

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia



Press Review

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DOMESTIC NEWS

Government-Governors meeting: Rigour in management of local projects

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad on Thursday in Algiers, required rigor in the management of local projects and public expenditure.

"From now on, recurrent and abnormal pavement renewal operations as part of urban redevelopment will no longer be tolerated, as they constitute one of the manifestations of waste," Djerad said at the end of the Government-Governors meeting.

"The time has come to rationalize public spending, to adopt rigorous management of state affairs and to avoid all forms of waste," he added, stressing that it is the responsibility of every official, whether at the central or local level, to ensure the fight against waste, which will save billions of dinars.

In his recommendations to the participants in the Government-Governors meeting, the Prime Minister said that the achievement of the expected objectives and the guarantee of their effectiveness require the mobilization of all energies and close coordination between the major national orientations and local and sectoral programs, as well as mutual assistance with socio-economic partners.

"It is not permissible for the administration to monopolize economic decision-making. There must be openness to the partners because they are more aware of the requirements of managing their affairs. The heart of the economy must be the company itself, not the administration," he said.

As such, Djerad ordered the opening, at the local level, of a permanent dialogue with the employers and representatives of economic enterprises, public or private, without distinction between the two sectors.

Curbing dirty money, modernizing administration to build new Republic

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, highlighted on Thursday, in Algiers, the need to curb dirty money and modernize the administration through digitization to build a new Republic with a developed economy.

"The establishment of the new Republic that we all want is the cornerstone of the action program of the government and local authorities, through the consecration of effective democracy, the launch of a new method of managing institutions and transparency," Djerad said in his speech at the end of the Government-Governors meeting.

The modernization of the State and its institutions through the digitization and availability of statistics is a sine qua non condition to establish the new Republic and build an economy to international standards, he added, calling to "fight against bureaucracy, reorganize the central and

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local administration, improve their competence through digitization, streamline the means and train human resources."

Stressing the need to "moralize political life by fighting corruption and the corrupt," Djerad said that "the corrupt exist at different levels in institutions and administrations and try to hinder the reforms undertaken."

It is essential to "enshrine the rule of law that preserves the rights and freedoms of citizens which are the foundation of the new Republic, without which an economy cannot be built," he said, calling for a true partnership with social actors.

Djerad said that the fight against corruption in all its forms, transparency and moralization of public life will guarantee "the integrity and probity of public officials," which will, he said, "restore the confidence of citizens in their institutions."

In this context, the Prime Minister insisted on the need to establish "a new relationship between the citizen and the State based on the notion of responsibility and accountability."

Grey areas: Nearly 12.000 projects, worth DZD200 billion, registered

ALGIERS - Nearly 11.816 development projects, worth DZD200 billion, were registered in the last six months for the benefit of grey areas, according to a report presented Thursday at the Government- Governors meeting.

According to the final report of the Workshop on "Evaluation of the implementation phases of the shadow zone development program," these development projects concern 9,502 shadow zones with an impact on more than 8.4 million citizens.

The total number of completed operations in this framework amounts to 1,256 projects worth DZD15.95 billion in 1,014 grey areas and benefiting 716,000 citizens.

These completed projects concern several areas, namely drinking water 208, sanitation 293, opening up 170, improvement of schooling conditions 136, electricity and natural gas connections 91, public lighting 73, local health care 60, and the development of sports and recreational areas for young people.

As for the operations in progress, the same report puts forward the figure of 5,280 projects, for a total amount of 95.66 billion DA at the level of 4,205 shadow zones and for the benefit of more than 3.8 million citizens, specifying that most of these projects should be received next October, and for some during the first quarter of the year 2021.

PM, Abdelaziz Djerad, orders to change aspect of grey areas before end of year

ALGIERS - Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, firmly instructed on Thursday walis (governors) and local directors to work towards urgent implementation of development projects in grey areas with a view to changing their aspect by the end of the current year.

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Speaking at the close of the Government-Governors Meeting, Djerad stressed that the catch-up programs in the grey areas, which are one of the pillars of the President's program, were significantly behind schedule in their implementation.

Admitting that this delay can be justified by the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic and the country's economic problems, he nevertheless considered that this delay, "incidentally unacceptable," is also due to the bureaucratic logic of certain local managers who are hindering the government process and the President's program in this area.

According to the figures presented on the second day of the meeting, which began on Wednesday, the number of operations completed under the grey areas development programs amounts to 1,256 projects for a total of DZD15.95 billion in 1,014 grey areas and benefiting 716,000 citizens, out of a total of 11,815 projects registered for a total of DZD207 billion covering 9,502 zones.

In this connection, Djerad ordered the preparation of a precise timetable for development projects in grey areas and the periodic monitoring of their implementation, calling for monthly evaluations to achieve the objectives within the set deadlines.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Four Sonelgaz Group subsidiaries merged

ALGIERS - Merger agreements of four subsidiaries belonging to the Sonelgaz Group were signed on Thursday, in Algiers, to review their organization and restructuring in the light of the financial and health crisis.

The subsidiaries are (CASEG Spa), (CREDEG), (SMT), and (SAT-INFO).

In the same framework, agreements have been signed to transfer the staff of these companies to the parent company.

FOREIGN POLICY NEWS

UAE-Israel Agreement: Several countries express rejection, outrage

ALGIERS - Several countries have expressed their rejection and outrage regarding of the "normalization" agreement between the Arab Emirates and Israel, concluded under the aegis of the United States, described by the Palestinian Authority as a "betrayal" to the Palestinian cause.

"Palestinian leaders reject what the UAE has done. This is a betrayal to Al-Quds and the Palestinian cause," the Palestinian leadership said in a statement, calling for an "emergency meeting" of the Arab League to denounce the US-backed project.

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"This agreement is rejected and condemned. It does not serve the Palestinian cause but is seen as a continuation of the denial of the rights of the Palestinian people," said Hazem Qassem, spokesman for the Palestinian Hamas movement, adding that it is a "blank cheque" for the continuation of the Israeli occupation.

Western Sahara: WFP denies Algerian tax on humanitarian aid

ROME - The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said that food aid for Sahrawi refugees is not subject to any taxation by Algeria, denying the false allegations peddled by the Moroccan embassy in Rome.

The aid delivered to the Sahrawi refugee camps "is not subject to any taxation by the Algerian government and is exempt from value added tax (VAT) in Algeria, as in all other countries where we operate," said the WFP in its response to a note verbale from the said embassy which falsely accused Algeria "to levy a 5% tax on this aid."

The Rome-based UN agency also notes that "the Algerian government's support for the Tindouf camps includes facilitating customs clearance and port operations and the transport of humanitarian supplies to the camps."

As a reminder, the Algerian Ambassador to Brussels, Amar Belani, had formally denied these false allegations, stating that Algerian tax legislation exempts from customs duties and VAT all humanitarian and charitable associations operating in Algeria, in relation to the Algerian Red Crescent.

In its response, WFP "reaffirms the commitment made at the annual session of the Executive Board in June 2019 and the note verbale of 14 May 2020 that humanitarian assistance in the Tindouf camps in Algeria will continue to be provided to people vulnerable to food insecurity, in accordance with the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality."

MISCELLANEOUS

SPORT

Covid-19: Six months for swimmers, qualified for Tokyo Olympics, to get in shape

ALGIERS - National swimming coach, Ali Maansri, believed that six months of training and competitions will be necessary for Algerian swimmers concerned by a qualification for the Tokyo Olympic Games 2021 to get back into shape, after five months off due to coronavirus.

"Six months of preparation will be necessary for our swimmers to get back into shape after five long months off," Maansri told APS.

"The resumption is taking place in good conditions and in compliance with the health protocol put in place by the Federation, in the presence of the health and safety authorities," the national coach added.