

Billboards of Alliance of Patriots of Georgia taken down in Adjara region

By NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy says that they plan to address the Central Election Commission to protest the unlawfulness of the billboard put in Batumi by Alliance of Patriots of Georgia.

The organization is protesting a billboard on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara with the outline of the map of Georgia, from which Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Adjara are separated in red. The billboard also reads: "Defend Adjara! Defend your share of Georgia!" At the same time, arrows aimed at Adjara from Turkey were used to demonstrate the origin of the 'threat.'

One of the leaders of Georgian Dream, Mamuka Mdiaradze, called the billboard 'an order from Russia,' his position was reported by the press services of the party.

"It is inconceivable, in any case, to give a different assessment of what they put up on the banner - this is a Russian provocation and a Russian order, which, unfortunately, they are fulfilling," Mdiaradze said.

This is not the first time from this opposition party to talk about the Adjara region in this way. Based on much misinformation, the Alliance of Patriots has been saying that "Turkey is also an occupier." On August 29, one of the leaders of the party, Irma Inashvili, also said that "Turkey is carrying out targeted economic and ideological expansion in Adjara," and that the State Security Services are not responding to these processes.

The Batumi Municipal Inspection will send the violation protocols regarding the Patriots Alliance banners to the court.

Irma Inashvili, the leader of the Pa-



The billboard reads "Defend Adjara! Defend your share of Georgia!"

triot's Alliance, responded to the banners placed on her party's billboards in Adjara, saying that there was an internal or external provocation and that the design of the pre-election poster was different from

what the party wanted to print. Inashvili blames Mikheil Saakashvili and Giga Bokeria for the incident and says that they did 'cheap PR' with the controversial banner of the Patriots' Alliance.

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World Bank helps jurisdictions around the world to develop.



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According to Irma Inashvili, in the design of the party banner, which was to be printed by their order, Adjara was separated as a danger zone and it had arrows coming from Turkey, although the red color was not intended.

There were two unauthorized banners placed in two places in the region. The Batumi Municipal Inspection had a legal response to an advertising banner placed by one of the political parties. The banners were removed according to the norms provided by the law. A report on the violation has been drawn up in this regard, and this will be forwarded to the Batumi City Court for consideration.



One of the leaders of the party, Irma Inashvili, said that this was not what they intended.



Mdiaradze called the billboard "an order from Russia."

Georgian Dream presents new Majoritarian MPs

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The ruling party, Georgian Dream, presented a Majoritarian MP candidate of Khulo, Shuakhevi, Keda, and Khelvachauri municipality and the candidate for Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.

The presentation was attended by the leaders of the ruling party, who talked about the challenges that these regions as well as the whole country faces.

“Shuakhevi has everything to be one of the most successful municipalities - proximity to Batumi, very large flows of tourism, many historical monuments, wonderful nature and, of course, most importantly, the best people,” noted the Prime Minister of the country, Giorgi Gakharia.

According to the Prime Minister, Shuakhevi is one of the most distinguished corners with historical monuments, where a lot has been done.

The Prime Minister focused on the problems in Shuakhevi and stressed that inland rural roads should be done everywhere, gasification should be completed and gas should be included in highland Adjara once and for all.

As Giorgi Gakharia noted, all the programs implemented by the government to support the peasant, the farmer, will be strengthened and will continue.

Kakha Kaladze, the mayor of Tbilisi also attended the presentation. According to



Giorgi Gakharia



Tbilisi Mayor, Kakha Kaladze also addressed people in the region

him, Georgian families still need a lot of help, and the country’s economy is still very much behind the one in Europe. However, according to him, the Georgian Dream managed to work for people.

According to him, the Georgian Dream is the only political force in Georgia, which has a real vision and resources for the development, stability, and success of the country.

The Secretary-General of the Georgian Dream stressed the importance of the parliamentary elections and noted that it is necessary to stand together to deal with challenges and problems.

“The most important thing for us today is to maintain peace, tranquility, and stability in the country. When we talk about challenges and problems, of course, all of this is solvable, but once again I want to emphasize how important our unity is. How important it is to stand together to cope with the problems and challenges we are talking about,” noted Kaladze.

The election date has not been officially announced, although according to the constitution, it should be held on the last Saturday of October.

This year, elections will be held with a new model, which means that there will only be 30 Majoritarian MPs, the rest will be chosen with a proportional system. The threshold at this year’s election will be 1 percent.

ღამის სერენადები / NIGHT SERENADES

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ბათუმი BATUMI AUGUST 27 **კვირდღი**

თბილისი TBILISI SEPTEMBER 2,4 **საბუღაბუღო**

Weather

Monday, August 31

Day Clear
High: 30°C
Night Clear
Low: 19°C

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With the help of the World Bank, citizens of about 1000 villages will enjoy high-speed internet

BY NIKA GANTSEMLIDZE

The World Bank Executive Board has allocated € 35.7 million (\$ 40 million) in funding for the Log-in Georgia project, which aims to connect Georgia's rural population, businesses, and public institutions with high-quality, accessible broadband internet and digital services.

According to the World Bank, the Log-in Georgia project will support the National Broadband Internet Development Strategy. The project will help connect up to 1,000 villages, including highland settlements, with high quality and affordable high-speed internet service. The number of beneficiaries will be about half a million citizens.

"The World Bank supports Georgia's goal of using digital technology to increase its economic competitiveness and thus create better jobs and opportunities for its citizens," said Sebastian Molineus, World Bank Regional Director for the South Caucasus.

According to him, the Log-in Georgia project will help Georgia overcome economic dualism to provide the rural population and enterprises operating in the regions with access to the opportunities enjoyed by the urban population. This can be achieved by investing in the growth of digital connectivity across regions of the country and promoting the development of digital services.

"This will accelerate Georgia's economic development, further strengthen its position as an innovative hub and an investment-



Sebastian Molineus said that the World Bank is very actively working to help Georgia's goal of using digital technology more actively.

attractive country, and also ensure sustainable recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic," added Molineus.

The Log-in Georgia project consists of three components:

- Increasing access to affordable broadband internet
- Promoting the use of broadband-enabled digital services
- Project implementation support

Natia Turnava, the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia noted that the project will enable more than half a million people who are living in around 1000 villages

to have access to a very high-quality environment, which will give them the ability to work from their own homes.

The project will help improve access to broadband services through policies and regulatory reforms to enable rural ISPs to provide competitive, high-quality Internet service at a low cost. At the same time, special measures will be taken in the target settlements to facilitate the use of the Internet and digital services by women, ethnic and social minorities, and people with disabilities.

According to the World Bank, the project will be implemented by the non-entrepreneurial, non-commercial legal entity Open Net over five years, with the support of the Communications Commission, and under the oversight of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries to pursue capital projects. It comprises two institutions- the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the International Development Association.



According to Economy Minister, Natia Turnava, the project will give access to more than half a million people.