

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



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DOMESTIC NEWS

Constitution amendment: President Tebboune receives members of Experts Committee

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, on Monday received a delegation from the Expert Committee in charge of the revision of the Constitution chaired by Professor Ahmed Laraba, said a communiqué from the Presidency of the Republic.

"President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, received on Monday a delegation from the Expert Committee in charge of the Constitutional Revision, chaired by Professor Ahmed Laraba," the statement said.

Laraba outlined the Committee's works and the method used in the examination of the proposals on the Preliminary draft of the Constitution amendment.

Nearly 2,500 proposals have been received from national figures, leaders of political parties, unions and representatives of civil society, added the press release from the Presidency of the Republic.

Civil society called upon to play vital role in building new Algeria

ALGIERS - The civil society is called upon to play a crucial and determining role in building a new Algeria advocated by the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

This crucial role, granted to the civil society, has many times been reiterated by President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, since his entry to the supreme magistracy of the country. This reflects a strong political will for change, said the President of the Republic.

In this sense, Tebboune had urged the various sections of civil society to organize themselves within the framework of associations that would be active in various fields, including health and new technologies.

Already during his election campaign for the December 2019 presidential election, Tebboune had, in "54 commitments," called for the construction of a free and active society, able to assume its responsibilities as a counter-power and an instrument of public action in the service of the citizen and the Nation.

To give concrete expression to the importance he attaches to civil society, the Head of State appointed Nazih Berramdane to the post of adviser to the President of the Republic in charge of the associative movement and the national community abroad.

President Tebboune confirms, thus, his commitment to consecrate the role of the associative movement in participatory democracy and the building of a new Algeria and this, through the facilitation in particular of the procedure of granting approval which was an obstacle, in the past, to the activity of associations.

Penal provisions to protect health professionals adopted

ALGIERS - A draft order, modifying and completing the penal code to ensure a better protection for the health professionals, was adopted in the meeting of the Council of ministers, chaired by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

This draft text, presented by minister of Justice during this meeting held on Sunday, aims notably at implementing appropriate penal provisions to protect the health professionals in the face of the escalation of the acts of aggression when performing their duties.

It also aims at “repressing the acts of violation to the patients’ dignity and the due respect to dead people through the publication of images and videos” and “repressing the intrusion to places not open to the public in hospitals and the exacerbated repression of acts of destruction of medical goods and equipment.”

The detailed text provides for three years imprisonment for any verbal attack, from 3 to 10 years for any physical attack according to the seriousness of the act and a life sentence in case of death of the attacked person.

Concerning material losses, in addition to a 2 to 10 year sentence, a financial penalty amounting to DZD3 million will be applied, in addition to the request of reparation presented by the attacked establishment.

President of the Republic insisted, on this occasion, on dealing with “strictness with the criminal acts targeting the staffs of the health sector.”

Commercial exploitation of Mostaganem tramway to begin in March 2021

MOSTAGANEM - The start of commercial operation of the Mostaganem tramway is scheduled for March 2021, Public Works Minister Farouk Chiali said Monday.

During a press briefing on the sidelines of his visit to the control and maintenance center of the tramway, located in Hai Salamander, Chiali said that the companies in charge of carrying out this modern transport project in the city of Mostaganem "committed, Monday, to deliver units 1 and 2 before the end of the current year".

In response to the concerns of the local authorities regarding the planning of the works, the minister said that the companies in charge of the works are able to deliver the two units 1 and 2 next November and start the technical tests before the end of the year. "They have six months to complete the work on the third and final tranche," he said in this connection.

"The public works companies have the expertise and competence to meet the challenges at national level and are in a position to to conquer foreign markets, especially African ones, and to have orders to carry out similar projects in these countries", assured the Minister of Public Works.

COVID-19 NEWS

Covid-19: Extension of partial lockdown for 29 provinces

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad decided to extend, for 15 days, the partial lockdown measures (from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m.) and to prohibit road traffic, including passenger vehicles, from and to 29 provinces, said Sunday a communiqué of the Prime Minister's Office.

“After consulting the scientific committee and health authority and assessing the health situation nationwide, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad, and after agreement of President of the Republic, decided to extend the measures decreed by the provisions of the executive decree n20-182 of 24 Dhou El Kaada 1441 corresponding to 16 July 2020 on the strengthening of the measures of prevention and fight against the spread of corona virus (Covid-19).”

1. Extending, as from Saturday and for 15 days, the partial lockdown measure from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m. in the provinces of Adrar, Chlef, Laghouat, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna, Bejaia, Biskra, Bechar, Blida, Bouira, Algiers, Djelfa, Setif, Sidi Bel Abbes, Annaba, Constantine, Medea, Msila, Mascara, Ouargla, Oran, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Boumerdes, Tissemsilt, El Oued, Khenchela, Souk Ahras, Tipaza and Relizane.
2. Extending for 15 days the ban on road traffic, including passengers vehicles, from and to the provinces of Adrar, Chlef, Laghouat, Oum El Bouaghi, Batna, Bejaia, Biskra, Bechar, Blida, Bouira, Algiers, Djelfa, Setif, Sidi Bel Abbes, Annaba, Constantine, Medea, Msila, Mascara, Ouargla, Oran, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Boumerdes, Tissemsilt, El Oued, Khenchela, Souk Ahras, Tipaza and Relizane.

These measures will come into force as from Tuesday 28 July 2020. Staff and freight transport are not concerned by these measures

3. Extending the ban on public and private transport activity on the weekends in the 29 provinces cited previously
4. Maintaining the prerogative given to the governors (walis) to take, after agreement with the competent authorities, all measures required by the health situation in each province, notably the establishment, modification or modulation of hours, partial or total lockdown measure of one or several communes, localities or districts with foci of infection
5. Maintaining the prerogative given to the walis to grant, when needed or for exceptional situations, traffic authorizations.

The Government called on citizens to “further mobilize in the management of this health crisis through their solidarity and discipline for the strict respect of all the measures that have been recommended as part of the health protocols in force, notably the respect of the hygiene measures and preventive measures, the obligation of wearing masks and physical distancing,” concluded the source.

Covid-19: Small businesses to receive financial aid worth DZD30,000

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune has instructed the Prime Minister to take measures with immediate effect in favour of small businesses by allotting them a financial aid worth DZD 30,000 for a period of three months in order to weather the impact of the corona virus pandemic on SMEs and liberal professions in particular.

The decision has been taken at the periodical meeting of the Council of Ministers devoted to the impact of the corona virus pandemic (Covid-19) on national economy and the health situation in the country.

In this regard, President Tebboune has instructed Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad to take several measures with immediate effect, including a financial aid worth DZD30,000 to be allotted to small businesses for a period of three months”, based on “a rigorous” assessment of the situation of each corporation during the last four months. An executive decree on this measure will be issued before the end of this month.

The PM was also instructed to assess the impact and loss of earnings experienced by economic operators, particularly SMEs and liberal professions. The situation of affected businesses will be assessed with “transparency” and far from any “false declaration.”

The Minister of Finance received instructions to send a note to banks to ensure the implementation of preventive measures already taken at the Central Bank to facilitate financing.

ECONOMIC NEWS

President Tebboune orders adoption of decrees on assembly, import of new vehicles

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune ordered the adoption of decrees on specifications related to the assembly of household appliances and vehicles, to the importation of new vehicles and the acquisition of renovated equipment and chains.

Speaking during the Council of ministers that he chaired on Sunday, President Tebboune gave instructions to the minister of Industry to adopt the decrees on the specifications related to the assembly of household appliances, assembly of vehicles, importation of new vehicles and the acquisition of renovated chains and equipment, said a communiqué of the Presidency of the Republic.

In his speech following a communication presented by minister of Industry on the specifications relating to the reorganization of the industrial activities, President of the Republic stressed “the need to grant stability to the legal framework that will be implemented,” as decided previously, for a period of not less than 10 years.

“Every regulation in this field must be seriously studied while making sure that these provisions are not related to circumstantial considerations or particular interests,” said the Head of State.

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Concerning the acquisition of used factories, Tebboune insisted on the importance that a number of guarantees are ensured.

He said that the purchased production tool must be viable and not having served for more than five years when acquiring it, and that the tool in question must be able to contribute to the creation of added value and jobs.

President of the Republic ordered the minister of Industry to take a decision to make the imported production tool non-transferable for at least five years.

Concerning the import of new vehicles, the process must be carried out at the national level by national operators through an efficient and professional network of the after-sales service, said the head of State.

Concerning foreign operators, a subsequent text that will govern their intervention in this sector will be developed, added President of the Republic.

Roadmap for revival and development of Agriculture sector

ALGIERS - The roadmap for the revival and development of the agriculture and rural development sector was discussed at the meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who ordered the establishment, "as soon as possible", of an institute at a university in the south of the country specializing in desert farming.

The Council of Ministers on Sunday listened to a communication on the roadmap for the revival and development of activities in the agriculture and rural development sector that includes the various actions of the priority program whose deadline extends between the second half of 2020 and the end of 2021, as well as cross-cutting actions of a continuous nature of the medium-term program 2020-2024, said a statement of the Presidency of the Republic.

Speaking at the end of the presentation made by the Minister of Agriculture, President Tebboune expressed his satisfaction with all the programs planned under this roadmap, and stressed the need to increase production in order to achieve food security and reduce the import bill.

"The implementation of the presented program requires an appropriate reorganization of the structures of the Ministry of Agriculture at the national, regional and local levels," stressed the Head of State.

As regards the sectors listed as a priority, Tebboune referred to oilseeds, maize, sugar products, as well as specific sectors such as beekeeping, livestock and milk production.

For this purpose, President Tebboune instructed the minister to present, within one month, an update on the situation of programs concerning all these sectors, with appropriate targeting of production areas in the southern regions.

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After he welcomed the "huge" work accomplished by farmers in a particularly "adverse" situation, by ensuring the supply of the market with agricultural products in "abundance" and at "acceptable" prices, President Tebboune stressed the need not to resort to the system of irregular production cycles.

In this wake, he ordered that the program for the construction of storage areas for agricultural products be completed in the near future.

He also instructed the minister of Agriculture to encourage the installation of plants for the processing of agricultural products in the production areas.

The President of the Republic also ordered the Prime Minister to take steps, together with the Minister of Higher Education, to establish an institute specializing in desert farming in cooperation, if necessary, with foreign partners who have proven experience in the field.

Algeria adopts "courageous" economic policies

ORAN - Algerian international economic expert and former stock market analyst at Swedish banks, Nouredine Legheliel said Monday that Algeria has adopted "courageous" economic policies at the political level, especially in the face of the global economic situation due to the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking to APS, the expert said that the global health crisis has caused economic chaos, affecting all countries in the world.

"Algeria is one of the countries that have quickly resorted to courageous economic options and reforms at the political level to face this serious situation," said the expert.

"Despite decades of delay in the country's economic recovery, Algeria has just adopted a number of measures to be welcomed. First of all, a policy for rationalizing public expenditure must be put in place in order to secure foreign exchange reserves in the face of the State's obligations towards the socio-economic sector, which has been hard hit by the repercussions of the global health crisis, the courageous decision to re-launch mining investment and avoid external debt," he added.

This dynamic reflects a real and courageous political will and a vision of effective management to minimize the impact of the economic situation caused by the pandemic, recommending to move forward and effectively fight against all the after-effects of bureaucracy, said Legheliel.

"Tackling the long-standing phenomena in the national economic landscape is not only a necessity, but an imperative solution in these hard times, dictating the need to put an end to the plethora of employees in public enterprises, without this leading to mass unemployment and poverty," he said.

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"The management of an economy is a matter of managing parameters and indicators and Algeria seems to be in this logic," concluded the international expert who has contributed significantly in international analyses on stock market and oil issues.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Aid to Sahrawi: Embezzlement allegations are "absurd and ridiculous"

BRUSSELS - Morocco's allegations, through a small group of its far-right allies in the European Parliament regarding the "alleged misappropriation of humanitarian aid" sent to the Sahrawi refugees, are "baseless, absurd and ridiculous," said Monday Polisario Front delegate for Europe and the European Union, Oubi Bouchraya Bachir.

In a press release in response to the "baseless, absurd and ridiculous" accusations, Oubi said the sole purpose of these allegations remains to "discredit" the Polisario Front and its struggle for its inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The Sahrawi diplomat recalled that "soon the European Court will render its decisions following the two appeals lodged by the Polisario Front against the renewal of the partnership and fisheries agreements between the European Union and Morocco, de facto extended to Western Sahara in flagrant violation of the CJEU decisions of 2016 and 2018."

"This prospect pushes, as of now, Morocco to appeal, as usual, to the representatives of the French extreme right at the European Parliament in order to defame the sole and legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people," he stressed.

The diplomat observed that some members of this movement such as the frontist MEP, Dominique Bilde, behave like "a box echoing the propaganda of the Moroccan special services".

MISCELLANEOUS

CULTURE

"Idir the Eternal", first biographical account of late singer Idir

ALGIERS - "Idir the Eternal", the first biographical account of the life of Kabyle song icon, co-written by journalists Amer Ouali and Saïd Kaced was published recently, two months after the artist's death last May, aged 71.

Published by Koukou publishing house, the 159-page book recounts the life and artistic career of one of the ambassadors of Algerian-Berber music and whose songs have traveled the whole world.

"Idir the Eternal," is a collection of testimonies of persons that were close to the singer. It also displays articles of news papers, interviews and radio and television shows.

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In the preface, novelist Yasmina Khadra speaks about his first meeting with Idir in the early 1970s at Kolea's Revolution Academy of Cadets. The late singer then fulfilled his military service.

Fifty years later, Yasmina Khadra still remembers a singing competition organized by the management of this Academy under the direction of Idir, whose real name is Hamid Cheriet. He remembers Idir as an "extraordinary artist, a humble and generous icon" and a friend.

Oran's regional theatre classified national heritage

ORAN - Minister of Culture and Arts, Malika Bendouda announced on Monday in Oran that the decision that "Abdelkader-Alloula" regional theater has been classified as national heritage.

The Minister, on working and inspection visit to Oran told the press that the regional theater "Abdelkader Alloula" of Oran will be classified as national heritage and the artistic patterns in the building roof will be rehabilitated.

The patterns will be renovated in partnership with the Czech Republic. The project will start after the end of the health situation resulting from the corona virus pandemic, the minister said.

In the meantime, urgent work will be conducted by fine arts students for the protection of these works, she said.

In partnership with the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Culture and Arts also plans to modernize the "Ahmed Zabana" national museum, said Malika Bendouda.