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Economy Minister talked about the new foreign investment program



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Elections 2020: Georgian Dream representatives win every district



The second round of 2020 elections was held on Saturday, November 21

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The second round of 2020 elections was held on Saturday, November 21. The Election Administration of Georgia has already counted the results, showing that the ruling Georgian Dream party won every majoritarian district.

The number of votes received by the ruling Georgian Dream party is between 88-93% in every majoritarian district. According to the CEC, by 20:00, the voter turnout for the second round was 26.29%. In total, 562,664 people voted in the second round.

ISFED (International Society for Fair Elections And Democracy) reported that the same problems as in the first round were observed. They also noted that the second round of 2020 elections was a step

back for the country's democracy.

According to the Vice-Speaker of the Parliament Gia Volski, the victory of the Georgian Dream in the elections is caused by several factors. He stated that Georgia is in the leading position by all indicators of the world ranking. He added that competent international institutions had organized the election.

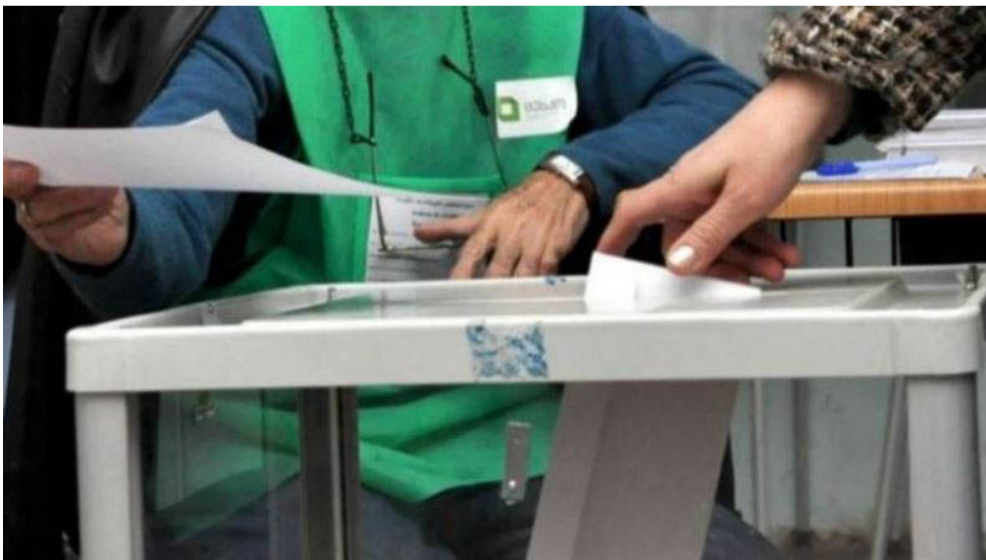
The second round of parliamentary elections was held on November 21, where all 17 majoritarian candidates of the Georgian Dream won. The opposition refused to participate in the second round. They

are calling for snap elections. However, the ruling team says that they are not even considering it.

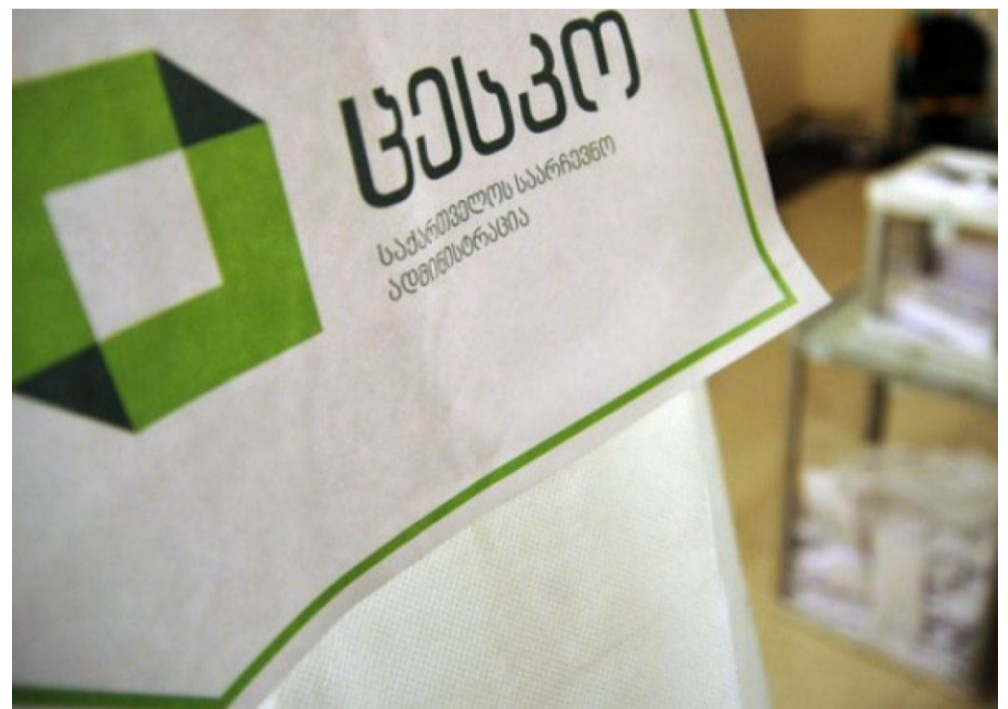
According to the representatives of both the Georgian Dream party and the opposition, the talks will continue. The outcome of the negotiations is uncertain. The opposition is calling for snap elections, whereas there are no signs that the

Georgian Dream will agree to this demand.

The talks between the two sides are held with the help of the international representatives in Georgia, including the Ambassador of the United States Kelly Degnan, and the Ambassador of the European Union Carl Hartzell.



By 20:00 the voter turnout for the second round was 26.29%



According to the CEC, the highest turnout was in Adjara

Coronavirus daily cases hit a new record high in Georgia



There are a total of 18,091 active cases in Georgia

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Over the weekend, 7872 new cases of the Covid-19 were reported in Georgia. Out of this, 4048 was reported on Sunday, and 3824- on Saturday. The total number of cases in Georgia is more than 100,000. Out of this, 85639 people have recovered, and 976 have died.

In Georgia, most of the cases are still reported in the Capital city of Tbilisi. On Sunday, a total of 1602 cases were reported in Tbilisi alone. In Adjara, there were 447 new cases of Coronavirus.

The number of cases in Imereti is increasing fast as well. On Sunday, there were 772

reported cases there.

As of now, the total of active cases in Georgia is 18,091. 3449 people are in so-called Covid-Hotels. 1138 are in Tbilisi, 1659 in Adjara, 310 in Imereti. On the other hand, 8453 people are being treated at home. As of today, 56608 people are in self-isolation.

The number of people dying because of the complications of coronavirus is increasing as well. On Sunday, in just 24 hours, 49 deaths. Out of the 49 people, the most, 24, died in Tbilisi, 13 in Adjara, 7 in Imereti, and 5 in other regions.

A total of 976 people have died of the Coronavirus in Georgia since February 26, 2020. Another record number of

coronavirus was recorded in Georgia yesterday, and the number of infected people exceeded 4,000 in 24 hours. According to the government administration, 4048 new cases have been confirmed. In total, the total number of confirmed cases detected since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country is 104,732.

Even though the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases is increasing in Georgia, the government says that they are not thinking about a full lockdown,

noting that people will have to learn how to live with the virus and adapt to necessary changes. They also say that another lockdown would significantly worsen the financial and economic situation in the country.

Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia stated several times that the government is ready to adopt more restrictive measures to take control over the spreading of the virus. He said that the restrictions would not be as strict as it was in Spring.



976 people have died of coronavirus in Georgia

The Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, in coordination with EU Heads of Mission, issues the following comments on the 2020 parliamentary elections, on 22 November 2020

Following the announcement of the provisional results of the 2020 parliamentary elections, we reiterate our support to the joint statement issued by the international observers after the first round and we look forward to the OSCE/ODIHR final report, including their recom-

mendations to address identified shortcomings. We regret both the mistrust that has affected the electoral process and the fact that opposition candidates did not contest seats in the second round.

The European Union strongly supports democratic processes and the respect for legal frameworks. Georgia needs a functioning Parliament as the central forum for political debate, with all parties working together to advance reforms, in line with our mutual commitments under the Association Agreement.

We therefore hope and expect that all political parties can overcome their differences to enable elected Members of Parliament, notwithstanding their differing assessments of the electoral process, to take up their seats. We encourage Members to use the mandates entrusted to them by the citizens of Georgia to address outstanding political issues, including by improving the foundations for future elections through ambitious and credible electoral and judicial reforms. The Parliament also needs to play its full role in addressing

the urgent health and socio-economic challenges the country is facing due to the pandemic.

We fully stand behind every citizen's right to peacefully exercise their freedom of speech and assembly and condemn all acts or threats of violence. We urge all sides to refrain from provocative actions and the authorities to uphold the Rule of Law, including through credible and swift investigation of any allegations, as well as transparent and fair court proceedings.

A high responsibility now rests on the political leaders of

both majority and opposition parties to come together to find common ground and build common purpose, to enable Georgia to advance effectively on its democratic path and the implementation of our agreed European agenda, in the interest of Georgia, its citizens and of EU-Georgia relations. The European Union remains ready to support Georgia in these endeavours.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/89110/node/89110_en

Weather

Monday, November 23

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 8°C

Night Clear

Low: -1°C

Tuesday, November 24

Day Clear

High: 9°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 0°C

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New program to support foreign investment in Georgia

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Economy Minister Natia Turnava stated the government approved a new program to support foreign investment projects in Georgia. According to Turnava, in the framework of the new program, companies that are created with the foreign capital and plan to enter the Georgian economy will be able to benefit from the program.

The program provides companies with a so-called FDI Grant in the amount of 1 million. To receive this grant, the company should invest at least 10 million Georgian lari and employ at least 150 people.

According to Turnava, the purpose of the grant is to train local employees, as well as various small infrastructural works that they may need during the transfer of production or the creation of new products.

The Minister of Economy said that the government has been discussing the program for a long time. They have decided to put the spotlight on the industries such as manufacturing.

“In particular, it is the production of electrical and electronic engineering products, the production of vehicles



The company should invest at least 10 million Georgian Lari and employ at least 150 people to receive the grant

and their parts, the production of machines and their parts, it is the logistics and warehousing, repair and maintenance of aircraft and several other fields,” added Turnava.

According to the minister, the mentioned program will be a part of the Enterprise Georgia program.

In the second quarter of this year, the amount of foreign direct investment in Georgia amounted to 237.8 million

dollars. This number is 0.5% more compared to the same period of the previous year.

The grant is a result of a work of several months of the Enterprise Georgia program. The main aim of the program is to help the country to increase the direct foreign investment in Georgia, tech inflow, and new jobs in the country. If a company wants to be part of this program, the representatives should apply to the Enterprise Georgia program.

The Enterprise Georgia program aims at supporting entrepreneurs and increasing export potential in the country.



The program aims to help the country increase direct foreign investment in Georgia

Local economic initiatives help communities through pandemic and beyond

UNDP and partners support entrepreneurship in Georgia's regions



TBILISI. 20 November 2020 – As the pandemic pushes Georgia's economy into recession, with the severe job and income losses, local entrepreneurship and economic initiatives are key to increasing incomes of rural communities and lifting their resilience to the impacts of the crisis. To address emerging challenges and support the economic recovery of Georgia's regions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is assisting local businesses and economic initiatives across the country. The assistance comes from the robust programme for regional and local development funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Government of Georgia.

Representatives of UNDP and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure visited municipalities of Marneuli and Bolnisi yesterday to meet with local entrepreneurs, civil society activists and local authorities and check on the implementation of local economic projects.

“As Georgian regions brace for the next wave of the pandemic, local economic initiatives are vital to increase incomes, promote entrepreneurship and help people in the regions overcome the crisis,” said UNDP Head **Louisa Vinton**. “UNDP continues to work with local governments, civil society and businesses across Georgia's regions to foster local projects contributing to economic growth and build the resilience of the communities.”

“The Government of Georgia supports local economic initiatives that vitally contribute to the broader efforts at the national level to counter the negative impact of the pandemic on the economy and livelihoods,” said Deputy Minister **Mzia Giorgobiani**. “Such initiatives improve the economic future and the quality of life in the regions.”

In Bolnisi, Vinton signed a letter of agreement between UNDP and the local municipality to provide GEL 60,000 worth of support to the development of tourism infrastructure at the historical village of Tandzia – the birthplace of a Georgian statesman and writer, Sulkhan Saba Orbeliani.

The visit continued in Marneuli where the delegation met 26 women farmers, mem-

bers of the local Network of Women Entrepreneurs established with UNDP support. Louisa Vinton and Mzia Giorgobiani also met 18 local owners of small enterprises from the Marneuli municipality who received aid from UNDP to enhance their businesses.

So far, ten municipalities in four regions received a total of USD 320,000 assistance from UNDP, SDC and ADC to support local entrepreneurs, artisans and farmers and implement local economic projects focused on tourism development. This support was provided as direct funding for municipalities introduced by UNDP last year. Another USD 390,000 of assistance was dedicated to community projects initiated by seven non-governmental organisations from across Georgia's regions,

mounting up the aid to over USD 700,000 in total.

“Switzerland is Georgia's strong partner in regional and local development,” said Dr. **Danielle Meuwly**, Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus. “We are working with the national, regional and local authorities, civil society, the private sector and communities to help promote sustainable growth that leaves no one behind.”

“Local economic initiatives reflect the needs and aspirations of communities,” said **Alexander Karner**, Head of the Austrian Development Cooperation's local office in Georgia. “Austria is proud to help Georgia benefit from our experience in sustainable local development. We are both grateful and proud to also support our partner country in introducing policies and measures which will unlock the economic potential of Georgia's regions.”

The assistance to local economic initiatives will continue throughout 2020, covering four regions of Georgia - Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Guria and Kvemo Kartli, and expecting to benefit a wide range of local organizations, businesses and citizens.