

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

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



## **Press Review**

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

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### **DOMESTIC NEWS**

#### **Government-Governors meeting kicks off under chairmanship of President Tebboune**

*ALGIERS* - The Government-Governors meeting, devoted to assessing the implementation of the President of the Republic instructions, started on Wednesday in Algiers.

This meeting, the second of its kind during the current year after the one organized last mid-February, is being held at the Palace of Nations, under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in the presence of the Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Djerad, members of the government, central and local officials and elected representatives.

It will focus mainly on the evaluation of the stages of implementation of the development of grey areas, the evaluation of the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, local economic development, digitization, statistics and the fight against bureaucracy, as well as preparations for the start of the new social season and the security of goods and people.

These themes will be discussed in interactive workshops at the International Conference Centre, bringing together the various participants and which will be moderated by the governors on an ongoing basis throughout the meeting.

At the end of the two-day meeting (12 and 13 August), a series of operational recommendations will be drawn up to transform the vision of the public authorities into concrete development actions in all sectors.

#### **Civil society, "first ally" to achieve state-building**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said Wednesday in Algiers that civil society remains "the first ally" to achieve "state-building," stressing the "need" to provide all the support and facilities to associations to get more organized.

"I demand, for the umpteenth time, that civil society be involved and helped to organize itself," the President said in an address at the opening of the Government-Governors meeting. The civil society remains the first ally in making state-building a reality, said President Tebboune.

The President of the Republic also ordered the governors and local elected officials to "provide all necessary encouragement, facilities and assistance to civil society associations that wish to organize and structure themselves at the national, state or regional level."

#### **Country's security: President Tebboune denounces "forces of inertia"**

*ALGIERS*- President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, denounced on Wednesday in Algiers "forces of inertia" threatening the stability of the country.

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"There are forces of inertia that are working against the stability of the country and still hope to achieve chaos in the country," said President Tebboune, who chaired the government-walis meeting, the second of its kind since his investiture to the country's supreme magistracy. These investigations are aimed at finding out "who did what?" and "who is blocking," he added.

### **Projects in grey areas: End of office of prefectures chiefs, suspension of APC presidents**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Presidency of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune has signed decrees terminating the functions of several prefectures (Dairas) chiefs and suspending for investigation a number of presidents of the People's Communal Assembly (APC) for not carrying out projects in grey areas, Algerian Television reported on Tuesday evening.

The President of the Republic signed decrees on August 8, 2010 terminating the functions of several prefectures chiefs.

They are as follows: "Nadia Nabi, head of the Daïra of Ouled Ben Abdelkader (Chlef), Mahmoud Gherib, head of the Daïra of Feidh El Botma (Djelfa), Redha Khidher, head of the Daïra of Es-Senia (Oran), Fethi Belmostafa, head of the Daïra of Remka (Relizane).

The suspension decision concerns the following P/APCs: "the APC of Sidi Chahmi (prefecture of Es-Senia, province of Oran), the APC of Souk El Had (prefecture of Ramka, province of Relizane, the APC of Ouled Ben Abdelkader (province of Chlef) and the APC of Oum Laadham (prefecture of Feidh El Botma, province of Djelfa).

The APCs in question will be investigated for these harmful acts harming citizens and not carrying out projects in favor of Zones of Shadow, said the same source.

In the same wake, the functions of the heads of the Habitat and Public Works subdivisions in the prefectures of Ouled Ben Abdelkader (Chlef), Feidh El Botma (Djelfa) and Ouled Derradj (M'sila) were terminated.

Just as the functions of the first person in charge of the subdivision of Water Resources in the prefecture of Ramka (Relizane) have been terminated, the source concluded.

### **President Tebboune chairs meeting to discuss security, financial situation**

*ALGIERS* - President Abdelmadjid Tebboune chaired, on Tuesday at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic, a meeting to discuss security and financial situation in the country, following the liquidity crisis recorded a few days before Al-Eid, said the Presidency.

The meeting took place in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Director of the Presidency of the Republic Cabinet, the Adviser on Legal Affairs to the President of the Republic, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, the Governor of the Bank of Algeria (BA), as well as heads of various security apparatuses.

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### President Tebboune calls to prepare for referendum on revision of Constitution

*ALGIERS* - President of Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune called the members of the Government and walis (governors) on Wednesday, in Algiers, to prepare for the referendum on draft revision of the Constitution, currently in the phase of “collecting proposals.”

In his opening speech of the meeting Government-governors at the Palace of the Nations, President Tebboune said “I call you to prepare for the stage of the referendum (on the draft revision of the Constitution) in order to ensure the best conditions as well as material and psychological means to enable citizens to have their say on the country’s future,” extending his thanks to “all those who contributed to the enrichment of the draft revision of the Constitution among the national personalities, political parties, trade unions, civil associations, university teachers and others.”

I would like particularly to welcome and highly value all the formulated proposals, he added.

In this regard, President Tebboune reaffirmed that the “change claimed by popular Hirak is certainly a peaceful change, but radical which goes through the Constitution, the basis of the State,” pointing out that “the change shouldn’t occur in offices or be the prerogative of a certain group but must emanate from the people who will have the last word and all the freedom to validate or refuse the draft revision of the Constitution.”

In case of refusal, “the former Constitution will be implemented with the determination to make the change,” underlined President Tebboune.

The supporters of the transition period and schemers of other sides are wrong because the train has already set off and will not turn back, he affirmed.

After expressing the ambition to develop “a consensual Constitution,” President of the Republic announced that a “text will be soon published comprising proposals of everyone and each article will include all the proposals, so that to take the proposals of the majority into consideration.”

Once this operation is completed, he added, the amendment of the Constitution will become “a draft,” but currently, “we are still collecting proposals.”

### Fight against terrorism, organized crime: National army makes qualitative results

*ALGIERS* - Units and detachments of the People’s National Army have made, from 5 to 11 August 2020, “qualitative” results which reflect the “high professionalism, vigilance and readiness” of the armed Forces throughout the different Military Regions, said Wednesday a communiqué of the National Defense Ministry.

“As part of the ongoing efforts for the fight against terrorism and against all forms of organized crime, units and detachments of the People’s National Army have made, from 5 to 11 August 2020, qualitative results which reflect the high professionalism, permanent vigilance and readiness of our Armed Forces throughout the different Military Regions,” said the source.

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As part of the fight against terrorism, detachments of the People's National Army "discovered and destroyed three (03) bunkers for terrorists, five (05) homemade bombs, explosives and other objects, in search and combing operations conducted in Boumerdes, Chlef and Medea."

In terms of securing borders and fighting against organized crime, a detachment of the People's National Army "intercepted a big quantity of cannabis resin amounting to 10 quintals in the locality of Erg Iguidi in the province of Adrar," while combined detachments of the People's National Army "arrested , in coordination with the units of the National Police and Customs, five (05) drug traffickers possessing 191.6kg of the same substance in different operations conducted in Naama, Algiers and Ain Defla."

Detachments of the People's National Army and units of the National Gendarmerie "arrested seven (07) drug traffickers possessing 10,300 psychotropic tablets in Constantine, Tebessa, El Oued and In Amenas, while four (04) smugglers were arrested and 20 quintals of tobacco were seized in El Oued and Constantine."

In Tamanrasset and Bordj Badji Mokhtar, detachments of the People's National Army "arrested nine (09) individuals and seized one (01) truck, two (02) all-terrain vehicles, 610kg of copper, 35 generating sets, 19 pneumatic drills and other equipment used in illicit gold panning operations, while a smuggler, who was in a truck loaded with 49728 pyrotechnic articles, was arrested in Ouargla. A quantity of 3677 liters of fuel for smuggling was seized in Tebessa, Souk Ahras, El Tarf and Tindouf."

Coast guards "succeeded in foiling attempts of illegal immigration and rescued 132 individuals in makeshift boat in Tlemcen, Ain Temouchent, Chlef, Skikda, Annaba and El Tarf, while 28 illegal immigrants of different nationalities were arrested in Tlemcen," added the communiqué.

### **28,333 Algerian nationals repatriated since beginning of Covid-19 pandemic**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Interior, Local Authorities and National Planning Kamel Beldjoud underlined Wednesday, in Algiers, the repatriation, since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, of 28,333 Algerian nationals, adding that 95 flights and 4 maritime services were mobilized for these operations.

In his speech on the occasion of the meeting Government-walis at the Palace of Nations, Beldjoud underlined that a budget of DZD3 billion has been allocated for the accommodation and catering of these citizens in hotels."

Concerning the solidarity with people affected by this pandemic, the minister said that "DZD1.7 billion were assigned for the allowance of DZD10,000" pointing out that 483,000 families benefited from the first and second tranches of this allowance ." "232,000 out of a total of 245,000 beneficiaries benefitted from the third tranche," he added.

While broaching the setting up of the crisis committee in each province to follow the situation and ensure the implementation of the Government's instructions in terms of the fight against this pandemic, the minister said that there are more than 1560 units for manufacturing masks and a total of 12 million of protection masks were distributed for free.

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Concerning the control of the respect of prevention measures against Covid-19, the minister said that the different security services checked 1,750,000 people, and a total of 340,000 people are prosecuted, 93,000 vehicles were impounded and 29,000 premises were closed nationwide.

### **State to counter any manoeuvre to arouse popular anger**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune affirmed Wednesday that "State will counter" any maneuver to arouse popular anger through "fomented" protests aimed at undermining national stability under "agendas of known forces."

Speaking at the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Government-Walis Meeting, President Tebboune stressed the need for commitment to dialogue and consultation, "which represents a guarantee for the consolidation of security and stability and a bulwark against the specter of social tensions so much desired by the parties seeking to undermine national stability, by giving concrete expression to the agendas of known forces."

The Head of State also recalled that Algeria was targeted by these forces "which work to arouse the anger of the citizen, who, because of the gap created between him and his State, has become "an easy prey to these suspicious parties and their dirty money."

As for the latest "dubious" incidents coinciding with the rise in temperatures and Eid Al Adha, President Tebboune assured that "their ins and outs will be revealed and their perpetrators prosecuted."

The other incidents include the shortage of cash at post offices. In-depth investigations, which are still ongoing, have revealed astronomical withdrawals in a very short period of time, including the withdrawal of DZD4 billion by a citizen whose income does not exceed 10% of this sum.

The displacement of protest movements "is skillfully orchestrated" by these parties who partake in "a plot to destabilize the country," said President Tebboune.

"There are individuals who are disturbed by the stability of the country and vainly hope for a massive return. This return is impossible because the people went to the streets and their will is invincible," the Head of State said.

Affirming that the majority of citizens are aware of the importance of preserving national stability, President Tebboune said that "those who are plotting against the country today are the same ones who have transferred billions abroad."

"We are determined to combat them and eradicate the dirty money and the remnants of the 'Issaba' (gang)," he continued.

These fomented protests aims to "provoke the people's anger to deprive them of their right to radial change and to deprive the elite of the opportunity to participate in the management of the country's affairs, in a new state of mind incompatible with the policy of tinkering and window dressing."

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"The pursuit of the battle for radical change, with its logic, its tools and its men ready to make sacrifices is irreversible and the only way to achieve it consists in the adoption of a participatory approach combining realistic ambitions and the sincere desire for its gradual implementation in order to break with the obsolete practices of the past, and give a new impetus to Algeria," stressed the President of the Republic.

### **Dismissal of local officials marks beginning of accountability process**

*ALGIERS* - The decisions to dismiss some local officials represent "the beginning" of a process that consists in holding accountable those who have shown "passivity" in addressing the concerns and problems of the citizens living in grey areas, President of the Republic Abdelamdjid affirmed on Wednesday.

"Partial decisions have been taken (...) to dismiss some local officials. It is just the beginning because we will hold accountable all those who do not deal with the concerns of citizens and do not resolve the problems of citizens," said the President of the Republic in a speech at the inauguration of the Government-Walis meeting.

"I cannot understand that in 2020 and despite the blessed popular movement (Hirak) and the decisions taken by the State to improve the daily-life of citizens, horrible images, about which citizens have complained in the recent years, still remain."

In this regard, the Head of State said that those behaviours are "a continuation of the negative speech advocated by the band."

## **ECONOMIC NEWS**

### **Covid-19: Saïdal begins production of more Hydroxychloroquine**

*ALGIERS* - Minister Delegate for the Pharmaceutical Industry, Lotfi Benbahmed, announced Tuesday in Algiers that the SAIDAL Pharmaceutical Group has started the production of more quantities of Hydroxychloroquine, intended for the treatment of people suffering from Corona virus.

During a visit to the production site of Saïdal in El-Harrach, Benbahmed said that the first batch of nearly 300,000 boxes will be given free of charge to the Central Hospital Pharmacy (PCH).

He said, in this regard, that efforts will continue, particularly through the Algerian diplomatic mission in India, to acquire the raw materials necessary for the manufacture of other batches of this drug by national companies.

Algeria has sufficient stocks of hydroxychloroquine exceeding 220,000 boxes at the PCH level, but "we must anticipate any possible demand," the Minister added.

In addition, local capacities for the production of the antibiotic Azithromycin, protective masks and hydroalcoholic gel are at sufficient levels in relation to needs, he maintained.

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With regard to the Corona vaccine, the Minister Delegate said that work is under way at the level of a joint commission composed of all the parties concerned and led by the Ministry of Health and PCH, in order to monitor and identify vaccine production projects.

To date, this commission has identified about fifteen concrete projects in the experimentation phase, he said, mentioning contacts with most laboratories through the Pasteur Institute and diplomatic missions in order to obtain the vaccine as quickly as possible.

### **Military industry: 282 Mercedes-Benz trucks delivered**

*ALGIERS* - 282 Mercedes-Benz trucks, locally produced, were delivered Tuesday to the Central Material Directorate at the Ministry of National Defense (MDN), as well as public and private civilian economic enterprises.

Intended for the transport of personnel and goods, these trucks were manufactured by the Algerian Company for the Production of Heavy Duty Mercedes-Benz (SPA SAPPL-Rouiba).

This new operation is part of the development process of the various military industries, particularly the mechanical industry, in accordance with the national program aimed at promoting national production and meeting the needs of the DND structures and the various national public and private companies, and under the direct supervision of the Directorate of Military Manufacturing of the National Defense Ministry.

In a speech during the ceremony of signing of the delivery protocols with the representatives of concerned organizations and institutions, the Director General of Algerian Motors services-Mercedes Benz (AMS-MB), specialized in sales and after-sales services, Hamoud Tazrouti, said that 221 trucks out of a total of 282 were delivered to the benefit of the Central Directorate of Equipment of the Ministry of National Defence.

The delivery included 22 trucks to the company Zaccar, 21 to consider canalization, 07 to consider carriers and 11 others to the benefit of 06 private companies from different economic sectors; he said adding that this delivery is part of the efforts of all Algerian manufacturing companies.

In addition, the company plans to launch the marketing and distribution of a new Mercedes-Benz product on the Algerian market, namely the Accelo 915C, a 9-tonne multi-functional vehicle.

New Mercedes-Benz trucks will soon be produced, including the 20 and 33-tonne 'Actros', Tazrouti said, adding that they have been tested under the most difficult conditions and equipped with innovative technologies.

In the same vein, the same official reported on the production of 14 and 17-tonne "Atego" trucks and the forthcoming marketing of the "Zetros" tractor truck.

As the marketing of Mercedes-Benz products continues to increase, a distribution network has been set up in six provinces, initially Tlemcen, Tiaret and Sétif, whose unit will be operational in

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a few months' time, then Ouargla, Oran and Béchar, he said, adding that a network of authorized distributors is envisaged and the selection process is nearing completion in accordance with the standards of the German partner Daimler.

After the signature of the delivery protocol, the representative of the Central Materiel Directorate of the National Defense Ministry, Commander Bourezma Mustapha said that the new acquisition operation comes within the framework of the strategy of the High Command of the army to make available to all the units, throughout the territory, sophisticated equipment enabling them to properly carry out their missions.

During this operation, the Central Materiel Directorate of the MDN received 221 trucks of all types, which will be distributed to the units deployed at the borders and in charge of missions to protect the territorial integrity of the country and the security of citizens and their property.

### **Covid-19: National companies' energy losses near DZD125 billion**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar announced Wednesday, in Algiers, that the losses of the national companies in energy are estimated at about DZD125 billion because of the spread of the corona virus pandemic.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting Government-walis (governors), chaired by President of the Republic Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Attar said that the national economy and notably oil market are experiencing a difficult period, marked by the drop in prices and fall in the global demand since the end of the first quarter 2020, because of the spread of the new corona virus pandemic, negatively affecting the national economy.

The State revenue from hydrocarbon exports decreased by about 40% in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period a year earlier, he said, adding that the losses recorded by the companies of the energy sector, because of the spread of the corona virus pandemic, near DZD125 billion.

All these factors worsen the situation, notably in the face of the growing rise in the local demand for energy with about 7% per year, said the minister.

To address this situation, the sector of energy has taken a series of short-term measures to review its forecasts, notably the reduction of the investment and operating expenditure, while preserving the level of energy production and guaranteeing supply, he stressed.

The sector of energy also adopted a revival strategy, as part of the Government program based mainly on the priority axes, inspired by the program of President of the Republic.

### **Gas exports to decrease to 30 billion m<sup>3</sup> as from 2030**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Energy Abdelmadjid Attar announced Wednesday that Algeria's future gas exports would decrease as from 2025 and would be reduced to 25 to 30 billion cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) from 2030.

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Some media that quoted me “sowed great confusion” on Algeria's future gas exports by writing 25 billion m<sup>3</sup> as from 2025, and this is “completely wrong,” Attar told APS on the sidelines of the Government-Walis meeting.

The Minister of Energy stated that with “the proven reserves remaining at present and the increase in domestic consumption, Sonatrach group will reduce gas exports as from 2025 and will export only 25 to 30 billion m<sup>3</sup> as from 2030, not 2025.”

Attar also stressed the need “to explore, improve recovery rates and why not go to shale gas, if necessary, because of domestic needs beyond 2030.”