

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Associative movement: Achieving participatory democracy for development

TEBESSA - Advisor to the President of the Republic in charge of the associative movement and the national community abroad, Nazih Berramdane, said Monday in Tébessa that "work is underway to achieve a participatory democracy" for development bringing together all actors of civil society and state institutions.

During a meeting with representatives of the associative movement at the congress hall "Shahid Abad Zine," Berramdane said that this series of meetings he holds with associations active in various sectors aims to "organize and coach civil society actors with a view to establishing a participatory democracy and an exchange of experiences among all."

"At the end of the 50 meetings scheduled at the national level with no less than 100,000 associations, a series of proposals and recommendations will be taken into consideration in the organization of the associative movement and its participation in building a new Algeria as part of a future strategy that will enable it to play its full role in development.

The decisions that will be taken soon, he added, will allow "to organize civil society and the associative movement so as to make it a third force that accompanies both public and private sectors and participates in building the new Algeria on solid and just foundations as recommended by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

COVID-19 NEWS

Reopening of schools: Scientific Committee approves prevention protocol

ALGIERS - The Scientific Committee in charge of monitoring the evolution of the corona virus approved, on Monday, the prevention protocol for the reopening, as of next Wednesday, of schools for revision.

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Decree No. 20-69 of 21 March 2020 on measures to prevent and control the spread of the Corona virus (Covid-19) and related texts (), the Ministry of National Education, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform, has established a health prevention protocol approved by the competent National Scientific Committee, specified the Department of Education.

This protocol lays down the measures to be applied and the rules to be observed to prevent and contain the spread of Covid-19 in schools and to reopen schools for the revision and preparation of examinations, taking care to protect the health and safety of pupils and officials in the sector".

Recalling the resumption Wednesday of administrative staff, the ministry stresses the imperative of disinfection of all structures of the school and the organization of space through the establishment of a travel plan for students.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Economic recovery: Conference takes place in particular context, says President Tebboune

ALGIERS - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said Tuesday in Algiers that the National Conference on the recovery plan for a new economy is being held in a particular situation marked by the fall in hydrocarbon prices and the pandemic of the new corona virus (Covid-19), which has strongly impacted economies around the world.

Speaking at the opening of the conference, President Tebboune, who said that Algeria is "on the verge of overcoming" this health crisis, paid a heartfelt tribute to the health staff, security and civil protection units for their "efforts and sacrifices."

The national conference on the recovery plan for a new economy is being held in the presence of some 300 participants, including members of the government, social partners and independent personalities, including national experts living in Algeria and abroad.

Economy: Government, socio-economic partners to discuss recovery plan

ALGIERS - The socio-economic recovery plan, aimed at establishing a new economy model based on innovation and diversification, will be discussed Tuesday in Algiers at a national conference bringing together the government and its socio-economic partners under the chairmanship of President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

In addition to the members of the government, headed by Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, this meeting brings together public and private economic operators, representatives of institutions, trade unions, associations, as well as experts from the socio-economic sphere. The two-day national conference will address eleven workshops, namely: agricultural development, industrial development, mining development, development of energy resources, development financing, how to facilitate investment, micro-enterprises and start-ups, development of support sectors, control of foreign trade, pharmaceutical industry, BTPH sector.

These workshops will be moderated by the ministers of the sectors concerned with the participation of representatives of institutions, enterprises and experts in these fields and should lead to recommendations which will be presented on Wednesday at the end of this event.

A virtual conference will also be organized during this conference and moderated by international experts on "the exit from the post-Covid-19 crisis, investment opportunities in the context of the restructuring of the world economy, governance of public affairs."

The recommendations of the event should translate into concrete actions a new vision enabling the national economy to free itself from its dependency on hydrocarbons, essentially through the

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revival of industrial activity, particularly that of processing, the encouragement of alternative and renewable energies, the knowledge economy, the encouragement of micro-enterprises and the exploitation of mineral wealth.

Prime Minister calls for shared vision to build new economy

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad called Tuesday for the establishment of a new economy, according to a participatory vision between the government and economic operators on the basis of mutual trust. Speaking at a workshop as part of the National Conference on the Economic Recovery Plan, Djerad said "Algeria is at a turning point in its history, given the challenges it faces, which requires looking to the future".

He underlined that "past generations have benefited from oil wealth, notably through free education and higher education, but now, we must think about what we should leave for the future generations."

"The country's current situation offers the opportunity to make a breakthrough in establishing dialogue and partnership between all parties at all levels," said the Prime Minister.

"Public authorities alone cannot solve all problems and the investors can't either, hence the need for cohesion between the two parties".

Djerad called for a stop to automatically questioning the nationalism of businessmen, stressing the need to end the crisis of trust between the different parties in order to develop an effective working methodology.

OPEC-non OPEC: Attar attends JMMC meeting Wednesday

ALGIERS - Minister of Energy, the president of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) Conference, Abdelmadjid Attar, will participate Wednesday in the 21st OPEC/non-OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) meeting, the ministry said Tuesday in a statement.

The meeting, to be held by video-conference, will discuss the situation of the international oil market and prospective development in the short-term and the mid-term, the statement added.

The JMMC's members will also assess the level of compliance with the output cut commitments, made by the signatory countries of the Declaration of Cooperation for last July, decided at the 10th OPEC and Non-OPEC ministerial meeting of April 12.

The JMMC is made up of seven OPEC member countries, namely Algeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria and Venezuela, in addition to two non-OPEC countries: Russia and Kazakhstan.

DZD 1,900 bn dedicated to financing investors' projects

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune said Tuesday banks will provide financing amounting to DZD 1,900 billion, until late 2020, for investors.

At the opening of the national conference on the economic recovery plan, Tebboune said that Algeria will only use internal resources to finance investment, reiterating refusal to turn to external debt, whatever its form.

"External financing under false pretences will never happen again," the president of the Republic said, announcing that DZD 1,900 billion will be devoted, until the end of 2020, to those who want to invest. Calling investors to avoid heavy investments, Tebboune questioned the relevance of financing the creation of a USD 750 million plant, for example, instead of financing 10 plants at USD 75 million each. He however, added that investment in heavy projects remains open, provided it brings high added value.

In addition to these bank funds, President Tebboune mentioned the possible allocation, during the current year, of 10 to 12 billion dollars of foreign exchange reserves to investment financing.

President Tebboune opens National Conference on Economic and Social Recovery

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Tuesday chaired the opening of the National Conference on the Economic and Social Recovery Plan, which brings together the Government and its partners, and aims to lay the foundations for a new development model based on diversification and sustainable development.

In addition to members of the Government, led by Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad, the Conference brings together public and private economic operators, representatives of institutions, unions, associations and experts.

This two-day Conference takes place in 11 workshops, namely agricultural development, industrial development, mining development, energy resource development, financing of development, facilitation of investment, micro-enterprises and startups, development of support sectors, foreign trade control, pharmaceutical industry as well as building and public works.

Seven employers' organizations attending the Conference have written a joint document containing proposals to be presented to the meeting to enrich the new recovery plan.

President Tebboune: Algeria's current foreign exchange reserves stand at US\$57 bn

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune said Tuesday that Algeria's current foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$57 billions currently. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the national conference on the Recovery Plan for a New Economy, the President of the Republic called the country's financial situation "difficult."

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In addition, President Tebboune referred to the possible allocation, during the current year, of USD\$10 to 12 billion of foreign exchange reserves to investment financing. Foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$62 billion at the beginning of 2020.

The 2020 budget has been prepared on the basis of a benchmark price of US\$30/barrel while the average price is US\$44, leading to an "ease" in budget financing.

Reiterating his categorical refusal to resort to external debt, whatever its form, the President of the Republic said: "I categorically refuse to indebtedness to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and even to friendly and brotherly countries (...) to preserve our full sovereignty."

President Tebboune unveils series of measures to encourage exports

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Tuesday announced a series of measures to be implemented to encourage exporters and boost Algeria's non-hydrocarbon exports.

Algeria aims to reach at least US\$5 billion of exports next year thanks to incentives for exporters, President Tebboune said at the opening of the National Conference on the Recovery Plan for a New Economy, which began this morning at the Palace of Nations, in the presence of members of the Government, social partners and independent personalities, including national experts living in Algeria and abroad.

In this regard, President Tebboune assured that this goal "is very feasible", especially as "the political will is strong and the vision clear."

Turning into the incentive measures decided for exporters, President Tebboune referred to the creation of green corridors dedicated to certain products, the transfer of a good part of foreign exchange earnings to exporters and the improvement of relations with the Ministry of Finance and the Tax Administration.

In this context, the Head of State stressed the need for a strong contribution from Algerian diplomacy to ensure the access of Algerian products to foreign markets.

President Tebboune also seized this opportunity to congratulate the economic operators who export products with high added value, such as tyres exported to the United States and cosmetic products to African markets."

"Exporters need to be encouraged not fought against," Tebboune said referring to the obstacles faced by exporters in the past.

Stressing the State's determination to encourage value-added exporters "and not the pseudo automobile exporters who are only involved in pneumatic inflation," the President of the Republic called what has happened in recent years in the car industry sector a "manipulation" of the national economy which "almost tipped the country over the edge."

President Tebboune to order justice to disregard anonymous letters of denunciation

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune said Tuesday in Algiers that he would order justice to disregard anonymous letters of denunciation and urged people having information on violations of the law “to be courageous” and “denounce them publicly.”

“The only destination of these letters will be the shredder,” said President Tebboune at the opening ceremony of the National Conference on the Social and Economic Recovery Plan. The people having information about economic crimes can turn to the 180 newspaper Algeria has and justice is able to enquire about them, he continued.

The President of the Republic urged the decriminalization of management in order to encourage performance and initiative.

We must increase non-hydrocarbon exports to US\$5 bn by late 2021, says Tebboune

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune on Tuesday stressed the need to increase non-hydrocarbon exports to US\$5 billion at least by the end of 2021.

“The almost total dependence of the national economy on oil revenues “is fatal to intelligence and initiative. Hence the need to increase non-hydrocarbon exports to US\$5 billion by the end of 2021 against US\$2 billion currently,” said the Head of State.

Over the next two years, dependence on hydrocarbons will be reduced to less than 80%, he continued.

No objection to creation of private banks, air and maritime transport companies, says President Tebboune

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune affirmed Tuesday that there is “no objection” to the creation of private banks as well as companies of air and maritime freight and passenger transport.

In his speech at the opening of the national conference on the revival plan for a new economy, President Tebboune expressed his willingness to open investment in the sectors of banks and air and maritime transport.

“There is no objection, today, that private investors create companies for the air and maritime transport of goods and passengers as well as banks,” said President Tebboune.

Calling the investors and the economic companies to work for the reduction of the import bill of services, he said that the annual bill of transport services amounts to USD12.5 billion, including USD3.4 billion for the costs of the maritime transport of goods.

“It is primordial to find a solution to this situation in order to reduce foreign currency transfers,” said the Head of State.

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“What prevents creating private banks? And why not in partnership with public banks?” are the questions of President Tebboune concerning the banking sector, recommending the revision of the Algerian banking system, that he considers “simple public counter.”

Speeding up digitization of all economic, financial sectors

ALGIERS - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune called Tuesday, in Algiers, to speed up the digitization of all the economic and financial sectors to eliminate the intentional opacity relating to them and to establish transparency in order to revive the national economy.

In his speech at the opening of the national Conference on the revival plan for a new economy, Tebboune excoriated “the non-digitization, to date, of these sensitive sectors, notably the fiscal sector and the services of the State Property.” These administrations, he said, “are still working with outdated means and methods that do not even allow knowing what Algerians possess, like property and companies at the national level.”

In this respect, President of the Republic ordered to speed up financial and fiscal reforms, affirming that the payment of taxes should no more be seen as a sanction but rather as an incentive for the improvement of revenue and creation of jobs.

He said that the national company considers is among the first five taxpayers while private companies with annual turnover exceeding USD20 billion are at the 54th position.

President Tebboune called for the revision of texts and laws governing the commercial activity to decriminalize the management act and the creation of commercial courts nationwide, by involving the economic and commercial companies.

Discussions with Finance Ministry to resolve Sonatrach cash flow issue

ALGIERS - Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar underlined Tuesday, in Algiers, that there are discussions with the Finance Ministry to reach a solution to the issue of cash flow of the national hydrocarbon company Sonatrach.

These discussions focused on the possibility of rescheduling taxes and recovering the amounts resulting from the cost differences borne by the company in terms of sea water desalination and of fuel, said Attar in a statement to the press on the sidelines of the national Conference on the revival plan for a new economy.

According to the Minister, Sonatrach doesn't suffer at all from a budget deficit but the vertiginous drop in oil prices in addition to its important financial needs, notably those relating to its investment projects, led to a difficult financial situation marked by a weak cash flow.

In his reply to a question on the purchase of Augusta refinery (Italy) by Sonatrach in 2018, Attar affirmed that the company must examine this issue, adding that it will keep this structure if it proves to be useful in this investment as it could be, otherwise, sold.

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“Augusta is currently a property of Sonatrach. We will try to exploit this refinery if needed,” he affirmed, pointing out that “the file of the purchase of this structure is currently in the hands of justice.” Sonatrach may resort to the reorganization of its activities “objectively,” by focusing on its main missions, namely: exploration, production, transport, transformation and marketing of hydrocarbons.

MISCELLANEOUS

CULTURE

Algeria awarded at International Virtual Puppet Theatre Festival in Iraq

BAGHDAD - Two Algerian theatrical works were awarded at the International Virtual Puppet Theatre Festival which wrapped up Monday in Iraq, said the event’s organizers.

The play “Sheikh” by Boukhadra Souhil of the association “Arlequin des marionettes” from El Eulma won the second prize of the best theatrical performance and the prize of the best puppet design and manufacturing.

“Rovigo” by Halim Chanana from Blida won the 3rd prize for the best theatrical performance and prizes for the best handling and best sound performance. The first prize for the best theatre performance went to the Iraqi theatrical work “the good tree and the dwarf.”

Organized under the patronage of Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sports, this festival kicked off on Thursday with the participation of 12 theatrical works from five Arab countries, including Algeria.