

Irakli Kobakhidze Addresses Prime Minister Gharibashvili's Alleged Use of Government Funds for Personal Use

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Following allegations made by investigative journalist Nodar Meladze on 'TV Pirveli,' it was claimed that Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili utilized an official government aircraft for a personal trip, accompanied by multiple family members. According to Meladze's report, Gharibashvili initially transported his eldest son to Munich via a government plane before subsequently traveling to the USA aboard a commercial passenger flight. Based on the information provided by Meladze, the government plane remained in Munich until August 28 to transport Irakli Gharibashvili back to Georgia.

In response to these allegations, Anzor Chubinidze, the Head of the Special Service of State Protection, issued a statement. According to Chubinidze, Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili's trip to the USA was privately funded, and no government budget funds were used for this visit as it was a commercial endeavor.

"This visit was of commercial nature, as stated in the order from the beginning. Naturally, the payment for this visit would be made by a non-budgetary organization or a private individual.

According to the legislation of Georgia, the Special State Protection Service is obligated to ensure the safety of not only the Prime Minister but also all of his security personnel, both within and outside the territory of Georgia. We cannot consider the nature of the visit as a precondition for not fulfilling this," Anzor Chubinidze stated.

Tamaz Gaiashvili, the founder of Georgian Airways, confirmed



that Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili and his family were transported to Germany by his company, and this arrangement was made under the authority of government security.

The Chairman of the Georgian Dream, Irakli Kobakhidze, responded to the allegations by stating that Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili had utilized a charter flight, and no funds were expended from the national budget

for this purpose. According to him, speculations regarding Irakli Gharibashvili continue.

Kobakhidze also criticized the previous government, asserting that during their tenure, the representatives of the prior administration treated the budget as if it were their personal fund. He compared this with the present government, adding that no money from the budget is now allocated for personal purposes.

"For a long time, the opposition claimed that Saakashvili's expenses were not a problem and not a crime, while, in reality, the budget covered his personal needs. Today, the Prime Minister used a charter, and not a single Tetri from the budget was spent on it. This is the reality.

Regarding the expenditure itself, it will be declared and made public, including income and expenses. Everything is trans-

parent today. Yet, speculations about this topic persist. I'll reiterate that our standards are entirely different. In the past, the previous government treated the budget as their personal cash register. Today, not a single Tetri from the budget is used for personal needs. The Prime Minister covered these expenses personally, and all related costs will be disclosed in the declaration," stated Kobakhidze.

Danger Level in Guria Decreases Compared to First Day of Disaster, Says National Environment Agency

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE



On September 8, heavy rainfall in the regions of Guria and Adjara resulted in severe flooding of residential houses and fields, as well as damage to bridges and roads connecting villages.

Three individuals, including two children, lost their lives in this disaster.

According to the National Environment Agency, the level of danger in the Guria area has decreased compared to the initial day of the natural disaster.

As of September 9, the agency reported that in the Ozurgeti and Lanchkhuti municipalities, they had assessed 18 infrastructural facilities, 19 settlements, homesteads, and the homes of 80 families.

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 2.6251; Euro - 2.8083; GBP - 3.2738; 100 Russian Ruble - 2.6833; Swiss Franc - 2.9429

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Additionally, they recommended 35 families to relocate to geologically stable areas for their safety.

“In the Ozurgeti and Lanchkhuti municipalities, as of September 9, 18 infrastructural

objects, 19 settlements, home-steads, and the homes of 80 families were assessed. Additionally, 35 families were recommended to relocate to geologically stable areas.

As is well-known, during the night hours of September 8, abundant rainfall in the Guria and Adjara regions resulted in a

significant increase in water levels in rivers, flooding in small rivers, and landslides in mountainous areas.

It should be noted that the mountainous Guria, due to natural hazards, has been one of the most challenging areas, especially in the last 10-15 years.

At this stage, based on stud-

ies conducted by the agency’s specialists, the level of danger in the Guria area has decreased compared to the first day of the disaster.

Additionally, since this morning, specialists from the National Environment Agency have conducted a helicopter tour in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti re-

gion, specifically in the Magana river catchment area, where reports indicated river congestion. Following the inspection, no traces of blockages or any type of landslide gravity processes were found in the Magana valley and its tributaries,” stated the agency’s report.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Government Stratcom Accuses TV Pirveli of purposefully misleading public with Gharibashvili story

To ensure the public is well-informed, it has been repeatedly clarified that the flight on which the Prime Minister traveled to Munich was a commercial one. Moreover, it has been emphasized that the Prime Minister’s travel expenses, as well as any related expenses, were not cov-

‘fair’ decision is made, Georgia will undoubtedly be granted candidate status and will continue its path towards Europe.

In his statement, he emphasized that Georgia deserves to be granted the status of a candidate for EU membership, highlighting the noticeable progress the country has made. He also pointed out that Georgia should have received this status last year.

“Georgia deserved this status last year as well. Let’s not forget that another CIS country obtained the same status. Given this context, it’s impossible to overlook Georgia’s genuine progress, fail to acknowledge it, or assess it incorrectly. Therefore, if the professor provides a fair evaluation of the student, then the student will receive a well-deserved grade and advance to the next course. Similarly, Georgia should receive the candidate status by the end of this year. However, if there is a political decision influenced by



other, non-objective factors—which I won’t elaborate on—we may once again face our country’s oppression,” stated Mdinardze.

According to Mdinardze, Georgia is unquestionably progressing

towards European integration, and if a just decision is made, Georgia will certainly attain candidate status. He stated that the government is requesting fairness from the EU while making a decision on this matter.

მთავრობის სტრატეგიის
განხილვა

The statement from the Government Stratcom confirmed that the flight to Munich taken by the Prime Minister was a commercial one, associated with a private visit. Furthermore, it emphasized that neither the Prime Minister’s travel nor any related expenses were funded from the state budget.

According to them, channel TV Pirveli deliberately disseminated false information with the aim of misleading the public.

“We would like to respond to the disinformation story about Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili’s trip to the USA, which was broadcast by TV Pirveli. The TV company deliberately spread false information aimed at misleading the public.

ered by the state budget during this private visit.

However, despite these clarifications, the story asserted that the said flight was financed from the state budget.

Anzor Chubinidze, the head of the Special Service of State Protection, had explained prior to the story’s broadcast that the flight in question was commercial, and no reimbursement was made from the budget. Unfortunately, this crucial information was intentionally omitted in the broadcast story with the intention of misleading the public,” reads the Government’s Stratcom statement.

Mdinardze Affirms Georgia’s Unwavering Progress Towards European Integration and Calls for Fair Decision-Making by the EU

Mamuka Mdinardze, the chairman of the Georgian Dream, told reporters that if a

XV საერთაშორისო ფესტივალი
XV INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

დაღინს სერენადები
NIGHT SERENADES

AUGUST 22, BORJOMI
Hotel BORJOMI LIKANI 19:00

AUGUST 24-25, BATUMI
Iliia Chavchavadze Professional State DRAMA THEATER

SEPTEMBER 22-23-24, TBILISI
Tbilisi State CONSERVATOIRE, GRAND HALL 20:00

Festival Base Orchestra
GEORGIAN VIRTUOSI
GEORGIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

TKT.GE

Weather

Monday, September 11

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 20°C

Night Showers

Low: 14°C

Tuesday, September 12

Day Light Rain

High: 19°C

Night Showers

Low: 12°C

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Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze

Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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