

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

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



## **Press Review**

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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### DOMESTIC NEWS

#### **President Tebboune: Our objective is safeguarding the country**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune affirmed, Sunday during his interview with national media leaders, that the objective he has been working for was "safeguarding the country," ensuring that "things were progressing well" despite the attempts by some individuals "to sow seeds of contention and weaken the country."

"The objective of New Algeria is the protection and the safeguard of the nation, which is a national duty and a right for all Algerians. Every effort count to help address the country's situation and put an end to the mentality of exclusion on the ground of change in senior positions," said President Tebboune.

All national experts and competences are welcome, said the Head of the State.

Underlining his determination to "restore harmony between the Algerian people," President Tebboune advocated a "definitive break between the past and the present in order to build a future which will be the extension of the present."

Moreover, the Head of the State said that structuring change of the new State depends on a "new consensual and lasting Constitution which draws lessons from the past experiences."

The Head of the State stressed the need for elaborating laws that moralize the political and economic life" and for transparent and constant economic decisions that would enable citizen to monitor public funding.

Reiterating the existence of a strong political willingness for change, the President of the Republic noted that its success requires the "support of citizens".

#### **== Rigorous law to protect healthcare personnel ==**

Broaching the health crisis facing the country, President Tebboune announced the tightening of sanctions against those who assault medical staff through "a rigorous law" to be promulgated next week for the protection of medical and paramedical personnel as well as hospital officials.

"As a person, as a citizen and as a president, I am disappointed to see that doctors and nurses, who have not seen their children for four months, be attacked and assaulted," said the President of the Republic, describing these personnel as "real mujahedeen (fighters)."

The Head of State assured that "the doctors are under the full protection of the Algerian state and the Algerian people".

To this end, he warned that any assault on medical personnel, whether physical or verbal, implies severe punishments "ranging from 5 to 10 years in prison".

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### == Deep changes to end 'rent mentality' in national economy ==

Concerning the economic sector, the President of the Republic announced that deep changes will be engaged soon, with a view to eradicating 'the rent mentality' in the national economy, generating wealth and promoting competitiveness and innovation.

We aspire to (build) an economy in which human resources are the foundation of development and growth, he said.

State efforts will be mainly focused on the creation of a solid fabric of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), underpinned by a network of innovative startups and micro-enterprises, he said, adding that this fabric will serve as the driving force for the national economy.

President Tebboune said Algeria is looking to "reduce the share of hydrocarbons in national economy (funding) to 20% by the end of 2021.

Sectors such as agriculture and start-ups, along with the control of excessive import are likely to contribute to the expected economic diversification.

The meeting scheduled for August 16-17 on the socioeconomic recovery plan will constitute the platform to move towards an economy based on innovation and diversification, he concluded.

### **Fight against terrorism: 9 homemade bombs destroyed in Aïn Defla, Médéa and Djelfa**

*ALGIERS* - Detachments of the National People's Army (ANP) discovered and destroyed, on Sunday, nine homemade bombs, during separate search operations carried out in Aïn Defla, Médéa and Djelfa, a statement from the Ministry of National Defence.

"As part of the fight against terrorism, detachments of the National People's Army discovered and destroyed, on July 19, 2020, nine homemade bombs, during separate search operations carried out in Aïn Defla, Médéa and Djelfa in the 1st Region military," added the same source.

In the context of the fight against smuggling and organized crime and in "the dynamics of sustained efforts aimed at stemming the propagation of the drug trafficking in our country, a combined detachment of the Army seized, near the borders at Bechar in the 3rd Military Region, five (05) quintals and 15 kilograms of cannabis, while border guards arrested, in Tlemcen in 2<sup>nd</sup> Military region, one Moroccan drug trafficker in possession of four (04) kilograms of cannabis."

In addition, detachments of the ANP and units of the National Gendarmerie "arrested, in Bordj Badji Mokhtar in the 6th Military Region, twelve (12) individuals and seized four (04) generators and ten (10) jackhammers used in illegal gold mining operations, while four illegal immigrants of different nationalities were intercepted in Tlemcen," added the press release.

### **ECONOMIC NEWS**

#### **Tax reform: Need for equity, efficiency to meet new economic challenges**

*ALGIERS* - Both the principle of equity and efficiency must be integrated in the national tax reform so that the tax can be in line with the country's new economic challenges, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad said Monday in Algiers.

Speaking on the occasion of the National Conference on Tax Reform, the Prime Minister considered it necessary for the tax administration to take into consideration the principle of equity by ensuring that the tax burden is equally distributed among taxpayers, as is the case, in particular, for income tax.

This must go through the fight against the parallel economy which constitutes "a prejudice to tax compliance," he said.

He further noted the lack of contribution to tax revenues of operators operating in the parallel circuit, which forces operators operating legally to bear the entire tax burden.

"This also contributes to reducing the effectiveness of public policies in the framework of investment support because it is an obstacle to the smooth running of the national economy," he said.

In addition, the Prime Minister noted the need for the tax administration to rely on a vision based on the digitization of tax operations.

Moreover, Djerad considered that the future economic challenges to be met within the framework of the new economic program, "require the integration of a tax system in line with the new economic vision of the country" into this reform.

This is based on "the promotion of start-ups, digitization and may allow our country to get out of its dependence on extractive products and integrate it into the international value chain," he concluded.

#### **President Tebboune: Financial capacity is sufficient to implement economic recovery plan**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune reaffirmed, on Sunday evening, the availability of financial capacities to implement the national economic recovery plan.

"The 60 billion dollars in foreign exchange reserves are enough for a recovery, knowing that other countries are forced to borrow a few billion from international institutions," said President Tebboune in his interview with national media, broadcast on public television and radio.

Asserting that the essential is in management, the head of state also cited some 25 billion dollars in hydrocarbon revenues to which must be added 25 billion dollars in income from the agricultural sector.

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He announced, in this sense, changes in the economic plan to end dependence on hydrocarbons and build a new economy based on wealth creation, competitiveness and innovation.

"The economic changes will be officially announced during the August meeting and we will begin their implementation directly," he added.

These issues "fundamental and decisive for the nation should not be linked to a person," he added.

President Tebboune expressed the wish to see the National Economic Recovery Plan, which will be announced at the meeting scheduled for 16 and 17 August, "be the subject of unanimity or at least near unanimity".

### **Reducing the contribution of hydrocarbons to the national economy to 20% by 2021**

This plan will enshrine a new vision of the national economy, long based on oil rent and trade, relying on industry and the creation of new alternative wealth, Tebboune explained, noting, in this context, that the expected goal was the reduction to 20% of the contribution of the hydrocarbon sector to the national economy between the end of the current year and 2021.

The new vision also focuses on the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurs and a central role for small and medium-sized enterprises, micro-enterprises and start-ups, which are job generators on the one hand and within the reach of project holders on the other.

In this new approach, the hydrocarbons sector will constitute "an additional support" for the national economy, by creating added value, the President of the Republic said, recalling the cessation of fuel imports definitively from 2021.

At the same time, the national product will be developed and agricultural activity and the exploitation of mineral resources will be expanded.

These economic changes will also give concrete expression to the Algerians' desire to change the way the country is managed, expressed on 22 February 2019, President Tebboune added.

These economic reforms will take place in parallel with structural changes at the political level aimed at moralizing public life and strengthening citizens' control over management and public funds in order to achieve transparent and non-individual institutional decisions, and therefore sustainable, the President of the Republic said.

### ***Revision of legislation governing the economy***

Referring to the imperative need to revise the laws governing the national economy in order to improve the economic climate and make a break with practices, the President of the Republic recalled that some had taken advantage of legal loopholes, particularly in the areas of public procurement and the transfer of funds abroad.

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Reiterating the importance of the fight against all forms of corruption, he considered that "petty corruption is no less dangerous than grand corruption, and even more harmful to the citizen."

Furthermore, President Tebboune stressed the importance of preserving the social character of the state by ensuring "the fair distribution of national income among all citizens," considering that social disparities could be "a time bomb".

He stressed, in this context, the imperative to give the grey areas their share in terms of development opportunities and equal opportunities, ensuring that "the majority of citizens are not asking for wealth but simply for the preservation of their dignity."

In the same context, the President of the Republic highlighted the major role of the Building sector in the realization of this vision, at the social level through the improvement of the living conditions of the citizen and at the economic level through the revival of the wheel of development, in the sense that the realization of a housing project requires more than 45 materials.

To a question on the foreign parties that could contribute to the implementation of the new economic plan, the Head of State affirmed that there were several economically solid friendly countries that could accompany the Algerians in the implementation of the new economic strategy.

However, Tebboune reiterated his categorical refusal to resort to external debt or non-conventional financing, this, he said, does not prevent the participation of friendly countries in economic projects in Algeria.

Concerning the mega projects to which Algeria aspires, the President of the Republic cited the extension of the railway network towards African countries, highlighting the role of this project in the socio-economic development of neighboring areas and the acceleration of Inter-African economic complementarity.

President Tebboune, who said he was open to any possibility of partnership with other countries, including France, nevertheless insisted on two principles, namely the balance of interests and reciprocity.

### **Personalizing tax system for fair tax burden sharing**

*ALGIERS* - Personalizing the tax system must enable a fair sharing of the tax burden, notably through the current digitization of the administration and the integration of parallel economic activities, said Monday, in Algiers, Minister of Finance Aymen Benabderrahmane.

Speaking on the occasion of the conference on the tax reform organized by the Ministry of Finance, Benabderrahmane said that a more personalized tax system, notably through its digitization, will raise its equity level among the taxpayers in terms of tax burden.

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“These conferences will help personalize the tax system and find tools and methods to improve tax system in accordance with the objectives set by the country’s authorities and the citizens’ requirements,” he said.

An improvement must focus on the issue of tax equity, the fair diversification of the tax burden and the redistribution of the national wealth in an equitable manner, he said.

In this respect, he underlined that the tax administration has seen reforms based on a global and simplified approach enabling organizational improvements in all the services of the tax administration.

These reforms enabled the distribution of the taxpayers according to the volume of their activities and the importance of their tax contribution.

### **Tax reform: Effective fight against fraud depends on digitization of management methods**

*ALGIERS* - Tax reform should be based on several stands including the rehabilitation of public service and the digitization of management methods of services and tax administration to effectively combat fiscal fraud, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad said Thursday.

In his speech at the National Conference on Tax Reform, Djerad stressed that "the expected tax reform must be based on the digitization of tax operations, with an operational mode that allows taxpayers to contact the tax administration remotely."

The future economic challenges to be met under the new economic programme "require that this reform include a tax system in line with the country's new economic vision," the Prime Minister said.

Algeria’s new economic approach is based on "the promotion of start-ups and digitization, and can enable our country to get out of its dependence on extractive products and integrate it into the international value chain."

This tax reform must be accompanied by a rehabilitation of the public service by taking into account the concerns of citizens, the eradication of bureaucracy and the fight against any form of practice that can negatively impact the national economy, he continued.

It must imperatively be linked to the obligation to find the "real balance" of the tax burden between the levels of revenue intake on the one hand and the level of revenue to be generated by wealth on the other, affirmed Djerad.

The reform of State taxation is inseparable from the reform of local authorities, local taxation being the main source of the financial resources of these authorities, he stressed.

The Prime Minister also assured that "the legal and social protection of civil servants in the tax administration is one of the major concerns of public authorities."

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### Attar, GECF secretary general discuss situation of gas markets

*ALGIERS* - Energy Minister and Chairman of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Abdelmadjid Attar on Monday held a meeting by videoconference with the Forum's Secretary General Yuri Sentyurin, with whom he discussed the situation of the gas market affected by the pandemic, particularly in the context of a pandemic marked by weak global demand for gas, the ministry said in a communiqué.

This meeting was an opportunity to learn about the activities of the Forum and its main projects, and to discuss the situation of the gas markets and their prospects in the short, medium and long term, said the same source.

The participants assessed the implementation of the GECF research institute project (GRI) in Algeria as well as the organization of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ministerial meeting of the Forum scheduled for 12 November 2020 in Algiers.

Attar, who stressed the importance of this meeting, reiterated Algeria's willingness to make this Forum successful, through active participation in the achievement of its goals and its adaptation to the challenges arising from the gas situation, including technological challenges, via the GECF Research Institute (GRI).

After noting the "unfavourable" situation on the gas markets, induced by the COVID-19 health crisis which has severely affected the world demand for gas, Attar urged GECF to be "innovative and to explore new approaches capable of bringing member countries more advantages in the interest of their economies and their population."

Speaking on this occasion, Sentyurin recalled the importance attached by Algeria to its participation in GECF and its contribution, as a very active member, to the success of the Forum and its projects since its creation.

During this meeting, papers were presented on the analysis of gas markets, the short and medium term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gas supply, demand and prices as well as the long term impacts of the health crisis, said the source.

### Higher Education-Industry: Eight conventions sealed to create technological clusters

*ALGIERS* - Eight (08) conventions have been sealed between Algerian universities and some industrial sectors to create technological clusters, in collaboration between the Ministry of Higher Education and that of Industry.

The first five (05) conventions were signed between the Algerian group of the Industrial University under the Ministry of Industry and some universities of the country for the creation of technological clusters in advanced mechanics, pharmaceutical engineering, cereal processing, mechatronics, in addition to ceramics and derivatives.



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The three other conventions concern artificial intelligence and industrial intelligence, the convention of industrial measurement for the control of mechanical management mechanisms as well as a convention for the creation of a pole specialized in logistics management and industry.

On this occasion, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Abdelbaki Benziane said that the creation of these technological clusters aimed at "developing university research works and converting them into production projects and services for the economy and society.

Minister of Industry Ferhat Aït Ali Braham said that this initiative was "one of the fruits of cooperation" between his sector and that of Higher Education, stressing that it aimed to "meet the needs of the industrial sector and thus lay the foundations of a new economy based on knowledge."

### Arkab urges new impetus to mining sector

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Mines Mohamed Arkab on Monday urged a new impetus to the mining sector which faces the challenge of contributing to the diversification of the national economy and the increase of the country's foreign exchange revenues.

"We are challenged to promote and implement a genuine national policy for the development of this promising sector by integrating its various segments: research and exploration, exploitation and valorisation," Arkab said in a message addressed to the staff of the Mining sector.

The minister stressed that the development projects included in the indicative sectoral action plan were likely to boost the process of research and exploration, with a view to raising the productivity of deposits in difficulty and effectively launching major transformation and development projects.

Recalling that the Government's action plan places the mining sector at the heart of the process of reviving the national economy, Arkab stressed the need to take stock of the issues and challenges facing the sector.

The mining sector is expected to contribute "substantially" to the diversification of the national economy, create the conditions for an "optimal and sustainable" development of the national mining potential, enhance the external financial position of the country through exports, support national integration by reducing imports of substances and products and mining, and create jobs, he explained.

Concretely, the lines of work in the mining sector include the upgrading of the regulations in force to improve the management of mining activities, the proper conduct of exploration programs and studies of mining potentialities, the implementation of major projects, the diversification of sources of funding for mining activities and the encouragement of all forms of technological partnerships for exploration, the minister said.

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### **Parallel economy disadvantages tax compliance, jeopardizes efforts to boost investment**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad said in Algiers on Monday that the informal economy was detrimental for tax compliance which jeopardizes the State efforts to promote investment as it breaks the fair competition rules and shrinks the financial resources.

In an address at the National Conference on Tax Reform, the Premier said that "the informal economy, despite all the efforts made by the public authorities to encourage its integration, continues to flout legal rules, which constitutes prejudice for tax compliance".

Indeed, he said, "the non-contribution of the operators activating in the parallel circuit in tax revenues obliges those activating in legal markets- and who pay their taxes to bear the entire tax burden."

According to the Prime Minister, the shadow economy "also weakens the effectiveness of public stimulus and investment promotion policies because it constitutes an obstacle to the smooth running of the national economy."

In this regard, Djerad invited the participants to these meetings to formulate proposals aiming at achieving compliance of tax payers through the creation of a balance between the capacities of economic operators and the financing needs of the State, while ensuring a balanced distribution of the tax burden.

This tax reform must be accompanied by a rehabilitation of the public service by taking into account the concerns of citizens, the eradication of bureaucracy and the fight against all forms of practice which could negatively impact the national economy and hinder the process of its reconstruction.

## **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

### **National memory issues: President Tebboune appoints Chikhi as Algeria's representative**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, announced on Sunday the appointment of the advisor to the Presidency of the Republic, in charge of National Archives and National Memory, Abdelmadjid Chikhi, as Algeria's representative to lead the ongoing work with the French State on issues of the national memory.

During his periodic interview with national media leaders, President Tebboune said that he had asked Chikhi to represent Algeria in the ongoing work on national memory issues with the French State, represented by the historian Benjamin Stora.

The President of the Republic praised Chikhi's great competence in this field, being "the most informed" of the files to be dealt with by the two parties, particularly in view of his accumulated experience as Director General of the National Archives.

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In this connection, President Tebboune recalled that he had agreed with his French counterpart that the two parties would work in this direction "in a normal way," noting that "things have become almost clear and without any tension".

President Macron's appointment of the historian Benjamin Stora is part of "the facilitation of things in order to get out of political tension and political exploitation," said President Tebboune.

Referring to the economic relations linking Algeria to its various partners among brotherly and friendly countries, the President of the Republic said: "We have not excluded France. We are working to recover our national memory, while working on an equal footing with France (in other areas), as dictated by the interests of each country."

### **Libyan crisis: President Tebboune evokes Algerian-Tunisian initiative**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune evoked, on Sunday evening, a possible Algerian-Tunisian initiative for the resolution of the Libyan crisis, expressing optimism about the settlement of this crisis.

During his regular interview with the national media, President Tebboune spoke of "a possible Algerian-Tunisian solution" to the crisis in Libya, reaffirming that the resolution of the conflict between Libyans "must go through the table of dialogue and that the use of arms is not and never will be the solution.

Recalling Algeria's equidistant position, President Tebboune reiterated with regard to "individual decisions" that Algeria "neither supports nor opposes" but, he added, "we refuse to be presented with a fait accompli."

After assuring that "Algeria, which has no desire to go it alone, cannot impose any initiative or solution without the sponsorship of the United Nations and the Security Council," President Tebboune said that "if we want the good of the Libyan people, we must let them decide their own destiny on the basis of popular legitimacy, under the aegis of the United Nations."

"Being close to the Libyan people, we had warned against certain actions," the president continued, deploring "the worsening situation" in which Libyans are isolated except for two poles in the east and west of the country.

Regretting "the attempts to involve certain Libyan tribes in the armed conflict in the last 24 hours", the president of the Republic said he was worried to see this country transformed into a battlefield between great powers, considering that "this is a very dangerous situation that could tip Libya into the same fate as Somalia".

Nevertheless, President Tebboune said he was optimistic that the Libyan crisis could be resolved "on the basis of the aspirations of the Libyan people for the future of their country."

In this connection, he referred to "permanent consultations with all international parties with a view to reaching a solution to the crisis in this brotherly country as soon as possible", stressing

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contacts with Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia, Kaïs Saïed of Tunisia and Emmanuel Macron of France.

Referring to the channels of communication and consultation with many countries, such as Mauritania, Turkey, Egypt and many others at the level of Foreign Ministers, Tebboune deplored the failure of several parties to comply with the conclusions of the Berlin Conference.

### Gdeim Izik's Sahrawi detainees on hunger strike

*Al-AYUN* - The Sahrawi political detainees of the central prison of Kenitra and of local prison Tiflet 2, were on Friday on a hunger strike of 48 hours in solidarity with their companion Ahmed El Bachir Ahemd Esbaai, honorary chairman of the Sahrawi Association for the protection of the political prisoners, who was victim of medical negligence.

“The Sahrawi prisoners (Gdeim Izik Group) Abdullah Elwali Ahmed Ramdan Lekhfawni, Mohamed Lamine Abdin Hadi, Elbachir Elaabed Mehdar Khada and Muhammed Hassana Ahmed Salem Bourial started Friday a 48-hour hunger strike in solidarity with their Sahrawi political prisoner companion Ahmed Esbaai, who suffered a new heart attack because of the deliberate negligence of his state of health,” said the League of the protection of Sahrawi political prisoners in the Moroccan prisons in a communiqué.

This act of solidarity was engaged to protest also against “the policy of indifference and of intentional medical negligence, from which they are suffering since their arbitrary arrest at the end of 2010, after the brutal dismantling of the camps of the Sahrawis in Gdeim Izik, near the occupied city of Al-Ayun.

The League lamented the persistence of the medical carelessness, broaching political reasons behind the reprisal of the general administration of the Moroccan prisons.

### AUPSC congratulates State members that organized peaceful elections since September 2019, including Algeria

*ADDIS ABABA* - The Peace of Security Council of the African Union (AUPSC) congratulated, at the end of its 935<sup>th</sup> meeting, the member States which held successfully peaceful presidential and legislative elections from September 2019 to June 2020, including Algeria.

In a communiqué culminating its meeting in Addis Ababa, PSC “congratulated all the member States which held successfully peaceful presidential and legislative elections from September 2019 to June 2020, notably **Algeria**, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroun, The Comoros, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Malawi, Maurice, Mozambique, **Namibia**, Togo and Tunisia.”

PSC's meeting, held on 9 July, was devoted to the elections in Africa for the period from September to December 2019 and from January to June 2020.

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The Council underlined “the significant contribution of credible, free and fair elections to the prevention from conflicts, the strengthening of peace as well as the promotion, deepening and consolidation of democracy in Africa, in the general context of achieving the aspirations of the Agenda 2063 and of AU’s main roadmap on the practical measures to silence weapons in Africa, as well as AU’s theme for 2020: Silencing the guns: Creating conditions conducive to Africa’s development.”

### **Libyan crisis: UN special representative welcomes Algeria’s efforts**

*ALGIERS* - Acting Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya Stephanie Williams, welcomed, Sunday in Algiers, Algeria's efforts to find a political solution to the crisis in Libya.

"We are working, in accordance with the Berlin Agreement, of which Algeria is a part, to try to find a political solution to the crisis in Libya and also act on the economic side. We are grateful for the efforts made by Algeria for a political solution to the crisis," said Williams following her meeting with President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

"Today I had guarantees from Algeria to support us in this initiative which leads to a cease-fire and end this long-standing conflict," said the Acting Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

In this regard, she expressed the "concern" of UN Chief Antonio Guterres, concerning the situation prevailing in Libya and his calls on the foreign forces to stop their interference in this country.

Highlighting the suffering endured by the Libyan people because of this 9-year-long crisis, Williams said it was "high time" to find a solution to this conflict and thus allow the Libyans to embark on a political process through dialogue.

She also insisted on the need to put an end to "international impunity" which makes certain countries "not respecting the embargo imposed by the UN on weapons1 illegally returning to Libya," as well as "internal impunity in Libya following human rights violations."