of good neighborliness and supporting neighboring countries when needed," concluded the source.

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Libya crisis: Algeria in favour of political solution

ALGIERS - Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum reiterated Monday, in Algiers, Algeria's categorical position in favour of a political solution in Libya that rules out the use of arms and mercenaries.

Algeria "has always advocated a political solution," boukadoum told reporters just before the opening of the ministerial videoconference on Libya, explaining that a political solution "rules out the use of arms, and the use of mercenaries."

Algeria's diplomacy chief said Algeria is "one of the few countries that do not send arms or soldiers to Libya." Algeria would rather send its engineers and technicians to repair the damage caused by the others in Tripoli."

"This is the face of Algeria as appreciated by the Libyans," he said, stressing that Algeria's position is appreciated by both Libya's East and Tripoli as well as by all Libyans in their diversity.

Boukadoum said Algeria has set aside its initiative to stay within the framework of the Berlin conference, regretting that "since that summit there has not been much evolution in Libya." According to the minister, the purpose of today's meeting is to "find solutions to everyone's shortcomings, to the major problems facing Libyans as a result of foreign intervention, whether military or otherwise."

"Libyans call on Algeria to help them" against such intervention. "As long as there is a calculated foreign intervention, there will be no solution," he warned.

The Ministerial videoconference on Libya, held on the sidelines of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, was the initiative of the United Nations and Germany.

It was attended by all the countries that took part in the first Berlin conference, including Algeria.

Boukadoum: Algeria to ratify Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons "as soon as possible"

ALGIERS/NEW YORK (United Nations) – Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum reaffirmed Sunday during his participation in the works of the UN GA high-level meeting marking the celebration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, Algeria's determination to ratify "as soon as possible" the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

During the videoconference meeting, Boukadoum stressed that "Algeria, which has always suffered from the disastrous consequences caused by the nuclear explosions carried out on its soil during the colonial era on its population and the environment, has been among the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), adopted under the supervision of Algeria which was then president of the first Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2017."

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"We are firmly convinced that the greatest threats on Humanity and the survival of all the civilizations will persist as far as the nuclear weapons are not totally eliminated. The lifting of the nuclear weapons legitimacy represents a crucial stage to shield the world from all these dangers. This is why Algeria has adhered and supported the process for a total ban of nuclear weapons," said Boukadoum.

He added that Algeria "shares the apprehensions of other non-nuclear countries regarding the limited progress in complying with commitments to nuclear disarmament, especially as we see, on the contrary, an expansion of nuclear weapons, which constitutes a violation of legal obligations regarding nuclear disarmament".