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Georgian Dream nominates MP candidates



"The Georgian Dream is still able to take the responsibility of running the country," Ivanishvili said.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The ruling party Georgian Dream nominated MP candidates at the ceremony held on 20th July in Kojori. The ruling party presented the list of majoritarian candidates – including 29 men and one woman – for newly redrawn 30 single-mandate districts for upcoming parliamentary polls due in October.

In Tbilisi's majoritarian districts Beka Odisharia will run for Mtatsminda and Krtsanisi district; Nodar Turdzeladze for Vake; Davit Sergeenko, former healthcare minister - for Saburtalo; Kakhi Kakhishvili for Isani; Sozar Subari for Samgori; Gia Volski for Didube and Chughureti; Levan Kobiashvili for Gldani; Mikheil Kavelashvili for Nadzaladevi.

Georgian Dream started its official campaign for the 2020 parliamentary elections yesterday. Chairman of the party Bidzina Ivanishvili made his first appearance in the last 8 months at the event. He addressed the attendees, including party members, nominees and party supporters during the official opening of the ruling party's election campaign.

"The team that is in power today is still able to take on the responsibility of running the country," Ivanishvili announced.

The leader of the ruling party began his speech with gratitude, thanking the doctors, the government and the people, who he said during the pandemic "showed

a high public culture, trusted the government and united around it."

According to Ivanishvili, during his tenure in power, the Georgian Dream team took the country forward in many directions: "Progress is visible in practically every area. No one is under the illusion that the problems have been sorted out and no longer exist. Much remains to be done to ensure that the country continues to develop irreversibly."

Ivanishvili underlined that Georgia has maintained peace, stability and deservedly joined the ranks of safe countries for the last 8 years. According to him, the main challenge in Georgia is still

economic problems and the country's progress has no price if each family/individual is not strengthened. That's why, he explained, education has been put number one on the priority list and a quarter of the budget will be spent on it: "Education and economic prosperity - this will be the action plan and goal of the Georgian family in the coming years. We already have solid foundations and now need strengthening."

Bidzina Ivanishvili named education and economic prosperity as the Georgian Dream's action plan and goal for the coming years.

"It is the nature of Georgians to strive

for progress and development, so we are always committed to the European and Euro-Atlantic course, which is conditioned by the unshakable will of the Georgian people and which is the foundation of our state," said the leader of the party. He thanked the Western friends, the European Union and the strategic partner US for their support of the country.

Ivanishvili also said that we live in difficult times, in a difficult region and in a politically difficult neighborhood and we are obliged to minimize the risks and avoid all possible provocations that could harm the stability and peaceful development of the country. According to him, Georgia should use all international levers for unification: "We must return the Abkhaz and Ossetian brothers to us peacefully, through the establishment of trust, reconciliation and respect."

Ivanishvili is confident that the Georgian Dream will win the parliamentary elections this fall. He emphasized that during the crisis, "people realized that the government cares for them."

"Let us continue to build our country together, to move forward together towards Europe, to build democracy together and to walk together towards our united and strong, our dream Georgia," Ivanishvili said.

He also compared the current and previous governments of the country to each other. According to Ivanishvili, in the



Georgian Dream MP Candidates Gathered in Bioli Complex in Kojori.

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MFA denies the allegation of Azerbaijan's media about weapons being transported to Armenia through Georgia



According to Georgian authorities, the article contains disinformation.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA
One of Azerbaijan's media sources haqqin.az has published an article, stating the weapons used during the border clash between Armenia and Azerbaijan to have been transported from Serbia to Armenia through Georgia. Georgian side denies the information given in the article and shares a disclaiming statement.

In the article published by

Haqqin.az regarding the border clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the media states that Armenia started preparing for the attack on Azerbaijan a couple of days in advance and received combat assistance from Serbia through Georgia. However, official Azerbaijan does not share a statement about this.

"One of Azerbaijan's media outlets has published a misleading article which contains a lot of inaccuracies. It is unfortunate

that a seemingly serious media source partially describes facts, leads society into deception and tries to cast a shade on the strategic partnership and friendship of Azerbaijan and Georgia. Once again, we stress that Georgia and Azerbaijan are connected with each other by long-term friendship and strategic partnership that is developing," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia stated and added that the mentioned article is directed at

creating problems artificially between two partner countries.

Based on the information spread around social media, haqqin.az states that Armenia has also received Kamazi brand vehicles loaded with combat equipment from Russia through Georgian transporting roads.

The article notes that regardless of risks of foreign politics, Azerbaijan supported Georgia in 2008 and according to the position of the media, against this background 'Georgia's behavior is bemusing.'

"Couple years ago Georgia banned transportation of combat

cargo to Armenia through their country and why was Serbia an exception this time? How come Tbilisi did not know where Armenia would direct all this combat material?" reads the Haqqin.az article.

The article also says that Georgia has made numerous mistakes towards Azerbaijan, however, the countries have a friendship of centuries "destruction of which is not that easy." Lastly, they note that they are waiting for Baku's demands for an official explanation from Georgia regarding the issue.



Flags of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.

GYLA once again appeals the amendments to the Law on Public Health to the Constitutional Court

BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

On May 25th, 2020, the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association filed a lawsuit in the Constitutional Court on behalf of Paata Diasamidze, requesting that the amendments to the Law on Public Health be declared unconstitutional. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association the Parliament of Georgia did not listen to several organizations, including GYLA, not to initiate changes in the Law of Georgia on Public Health. Accordingly, the organization decided to appeal the amendments to the law

to the Constitutional Court.

GYLA stated that according to the law, the Parliament of Georgia delegated to the Government of Georgia the power to restrict the right to work and freedom of movement. The document was signed by the President of Georgia on May 23rd. Under the law, the government had the right to impose a number of restrictions, including travel, for 54 days from July 15th onwards.

"The lawsuit was accepted by the Constitutional Court on June 5th, 2020, but by July 15th, 2020, the Constitutional Court was unable to complete the case. On July 14th, 2020, the Parliament of Georgia extended the term of office delegated to the Government until January 1st, 2021. GYLA reiterates that the delegation of powers by the Par-



GYLA now files a new lawsuit against the government.

liament of Georgia to the Government to restrict labor and freedom of movement is contrary to Articles 14 and 26 of the Constitution of Georgia. Because of this, GYLA has now filed a new lawsuit against the government for the constitutionality of delegating freedom of movement and restriction of the right to work until January 1st, 2021," reads the statement.

According to Article 14, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution of Georgia, restriction of freedom of movement is allowed 'only in accordance with the law.' The first paragraph of Article 26 of the Constitution of Georgia reads that 'labor rights are protected by organic law.' Accordingly, the restriction of these rights should be done not by a sub-legal

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Weather

Tuesday, July 21

Day Clear
High: 34°C
Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 22°C

Wednesday, July 22

Day Clear
High: 31°C
Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 20°C

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NBG launches the reform of Foreign Exchange Market



The National Bank of Georgia

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

On July 20th, the president of the National Bank of Georgia, Koba Gvenetadze presented on the reform of the Foreign Exchange Market. According to the NBG's official website, the new reform aims to increase competition in the foreign exchange market and make internetbank more accessible for non-bank participants; it also increases liquidity as well as transparency. The reform includes two important components and is based on the inter-

national best practice," reads the statement of NBG.

The first component is an International Currency Code, which was created by a cooperation of central banks of the world's leading countries, in 2017. Currency markets of more than 50 countries follow the principles of the code. As NBG states, compulsory compliance with the terms of currency code is recognised by, BIS – (Bank for International Settlements), Central Banks of 47 countries as well as more than 1000 financial institutions and companies includ-

ing Central Banks and leading banking institutions of U.S, England, Europe, Japan, Canada and Australia.

The statement reads that with the initiative of National Bank and support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), international experts conducted training for Georgian foreign exchange market participants and developed a new regulation- The Rules for the Activities of Exchange Market Participants, which is based on the main requirements of international cur-

rency code, however, takes into account the specific of the global market at the same time.

"International currency Code, as well as Foreign Exchange Market regulations, aim to increase transparency and rivalry, establish fair and equal conditions for the market participants and to better protect the interests of their customers. In compliance with the International Best Practice, banks will be obliged to make it transparent and publish full service tariffs and other conditions on their websites," reads the statement, adding that in order to maintain high standards of operations in Foreign Exchange Market, banks must provide appropriate organisational arrangements and IT facilities.

According to the NBG, as introduction of new approaches is followed by relevant infrastructural changes, the second component of the reform is an activation of Bloomberg's new trading platform- Bmatch. The statement notes that the Bmatch platform has been oper-

ating successfully in more than 20 countries worldwide since 2016 and provides automatic matching and execution of counter transactions. Prior to the transaction, the identity of an author of the application is anonymous, which ensures confidentiality and impartiality. Moreover, counterparty risks in the program are managed with the limits defined by the participants and the transactions are executed according to the rules of the National Bank.

As NBG informs, Bmatch platform has been active in Georgia, since March and is operating successfully in test mode. As of now, the platform is used by 15 banks, 4 microfinance organisations, 1 large company and foreign investment fund.

According to the NBG, the rule of the currency market and new platform will come into force on October 1st, 2020, until then, the banks will be able to upgrade the infrastructure and the companies will be able to sign service contracts with one or more banks.



The reform will come into force on October 1st, 2020.

GYLA once again appeals the amendments to the Law on Public Health to the Constitutional Court

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normative act of the government or any of the ministers, but by a law adopted by the parliament.

According to the disputed norms, the Parliament of Georgia delegates authority to the Government of Georgia. Based on the delegated authority, the Government of Georgia or the Ministry designated by the Government shall be authorized to determine quarantine measures. For its part, quarantine measures include different regulations governing freedom of movement, property rights, labor rights, and entrepreneurial rights. Accordingly, the Government of Georgia is authorized to restrict the above-mentioned rights by a subordinate legal act issued by it.

GYLA considers that the entered amendments are unconstitutional with respect to property rights. The government may impose only technical regulations on property rights. It cannot be considered to be a technical regulation, for example such a ban which according to the entered amendments, restricts the hotel owners from renting



The Parliament of Georgia delegates to the Government of Georgia the power to restrict the right to work and freedom of movement.

out rooms. This is a complete ban on the use of property rights and not a technical regulation. A total ban on property rights, such as the closure of hotels and clothing stores or a ban on the resumption of work needs to be le-

gitimized by Parliament. In this particular case, the possibility of taking such drastic measures is transferred entirely in the hands of the government, which violates the right to property.

Georgian Dream nominates MP candidates

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extreme situation caused by the coronavirus, when human life and health were in real danger, 'people felt the hand of the caring government and united around it'.

Ivanishvili also recalled that recently, the United National Movement and European Georgia did not take part in the vote on constitutional changes initiated to change the electoral system.

In 2020, the parliamentary elections will be held under the 120/30 electoral system, of which 30 will be elected by the majoritarian system, and 120

will be elected under the proportional system. Electoral amendments were approved by the Parliament on July 2nd.

According to Mamuka Mdinardze, a member of the Georgian Dream party, the party will present the list a month before the elections in September, and describes the majoritarian candidates nominated on July 20th as 'worthy people.'

Roman Gotsiridze, a member of the United National Movement, commented that the candidates nominated by the Georgian Dream were selected for their obedience to the party chairman instead of their competence.