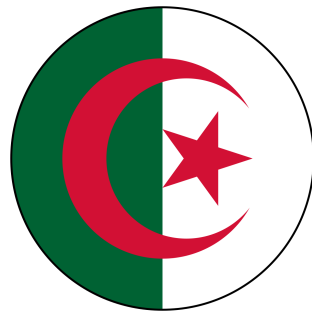


# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia**



## **Press Release**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

[www.embassyofalgeria-namibia.org](http://www.embassyofalgeria-namibia.org)

13<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**DOMESTIC NEWS**

**President Tebboune chairs meeting of Scientific Committee for monitoring Coronavirus Pandemic evolution**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune chaired, on Saturday in the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic, a meeting of the Scientific Committee for the monitoring of the Coronavirus pandemic evolution. During this meeting, Prof. Kamel Senhadji was installed as Head of the National Health Security Agency.

On Friday, President Tebboune had announced the creation of the Agency.

The meeting has been attended by Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad, Chief of Staff at Presidency of the Republic Nouredine Baghdad Daidj, Minister Counselor for Communication, Official Spokesman of the Presidency of the Republic Belaïd Mohand Oussaïd, Minister for Health, Population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid, Deputy Minister for Pharmaceutical Industry Abderrahmane Lotfi Djamel Benbahmad and Spokesman of Scientific Committee for monitoring Coronavirus pandemic evolution, Dr Djamel Fourar, and senior officials at the National Gendarmerie and General Directorate of the National Police (DGSN).

**National Agency of Health Security to foster health system reform**

*ALGIERS* - President of the National Agency for Health Security, Prof. Kamel Senhadji affirmed, Saturday in Algiers, that the creation of the Agency would foster the reform of the health system, by establishing a direct link between national security and health public.

The Agency will be "completely sovereign" in its decisions, he added.

Speaking to the press following the ceremony of his installation at the head of the Agency, Prof. Senhadji said that the creation of this Agency "comes at a crucial stage as it is meant to be an unprecedented body, part of national health system, which is subject to deep reforms."

The Agency "aims at establishing a direct link between national security and stability, and public health, which is an extremely important matter," he added.

Pr. Kamel Senhadji affirmed that President Tebboune "has given the Agency significant prerogatives. It will be totally sovereign in its decisions."

The "decisions of the Agency will be implemented on the ground, as part of the reform of the health system," the head of the newly-created Agency said.

"We must not repeat the same mistakes of the past. We ambition to use new techniques based on artificial intelligence with essential data, being the only way to reach the level of developed countries," he added.

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President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune had installed Professor Kamel Senhadji as head of the National Agency of Health Security, responsible for setting up a "developed health system offering quality care" in addition to broader prevention against different diseases.

### **Council of Ministers meets Sunday**

*ALGIERS* - The Council of Ministers will hold Sunday its periodic meeting by video conference, chaired by president of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of National Defense, the presidency of the Republic said Saturday in a statement.

"The Council of Ministers will hold, Sunday morning, 14 June 2020, its periodic meeting by videoconference, chaired by the president of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and minister of National Defense, Abdelmadjid Tebboune," the statement said.

The meeting's agenda includes "several issues relating to higher education and scientific research, fishing and fishery products, finance, energy, industry, mining, agriculture, rural development, trade and the health situation in relation to the Coronavirus Pandemic."

### **Covid-19: Lifting of lockdown in 19 provinces, hour adjustment in 29 others**

*ALGIERS* - The government has decided to lift the lockdown on 19 provinces and adjust the relevant hours in the others, as part of the fight against the novel Coronavirus, the Prime Minister's Office said Saturday in a statement.

The lockdown is fully lifted in the following 19 provinces: Tamanrasset, Tindouf, Illizi, Saida, Ghardaia, Naama, El Bayadh, Tiaret, Guelma, Skikda, Jijel, Mostaganem, Tebessa, Tlemcen, Ain Temouchent, El Tarf, Tiziouzou, Ain Defla, and Mila, the statement said.

The lockdown hours have been adjusted (from 20:00 to 05:00) in the following 29 provinces: Boumerdes, Souk Ahras, Tissemsilt, Djelfa, Mascara, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna, Bouira, Relizane, Biskra, Khenchela, M'sila, Chlef, Sidi Bel Abbes, Medea, Blida, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Tipaza, Ouargla, Bechar, Algiers, Constantine, Oran, Setif, Annaba, Bejaia, Adrar, Laghouat and El Oued, according to the statement. The new measures will enter into force tomorrow Sunday, 14 June 2020.

### **Covid19: Lockdown decisions "will be based on scientific considerations"**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said Friday that all decisions to be taken on containment "will respond to scientific considerations and not political or administrative," stressing that the Scientific Committee for Monitoring the Evolution of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) is the only one empowered to take such decisions.

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During his regular interview with national media officials, President Tebboune said that the tax increases contained in the LFC 2020, particularly those relating to fuel prices, which have had an insignificant impact, were accompanied by decisions to support the citizen's purchasing power.

In this sense, the revaluation of the SMIG at 20,000 and the exemption of salaries equal to or less than DZD30, 000 from the IRG, which induces, he explained, "a monthly increase of 20 to 25%."

Warning against attempts to sow disorder and anarchy through the exploitation of certain media platforms and social networks, President Tebboune noted the high level of maturity and awareness of citizens in the face of these subversive plans.

"It must be noted that Algeria is the subject of external aggression aimed at its destabilization," he said. "It is neither logical nor acceptable for a foreign channel, accredited in Algeria, to go to service stations to interview citizens about the recent fuel price increases, in a way that reveals that the aim is clearly to stir up anger and discontent."

"From the reports that I am receiving, and which I am following closely, I can say that things are being plotted to undermine our internal stability. We have foiled their first plan and then their second and we will remain vigilant against all their desperate attempts," he added.

### **Military peacekeeping: Army's participation outside borders to be done under banner of international organizations**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said Friday that the issue of the participation of the People's National Army (ANP) in military operations outside the national territory, provided for in the draft constitutional amendment, would be done under the banner of international organizations and within the framework of peacekeeping operations and would depend on the approval of two-thirds of the members of Parliament.

During his regular meetings with national media officials, President Tebboune referred to the participation of the People's National Army (ANP) in military operations outside the country's borders, saying that "it will be done in a democratic manner and with the approval of two thirds of the parliament."

"We will have a clear and transparent Constitution and our army will have the right to adhere to the decisions of international and regional bodies to take part in peacekeeping missions," the president said, recalling that the Army had already participated, on many occasions, in operations outside the country under the UN banner, as well as in wars in the framework of the common Arab defense, but had never participated in "offensive operations."

He stressed that much has been written about this, but "the most important thing has been omitted, namely that the army will only intervene with the approval of two thirds of the representatives of the people and not by decision of the President."

"This debate has been provoked by parties who had effectively intervened in conflicts outside the country's borders and who now accuse us of wanting to change our military doctrine," he said.

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"Our philosophy has never changed," Tebboune said, adding that it was "simply a return to normality," based on the principle that if the ANP had to take part in operations outside the country's borders, it would do so "under the cover of the law and the Constitution and in order to carry out peaceful missions in defense of Algeria.

For President Tebboune, "attack is the best defense, but within certain limits". Recalling the terrorist operation that targeted the Tiguentourine base a few years ago, "the philosophy adopted then, prohibited any attack against terrorists as long as they are outside our borders."

### **President Tebboune underlines his commitment to consecration of transparency, assures that Algerian people is his major concern**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said Friday evening that he is strongly firmly committed to the consecration of transparency to restore the confidence of citizens, assuring that the people, especially the middle and working classes, is his major concern.

"Algeria is a transparent state and I am, more than ever, committed to transparency because we have nothing to hide," said President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, during his regular interview with the national media, stressing that his "major concern" is the Algerian people, particularly the middle and working classes."

It is the middle class that has been most affected by the various problems that the country has experienced since 1988, particularly during the years of terrorism and the subsequent deterioration of the economic situation, said President Tebboune.

The Rental-Purchase Housing Program (RPLH) had been designed for this category, he said, noting that the housing programs were based on a national reality and were not simply a political springboard.

Stressing the importance he attaches to the concerns of Algerians, he assured that every citizen will have his or her rights, but that the Government must be given time to concretize the various requirements of development.

The President of the Republic warned, in this context, against the instrumentalization by the various means and plans, he referred to "an external relentlessness hence the need for vigilance to thwart these plans."

Furthermore, President Tebboune referred to "foreseeable slippages" during the debate on the preliminary draft constitutional amendment concerning the Nation's constants, reiterating his confidence in the members of the Committee of Experts.

After assuring that no deadline had been set for this debate, "which could continue until the end of June," he said that the Presidency of the Republic had received "some 1,500" reports of proposals from political parties and civil society.

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To a question on the future governance regime of Algeria, the President of the Republic said that "the trend is towards a semi-presidential regime," considering that the important thing is to get out of the "rigid" presidential regime.

In addition, President Tebboune referred to another point in the draft constitutional amendment submitted for debate, namely the participation of the People's National Army (ANP) in military operations outside the country's borders.

Such participation "will only take place with the approval of the people through their representatives in Parliament," he further noted.

"We will have a clear and transparent constitution and our army will be able to adhere to the decisions of international and regional bodies to participate in peacekeeping missions," said the President of the Republic.

"Our philosophy will remain the same and will never change," he said.

On the health situation, President Tebboune said that all decisions to be taken on deconfinement "will be scientific and not political or administrative."

"The Scientific Committee in charge of monitoring the evolution of the Coronavirus will meet on Saturday at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic and the necessary decision will be taken after careful analysis of the first phase of partial deconfinement decided by the Government," added the President of the Republic.

In this context, Tebboune welcomed the culture of prevention among citizens, noting that "all the figures provided by the Scientific Committee in charge of monitoring the evolution of the Coronavirus pandemic are transparent.

Regarding the transparency of health services, President Tebboune called on economic enterprises affected by the Covid-19 pandemic to show "transparency" and "honesty" through the State's assistance.

"There is no significant financial impact because we had taken our precautions," said the President, while acknowledging the multilateral impact of the pandemic.

The President of the Republic further highlighted the state's support for the impacted categories, stressing that state "will not abandon the young unemployed."

"The policy of national solidarity will be maintained and no citizen will be mistreated," he added, announcing the lifting of the lockdown on certain commercial activities in the coming days.

"It is still early; however, to talk about opening up the airspace," said President Tebboune, noting that such a decision should take into account the preservation of citizens' health.

President Tebboune announced, by the same token, the installation on Saturday of the National Health Security Agency which will be responsible for

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### **Constitutional revision: HCA proposes creation of High Council of Amazighity**

*ALGIERS* - The High Commission for Amazighity (HCA) in Algiers proposed Saturday, in a document including comments and suggestions about the draft revision of the Constitution, the creation of the High Council of Amazighity.

"The institution (HCA) exists, but it is important to strengthen it and transform it into a constitutional institution by creating the High Council of Amazighity, as is the case for the Arabic language and the Islamic High Council," the secretary general of the High Commission for Amazighity, El-Hachemi Assad, said on the sidelines of the forum "Tamazight Tura."

The forum is an operational workshop dedicated to the validation of Amazigh stories collected for publishing, in different Amazigh language variants in use in Algeria.

Noting that he forwarded the HCA's proposals on May 17th to the presidency of the Republic, Assad said his institution also proposed the merging of articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution into a single article stipulating that "the two national and official languages are Arabic and Tamazight."

### **ECONOMIC NEWS**

#### **Sonatrach: Oil production did not decrease despite staff reduction**

*IN-AMENAS (ILLIZI)* - Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Sonatrach Group, Toufik Hakkar, said Friday in In Amenas (Illizi) that oil and gas production had not decreased despite the staff reduction as part of measures to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus (Covid-19).

"Despite the difficult health situation the world is facing due to the spread of covid-19 and the reduction of staff as part of the pandemic prevention measures, oil and gas production have not decreased," Hakkar said at a press briefing following an inspection visit to several oil and gas facilities in In-Amenas (Illizi).

Oil and gas platforms at In Amenas, where the same production volumes are recorded with only 35% of its workforce.

Stressing that the same measures were being adopted at the level of the General Directorate, the first head of Sonatrach reported the holding of some 3,000 meetings, internal and external, by videoconference and the signing of several agreements with foreign partners.

Hakkar said that Sonatrach was the first company in Algeria to have set up a crisis unit to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic.

He recalled that, following the registration of the first case of Covid-19, a foreign national working for Sonatrach, the necessary measures had been taken, in particular the placement of workers in quarantine, in addition to the provision of all means of prevention.

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With regard to the cases confirmed at Covid-19, he assured that "the situation is under control", specifying that the number at the level of Sonatrach and all its subsidiaries varied between 100 and 150 cases. A "very low" figure compared to the overall number of staff exceeding 140,000, he added.

### **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

#### **New Zealand government urged to stop illegal Sahrawi phosphate shipments**

*WELLINGTON* - The organization specializing in the protection of Saharawi natural resources, "Western Sahara Campaign-NZ," demanded from New Zealand government to stop its illegal import of phosphate extracted from occupied Western Sahara.

In a statement made public Saturday by the local press, the organization regretted that "once again, New Zealand fertilizer companies Ravensdown and Ballance Agri-Nutrients continue to participate in the plunder of Western Sahara natural resources."

"We can see that the financial interests of certain New Zealand companies have prevailed over the commitments linked to international rights and human rights," said in the organization.

In this regard, Western Sahara Campaign-NZ "calls on the government to force Ravensdown and Ballance Agri-Nutrients to stop importing of phosphate extracted from Western Sahara."

"The government's lack of determination and the pursuit of the two companies' activities undermine the prestige of New Zealand" said the organization.

"It is time for New Zealanders to say no to blood-stained phosphate," said the NGO.

#### **President Tebboune receives Speaker of Libyan House of Deputies**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune received, on Saturday, Speaker of Libyan House of Deputies Salah Aissa Akila, on a working visit to Algiers at the head of a large delegation, said a press release from the Presidency of the Republic.

"As part of Algeria's efforts to find a political settlement to the Libyan crisis, President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune received Salah Aissa Akila, Speaker of Libyan House of Deputies, who is on a working visit to Algeria leading a large delegation."

During the audience, the President of the Republic reaffirmed "the inalienable position of Algeria in favor of dialogue between the Libyan brothers, with a view to reaching a political settlement, the sole means guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Libyan State, far from any foreign military intervention. »

For his part, the Speaker of Libyan House of Deputies welcomed "Algeria's pivotal role in the search for a solution to the crisis shaking his country," added the same source.



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### **Speaker of Libyan House of Deputies starts visit to Algeria**

*ALGIERS* - The president of Libyan House of Deputies, Akila Salah Aissa, started Saturday a visit to Algeria.

Akila Salah Aissa was welcomed upon his arrival in Houari Boumediene international airport of Algiers by the speaker of the People's National Assembly (lower house of Parliament), Slimane Chenine, and Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **"Reconnaissance" movie shortlisted in "Africlap" festival**

*ALGIERS* – The fictional feature film "Recognition" (Reconnaissance in French) by Director Salim Hamdi was selected in the 7<sup>th</sup> "Africlap" Festival, scheduled to take place from August 23 to 30 in Toulouse, announced the film crew.

Salim Hamdi's 110mn-feature, "Recognition", features two stories: that of a moujahida (war veteran), Yamina, portrayed by actress Chafia Boudrâa who expresses the need to transmit her story, and that of her grandson, his fiancée and their friends, talented young people living without great prospects for the future.

Understanding this need for transmission, the grandson decides to copy a television interview with the help of his friends after failing to get help to produce a documentary on family history.

Released in 2019, this film also presents talented actress Malika Belbey, who plays two different parts at different periods of history, and Samir El Hakim and Mustapha Laribi.

For her part in the film, Malika Belbey won the Best Actress Award at the Maghreb Film Festival in Oujda (Morocco). The films also obtained Jury Prize at the 4th Al Quds International Film Festival (Palestine), an event which had been launched simultaneously from twelve Arab cities including Algiers.