

Giorgi Amilakhvari Replaces Mikheil Chkhenkeli as Education and Science Minister

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, announced at a briefing in the government administration that Giorgi Amilakhvari would take the position of Minister of Education and Science of Georgia.

Amilakhvari replaced Mikheil Chkhenkeli, who held the position of minister since 2019.

"Today we present to you the new Minister of Education and Science, Giorgi Amilakhvari. Before that, I would like to tell you that I have already met Mikheil Chkhenkeli, who left his position on his own accord. I would like to mention that Mikheil Chkhenkeli was a successful minister. For four years, he served our government, the country, and the young generation. He implemented many important projects, and laid the foundation for many reforms. It was Mikheil Chkhenkeli's decision and desire to return to his academic activities. Chkhenkeli will continue his work at Kutaisi International University as the chairman of the international advisory board. I want to thank Mikheil Chkhenkeli on behalf of our team, the government, for his work and wish him success in his future work," said Irakli Gharibashvili.

Giorgi Amilakhvari headed the Education and Science Committee of the Parliament of Georgia from 2021 until now.

The new minister stated at a briefing that vocational education would be declared a priority



during his term of office. According to Amilakhvari, he will present the relevant vision in the near future.

"In the nearest period, we will offer you the concrete vision of how we intend to transform this field, what specific and easy

forms of mechanisms we will offer to employers for involvement in professional education," said Amilakhvari.

The Minister of Education said that the results of the past years provide an opportunity to establish Georgia as a center of

attraction for education.

"The results achieved during the past years have already given us the opportunity to actively work to make Georgia a center of attraction for education in the region, to attract more foreign students and professors to Georgia,

which is directly equivalent to the increase in the quality of our education and direct investment in education," stated Amilakhvari.

The Minister of Education thanked the management team and the Prime Minister personally for entrusting him.

Public Defender Levan Ioseliani visits Mikheil Saakashvili in 'Vivamed' clinic

By Liza Mchedlidze

According to the statement of the Public Defender of Georgia, Levan Ioseliani, he spoke to Mikheil Saakashvili for an hour at the Vivamed clinic and he confirmed to Saakashvili that all monitoring mechanisms that exist in the Office of the Public Defender will be maintained.

"Yesterday, I visited all the prisoners who are in the clinic Vivamed, including Mikheil Saakashvili. We talked for almost an hour. The doctors were not there yesterday and I had no contact with them. I confirmed that all the monitoring mechanisms that exist in the Office of the Public Defender will be maintained. These are: Consilium, supervision of his health condition," said Levan Ioseliani.

Ioseliani was asked about Saakashvili's health condition by reporters, to which Ioseliani said that neither the mandate nor the knowledge allows him to make a medical assessment.

"When I entered, Mikheil Saakashvili was laying down, I can't tell you anything else. He didn't find speaking difficult and we talked normally. I cannot assess his condition. Obviously, he is thinner compared to before. It would be wrong to assess this further because neither my mandate nor my knowledge allows for a medical assessment," said Ioseliani.

The public defender also mentioned that he is going to meet the members of the medical council at the office of the Public Defender this week.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.5763; Euro - 2.7564; GBP - 3.1446; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.3416; Swiss Franc - 2.7768

Public Defender Levan Ioseliani visits Mikheil Saakashvili in 'Vivamed' clinic

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"I am going to meet these people. I will find out with them what their plans are regarding Mikheil Saakashvili because it

is their prerogative when they visit and how they assess his condition. We only help with this. The public defender, within the scope of his mandate, which the law allows, can invite specialists,

and they are invited. The rest should be evaluated by them. I will meet them this week," said Ioseliani.

When asked about Polish doctors visiting Saakashvili, Levan

Ioseliani said that he does not have any information on this matter.

"I can't tell you anything, Saakashvili asked me about it and I don't have any informa-

tion. We do everything within the framework of our mandate, and this is a matter for the government to decide, in which I cannot interfere," said Levan Ioseliani.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

US Department of State 2022 Report Mentions Mikheil Saakashvili's Case



The US Department of State published the 2022 report on human rights in Georgia, in which the third president Mikheil Saakashvili is mentioned.

As stated in the report of the Department of State, during the year, the Public Defender repeatedly urged the authorities to provide Saakashvili with timely and appropriate medical assistance:

"During the year, the public defender

repeatedly urged authorities to provide timely and appropriate medical treatment for detained former President Mikheil Saakashvili. The public defender issued several statements urging authorities to implement the recommendations

of a team of medical doctors who examined Saakashvili in 2021. On March 11, the public defender noted that, "According to the standard set by the European Court of Human Rights, the lack of timely, full, and adequate treatment, accurate diagnosis, and proper medical care may equate to a violation of Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights, which pertains to torture, inhuman and/or degrading treatment." On May 4, she re-

ported, "the patient's condition is considered to have deteriorated significantly, and timely provision of qualified medical care is crucial," the report reads.

President Zourabichvili Criticizes Shalva Papuashvili for Recent Statements About Young Generation



სალომე ზურაბიშვილი / Salome Zourabichvili
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President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili responded to Shalva Papuashvili's statement regarding young people and called it 'unacceptable'. According to the president, such assessments may only serve to intensify the tension.

"I find the last statement made by the Speaker of the Parliament to the youth completely unacceptable. A representative of the government may not agree with any form of protest, but this does not mean that the position gives someone the right to insult their own citizens. Such assessments may only serve to intensify the tension, and not to communicate with the youth. The government should try to restore it by all means, es-

pecially in the light of these recent events," Zourabichvili said.

On March 20, the Speaker of the Parliament, Shalva Papuashvili, called the students who criticized the lecturers, including Irakli Kobakhidze for supporting the Russian draft law 1000 GEL youth.

EU anti-corruption programme and Ukrainian Ministry of Infrastructure start cooperation

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister for Rebuilding and Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development, Oleksandr Kubrakov, and the head of the European Union Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI), Allan Pagh Kristensen, signed a memorandum of understanding between the ministry and EUACI



in Kyiv on 16 March.

Cooperation between EUACI and the Ministry will include support for the development of a national geographic information system, monitoring of regional development and reconstruction, and the establishment of an Integrity Support Unit within the Ministry to provide high-level expertise and advice.

"The signing of the Memorandum demonstrates the Ministry's strong commitment to values of transparency, accountability and integrity

and to preventing corruption. We believe that our close cooperation will contribute to mitigating corruption risks and will promote a transparent recovery of Ukraine," EUACI head Kristensen said.

"Anti-corruption reform is one of the Ministry's priorities. Citizens and stakeholders need to be confident that all funds will be used efficiently and strictly for their intended purpose. Implementation of anti-corruption activities is mandatory for Ukraine's reconstruction," added Oleksandr Kubrakov.

(euneighbourseast.eu)

Weather

Tuesday, March 21

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 14°C

Night Cloudy

Low: 7°C

Wednesday, March 22

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 18°C

Night Partly Cloudy

Low: 8°C

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