

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

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



## **Press Review**

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **Countering corruption: Citizens to contribute to national strategy development**

*ALGIERS* - The citizens will contribute to the development of the draft nation strategy of prevention and fight against corruption, said Tuesday, in Algiers, chairman of the National Body for Prevention and Fight against Corruption (ONPLC) Tarek Kour.

“We will allow citizens, via our website, to contribute to the development of the draft national strategy for the prevention and fight against corruption while taking into consideration their opinions, observations and recommendations,” said Kour following a session of international technical consultations relating to the development of this strategy.

Pointing out that the national and international consultations on this issue have come to an end and that the draft is in “its final phase,” the official said that his body has decided “to open the way to all citizens, without exception, to participate in the formulation of this strategy.”

Kour underlined that there is a political willingness to develop this strategy in the dynamic of a “new Algeria without corruption,” pointing out the statements of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune who insist on “the fight against dirty money.”

In this respect, he said that “this strategy is that of the Algerian State and works mainly with the participation of all the national players for the preservation of public money and the rejection of all forms of corruption while respecting citizens’ rights and freedoms,” adding that “its success depends on the willingness of every citizen to eliminate this devastating phenomenon.”

For her part, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Algeria Blerta Aliko welcomed ONPLC’s efforts in the development of this strategy, expressing UNDP’s readiness to accompany the development or implementation of this strategy.

“UNDP will enlist Algeria in this major project, to provide the required and sought-after expertise and also highlight Algeria’s achievements in this field at the international level,” she added.

### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **El Oued International Airport: Arrival of 300 Algerians stranded in Saudi Arabia**

*EL OUED (Algeria)* - Three hundred Algerians stranded in Saudi Arabia arrived Monday evening around 10 pm at El Oued-Guemar International Airport (10 km north of the capital of the province of El Oued), the media reported.

Blocked in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since the closure of the airspace as part of preventive measures taken following the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), these Algerians were repatriated on board Air Algérie Airbus A330, said an official of the Guemar Airport Authority.

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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After completing the administrative formalities, members of the Algerian community from Saudi Arabia underwent specialized preliminary medical examinations in the airport lobby under the supervision of medical staff, before being transferred to a private five-star hotel (Gazelle D'or complex).

A second flight will land on 22 July at the Rabah Bitat International Airport in Annaba with 306 other Algerians stranded in Saudi Arabia, concluded the official.

### **Launch of solidarity campaign with medical staffs mobilized against Covid-19**

*ALGIERS* - The national campaign of solidarity with the medical staffs mobilized against the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), held under the slogan “All with doctors against the pandemic,” at the initiative of Religious Affairs and Wakfs Ministry, has been launched Tuesday in Algiers.

The official launch of the campaign, to be generalized nationwide, was supervised within Mustapha Bacha Hospital by Minister of Religious Affairs and Wakfs Youcef Belmehdi, in the presence of Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform Abderrahmane Benbouzid.

In his speech on this occasion, Belmehdi said that “ulama and imams of the Nation will advocate, through preaches for citizens in the districts, the need to take all the prevention measures in order to contain the spread of the pandemic and support the medical staffs when accomplishing their noble missions.”

“Supporting medical teams that are at the front lines against the spread of the coronavirus pandemic is a duty,” he said, underlining that the campaign aims at “raising the citizens’ awareness about the need to support doctors through, first of all, their commitment to health measures and the respect of the prevention measures” likely to reduce the infection risks.

The minister emphasized the importance of protecting the health staff from “the risk of infection with the virus and verbal and physical aggressions,” stressing the need “to mobilize all people to support this category.”

For his part, Benbouzid reiterated his thanks and gratitude to the medical staff for their continued efforts and their constant concern to provide medical care to persons with Covid-19, hailing “their great efficiency when excreting their tasks.”

“We have to remain united behind the medical teams which represent the first line of defense in our battle against this pandemic,” he said, adding that 44 members of the medical staff died and 2300 others were infected since the outbreak of the pandemic in Algeria.

### **ECONOMIC NEWS**

#### **Industry: Group GICA completes first stage of audit of petroleum cement**

*ALGIERS* – The Cement Company of Ain El Kebira (SCAEK) located in Sétif (300 km east of Algiers) has successfully completed the first stage of audit of its petroleum cement conducted by the API (American Petroleum Institute), which is an American consulting office and certification body for all products and solutions for the global petroleum industry.

"This approach is part of the follow-up of the API certification process for its new product called petroleum cement, which had hitherto been imported for more than \$30 million, in order to meet a national demand estimated at 200,000 tons," the Group of Industrial Cement of Algeria (GICA) said on Tuesday in a press release.

The GICA group added that this is, in a first step, a surveillance audit operation number 1," which has been initially planned for last March but was postponed to July, due to the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid 19).

The audit covers the verification of the compliance of the SCAEK quality system with the requirements of API Q1 and the compliance of the drilling cement product class G-HSR (oil well cement), with the new edition API 10 A, the 25th edition.

The operation took place from July 8 to 13, 2020, by videoconference, while the next stage of surveillance is scheduled for March 2021.

"By clinching the API label in July 2019, the SCAEK is now the leading producer of this type of cement in Algeria with excellent quality," said the public cement manufacturer.

"The API maintains more than 700 standards and recommended practices cited by regulations from the international community," said the same source.

SCAEK is a subsidiary of the GICA Group. It produces 3 million tonnes of cement per year, and is able to meet any demand from the national and international market, the press release concluded.

#### **New economic program: Crucial role of Customs underlined**

*ALGIERS* - Customs' General Manager Nouredine Khaldi on Tuesday stressed the role of the Customs in the execution of the new economic programme, referring to the improvement of service public and fight against economic crimes.

"The future economic challenges which will be met under the new economic programme require the Customs administration to fight devotedly and responsibly against all forms of cross-border crimes, in particular those related to public health and safety, and even to the material means," indicated Khaldi in an address read on his behalf by the Customs' Director of Studies Djamel Brika, during the installation ceremony of divisional customs inspectors.

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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He said that the challenge is "blocking access to prohibited products and combating overbilling."

The General Manager installed new senior officials of the Customs Directorate, named as part of the last periodic partial reshuffle.

This change in senior officials intends to introduce "fresh methods" in the management of Customs services, aimed at strengthening or even rehabilitating the public service, first by listening to citizens, then by eradicating bureaucracy and combating all forms of negative practices.

### **Sonatrach: Skikda's natural gas liquefaction complex resumes production**

*SKIKDA* - The national hydrocarbon company Sonatrach announced the resumption of production at the natural gas liquefaction complex located in Skikda (GL1K), after a general shutdown due to periodic maintenance work, the company said Tuesday in a statement.

"During this major shutdown, equipment and appliances subject to regulations have also been included in the scope of the shutdown work," the same source said.

The inspections and controls provided for by law are conducted by the Hydrocarbon Regulatory Authority (ARH) and the General Directorate of Mines, said Sonatrach.

As for maintenance work, it is carried out by Sonatrach's internal maintenance units with the support and assistance of experts in the field of maintenance, added the company.

### **Economic Recovery Plan: ONPLC suggests revision of public procurement code**

*ALGIERS* - As part of the anticorruption strategy that will be soon submitted to public authorities, the National Body for Prevention and Fight against Corruption (ONPLC) has suggested the revision of the public procurement code and public service delegations in order to implement the Economic Recovery Plan, said Chaalal Moulay Elarbi, Chairman and Head of the Coordination and International Cooperation Division at the ONPLC.

"Economic recovery depends on some elements. In this regard, we urged a revision of the public procurement code and public service delegations under the national anticorruption strategy," said Elarbi on the national radio.

According to the same official, the awarding of contracts under the simple stoneware procedure is a "legalized corruption."

"This method must be reviewed and the simple stoneware procedure must be cancelled. Public procurement procedures must be transparent and digitized to avoid any manipulation," stated Moulay Elarbi.

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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The ONPLC representative referred to five thrusts of the anticorruption strategy it developed, which aim to achieve six goals through 72 measures and provisions likely to address the corruption scourge.

The thrusts include the consolidation of transparency, the moralization of public life, the encouragement of media and civil society to combat corruption, as well as the consolidation of transparency and integrity in the economic sector, he detailed.

The strategy proposed by ONPLC focuses on support to the role and capacities of control and response mechanisms, in addition to the encouragement of international cooperation and the restoration of funds.

Combating corruption requires several measures, research and even means, said Moulay Elarbi who recalled that there was no clear policy to combat this scourge in the past.

The ordinary anticorruption measures had shown their limits and the policy of ONPLC relies on prevention and measures within administrations and companies, he said.

Over the past two years, ONPLC developed a map listing the dangers of corruption within the Ministry of Finance and the various directorates of the state, customs and taxes, and the document has been finalized, said Moulay Elarbi.

The ONPLC is currently developing maps on the dangers of corruption within several ministries, namely Commerce, Higher Education, Health and Youth and Sports.

In response to a question about the possibility of recovering money embezzled and transferred abroad, Moulay Elarbi stressed that this issue was not within the prerogatives of his institution, saying that he was optimistic about this issue even though "the mission is not easy."

### **Deep audit to be conducted in Sonatrach very soon**

*ALGIERS* - A deep audit will be conducted in the national hydrocarbon company very soon in order to review the organization and functioning of Sonatrach, said Tuesday, in Algiers, Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar.

In his speech to the National Radio, Attar affirmed that a "deep audit will be launched at the level of Sonatrach very soon and it will perhaps be next week following the instructions of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune."

Attar stressed the need to lighten the management of Sonatrach and reduce its functioning and exploitation costs.

"The number of posts abroad that are not necessary must be reduced," he said, adding that the national company must further strengthen its presence in the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas notably in the African neighboring countries.

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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In this respect, he emphasized the “essential” role that could be played by the regulatory authorities like Alnaft and Creg, underlining the need to rehabilitate their authorities.

Concerning the field of exploration and development of small deposits, Attar said that these activities will be carried out in partnership with foreign investors who will finance the entire exploration while Sonatrach will reimburse its share from the operating phase.

While ensuring that the national company possesses the means to conduct explorations alone, Attar said that Algeria has oil and gas potential to ensure energy security until 2050, but on condition of introducing, he added, the energy transition and efficiency.

While broaching the new law on hydrocarbons, Attar affirmed that the implementing legislations will be ready and effective by the beginning of September in order to boost the investment and partnership in this field and to resume growth and productivity.

### **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

#### **Boukadoum starts working visit to Russia**

*ALGIERS* - Foreign Minister Sabri Boukdoum on Tuesday started a working visit to the Russian Federation at the invitation of his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, said the ministry in a communiqué.

"The visit, which follows high-level contacts between the two countries, including the recent telephone conversation between the President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, is part of the continuation of talks on ways of strengthening bilateral relations and the prospects for expanding the bilateral partnership with a view to achieving the goals of the Strategic Partnership linking the two countries," said the same source.

"This visit should also provide an opportunity to discuss various regional and international issues of common interest, including the situation in the region, in particular in Libya, Mali and Syria, as well as ways to promote international peace and security through constructive political approaches based on international legality and respect for the will and sovereignty of the concerned peoples," said the communiqué.

#### **Crisis in Mali: AU calls for calm, dialogue**

*ADDIS ABABA* - The African Union (AU) called for calm and for the continuation of dialogue and negotiations in Mali to implement diligent work of consensual solutions in order to preserve peace, stability and social cohesion in this country.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Chairman of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said he was closely monitoring developments of the socio-political situation in Mali and welcomes the sending of an ECOWAS mediation mission for the resolution of the crisis.

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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"The Commission chairman strongly condemns the acts of violence following the demonstrations of July 10, 11 and 12 which have caused loss of lives, injuries and destruction of public and private properties," said the text.

He reiterates his condolences to the grieving families, the people and the government of Mali and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.

"Faki calls for prompt investigations to establish accountability bring justice to victims and apply appropriate sanctions," the statement said.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### ***CULTURE***

#### **Mohamed Dib, one of founding fathers of French-speaking Algerian literature**

*ALGIERS* - Algeria commemorates today the centenary of the birth of one of the founding fathers of the French-speaking Algerian literature Mohamed Dib who highlighted through his works the Algerian personality and called for the liberation of his country and people, seeking to make Algeria present in the Algerians' literature.

A prolific writer, he made his first appearance in the literature world by publishing "La grande maison" (The big house) in 1952, "L'incendie" (The Fire) in 1954 and "Le métier à tisser" (The loom) in 1957, a trilogy which shed light on the life the marginalized Algerian, drowned in misery and the throes of colonialism.

Born on 21 July 1920 in Tlemcen, Mohamed Dib, who had already worked as a teacher, accountant, illustrator and carpet manufacturer, published his poem "Summer" in 1946 in the Swiss magazine "Lettres," followed in 1947 by "Vega" in the magazine "Forge."

The writer become more famous among the Algerian general public with the adaptation by the television of "La grande maison" and "L'incendie" in a serial entitled "El Hariq" directed in 1972 by Mustapha Badie.

#### ***SPORT***

#### **Mediterranean Games Oran-2020 to be organized under ICO patronage**

*ORAN* - The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mediterranean Games (JM Oran-2022) will be organized under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said Tuesday the International Committee for the Mediterranean Games (ICMG) on its official website.

"It is with great honour and pleasure that the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games announces that by force of decision of the International Olympic Committee, the

## Algerian Embassy in Windhoek

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19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mediterranean Games “Oran 2022” will be organized under the IOC Patronage,” said the the sport institution chaired by Algerian Amar Addadi.

“The IOC patronage constitutes for the ICMG, the Mediterranean Games, the Mediterranean Beach Games and Sport governing body, an abiding acknowledgement of our multicultural Games and a great honour for the Institution and the entire Mediterranean Sports Family, particularly during these challenging times for humanity and for our sports community,” wrote the ICMG.

“Further details regarding the IOC Patronage will be announced in due time,” said the source.