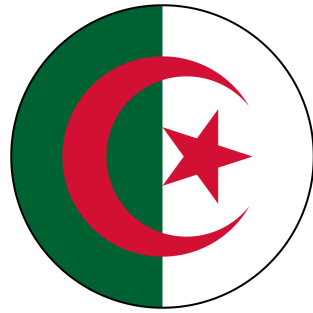


People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Release

11th June 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

President Tebboune grants interview to officials of national media

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelamdjid Tebboune granted Thursday an interview to officials of some national media outlets, in which he answered questions related to domestic issues and the regional situation, said a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

“This periodic meeting with the press will be broadcast on Friday at 9.00 p.m. on national TV channels and Radio stations,” said the source.

Djerad highlights role of investigation, monitoring committee of epidemiological enquiries

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, underlined on Wednesday in Algiers, the importance of investigation, monitoring committee of epidemiological enquiries, in view of its role in strengthening, assessing and developing strategies aimed at fighting the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in Algeria.

The setting up of this committee "is part of the strategy adopted by the public authorities to combat the spread of Covid-19, in this sensitive stage of gradual and organized exit from containment," said noting that "the road map adopted by the Government to gradually and carefully emerge from containment, focuses essentially on the need to accompany the stages of deconfinement and the gradual resumption of economic, commercial and social activities, as well as on strengthening the system of research and investigation of epidemics, spearheading our battle... against Covid-19."

The committee is also responsible for "organizing the diagnosis and testing of suspected cases and contact subjects, broadening the epidemiological investigation to include all subjects in contact with confirmed cases, stepping up efforts to monitor the chains of transmission of the virus and broadening research on infected persons by conducting in-depth and proactive investigations, and organizing a well-developed mechanism to subject all subjects in contact with confirmed cases to isolation," the Prime Minister added.

More explicitly, Djerad said that the operational unit whose organization will be entrusted to "the central unit - based at the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) - and four regional centres, in addition to the services of epidemiology and preventive medicine (SEMEP), will benefit from the full support of the central and local services of the Ministry of Health, which will provide the epidemiological investigation teams with the human and logistical means necessary to carry out their mission."

The Prime Minister invited the Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform to "seize this opportunity to adapt and update the protocols and methods of epidemiological investigations in the light of the characteristics of the Covid-19 pandemic, so as to enable the rapid and systematic collection of data in a format that is easy to analyze and exploit, in order to better understand the

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

spread, severity, progression and the impact of the disease and adopt guidelines, recommendations and counter-measures."

Ait Ali: Operation of sorting and classification operation of industrial land bases

ALGIERS - The industry and mines ministry has launched a sorting and classification operation of public industrial land bases in order to define the competent authorities for its management and to carry out its reorganization, indicated the sector minister, Ferhat Ait Ali Braham.

"We have started to list and sort the industrial zones to set up a database classifying the land bases, according to importance, consistency, vocation," Ait Ali Braham said during a meeting with national media, including APS.

The classification will serve to determine subsequently the exclusive authority to manage the lands. In this regard, the Minister explained that since the promulgation of the law on land orientation, amended several times, different structures are involved in the management of industrial land bases.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Ferhat Ait Ali: Phosphate mega-project to be re-launched soon in East of Algeria

ALGIERS - The integrated phosphate mining and processing mega-project in the East of the Country will soon be re-launched after several months of shutdown, announced the Minister of Industry and Mining, Ferhat Ait Ali Braham.

Questioned on the exploitation of mineral resources in Algeria, during a meeting with national media, including APS, Ait Ali Braham said that his ministerial department first counted on "two major flagship projects which are extremely heavy and promising and which involve several sectors."

These are the phosphate complex which "will be re-launched very soon" and the iron mine project at Gara Djebilet (Tindouf).

The cost of investing in the two projects is estimated to be "between \$15 and \$16 billion," the minister said.

The integrated phosphate mining and processing complex, which extends over five provinces in the east of the country (Tébessa, Souk Ahras, El Tarf, Skikda and Annaba), will enable Algeria to become one of the world's largest exporters of fertilizers.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2018 in Tebessa, the Asmidal Company (a subsidiary of the Sonatrach group) holds 34% of this complex against 17% for the Manadjim El Djazair group (Manal), i.e. a total of 51% for the Algerian part, while the remaining 49% is held by the Chinese part (the Citic group, the Road and Silk Fund, the Sino-

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

African Fund).

Work is expected to start in 2019, according to the forecasts announced at the time of signature, but nothing has been achieved so far. The Minister refused, however, to give details on the possibility of changing the list of shareholders, originally planned for this partnership.

Covid19: Businessmen called upon to rescue their companies

ALGIERS - Minister of Industry and Mining, Ferhat Ait Ali Braham, called on businessmen to get more financially involved in rescuing their companies, impacted by the containment imposed to fight the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I received representatives of the Algerian economic sector, including large companies. Some of them told me that they do not have enough money to give salaries, while these same people said two years ago that they (together) have a turnover of 40 billion dollars," Ait Ali Braham said during a meeting with national media, including APS.

According to him, operators must "commit themselves to financing the needs of their companies and not rely on State aid only as a complement." The minister considers, in this regard, that it was not possible for Algeria to "copy" the experience of developed economies in rescuing companies because of "the difference noted in terms of discipline and compliance with commitments."

Mechanical industry: Set of specifications issued by July

ALGIERS - The new set of specifications for car production activity in Algeria would be issued by next July, said Minister of Industry and Mines, Ferhat Ait Ali Braham.

These specifications are mainly designed to create a real mechanical industry in Algeria, by requiring a minimum integration rate of local components at 30% as well as the domestic manufacture of chassis, Ait Ali Braham said during a meeting with national media, including APS.

The new set of specifications would distinguish between 100% foreign investment (as the 51/49% rule no longer concerns this sector), the investments by Algerians in partnership with foreigners and the full Algerian investments, with a specific regime for each.

It would also give a differentiated treatment from the Algerians who want to embark on this activity. "There may be Algerian small-scale industrialization initiatives for low cost brands," said Ait Ali Braham.

The new set of specifications prioritizes commercial vehicles, given their potential in terms of national integration: "For commercial vehicles, we could reach 60% integration rate. We will therefore give priority to this type of vehicles which even includes tractors, semi-trailer trucks and bulldozers. We are not going to apply the same binding clauses on tourist vehicles."

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

The Industries under the authority of the Department of National Defense are not concerned by this set of specifications, in view of their strategic missions which are essentially aimed at supplying the National People's Army (PNA) in terms of equipment, stressed Ait Ali.

Broaching Algeria capacity to really capture foreign investors to install real automobile factories, the minister said that the country has a significant advantage as it possesses the largest market in the region.

However, he stressed that Algeria was not going to make "excessive concessions or fiscal sacrifices" to convince foreign industrialists to come and invest.

Another set of specifications would be drafted to regulate subcontracting activity and local integration. The operators would be granted several incentives to provide the maximum added value. A third set of specifications will be issued in July and would define the conditions of exercise of new car dealers.

Thus, the list of authorized dealers will only be known during the last quarter of 2020, while the first new imported vehicles will be placed on the market late 2020, he added

The Minister also recalled that, under the Complementary Finance Law 2020, the 51/49 rule is maintained for the purchase / resale activities, which means that a foreigner cannot activate in Algeria as a car dealer without partnership with an Algerian operator which must be the majority shareholder.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Fight against Coronavirus: Algeria donates 90 tons of aid to Mali

ALGIERS - A batch of humanitarian aid, consisting essentially of 90 tons of food and anti-corona virus protection products, will be routed Friday from Algeria to Bamako (Mali), announced Thursday in a press release, the Algerian Red Crescent (CRA).

"A donation to the Malian people, consisting of 90 tons of food and protection products against the spread of Covid-19 as well as artificial ventilators will be routed to Bamako (Mali) Friday, through an airlift set up by the National People's Army (ANP)," said the CRA.

"Faithful to its principles of solidarity and good neighborhood, the Algerian people continue to show humanitarian solidarity with the populations of the neighboring countries," he said.

Moroccan Consul's gaffe: Algeria's action has no other interpretation but that of his recall

ALGIERS - The government's action to denounce the serious gaffe of the Moroccan Consul General in Oran and to call on the Moroccan side, in unequivocal terms, to take the necessary measures, cannot have another meaning or interpretation but that of his recall by his country, said Thursday the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdelaziz Benali Cherif.

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

In a reply to a question on the statement made to the Moroccan news agency MAP by Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs Nacer Bourita, on 9 June 2020, in which he affirmed that the recall of the Moroccan Consul General was made at the exclusive initiative of his country, the spokesman of Foreign Affairs Ministry "while underlining the Algerian side's will to avoid any sterile polemic, noted the steps, in compliance with the universal diplomatic practice, taken by the Algerian Government to denounce the serious gaffe of the Moroccan Consul General and called on the Moroccan side, in appropriate and unequivocal terms, to take the appropriate measures which cannot have another meaning or interpretation but that of the recall by Morocco of its Consul in Oran."

"This demand by the Algerian side had been reiterated in clear and direct terms in the phone interviews between the two countries' Foreign ministers after this unfortunate incident," said Benali Cherif.

Algeria strongly condemns terrorist attack in North-East Nigeria

ALGIERS - Algeria has strongly condemned the terrorist attack Tuesday on inhabitants of Felo village in the State of Borno (North-East of Nigeria), leaving several victims, said the spokesman of Foreign Affairs Ministry Abdelaziz Benali Cherif in a statement.

"We strongly condemn the terrorist attack which targeted, Tuesday 9 April 2020, the inhabitants of Felo village in the State of Borno, North-East of Nigeria, leaving several victims among the innocent civilians," affirmed Benali Cherif.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and reiterate our solidarity with the Nigerian government and brotherly people," he added.

Situation in Mali: Algiers Agreement is "privileged way" to resolve crisis

NEW YORK - The optimal implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, stemmed from Algiers process, is "the best way" for the resolution of the multi-dimensional crisis in this country, said at the UN Security Council, AU High Representative for Mali and the Sahel Pierre Buyoya.

Speaking in a virtual meeting of the Council devoted to the situation in Mali, Buyoya said that the role of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in the implementation of this agreement and the stabilization of the country is "inescapable."

The African Union supports the proposals of the renewal of MINUSMA mandate with its current troops, he said.

The Security Council will vote late this month on the renewal of this mission's mandate. He also underlined that the political and security situation in Mali and in the Sahel region, in general, remains difficult and requires sustained efforts by the international community.

Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

MISCELLANEOUS - SPORT

FIFA ranking: Algeria still ranks 35th

ZURICH - Algeria still maintains its 35th position in the June's ranking of the International Football Federation (FIFA), published Thursday by this body on its official website.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, no international match was played, so logically there hasn't been any change in June's world ranking.

the continental level, the Algerian champions of Africa are at the fourth position, ahead of Senegal (20th position), Tunisia (27th) and Nigeria (31st).

Algeria's three opponents in the qualifications for the African Cup of Nations CAN-2021 are ranked in order: Zambia (88th), Zimbabwe (111th) and Botswana (148th).

Algeria's opponents in the second qualifying round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup are as follows: Burkina Faso (59th), Niger (112nd) and Djibouti (184th).