

BY MESSENGER STAFF

Salome Zourabichvili, the president of Georgia, denounces as "undignified behavior" the comments made to a journalist by Irakli Kobakhidze, the chairman of Georgian Dream.

The President published a statement about this on the social network.

"I categorically condemn the undignified behavior of Irakli Kobakhidze. Such thing does not suit this country, does not suit our culture, does not suit our traditions, does not suit our politeness," Zourabichvili wrote on Facebook, adding such behavior "only reveals political weakness!"

"Just as Arakhamia is not a man, so you are not a woman either," the chairman of Georgia-n Dream told a journalist, who asked him a question regarding yesterday's interview with Davit Arakhamia, the leader of the ruling faction of the Ukrainian Rada.

"KGB agent is your father, I can tell you that... It's a shame, you lost face... Stop trembling, you lost face. You too are David Arakhamia, just as Arakhamia is not a man, so you are not a woman either. You lost your face, is politics worth it? It's a shame... you lost face for the sake of the UNM. You are no longer a woman... you have lost the face of a woman... when you speak, clean your mouth... you have a mouth like Saakashvili, you look like your leader in every way. You look like Saakashvili even with your mouth... You are shameful..." Kobakhidze told a Mtavari TV journalist.

Arakhamia claimed in an interview with Mtavari TV that he was unaware of Kobakhidze's existence before discovering this information. Irakli Kobakhidze's father is a KGB agent, according to Davit Arakhamia, leader of the People's Servant faction of the Ukrainian Rada.

President Zourabichvili condemns Kobakhidze's 'undignified' behavior



MP's address an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the Bichvinta annexation

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



Seven parliamentary opposition MPs addressed an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Iliia Darchiashvili regarding the issue of the 49-year transfer of the coastline and marine aquatorium surrounding the former state country houses of Bichvinta to Russia.

The letter criticizes the position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the issue and notes that MPs consider the silence and inaction of the Ministry to be completely unacceptable regarding the factual annexation of Bichvinta and the so-called contract.

MPs draw attention to the resolution "On de-occupation and the peaceful resolution of the Russian-Georgian conflict", in which "a call was made to the government to develop a common national vision and inclusive policy for de-occupation and peaceful resolution of the conflict, as well as a national strategy for combating hybrid threats, which has not been done yet."

"As you know, there has been a heated

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Minister of Economy of Georgia responds to allegations of gov't buying oil from sanctioned Russian companies



Levan Davitashvili

By LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable development of Georgia Levan Davitashvili responded to the United National Movement's Levan Khabeishvili's accusations of the government buying oil from the Internationally sanctioned Rus-

sian oil companies. Minister denied allegations, saying that the government is fully respecting international sanctions imposed on Russia.

Levan Davitashvili responded to the request of Levan Khabeishvili, one of the leaders of The United National Movement, who requested the oil com-

panies such as "Wissol Group", "Aragvi Impex" and "Lukoil" to speak out and promise that they will stop buying importing sanctioned oil in Georgia publicly.

"I want to point out with full responsibility that Georgia does not buy sanctioned oil. Georgia obeys the sanctions with maximum responsibility, there are no remarks against Georgia in this regard. Specifically, the oil purchased by these companies is not sanctioned, such oil is purchased by many European countries, including Georgia, decisions are made by private commercial organizations taking into account the practices that already exist.

As for the enforcement mechanism, the customs structures of Georgia had specific work with the strategic partners of Georgia, all state agencies, representatives of various ministries were involved in the process together with experts when the specific enforcement mechanisms of sanctions were clarified. Decisions regarding oil or oil products are agreed with our strategic partners. So we can close this is-



Levan Khabeishvili

sue" said Davitashvili at the briefing after the end of the government meeting.

According to Levan Khabeishvili, there are tens of companies in Georgia who import "bloody" oil from Russia,

including "Wissol Group", "Aragvi Impex" and "Lukoil".

The UNM leader publicly requested aforementioned and other ten companies to stop financing Russia's genocide in Ukraine.

MP's address an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the Bichvinta annexation

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discussion in the Abkhaz community for several weeks on the issue of handing over the coastline and marine waters surrounding the former state cottages in Bichvinta to Russia for 49 years. The so-called agreement, on the basis of which the territory is transferred to Russia, was signed in Moscow on January 19, 2022" the letter reads.

As of today, the so-called The discussion of the agreement is ongoing in the de facto parliament of Abkhazia. According to the mentioned so-called draft agreement, 186 hectares of Bichvinta land and 115 hectares of sea space are transferred to the ownership of the Russian Federation. All buildings and structures become

the property of the Federal Protection Service, and the Black Sea water area with the surrounding lands will be transferred to Russia on a 49-year lease.

According to opposition MPs it is the direct obligation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make an official statement, which will evaluate the above-mentioned so-called agreement as an unequivocal annexation.

"Releasing a statement on the part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is directly related to the declared national interest of the de-occupation of the state and the parliamentary resolution, as well as the call and work with the Western partner countries", the open letter reads, which was published on the Parliament of Georgia website.

The authors of the open letter are opposition MPs: Levan Ioseliani, Teona Akubardia, Anna Buchukuri, Tamar Kordzaia, Aleko Elisashvili, Khatuna Samnidze and Vakhtang Megrelishvili.

Skills Week boosts quality vocational education in Georgia Switzerland and UNDP help Georgia's Skills Agency to launch a nationwide discussion on the skills ecosystem

TBILISI. 25 July 2022 – Quality vocational education and training can be a pathway to success for many Georgians struggling with unemployment and poverty. Around 34 percent of Georgian youth are currently classified as not in employment, education or training (NEET) while youth unemployment exceeds 40 percent in some of the regions.

To give vocational education and training a boost, Georgia's newly established Skills Agency, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), launched a Skills Week, aiming to discuss more effective educational models and greater cooperation between educational institutions and the private sector. Interactive and innovative events, presentations and discussions organised on 18-22 July, brought together decision-makers, educators, scholars and entrepreneurs.

The Week's participants discussed how government organizations could better work with the private sector to ensure that vocational schools supply skills needed in the local labour markets, contributing to employment and economic growth. The

discussion also addressed lifelong education, offering self-development opportunities at any age, and integrated training programmes aimed at unlocking 'dead-ends' associated with vocational education.

Representatives of the Skills Agency presented key findings of a recent study analysing public attitudes toward vocational education. They also discussed a new vision of research in vocational education and training and potential strategies for developing a so-called 'skills ecosystem' that balances the demand and supply of skills in the labour market.

"Developing modern skills tailored for Georgia's economy is critical for the ongoing reform in vocational education and training. Our goal is to help the state institutions and the private sector understand a connection between professional skills and economic development, and create an ecosystem where the skills supply will be integrated into sectoral development policies," said Tamar Kitiashvili, Skills Agency Director.

"Switzerland assists Georgia to reform and improve its system of vocational education and training that serves as a critical tool for reducing poverty and unemployment. We provide re-

sources and expertise needed to develop effective policies, introduce modern approaches to education, launch new training programmes and increase the professionalism of educational managers and teachers," said Beka Tagauri, National Programme Coordinator at the Swiss Cooperation Office.

"In Georgia, only 5 percent of secondary school graduates choose to enter vocational education programmes, compared to 48 percent in the European Union countries. UNDP works with a wide range of partners, including Government, educational institutions and the private sector, to introduce new approaches to vocational education and training and make it a pathway to prosperity and economic growth," said Anna Chernyshova, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Georgia.

The SDC and UNDP support reforms in Georgia's vocational education and training drawing on the resources of a Swiss-funded US\$8 million programme to promote high-quality professional training in agriculture. The programme runs in close partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, educational institutions and private companies.

Weather

Tuesday, July 26

Day Partly Cloudy High: 31°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 19°C

Wednesday, July 27

Day Partly Cloudy High: 30°C

Night Partly Cloudy Low: 19°C

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