

Politics

Libyan PM says decision to remove fuel subsidies will be put to a poll



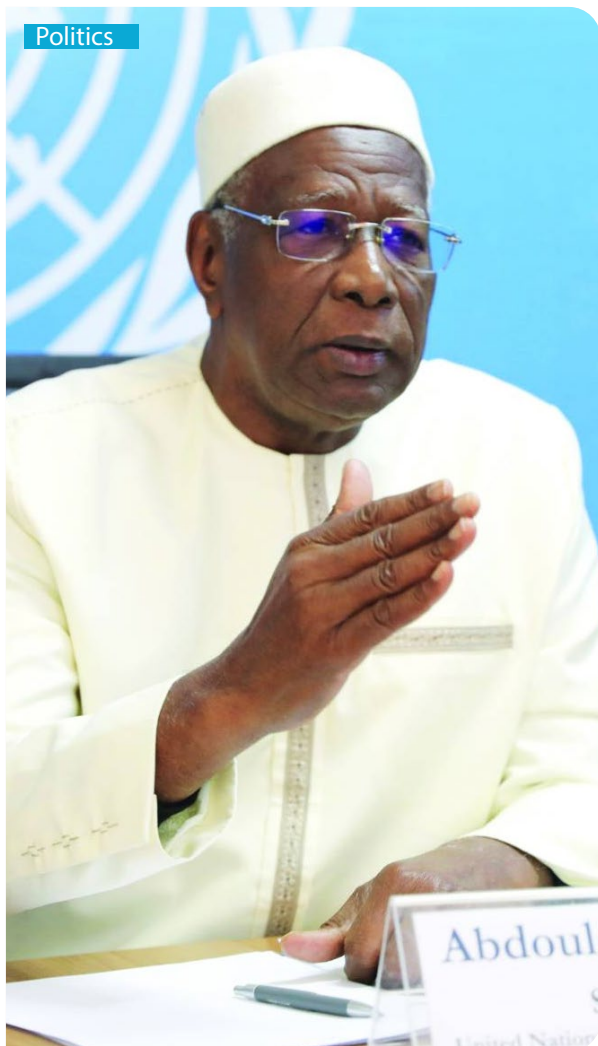
The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah confirmed that his government will put the issue of removing fuel subsidies to a public survey to poll the opinion of Libyans regarding this issue and reach the best solution. Dbeibah said in his speech during his participation in the third edition of the local council heads' forum in Libya in Tripoli that he was ready to receive the people's opinions regarding removing fuel subsidies, adding that the door to discussion would be open regarding the method to prevent wasting resources and blocking smugglers illicit work.

He said he would supervise the results of the poll personally because the issue is a national project that is in the interest of everyone, confirming that his government would give citizens the price of fuel, whether through "a sum of money or a coupon".

The Libyan PM believed that the subsidy problem had accumulated over 50 years until it was exploited, adding that "it is unreasonable for us to spend 60 billion on subsidies and have them go outside the borders and overseas. Therefore, our project is to prevent smugglers and deliver gasoline to citizens only".

Dbeibah said earlier that the decision to remove fuel subsidies had been taken and was irreversible, then he doubled down and confirmed that the government would not take a similar decision without raising the issue in a survey to hear from the people.

Politics



UN envoy renews call on Libyan leaders to sit for dialogue to agree on elections

The United Nations (UN) envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily held a number of meetings on Tuesday with the ambassadors of France, Germany, Egypt, the Netherlands, and Tunisia, dealing with developments in the political situation in Libya, and renewed his invitation to Libyan leaders to sit for dialogue. Bathily said on X platform on Tuesday that he had exchanged views with Ambassador Mostafa Mihraje of France and discussed the political, economic and security situation, saying he had urged all Libyan leaders to rise to the challenge of engaging in dialogue to avert the many risks facing their motherland. He said they renewed their shared commitment to all axes of the peace process, including the security track.

"I also reviewed with Ambassador Michael Ohnmacht of Germany the political, security & economic situation in Libya. We renewed our call on Libyan leaders to join the dialogue process to end the crisis, hold elections, and give peace, stability and prosperity in Libya a chance," Bathily said.

He also indicated that he had consulted with Ambassador Al-Asaad Al-Ajili of Tunisia and reviewed the current situation in Libya, as well as UNSMIL response to current challenges. He said he had welcomed Tunisia's support for UNSMIL efforts and renewed their call for a political settlement to overcome the crisis.

He also met with Ambassador Joost Klarenbeek of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and reviewed the current situation in the country and agreed to call on Libyan leaders to commit to a settlement to put an end to the crisis by agreeing to sit around the negotiations table.

"Ambassador Tamer Mostafa of Egypt. We reviewed current political, security & economic developments in Libya. I stressed the need for all regional and international partners to engage positively for a political settlement paving the way for elections." He added.

Politics

Congolese President sends letter to Libyan PM

The President of Congo-Brazzaville, Chairman of the African High-Level Committee on Libya, Denis Sassou Nguesso, sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and it was delivered by Congolese Foreign Minister Jean-Claude Gakosso to the acting Foreign Minister Al-Taher Al-Baour during their meeting at the ministry's headquarters in Tripoli, on Monday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on its Facebook page that the meeting touched upon a number of issues related to the prominent and serious role of the African Union in resolving the Libyan crisis, especially the national reconciliation file and the role played by the Congo, through its President, who is appointed by the African Union Commission to handle the Libyan crisis file.

The meeting also dealt with restoring Libya's effective and important role in Africa to help in addressing the issues and crises of the member states of the African Union and contribute to resolving regional and international issues, in addition to a number of other important issues.

The Congolese Foreign Minister, accompanied by representatives of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, participated in the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the National Reconciliation Conference, which was held in the city of Zuwara in the west of the country. The meeting was headed by Presidential Council's Deputy Head Abdullah Al-Lafi.

The Congolese Foreign Minister met in Tripoli with the Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, and also handed him a letter from President Nguesso. He also met with the Head of the High Council of State, Mohammed Takala, to discuss developments in national reconciliation.

Politics

British ambassador says cooperation with international community on Libya is necessary

The British Ambassador to Libya, Martin Longden, stressed the necessity of cooperating with the international community to resolve the Libyan issue in order to preserve the unity of Libya and ensure its stability.

These remarks came in a meeting between Longden and the Deputy Head of the Presidential Council, Mossa Al-Koni, on Thursday, as Longden stressed the British government's support for the efforts of the Presidential Council that aim to achieve stability in Libya by discussing the latest developments, and working with the Presidential Council to end the political impasse.

Al-Koni reiterated the need for the international community to play its role in achieving the aspirations of the Libyan people by ending the transitional stages and holding fair elections whose results are satisfactory to all parties, leading to the election of a president who will lead the country to safety.

He pointed out the necessity of supporting Libya in securing its southern borders, and giving it the logistical capabilities that qualify the border guards to carry out their tasks.

The two sides also discussed the situation in neighboring countries that are witnessing a state of instability such as Sudan and Niger, and the repercussions on the fragile situation in southern Libya, which has become a hub for smuggling operations, illegal immigration, and organized crime.

Politics

Al-Lafi reviews Libya's political developments with Japanese Chargé d'Affaires

The Vice President of Libya's Presidential Council, Abdullah Al-Lafi, met with the Chargé d'Affaires at the Japanese Embassy in Libya, Masaki Amadera.

They discussed the progress of Libya's political process and national reconciliation, as well as ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Japanese envoy also updated Al-Lafi on the steps taken to resume embassy operations in Tripoli.

Politics



US envoy: National reconciliation is necessary for achieving lasting peace in Libya

The US Special Envoy Richard Norland followed with interest the preparatory meeting for the national reconciliation conference planned for this spring in Libya, the US embassy in Libya said on X platform.

"As we have shared with PC Vice President Lafi and Congo's Foreign Minister Gakosso, the United States is eager to work with the Presidential Council and the African Union in support of this vital component of the

political process," Norland said.

He added that achieving reconciliation at the national and local levels is essential to laying the groundwork for lasting peace in Libya.

The Preparatory Committee for the National Reconciliation Conference concluded last Monday its fourth meeting, which was hosted by the city of Zuwara, and was attended by Al-Lafi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Congo Brazzaville, Jean-

Claude Gakosso, UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily, among others.

The participants in the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the National Reconciliation Conference discussed a number of organizational issues related to the committee's work mechanism in preparation for the comprehensive conference scheduled to be held at the end of next April in the city of Sirte.

Politics



Human Rights Watch calls on Lebanon to release Hannibal Gaddafi

Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday that Lebanese authorities should immediately release Hannibal Gaddafi, Muammar Gaddafi's son, who has been held in pretrial detention on spurious charges since his arrest in December 2015.

"Hannibal Gaddafi's apparent arbitrary detention on spurious charges after spending eight years in pretrial detention makes a mockery of Lebanon's already strained judicial system," said

Hanan Salah, associate Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

Salah added that "Lebanese authorities have long since exhausted any justification for continuing to detain him and should drop charges and release him." According to Human Rights Watch, about 80% of Lebanon's prison population is in pretrial detention, some held for many years and without charge.



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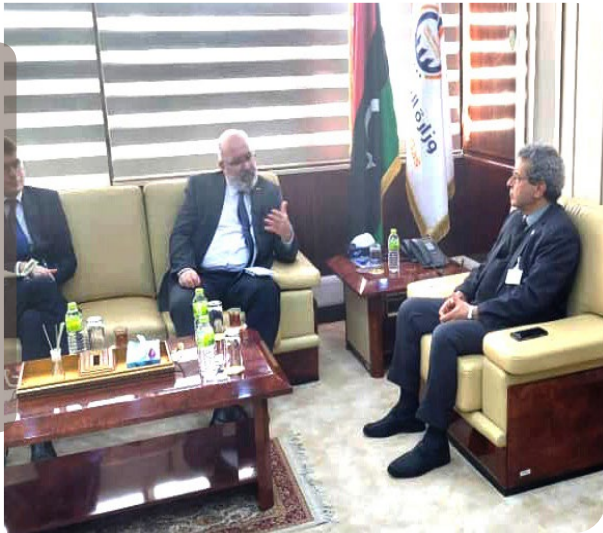
Menfi, French ambassador discuss path to elections and political stability

The Head of the Presidential Council (PC), Mohammed Menfi, commended the supportive role of France in the Libyan cause and its efforts to facilitate the upcoming mandates, including conducting the planned parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously. Menfi further acknowledged France's

endeavours towards resolving the long-standing Libyan crisis through political solution pathways.

On Wednesday, Menfi met with the French Ambassador to Libya, Mustafa Mehreg, to discuss recent political, economic, and military developments in Libya.

Per a PC statement, the French Ambassador appreciated Menfi's role in bridging differences among various Libyan parties. He also lauded the President's continuous efforts to lead the country towards stability through free and transparent elections that include all Libyans without any exclusionary biases.



Economy

Minister of Oil discusses with British Ambassador ways to increase Libyan production

The Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, has discussed with the British Ambassador to Libya, Martin Longden, ways to increase oil and gas production and ways to develop the sector.

Both sides discussed the ministry's planned goals to reach the production and export of 2 million barrels, reviewing joint cooperation between the two countries to benefit from the training opportunities and experience gained in the oil and gas industry.

The Minister of Oil gave an overview of the most important activities of the sector and the role played by the Ministry of Oil and Gas in supervising and monitoring the sector to develop and improve its performance.

Economy



Mellitah Oil and Gas set to boost production to over 200,000 barrels daily, NOC predicts

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) anticipates an increase in Mellitah Oil and Gas Company's daily crude oil production, expected to surpass 200,000 barrels.

This forecast was revealed during the company's annual meeting, presided over by the Corporation's Chairman, Farhat Bengdara.

The plan involves increasing current production by 30,000 barrels, exceeding the current level of approximately 186,000 barrels per day.

Bengdara lauded the company's achievements in connecting several oil and gas wells in the Al Wafa field and maintaining other wells to boost production levels.

The meeting grouped board members, the management committee, department heads of Mellitah Oil and Gas, and the head of the Monitoring Authority."

Economy

Turkey proposes contribution to energy, electricity infrastructure projects in Libya



Turkey offered to contribute to energy infrastructure projects in Libya, as well as electricity transmission and distribution projects, adding through a statement by the Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Alparslan Bayraktar, to Anadolu Agency, that the two countries will improve cooperation relations in the field of energy.

Bayraktar indicated in his statement on the sidelines of his participation in the Libya Energy and Economic Summit that the Turkish-Libyan relations extend back to 500 years, indicating that Turkish activities in the field of energy have gained greater importance after the maritime agreement signed in 2019.

He also pointed out that his country signed a memorandum of

understanding with Libya's Government of National Unity last year in the field of oil and gas, saying that he accompanied officials from companies in the public and private sectors in Turkey during his visit to Libya to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy, oil and natural gas, as well as mines and electricity.

Bayraktar said that Turkey and Libya will continue their cooperation in many fields in a sustainable and long-term manner, including the field of energy, stressing that Turkey is motivating its companies to invest in Libya because the resources in Libya will make a significant contribution to the development of the Libyan people and the country.



Economy

Libyan PM says development Hamada oilfield must continue

The Libyan Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, stressed the necessity of continuing with the procedures for developing Hamada oilfield after addressing any technical or legal observations in accordance with what was agreed upon at the tenth meeting of the Supreme Council for Energy Affairs.

Dbeibah underscored the need to ensure the transparency and soundness of the procedures in this regard, stressing during a meeting held on Tuesday with the Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, Farhat Bengdara, and the Minister of Transportation, Mohammed

Al-Shahoubi, and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Adel Jumua, at the Prime Minister's Office in Tripoli, the necessity of investing in the field of oil and gas with the aim of raising production and benefiting from the reserve through exploration and development. Dbeibah also called for the necessity of continuing to evaluate priority and economic feasibility while increasing disclosure and transparency in all oil projects. He stressed the need to adhere to all observations received from regulatory authorities regarding strategic projects, and to continue to implement investment projects, calling for

benefiting from all global experiences and creating partnerships with national companies to raise their efficiency.

The media office of the Prime Minister said that Bengdara confirmed during the meeting that the National Oil Corporation had been working to activate development and exploration projects that were stalled for years without justification, and to create global partnerships with the aim of increasing oil and gas production. He and Dbeibah warned that oil sector projects required large funds and needed foreign investors to ensure their implementation according to the approved timetables.



Economy

Dbeibah at Libya Summit for Economy and Energy: We have a plan to double oil output

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has said that his government has developed plans to double oil production, develop the infrastructure of oil fields, and expand explorations in a way that supports the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the national economy.

In his speech during the launching of the Libya Economy and Energy Summit in Tripoli on Saturday, Dbeibah stressed that they had been working on removing the obstacles facing the energy sector.

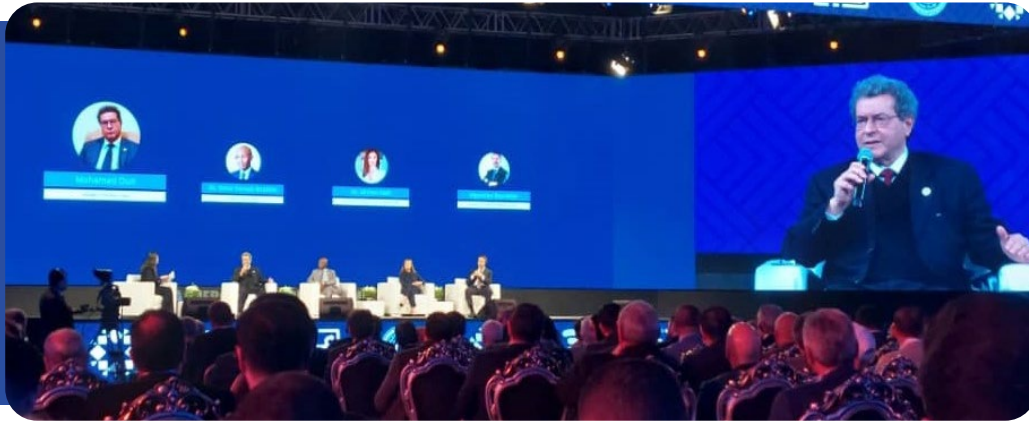
"Our government seeks stability, im-

proving the investment environment, and encouraging capital to work in Libya," he said, considering that his government's "Restoration of Life" projects enhanced stability in the country, and adding that the electrical energy issue was a major challenge, while the government had made efforts to stabilize the electricity network.

Dbeibah underscored the interest in searching for alternative and renewable energy sources, including the use of solar energy technology by exploiting Libya's potential to establish the largest solar energy fields in the

region, stressing that they are working on placing Libya at the forefront of "the superior countries in this field, while exporting its surplus to neighboring countries in Africa and the Mediterranean region.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, said that Libya possessed a very large reserve of oil and gas, and that what constituted 40% of Libya's area had not yet been explored, indicating that Libya "is full of enormous wealth that has not yet been discovered."



Economy

Aoun: Libya possesses significant unexplored oil shale reserves

Minister of Oil and Gas Mohammad Aoun said on Saturday that Libya holds substantial quantities of shale fuel in unexplored locations, adding that over 30% of Libyan territory remains unexplored.

During his speech at the Libya Energy and Economy Summit in Tripoli, Aoun confirmed that a committee has begun to undertake the exploration task and reached preliminary results. "We plan to conduct a drilling test in one of the wells to verify these findings in the coming days," the minister said.

He emphasized the ongoing need for fossil fuels, noting that despite the global shift towards new or alternative energy

sources, OPEC reports confirm that the demand for fossil fuels will continue and even increase until 2045.

Aoun also stressed the importance of addressing the environmental impacts of fossil fuels in parallel with developing alternative energies, describing it as the optimal solution, as he underscored the necessity of relying on gas in the transition to renewable energy.

Highlighting Africa's vast gas reserves, Aoun affirmed the continent's potential, evidenced by efforts to establish gas pipelines from Nigeria to Europe, leveraging Nigeria's substantial gas reserves.

Economy



El Feel Oil Field obtains ISO certification

Mellitah Oil and Gas Company announced that El Feel Oil Field has obtained the International Organization for Environmental Standards (ISO) certification.

The company said in a statement that obtaining this certificate for the field comes in line with its goals to preserve the environment in its operational sites and neighbouring areas.

According to the statement, the company's General Safety Department, in cooperation with all departments, initiated procedures for the field to obtain the certificate during 2023, and this step was crowned with success on January 8th.

Economy



Libya, Egypt explore collaboration in anti-money laundering

The Central Bank of Libya Governor, Saddek Elkaber, convened with his Egyptian counterpart, Hassan Abdallah, on Monday in Cairo.

Discussions focused on exchanging banking and financial expertise and strengthening cooperation in anti-money laundering and terrorist financing.

Talks also encompassed a range of mutual concerns, including regional and international economic developments.



Opinions

Can the jinn be brought to face justice?

By Abdullah Alkabir,
a Libyan political writer and commentator

In less than two years, all the country's crises, all the suffering, and all the misfortunes that caused people to lose their minds and turned their days into a long, endless nights, will end and become nothing more than harsh memories, remembered by the citizen accompanied by a prayer: What dark days they were!... May God not bring them back.

After God granted them success and guided them to the righteous path, members of the House of Representatives (HoR) were guided to enact a law criminalizing witchcraft, and to approve deterrent penalties for witchcrafts and sorcerers, so that this law would be the first essential step towards ending the conflict over election laws, restoring justice, eliminating corruption, and returning Libya to classification lists in terms of quality of education, to occupy the highest positions with similar standards as that of Singapore, Malaysia, and Korea, the elimination of inflation, the decline in prices of goods and services, the unification of state institutions, the return of harmony and cohesion between the legislative authority and the executive authority, the restoration of the Libyan dinar's prestige and its strength in the face of all currencies, and the solution of the dilemma of sovereign positions, the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign forces from all Libyan military bases, and the punishment of criminals who ignited the flames of war among Libyans and dug mass graves for them, and other issues and dilemmas.

All streets and squares should rather now celebrate, set off fireworks, and the government announce the granting of three days off to all employees and workers, except for those whose nature of their jobs require work even on holidays, such as hospitals, civil defense, police, and airports. A decree must be issued by the Presidential Council adding the day of the law's adoption (January 9th) as an immortal national day, what comes after the 9th of January will be a huge historical transformation, which generations will remember with great pride, and the representatives who voted to adopt the law will be immortalized with models in the wax museum (madame tussauds).

The bankrupt remnants of secularists and socialists will direct their criticism of the law, as is their habit, to trivialize every approach that serves the people, by challenging its validity and belittling its importance. They will claim that reducing the influence of magic on people is achieved automatically by

improving people's economic conditions. According to scientific studies, divorce cases will decrease by no less than 52% if families are able to secure an income that meets their needs, and social tension will decrease by achieving the maximum degree of social justice and reducing the prevailing disparities today, between the rich and the low-income people, hatred between members of society will be reduced, and developing society culturally is the most effective weapon in confronting all negative phenomena.

A lot of nonsense and strange ideas will be launched by those who philosophize, and they try to question, as usual, everything that does not agree with their ideas and trends.

One of the incidental and probable results of the anti-witchcraft law is that Salafism of obedience to the ruler, will be devoted to meetings and lectures to spread the great benefits of obedience to the ruler, no matter how much he has delved into the blood of the people, plundered their money, destroyed their present and future, submitted to their enemy, no matter how many violations and crimes he committed, and to shun away from demonstrations, protests, sit-ins, and other heresies, as the pursuit of the remains of cans and envelopes in cemeteries across the country, consumed much of their time.

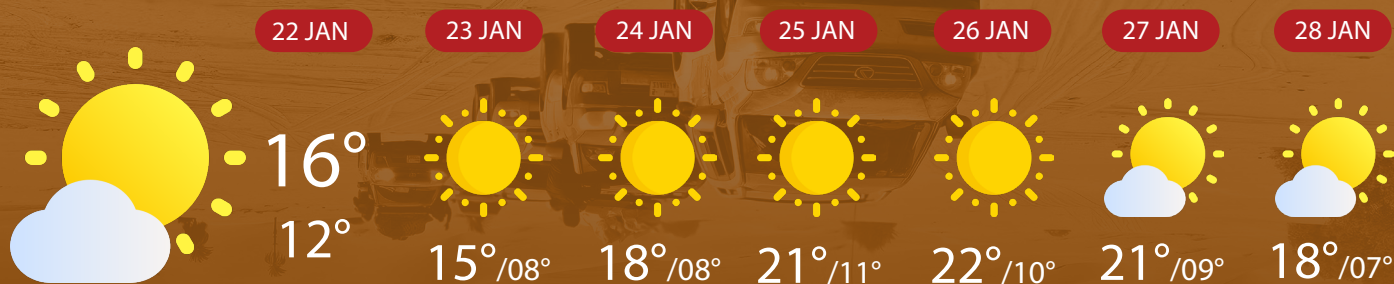
What is now required of specialists, in reference to the law, is to lay down the foundations for interpreting the articles of the law, which is not an easy requirement, because there is an ambiguity that needs to be clarified, and there are many questions awaiting answers. The witchcrafts seek help from the jinn to fulfill their needs, and then the jinn becomes a partner in this dark work. So, what is the way to bring any accused jinn to face justice? The same situation applies if a jinn is summoned to testify in a case; Is there a way to do that? How can its honesty be verified if justice is able to bring it to testify? Who can prove that a certain citizen was targeted by witchcraft, and that the signs of his going in lapses or insane are symptoms of this witchcraft, and not because of a love relationship that ended in failure, or because of expired Tramadol?

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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