

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

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



## **Press Review**

**13<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **Need to fight bureaucracy to ensure "a better future"**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad stressed on Wednesday, in Algiers, the need to fight against bureaucracy "to give hope for a better future."

At the end of the first day of the Government-Governors meeting, Djerad said that bureaucracy "is the first enemy" of the administration, noting that decisions taken by the Presidency of the Republic and the Government had not been implemented, citing, for example, the non-payment of bonuses provided for certain categories of workers facing the Corona virus pandemic.

The country's economy could not prosper in a context marked by the proliferation of bureaucracy, said Djerad.

In this respect, he called for joint efforts to "build the new Algeria" which, he said, "is not a slogan, but a grassroots approach taking into account the difficult circumstances we are going through.

With regard to the implementation of projects in grey areas, the Prime Minister stressed the need for an "effective field approach" and periodic contacts between ministers and governors "to examine proposals that can be applied on the ground and identify priorities in line with the program of the President of the Republic and the Government's plan of action."

In the same context, Djerad stressed the importance of "defining urgent issues with a precise timetable" concerning the development of grey areas, calling for "the handling of issues related to the daily life of citizens, including the supply of water, electricity and gas, the maintenance of the road network and the improvement of schooling conditions for students."

#### **Water resources: New water law ready**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Water Resources, Arezki Berraki announced on Wednesday in Algiers that his ministerial department has just completed the legislative framework of the new water law which will soon be submitted to the Government and the Council of Ministers for consideration.

The new law will deal with several important issues, including the definition of the relationship with local authorities in the management of the public water and sanitation service, as well as the definition of the State's control and regulation missions in the field of water resources, Berraki said in his speech at the Government-Governors meeting, chaired by President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

The Ministry will proceed, after the approval of the Government, to a comprehensive reorganization of the central administration of the Ministry and the public enterprises under its supervision with a view to achieving efficiency and rational management of the material and

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human resources available, he said, announcing that the National Consultative Council on Water Resources will be reactivated.

### **Djerad advocates dialogue to address citizens' concerns**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad on Thursday urged Walis (governors) to dialogue with citizens "before imposing any idea in the resolution of their concerns."

"You must dialogue with citizens and address the concerns they raise on the spot under participatory democracy," Djerad told Walis ahead of their meeting with the Government.

Communication is of paramount importance, particularly with citizens living in the grey areas, in order to find out about their concerns and priorities, he continued. As for prevention against forest fires, Djerad stressed the need to preserve the forest resources of the country.

Djerad called the members of Government who could not speak during the debate to "present a summary of their action plan in the final report."

### **Bureaucrats "hinder" implementation of President of the Republic's program**

*ALGIERS* - "Bureaucrats hinder the implementation of the program of the President of the Republic and the Government," Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad affirmed Thursday.

In his speech at the closing of the Government-Walis, Djerad said that "only 10% to 20% of the guidelines of the President of the Republic have been implemented according to the data I received."

"It is true that there are financial problems, the corona virus pandemic and the consequences of the past but some bureaucrats hinder the implementation of the program of the President of the Republic and the Government," he continued.

"We must achieve a significant implementation rate before the end of 2020. We can reach an acceptable rate of 60% to 70% through a daily monitoring of the implementation of decisions," assured Djerad.

The "top priorities" include the adoption of a comprehensive approach for "a rapid intervention in grey areas" and an agenda for the implementation of a program devoted to these regions because "new Algeria is a mechanism, means and a new management mode," affirmed the PM.

### **Government-Walis meeting proposes creation of Special Fund for development of grey areas**

*ALGIERS* - The participants in the Government-Walis meeting on Thursday proposed the creation of a Special Fund for the development of grey areas and the delegation of executive directors of provinces for the implementation of projects in case the elected Communal Assemblies are suspended.

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The recommendations read at the closing session, in the presence of Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad and members of the Government, focused on "the need to update the mapping of grey areas, the selection of urgent projects as well as their adaptation to the specificity of each region. They also discussed the creation of a mechanism under the authority of the wali (governor) to monitor the implementation of these projects and the establishment of a development strategy for these regions."

In addition, the participants in the workshop on the assessment and implementation of prevention measures against the covid-19 pandemic proposed "the classification of the covid-19 pandemic as a natural disaster and the establishment of a lockdown roadmap, in addition to the establishment of an effective screening mechanism. The introduction of barrier measures in order to reduce the pressure on hospitals and the permanent and periodic evaluation of the results of the fight against the virus by associating sociologists and psychologists were also recommended".

The participants also advocated "the establishment of a national strategy to combat crime based on a unified database, the creation of a watchdog on crime and social violence, the intensification of proactive actions to combat propaganda and the modernization of methods of intervention and prevention of road accidents."

### ECONOMIC NEWS

#### **Mining projects, opportunity to diversify economy**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Mines, Mohamed Arkab, said Wednesday in Algiers that the development of the mining sector and the exploitation of mining wealth will contribute to the diversification of the national economy and the creation of job opportunities in remote and grey areas.

The main objectives of the newly created Ministry of Mines are to diversify the national economy, create wealth, meet the country's needs for raw materials in addition to exporting the surplus and creating employment opportunities in remote and shadowy areas, Arkab said in his speech to the Government-Governors meeting chaired by the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

He referred, in this sense, to the four axes of the road map of the sector, namely the revision of the mining law to give it more flexibility, give a new dynamic to the sector, review the current mining map throughout the country, develop existing and recently explored mines and train the human resource.

Among the structuring projects, Arkab cited the project to launch gold mining in the wilayas of Tamanrasset and Illizi, which will enable young people in the region to create micro-enterprises and benefit from training in mining.

At the same time, it is envisaged that a gold bank will be set up to collect these stones. The Enterprise for Exploitation of Gold Mines (ENOR) will proceed with the extraction of this precious ore, its evaluation and pay the price for the benefit of the youths who collect them according to the regulations in force, the minister said.

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Also citing the project to develop the Ghar-Djebilet deposit, whose technical studies are in the finalization phase pending the choice of a partner before the end of the year, Arkab specified that this project will help create job opportunities and achieve overall economic development, particularly in the south-western region.

Among the still restructuring projects, Arkab mentioned the zinc and lead mining project at Oued Amizour (Béjaia), whose study is nearing completion, stating that a partner is being sought to begin construction of the basic infrastructure before the first quarter of next year.

### **Pharmaceutical industry: Over 50 million masks produced in 45 days**

*ALGIERS* - More than 50 million protective masks intended for the general public were produced between June 20 and August 1, said Wednesday in Algiers Minister of the Pharmaceutical Industry, Abderrahmane Lotfi Djamel Benbahmed.

Speaking at the Government-Governors meeting, Benbahmed said that production of protective masks against the Covid-19 pandemic had increased from 6.21 million units per week between 14 and 20 June to 8.22 million units per week between 19 and 25 July.

The province of Setif comes first with the production of 15 million units, according to figures presented by the minister.

Concerning new industrial projects in the pharmaceutical sector, Benbahmed reported that preparations are underway for the launching of 40 projects during the period 2020/2022, including four for the production of anti-cancer drugs, one project for injections, four others in the field of biotechnological products and two for the production of insulin.

Algeria had at the end of last year, 97 pharmaceutical production units, spread over 21 provinces, including 49 units in the Centre, 36 in the East and 12 in the West, according to data presented by the Minister.

### **Need to identify energy saving potentials to succeed transition**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Energy Transition and Renewable Energies Chems-Eddine Chitour stressed Thursday, in Algiers, the need for the country to identify energy saving potentials on which it might bank to succeed its energy transition.

Speaking in a meeting with the associative movement, held at the ministry's headquarters, Chitour stressed the need to rationalize energy consumption notably in the sectors of housing and transports in order to progressively decrease the country's strong dependence on fossil energies.

According to the minister, the sectors of housing and tertiary as well as of transports represent 80% of the consumed energies, underlining that this is "enormous," especially as they are not productive sectors.

In this respect, he said Algeria consumes about one ton of oil per house, i.e. the equivalent of 10 million tons for 10,000 houses. To save the energy consumed by households, the Minister

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recommended the installation of solar water heaters, pointing out that the country will implement 100,000 units next year. He considered that it is important to explain to citizens, via social networks and associations, the benefits of this transition that will help decrease their energy bill while making the country win 40% of the energy.

Concerning transport, the minister said that there is much to be done in this sector which consumed 40% of the produced energy. "We import around 2 million tons of fuel for the needs of transports which costs about USD2 billion," he said, suggesting to ban using cars that consume too much fuel.

For his transition plan, he said that Algeria plans the conversion of 200,000 cars to LPG in 2021, saving thereby, according to him, 200,000 tons of fuel.

Concerning the solar plan provided for by the government, it was affirmed that it aims to construct small power plants of 10 to 50 megawatts according to the demand of some sectors like the agriculture, industry and local authorities.

Ensuring that Algeria wants to succeed its energy transition within 10 years, Chitour said that the government relies on the crucial role of associations which have the responsibility, he said, to explain to the citizens the major challenges of the energy transition and sustainable development.

### **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

#### **Beirut explosion: Algeria among first supportive countries**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform, Abderrahmane Benbouzid said Wednesday that Algeria was among the first countries to send a team and medical aid to Lebanon following the explosion of Beirut's port.

"Algeria is among the first countries to send a team and medical aid to Lebanon in solidarity with this brotherly country, following the explosion in the port of Beirut," the minister said, welcoming, together with the Minister Delegate in charge of Hospital Reform, Prof. Ismail Mesbah, the Algerian delegation at the Houari Boumediene International Airport.

On this occasion, the minister recalled that the Algerian mission was made up of specialists in general surgery, neurology, traumatology and burns who provided, alongside their Lebanese colleagues, care to the victims of the explosion".

The Algerian mission had left the country last Thursday in the direction of Beirut, he recalled. By decision of President Tebboune, Algeria had sent four planes loaded with medical aid, blankets and tents for the benefit of Lebanese families who lost their homes following the explosion, the minister added, assuring that "for her (Algeria) this is a duty as it has already done with other countries".

The president of the Algerian medical team, Prof. Kheireddine Bouyoucef, neurosurgeon, affirmed that the mission went well alongside Lebanese medical staff in Beirut hospitals.

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### Sahrawi cause: Taleb Omar praises Algeria's support

*ALGIERS* - Saharawi Ambassador to Algeria, Abdelkader Taleb Omar, praised on Wednesday the efforts of Algeria, leadership, people and political class, in favor of the Sahrawi cause and the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination.

During the audience granted to him by the Secretary General of the National Democratic Rally (RND), Tayeb Zitouni, the Sahrawi ambassador said he "informed the party leadership of the latest developments in the Sahrawi cause which is beginning a decisive turning point."

This meeting stems from "our conviction that the partisan and popular support and rejection, loud and clear, of the policies that the Moroccan regime is trying to impose must be translated into programs and plans of support" to the cause, stressed the Sahrawi diplomat.

Taleb Omar welcomed the "understanding" and "support" he perceived in the leadership of the party, which he described as "friend of the cause ( ) with a certain experience in solidarity with the Saharawi people."

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Sahrawi diplomat said that "the Polisario Front will work to intensify actions of solidarity with the entire political class and civil society, so that the voice of the cause remains audible".

According to him, "it is necessary to draw inspiration from partisan experiences, especially in the field of political training and parliamentary diplomacy."

This requires, adds the Sahrawi diplomat, "more coordination with the Algerian political class," recalling that he "has made contact with several formations with a view to scheduling other meetings.

The member of the national secretariat of the Polisario Front said he was satisfied "with the national consensus in Algeria around the support of the Sahrawi cause."

The Sahrawi cause "which is at a decisive turning point, is facing the obstacles of the Moroccan regime and its attempts to change the status of the territory, which must enjoy its right to self-determination, in order to appropriate it," he lamented.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### *CULTURE*

### Algerian cartoonists at International Comic Strip Fair in Tunisia

*ALGIERS* - A dozen of Algerian cartoonists will participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> International Comic Strip Fair of Tazarka, in Tunisia, to kick off on Thursday, said the event's organizers.

In order to respect the measures of the fight against the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, the fair's organizers opted for the virtual version with online workshops, round tables and a rich video content that will be broadcasted on social networks.

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The works of Bouchra Mokhtari, Nesma Mesbah, Mahrez Si Saber, Ahmed Abzouzi, Sofiane Belaskri, Samir Togui will be highlighted with other Tunisian cartoonists like Abir Gasmi, Noha Habeieb and Chakib Daoud.

Organized by the Tunisian cultural association “Circles of friends of image,” this fair, to be held until 16 August, aims at discovering young talents, accompanying the artistic creativity among children and contributing to the development of visual arts.