

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

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



## **Press Review**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **Army destroys seven home-made bombs in Tebessa**

*ALGIERS* - Detachments of the People's National Army (ANP) destroyed seven home-made bombs on Friday during a search and sweep operation conducted in Tebessa, the Ministry of National Defense said Saturday in a communiqué.

"As part of counterterrorism, detachments of the People's National Army destroyed, on 17 July 2020, seven (07) home-made bombs during a search and sweep operation conducted in Tebessa (5<sup>th</sup> Military Region," said the source.

As part of the fight against smuggling and organized crime, a detachment of the People's National Army, in coordination with the Border Guards, seized a large quantity of cannabis amounting to (02) quintals and (52) kilograms in Bechar (3<sup>rd</sup> Military Region).

Another Army detachment, in coordination with the National Police, seized (1798) psychotropic tablets in Oum El Bouaghi (5<sup>th</sup> Military Region).

Army detachments arrested six (06) individuals in Djanet (4<sup>th</sup> Military Region) and Bordj Badji Mokhtar (6<sup>th</sup> Military Region), and seized two (02) all terrain vehicles, two (02) motorcycles and nine (09) generators, ten (10) jackhammers and three (03) bags of mixed stones and raw gold.

Units of the National Gendarmerie seized one (01) pistol and one (01) shotgun without authorization in Tiaret (2<sup>nd</sup> Military Region), said the source.

Attempts to smuggle (2804) liters of fuel were also thwarted in Tebessa, El Tarf and Souk-Ahras (5<sup>th</sup> Military Region).

Similarly, five (05) illegal immigrants of different nationalities were intercepted in Tlemcen (2<sup>nd</sup> Military Region)," said the source.

### **COVID-19 NEWS**

#### **Over DZD65.5 billion earmarked for fight against Covid-19**

*ALGIERS* - A budget worth DZD65.53 billion has been earmarked for the fight against the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, announced Saturday Finance Minister Aymen Benabderrahmane.

Speaking at the Prime Minister's meeting with social partners and economic operators aimed at setting up a safeguard commission to assess the impact caused by the pandemic of the novel coronavirus, Benabderrahmane said that this amount included DZD12.85 billion allocated to the purchase of means of protection, including DZD12.64 billion intended for the Ministry of Health.

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The amount also includes DZD24.39 billion allotted to exceptional allowances for state employees, with the aim of encouraging the staff mobilized in the fight against the pandemic, particularly in the health sector with DZD16.5 billion, the Interior sector with DZD7.75 billion as well as Finance and National Defense.

The amount of allocations intended for the solidarity allowance for families affected by the pandemic, including the solidarity operation "Ramadhan 2020", stood at more than DZD22 billion, while the amount of allocations for poor families hit DZD24.7 billion.

As for the budget devoted to aid and repatriation of citizens, it amounted DZD03.32 billion, according to the minister who said that Algeria had allocated a budget worth DZD271 million for international cooperation, including DZD258 million as a contribution to the Covid-19 Intervention Fund for Africa.

### **ECONOMIC NEWS**

#### **Prime Minister's meeting with social partners, economic operators opens**

ALGIERS- The meeting of Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad with social partners and economic operators, aimed at implementing a safeguard committee to assess the repercussions caused by the corona virus pandemic, kicked off Saturday morning in Algiers.

This meeting is marked by the participation of several members of the government as well as representatives of employers' unions, professional associations, the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), the National Independent Union of Public Administration Personnel (SNAPAP) and of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES).

This meeting comes to implement the instructions of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune in the Council of ministers of Sunday 12 July 2020 to the Prime minister to set up and chair a safeguard committee in charge of assessing the repercussions caused by the corona virus pandemic on the national economy and which will bring together the social partners and economic operators.”

This committee will prepare a report that will be examined on the agenda of the new meeting of the Council of ministers on 26 July 2020.

#### **Dialogue with socio-economic partners essential for country's recovery from Covid-19 repercussions**

ALGIERS - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad affirmed Saturday, in Algiers, that the dialogue with the socio-economic partners “is a sine qua non condition for the success of the country's recovery process from the repercussions of Covid-19 pandemic.”

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In an opening speech of his meeting with the social partners and economic operators, aimed at creating a safeguard committee to address the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic on the national economy, Djerad said that the creation of the assessment committee is part of the consultation process with the social partners, in accordance with the policy laid down by President of the Republic and enshrined by the Government since the beginning of the health crisis.”

Amidst the multitude of the challenges to take up, Prime minister said that “the dialogue with the social partners and the economic operators remains a sine qua non condition for the success of the country’s recovery process from this crisis,” noting that “this legitimate objective could only be achieved through the joint efforts of the public authorities and social partners in a climate of trust, mutual aid and complementarity at work.”

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This committee will prepare a report that will be examined on the agenda of the new meeting of the Council of Ministers on 26 July 2020.

### **Need to assess Covid-19 repercussions “objectively, without overstatement”**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad stressed Saturday, in Algiers, the need to assess socio-economic effects caused by the Covid-19 pandemic “objectively and without overstatement,” pointing out that the objective is to prepare for the post-Covid-19 and preserve among the companies and workers of a solid commitment in the new battle for the national economic recovery.

“The assessment of this pandemic’s effects must be carried out objectively and without any overstatement,” said Djerad in his opening speech at the works of his meeting with the social partners and economic operators, aimed at setting up a safeguard committee in charge of evaluating the repercussions caused by the new corona virus pandemic.

“The purpose, through this assessment, isn’t to seek the opportunity to access public resources without recompense or to obtain undue advantages, but is rather a question of an essential operation likely to ensure a better distribution of resources,” said the minister.

This assessment is meant to “prepare for the post-health crisis and to preserve among the companies and workers of a solid commitment in the new battle for the economic recovery of our country,” affirmed Djerad.

“We are aware that the socio-economic revival and recovery couldn’t be achieved without balanced companies and sufficient purchasing power for the households in order to boost the economic momentum,” he stressed.

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In this respect, Prime minister recalled the statement of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune in which he underlined that “there is no longer any difference between the public and the private company, but there are rather productive and competitive companies working for the development of the country and the creation of jobs and wealth, and other companies whose only objective is to collect wealth at the expense of investment and the general interest.”

This meeting is marked by the participation of several members of the government as well as representatives of employers’ unions, professional associations, the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), the National Independent Union of Public Administration Personnel (SNAPAP) and of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES).

This meeting comes to implement the instructions of President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune in the Council of Ministers of Sunday 12 July 2020 to the Prime Minister to set up and chair a safeguard committee in charge of assessing the repercussions caused by the corona virus pandemic on the national economy and which will bring together the social partners and economic operators.”

This committee will draw up a report that will be examined on the agenda of the new meeting of the Council of ministers on 26 July 2020.

### **Government commits to protecting jobs, national production capacities**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad affirmed Saturday, in Algiers that the Government has committed to protecting jobs and national production capacities through the protection of workers and public and private companies in these difficult circumstances caused by the health crisis and the socio-economic effects stemming from it.

“The Government makes sure to fully carry out its role in the fight against this pandemic and reaffirms its commitment to protecting jobs and national production capacities through the protection of workers and public and private companies in these difficult circumstances,” said Djerad in his opening speech in the Government’s meeting with the social partners and economic operators aimed at setting up a safeguard committee for the assessment of effects caused by the Covid-19 pandemic on the national economy.

Prime minister reiterated “President of the Republic’s commitment to guaranteeing the total equity when supporting companies and workers in difficulties, whether they are public or private companies.”

“We must face this danger through union and solidarity in order to protect jobs and support the public and private economic sector,” he said.

“Our mission, as workers, unions and members of the Government, consists, as part of this committee, in evaluating the repercussions of the pandemic at the economic and social levels, reaching adequate recommendations and taking complementary decisions necessary to protect

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jobs and production capacities, strongly affected by the most serious health crisis experienced by our country since the independence.”

### **PM installs safeguard commission on assessment of Covid-19 impact on national economy**

*ALGIERS* - Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerad on Saturday installed the commission responsible for assessing the impact of the novel corona virus (Covid- 19) pandemic on the national economy.

The installation ceremony took place ahead of the Prime Minister's meeting with social partners and economic operators, as part of the implementation of the instructions given by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune to the Prime Minister during the Council of Ministers held on Sunday, July 12, to install and chair a safeguard commission tasked with assessing the impact of the corona virus pandemic (COVID-19) on the national economy.

The Prime Minister also installed a working group to prepare the report which will be presented first to the Government Council on 22 July and then as the first item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council of Ministers scheduled for 26 July.

The working group tasked with preparing the report is composed of the President of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES) Reda Tir, in his capacity as chairman of the group, and the Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Foresight Mohamed Cherif Benmihoub, in his capacity as rapporteur, as well as representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Industry, Agriculture and Rural Development, Housing and Urban Planning, Trade, Public Works and Transport, Tourism, Handicrafts and Family Work and Labour, Employment and Social Security.

The working group will comprise six (6) representatives of the workers' unions and six (6) representatives of the employers' unions, which will be appointed before the Commission officially begins its missions today afternoon.

The Prime Minister said that the report will be based "on a forward-looking approach and a different logic from that applied previously”

The report will be "implemented on the ground and will not be theoretical, based on concrete aspects taking into accounting all the data in a clear and precise way.”

Djerad stressed that the Government is adopting a new method to deal with the social and economic partners with a view to "restoring confidence between all parties.”

### **Two-state owned banks to offer Islamic finance products next month**

*ALGIERS* - Two state-owned banks will offer Islamic finance products next month, announced Saturday Finance Minister Aymen Benabderrahmane.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the Prime Minister's meeting with the social partners and economic operators aimed at installing a safeguard commission to assess the impact of the novel

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corona virus pandemic on the national economy, Benabderrahmane said that Islamic finance had become a reality since the Bank of Algeria (BA) promulgated the regulation defining the related operations and the rules of its implementation.

"Two public banks will offer, within the next month, Islamic finance products in accordance with the stipulated conditions," said the source.

According to the Finance Minister, Islamic finance will attract financial liquidity hoarded or circulating on the parallel market and will contribute to the alleviation of the economic impact caused by the pandemic of the novel corona virus in Algeria.

The minister encouraged the creation of private banks with Algerian capital in order to contribute to the attraction of funds from the parallel economy and restore confidence between citizens and their administrative and financial environment.

"We have not seen private banks for more than 15 years. We encourage the creation of private banks with Algerian capital, which will benefit from facilities granted by the Government," said the Minister.