

Tbilisi Infectious Diseases Hospital suspends inpatient care due to 'lack of basic conditions'



Tengiz Tsertsvadze says that the hospital cannot offer safety to their patients at this point.

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Tengiz Tsertsvadze, Director General of the Center for Infectious Diseases and AIDS, said that the center was forced

to temporarily suspend reception of patients infected with Covid-19 and HIV/AIDS 'because of obvious reasons.' According to Tsertsvadze, the hospital does not have a good enough environment to en-

sure the safety of their patients. Tsertsvadze explained this after the statement of the Chairman of the Parliamentary Health Committee, Dimitri Khundadze, who called the decision of the

Center for Infectious Diseases and AIDS wrong.

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Politics

Lelo believes that Georgian Dream will try to rig the election

Pikria Chikhradze and Tazo Datunashvili spoke about the 2020 election.



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Economics

Lavrov: Russia plans to continue flights to Georgia in near future

Russia puts a so-called tourism embargo on Georgia on July 8th.

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Tornika Mandaria (RFE/RL)

The center was allowed to use ₾300,000 from its dividends for emergency work.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Lelo believes that Georgian Dream will try to rig the election

Leaders of the party Lelo for Georgia fear that international observers may not be able to make it to Georgia for the 2020 elections due to the pandemic, and the Georgian Dream will use this opportunity to rig the election.

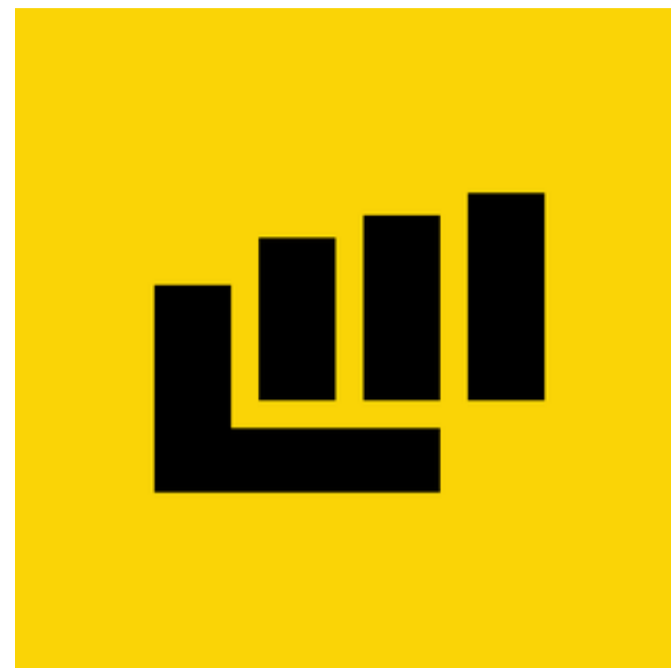
According to Pikria Chikhradze, Samgori majoritarian MP candidate of Lelo, it will depend on the work of authoritative international observation missions, how peaceful and fair the elections will be.

“For the 2020 election to take place in a fair, peaceful environment, international involvement as a part of the observation missions is also very important. This, however, can be under danger because of the current Covid-19 pandemic. We think that a lot of work needs to be done in this regard, and without it, it will be difficult to imagine a fair election,” said Pikria Chikhradze at a briefing on August 22nd.

According to Tazo Datunashvili, a member of the Lelo Political Council, the participation of observer



Pikria Chikhradze is Samgori majoritarian MP candidate of Lelo.



According to Lelo, for fair and safe elections, international involvement is necessary.

organizations such as IRI, NDI, OSCE/ODIHR, the European Union and other missions in the process is very important for a successful election.

“I would like to ask every single partner of our country, including embassies and international authorities to ensure that missions are

brought to the pre-election period in Georgia,” said Datunashvili.

Archil Talakvadze, the Speaker of the Parliament, has already responded to the issue of timely deployment of observer missions in the country, saying that the Georgian government will do its best to “ensure that as many observ-

ers as possible arrive safely in the country.”

Lelo for Georgia is a political party that was created at the end of 2019 by businessmen Mamuka Khazaradze and Badri Japaridze. The party has attracted several prominent political figures and parties, including David Usupashvili’s Development Movement, the

New Rights Party and Pikria Chikhradze.

Lelo for Georgia is a centrist and liberal party, which aims to transcend the dichotomy between the Georgian Dream and the United National Movement to “put an end to the bipolar system running in Georgia since 2012.”

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Tbilisi Infectious Diseases Hospital is one of the main clinics involved in the fight against Covid-19 in Georgia. The facility has been receiving patients in a rented building, which, according to the representatives of the hospital, cannot offer basic conditions to the patients.

In July 2020, the government announced that it would build a new, ₾40 million building for the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Until then, according to the head of the center, it is impossible to work in the existing conditions.

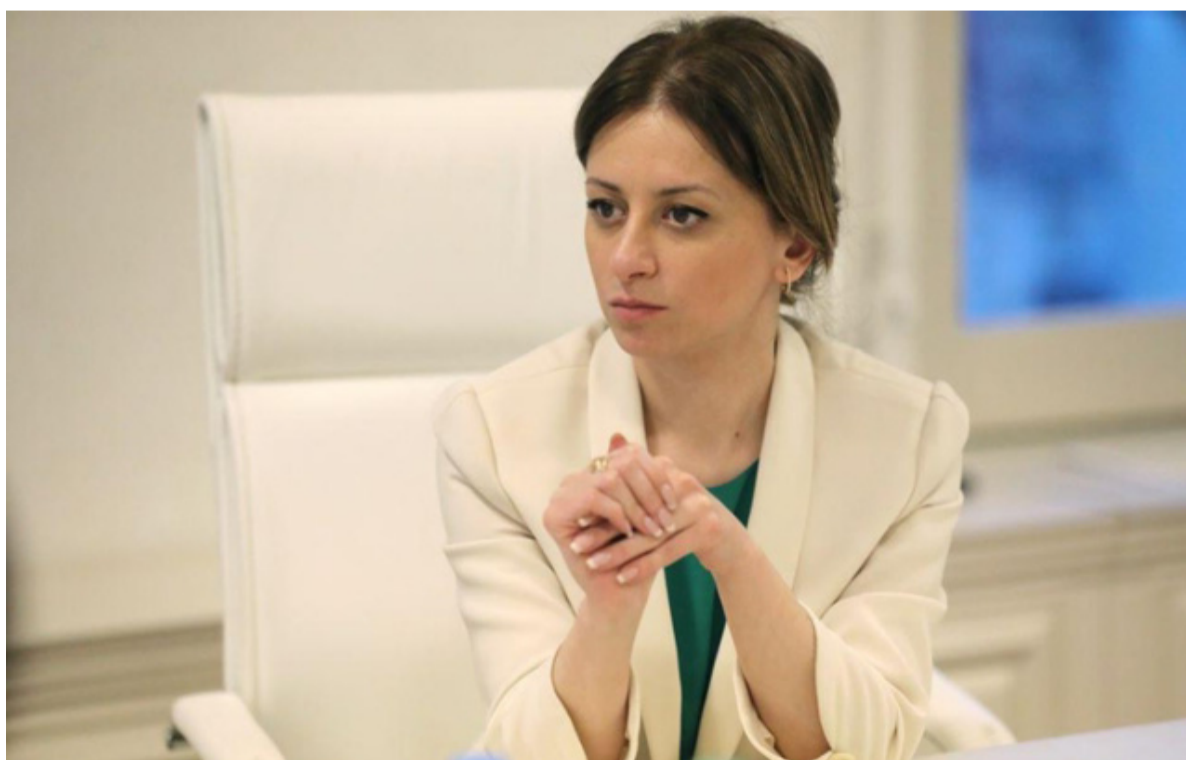
The center continues to receive outpatients with HIV AIDS, because, according to Tengiz

Tsertsvadze, “the cessation of services for this category of patients would cause great fluctuations.”

“Covid-19 patients have nothing to worry about,” said Tikaradze, the Minister of Health. Also, according to her, in the case of HIV infection, the cloning leaving the program is required to apply to the social agency two months in advance before doing so which, as Tikaradze said, “Mr. Tsertsvadze did not do.”

According to Tikaradze, the clinic may be fined “10% within the framework of the work done last year” for violating the law. According to Tsertsvadze, the statement of the Minister is wrong.

The hospital was one of the main figures in the fight against the Covid-19. As the virus spread in the country, the hospital was very actively treating patients. As of today, there have been 1411 confirmed Covid-19 cases in Georgia, out of which, 1132 have already recovered.



Health Minister Tikaradze said that the Hospital could be fined because of this decision.

Weather

Monday, August 24

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 24°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 16°C

Tuesday, August 25

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 25°C

Night Clear

Low: 15°C

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Lavrov: Russia plans to continue flights to Georgia in near future



Turnava said Georgia will make decisions according to the Covid-19 situation in Russia.

government will consider it depending on the epidemiological situation.

According to Natia Turnava, there have not been any official offerings from the Russian side regarding resuming of the flights. However, if there is, the government will make decisions according to the Covid-19 situation.

Zurab Abashidze, Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Georgia for Relations with Russia, said that the decision to cancel the flight between the countries was made by the Russian side, so they should be the ones who renew the flights. However, according to him, the Georgian side will make decisions according to the epidemiological situation in Russia.

“Georgia is also in favor of establishing friendly and good-neighborly relations with Russia, as well as with other neighbors, but they should be based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and other fundamental norms of UN Charter and international law,” added Abashidze.

At this stage, for five months now, Georgia has suspended regular flights to almost all countries. The restriction does not apply only to three destinations: Charles de Gaulle, Munich and Riga International Airports. From Tbilisi to Munich, Lufthansa flies twice a week, in Paris - Air France. As for Riga, the airline Air Baltic flies once a week.

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

According to the Russian pro-government publication RIA Novosti, the Russian Foreign Minister hopes for the resumption of air travel with Georgia. According to Lavrov, this is a matter of the near future.

“We are closely monitoring the situation in Georgia. Of course, we expect the normalization of the general epidemiological situation, both in the region and in the world, to resume regular flights in different directions,” noted Lavrov.

Russia put a so-called tourism embargo last year, on July 8th, after the events of June 20.

Sergi Kapanadze, head of the European Georgia election headquarters, says that given the scale of the pandemic in Russia, resuming flights would be wrong. According to Kapanadze, the main thing for the government is to start intensive air traffic with the countries that are on the list of so-called green countries. At the same time, as Sergi Kapanadze says, the government needs to allow so-called budget Airlines to fly in the country again.

According to the Minister of Economy, if there is any proposal from Russia regarding resuming flights, the Georgian



Georgia has suspended regular flights to almost all countries due to Covid-19 pandemic.

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