

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

22nd July 2020

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Draft law on electronic media submitted to Government in next few days

ALGIERS - The draft law on the electronic media “is currently the subject of the last amendments before its submission, in the next few days, to the Government,” announced Wednesday Minister of Communication, Spokesman of the Government Ammar Belhimer in his interview to Elhiwar newspaper.

Belhimer said that “the draft law on the electronic media is in its final modifications, before its presentation to the Government in the next few days”

The draft law was drawn up “after several consultations and meetings bringing together different partners and players of the field, while involving several ministerial sectors in the legal regularization process of the electronic media,” affirmed Belhimer.

In this respect, the minister underlined that the sector includes “more than 150 electronic sites, including 130 sites declared at the Ministry of Communication, most of which are domiciled abroad.”

While broaching the information sector’s reform workshops, the minister affirmed that the work will “continue until the completion of all the areas included in the ministry’s action plan, which started previously with two workshops on the electronic media and the trade-union action before stopping because of the health situation facing the country.”

In this respect, Belhimer announced the opening of the next workshop “as soon as the lockdown is lifted,” pointing out that the work at the level of the ministry is still continuing despite the health crisis.

“Cleaning up the sector of information is a major challenge,” he stressed.

In his reply to a question on the financial problems from which the media outlets are suffering, the minister affirmed that he is “closely following and with a great concern” this financial distress, emphasizing that this crisis isn’t new, but it exacerbated because of the spread of the corona virus pandemic.”

In this respect, he underlined that the digital transition process of newspapers and magazines “has become a vital necessity and urgent process,” pointing out “over 70% of the printed newspaper titles reduced the number of their pages or stopped their circulation.”

ECONOMIC NEWS

Energy/Water Resources: Desalination projects require new partnership model

ALGIERS - Energy Minister Abdelmadjid Attar and Water Resources Minister Arezki Berraki on Tuesday said that seawater desalination projects required a new partnership model in order to guarantee their performance, said the Ministry of Energy in a communiqué.

The two ministers co-chaired a working meeting, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Energy, in the presence of representatives of the two ministries and the CEOs of the Algerian Energy Company (AEC) and the Algerian Water Company (ADE), which focused on the state of sea water desalination plants, particularly that of Souk Tleta and Magtaa, as well as to the modalities of launching new desalination plant projects included in the Government's programme, said the source.

Stressing the importance of the sea water desalination program, which is a strategic option chosen by the government to secure the supply of drinking water, especially for coastal cities, the two ministers stressed the need to "revise the current partnership model by establishing a new partnership model, especially for ongoing projects and those to be launched, that guarantees the viability and performance of projects," said the communiqué.

The two Ministers proposed to the joint working group they set up to examine the best approaches to implement the current program of desalination units and to prepare a document on the sustainable prospects of desalination, based on the feedback from existing units, for submission to the Government in the near future.

They also insisted on "the importance of water availability and its preservation in the medium and long term, which makes its production in the future as a complement to other categories of resources."

This meeting was also an opportunity to explain the difficulties and constraints facing desalination units, particularly that of Souk Tleta, at standstill with a production capacity of (200,000 m³/d), and that of Magtaa in Oran (500,000 m³/d), and to examine the proposals likely to remove these constraints, said the source.

2019- 2020 season: Cereal storage capacity reaches 35 million quintals

ALGIERS - The harvest-threshing campaign for the 2019-2020 season has reached a storage capacity of 35 million quintals, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said Wednesday in a statement.

According to the same source, this cereal campaign, which began on 12 April, benefited from the mobilization of storage capacities of almost 35 million quintals, reinforced by the commissioning of nine new hoppers with a total capacity of 3.5 million quintals.

A fleet of 10,804 combine harvesters was mobilized for this campaign, said the source.

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Moreover, an inter-cooperative transfer plan (CCLS) has been established to facilitate the movement of collection surplus from one area to another, added the Ministry.

Commercial activities to be equipped with electronic payment terminals defined

ALGIERS - The commercial activities which will be provided "soon" with Electronic Payment Terminals (TPE) have been defined Tuesday, said the ministry of Commerce which announced the creation of a joint technical committee with a view to encouraging their use.

The activities has been defined as part of an agreement reached as minister of Commerce, Kemel Rezig, Minister of Post and Telecommunications Brahim Boumzar, Deputy Minister for External Commerce, and Deputy Minister to the Premier for Start-ups, Yacine Walid held a working meeting, said the same source.

During this meeting, which is part of the implementation of the Government's program on the modernization and digitization of different sectors, it was agreed to encourage electronic payment through incentives aimed at registrars of trade, added the Ministry.

The meeting also recommended that startups and micro-enterprises be associated with the generalization of electronic payment methods in the various fields of activity as well as the activation and enrichment of the electronic portal for online creation of companies.

The parties also agreed to set up a joint technical commission represented by the three sectors in addition to the association the Ministries of Finance, Labor, Employment and Social Security, Industry and the National Chamber of Algerian Notaries.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

Boukadoum: Algeria is working to prevent military escalation in Libya

MOSCOW - Foreign Minister, Sabri Boukadoum, said Wednesday in Moscow that "Algeria is working to avoid any military escalation in Libya" and will continue to work in this direction, adding that "there will be no military solution in Libya."

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, Boukadoum welcomed Russia's support for the efforts of neighboring countries to resolve the Libyan crisis, recalling Algeria's initiative in holding meetings with its direct neighbours (Tunisia, Egypt) and opening a dialogue from the beginning of this year with Libya's six neighbours.

Referring to the Berlin conference, Boukadoum said that its conclusions converged with Algeria's efforts to find a way out of the crisis in Libya.

"Algeria supported the conclusions of the Berlin conference, in which the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, took part," he said.

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"We have approved the conclusions of the conference and its four axes, and what is important for us is to reach a political solution," added the Foreign Minister.

"Algeria's approach, from the outset, is to work with the partners concerned, particularly the neighboring countries," he said.

In the same context, Sabri Boukadoum said that Algeria "is currently working to eliminate any cause leading to a military escalation in Libya.

Algeria- Russia: Lavrov commends level of bilateral relations

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister, Sergueï Lavrov, commended Wednesday in Moscow the level of relations between Russia and Algeria, reiterating the importance of promoting them through the re-launch of a joint committee for economic and commercial cooperation.

During a joint press conference by Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum, who is on a working visit to Russia, Lavrov highlighted "the importance and effectiveness" of the joint cooperation committee between the two countries, which contributes to "the promotion of economic and commercial cooperation" at the highest level.

"The fall in commercial exchanges during the first half of this year is due to the new corona virus pandemic," said Lavrov.

The Head of the Russian Diplomacy said that the meeting he had with his Algerian counterpart focused on "the means to address" this situation and the need to restore the positive dynamics of trade exchanges, through "the implementation of several investment projects, especially in the fields of energy, transport and pharmaceutical industry."

"A session of the joint committee will be held as soon as the health situation improves," he added.

In this context, Lavrov highlighted "the positive role of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee for Military and Technical Cooperation which "should hold its new session in the second half of 2020."

Lavrov calls for immediate ceasefire in Libya

MOSCOW - Russia's Foreign Minister Serguei Lavrov called Wednesday, in Moscow, for an immediate ceasefire and suspension of all the combat in Libya to initiate an inclusive national political dialogue for the resolution of the crisis.

"We have stressed, during our contacts with all the Libyan parties, Libya's neighboring countries as well as other international countries and players, the need for a ceasefire and a suspension of all the fighting as a first step before reviving the action of the 5+5 joint committee and initiating an inclusive national political dialogue with the participation of all the Libyan regions," said Lavrov in a press conference held jointly with Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum.

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“This process aims to restore Libya’s sovereignty and recover the Libyan territories’ unity and integrity,” he added.

Lavrov reiterated the commitment of Russia and Algeria to implementing the conclusions of the Berlin Conference approved by the Council of Security, refuting the existence of an Algerian-Russian roadmap for the settlement of the Libyan crisis.”

Escalation in Libya: Algiers, Moscow calls for resumption of inter-Libyan dialogue

MOSCOW - Algeria and Russia called Wednesday for the cessation of hostilities in Libya, where the risks of military escalation grow because of foreign interference, urging the Libyan belligerents to resume negotiations.

“The crisis in Libya must be resolved through dialogue and return to the negotiation table, said Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum in a press briefing held jointly with his Russian counterpart Serguei Lavrov.

“Tanks cannot be the solution in Libya,” he affirmed.

For his part, Lavrov called for “an immediate ceasefire and the suspension of all the fighting in Libya,” an essential step, according to him, for the re-launch of the 5+5 Committee’s works and the launch of an inclusive political dialogue in Libya.

The calls of Algeria and Russia come at the moment when Egypt broaches a possible military intervention in Libya after the go-ahead given by its parliament to the army to take an action.

The two countries converge on the need to implement the conclusions of the Berlin Conference despite the fact that they do not possess “a joint map” on the settlement of the crisis in Libya. Moscow praised Algeria’s essential role in this conference to which President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune took part.

Sabri Boukadoum calls for a peaceful solution to the conflict, reiterating during this press briefing that Algeria “remains equidistant vis-à-vis all the Libyan parties.”

Cannons cannot address crisis in Libya

MOSCOW - “Tanks and cannons cannot be a solution to the crisis in Libya, which should rather be resolved through dialogue and return to the negotiating table,” said Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum.

“Tanks and cannons cannot be a solution to the crisis in Libya but rather through dialogue and return to the negotiating table,” said Boukadoum at a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Algeria and Russia agreed to multiply consultations on this issue, stated Boukadoum.

MISCELLANEOUS

CULTURE

Dean of Algerian visual artists Leila Ferhat passes away

ORAN - The dean of Algerian visual artists, Leila Ferhat, died Tuesday at the age of 81 following a long disease, her relatives said.

The artist, a graduate of the National School of Fine Arts in Algiers, has produced several paintings that have aroused the admiration of plastic art critics and the public who appreciated her works which mix authenticity and modernity and where sky blue, symbol of calm and comfort dominates.

The deceased had initiated a large number of plastic artists and is regarded as a school of Algerian plastic art.

She left her mark in the artistic scene through her immortal works in which she focused on the Algerian heritage.

The artist Leila Ferhat had represented Algeria in several events during which she had obtained several awards including the gold medal at the international salon in Riom (France) in 1980 and the gold medal in Puy en Velay (France) and before that the first prize of painting at the Festival Committee of the city of Algiers in 1977.

The paintings of the deceased have been exhibited in several countries including the United States, Canada, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.