

Georgian Dream names 20 party-list candidates



▶ Giorgi Gakharia will be the first number on the electoral list of the Georgian Dream.



▶ "We are honest with the people, we are doing our best, caring for people and their social support in the crisis has become a signature of the Georgian Dream," Bidzina Ivanishvili said.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The ruling Georgian Dream party has presented the first platoon of the party list for the parliamentary elections in Tbilisi. The meeting was opened by Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder of the Georgian Dream. Irakli Kobakhidze introduced the list to the public:

1.Giorgi Gakharia - Prime Minister
 2.Archil Talakvadze - Chairman of the Parliament
 3.Irakli Kobakhidze - Executive Secretary of the GD, MP4.
 Tea Tsulukiani - Minister of Justice
 5.Mamuka Mdinardze - Vice-Speaker of Parliament
 6.Kakha Kuchava - Vice-Speaker of Parliament
 7.Giorgi Kakhiani - Vice-Speaker of Parliament
 8.Mariam Kvrivishvili - Head of National Tourism Administration
 9.Mikheil Sarjveladze
 10.Maia Bitadze - Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi
 11. Mikheil Daushvili - Business Ombudsman
 12.Giorgi Amilakhvari - Doctor of Law
 13.Viktor Sanikidze - Veteran basketball player
 14.Maka Bochorishvili - diplomat
 15. Shalva Papuashvili - Headed the Georgian Group of the German International Cooperation (GIZ) Law Program
 16. David Kacharava - rugby player
 17. Nikoloz Samkharadze - Employee of the Cabinet of the Speaker of

the Parliament
 18.Giorgi Khelashvili - Head of the Parliamentary Research Center
 19.Mariam Lashkhi - Deputy Chairman of the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency
 20.Beka Davituliani - Chairman of the GD faction in the Tbilisi City Council.

"First of all, of course, I would like to thank the team, thank Bidzina Ivanishvili for this great trust as the chairman of the party, because beyond political speculation, first of all, it is a huge responsibility," the number one on the Georgian Dream list, Prime Minister stated.

According to the head of government, the ultimate goal of the ruling team is an economically strong, fair country that is getting closer and closer to European standards.

Bidzina Ivanishvili, the founder and chairman of the Georgian Dream party, thanked the people for their support during his speech at the Georgian Dream's party list presentation in Mtatsminda Park.

In his speech, he listed the merits of the party and noted that the idea of creating this party is to make Georgia a European country, "where people and their dignity are protected, everyone can support a family by their own labor, where peace, stability and devel-

opment are guaranteed here. The weak are helped, the talent is nurtured, devotion is valued, roots are nurtured and care is taken for the future, where they create equal conditions for the success of each, where the government is at the service of the people and not the other way around."

Ivanishvili described the platoon as a team of hard-working, motivated professionals.

"There are people in this team who have already proven that they can handle their jobs, even in the most difficult situations. Let them remain faithful to the idea and the deed and let the people and the country avoid the ordeal," Ivanishvili said.

Assessing the Georgian Dream's opponents, he said that the doer knows the price of labor, and criticism is an easy task:

"The government has more important things to do than respond to false accusations. Fortunately, people are wise and understand everything well and, most importantly, see with their own eyes how the Georgian Dream works."

At the end of his speech, Ivanishvili congratulated the public on the impact of the Georgian rugby team in the '8 Nations' tournament.

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The political party Lelo holds a briefing, discussing the UNICEF report

ON SEPTEMBER 10TH, LELO LEADER MEDEA METREVELI AND GLDANI MAJORITARIAN MP CANDIDATE GIGLA MIKAUTADZE, ISANI MAJORITARIAN MP CANDIDATE LANA GALDAVA AND SAMGORI MAJORITARIAN MP CANDIDATE PIKRIA CHIKHRADZE HELD A BRIEFING REGARDING THE REPORT BY UNICEF.

By ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

The government's actions against socially vulnerable families have been proved to be ineffective, as confirmed by a Unicef report. 22% of the population and 28% of children in Georgia are on the verge of poverty.

According to Pikria Chikhradze, Lelo imposes full responsibility on the incumbent government, Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia, and the chairman of the ruling party Bidzina Ivanishvili, who still in 2018 expressed full confidence in the UNICEF study, and

the Prime Minister at that time has resigned.

"The government should take responsibility for these consequences and allow the country to develop. They should leave the occupied structures, hand over power to the people in a democratic way, and be held accountable for the situation in which the people have been thrown into for eight years," Lelo leader Medea Metreveli.

According to Lelo leader Lana Galdava, due to the results of the Unicef survey, the ruling team bears full responsibility.



► Lelo leaders discuss the alarming rate of child poverty and misery in Georgia at a briefing.

Round 7 of Wardrop Strategic Dialogue

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The 7th round of the Wardrop Strategic Dialogue was held virtually on September 9th between the Georgian and UK officials. According to the Georgian MFA, foreign minister Davit Zalkaliani thanked the British authorities for their unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic integration.

At the meeting, Zalkaliani stressed the urgency of implementing the main guide for further relations between the 2 countries, the Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Georgia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, signed in October 2019.

The conversation also touched upon the existing cooperation in the field of defense, the priority of further deepening of trade and economic cooperation; NATO-Georgia cooperation; the difficult security and humanitarian situation in the occupied territories of Georgia.

After the meeting, the Minister for European Neighbourhood & the Americas of the UK,



► A virtual meeting was held between Davit Zalkaliani and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commonwealth, and Development of the United Kingdom, Wendy Morton.

Wendy Morton, announced that the United Kingdom has committed over £2 million to help Tbilisi "bring a peaceful end to years of conflict," along with UK Export Finance (UKEF), a government agency operating alongside the British Department for International Trade, doubling its capacity for Georgia to more than £3 billion in 2020. "This additional support will help companies to access finance for projects, opening up new & excit-

ing trade opportunities," tweeted the minister.

"We are unwavering in our support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and continue to call out unacceptable ongoing Russian aggression," Morton announced.

Highlighting the importance of relations with Georgia, the British Foreign Office focused on cyber-security, including cooperation in exposing Russian GRU's cyberattack against Georgia, the

2019 signing of a continuity trade agreement and trade, volume of which reached £186 million in 2019-20, up by 40% since last year. The UK is also one of the biggest sources of FDI in Georgia, with 24.8% in Q2 2020.

Noting that "Georgia stands at the forefront of Russian aggression, with conflict at its borders since 2008," the British Foreign Office said, "Georgia's stability & security is vital for Europe so we've stepped up our defense co-

operation with Georgian Defence Ministry and NATO."

As part of the Dialogue, Georgia's Deputy Defense Minister Lela Chikovani and UK's Euro-Atlantic Security Policy Unit Director David Hogan-Hern signed the finance plan of 2020-2021 defense cooperation.

Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Davit Zalkaliani, thanked the UK for "remaining

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11

Day ☁️ Cloudy
High: 29°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 19°C

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

Day ☀️ Mainly Sunny
High: 32°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 19°C

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The US Department releases a report about Georgia

BY ANASTASIA SOKHADZE

The document published by the US Department of State, which assesses investment climates in various countries, notes that despite its high sensitivity to regional and global shocks, the country has undergone extensive economic reforms since 1991, resulting in a relatively well-functioning and stable market economy. The report reads that Georgia's economy has been greatly affected by regional developments, including economic sanctions imposed by Russia.

According to the document, the global challenges posed by COVID-19 during this period and the measures needed to mitigate the spread of the virus put significant pressure on the local currency and the local economy.

The State Department believes that overall business and investment conditions in Georgia are healthy, even though some companies are unsure of the ability of the judiciary to handle commercial cases independently or in a timely, competent manner - some business disputes are delayed by the court system for years.

"Overall, business and investment conditions are solid. However, some companies have expressed a growing lack of trust in the judiciary in terms of competently, timely, or independently reviewing commercial cases. Some business disputes linger in the court system for years. Other companies complain about inefficient decision-making processes at the municipal level, shortcomings in the implementation of intellectual property rights, lack of effective antitrust policies, selective enforcement of economic legislation, and difficulties in resolving property rights disputes. The Georgian government continues to work to address these issues and, despite the challenges, Georgia holds a high position in the region as a good place to do business," the document reads.



► Georgia ranks 7th in the World Bank's 2020 Ease of Doing Business ranking and 12th in the Heritage Foundation's Economic Freedom Ranking.



► The document also talks about the post-Soviet challenges that Georgia faced in the 1990s.

The report states that Georgia is a world leader in terms of ease of doing business and the current business environment in Georgia is positively characterized. Georgia's leading positions in such areas as the World Bank Doing Business and Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index are high-

lighted. In a positive context, the following reforms are mentioned by the government: changes in the Tax Code (Estonian model), pension reform, insolvency reform, constitutional changes, changes in the Labor Code, and also, justice reform. The progress made by the government in the fight against corruption is

positively mentioned, however, the report also mentions the Elite corruption.

After the restoration of independence, the civil war, the events in Abkhazia, and the separatist conflicts in South Ossetia are mentioned to be the reason Georgia is developing slowly.

"Russia invaded and occupied Georgian territories in 2008. Russia continues to occupy these regions and the Tbilisi central government has no effective control over these territories. The United States supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and does not recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Tensions are still high in the occupied territories as well as near the administrative border," the statement said. The document noted that government programs are aimed at encouraging women to do business. It emphasized that with the existing regulations and free trade agreements, Georgia is open, transparent, and attractive to foreign investors.

As for the strategic points, the statement is talking about the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and the Anaklia deep-water port. The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway has increased Georgia's transit prospects. The Anaklia deep-water port project has faced many delays since its initial contract in 2016. The government terminated the contract with the Anaklia Development Consortium in 2020.

According to the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Natia Turnava, the report published by the US Department of State on the investment environment in Georgia is absolutely objective. She also stated that the new report of the US State Department fairly, very positively assesses the reforms carried out by the Georgian government in recent years, not only in the field of the economy but also in other areas, including reforms in the justice system.

The US Department of State's Annual Investment Climate Report includes information on the investment climate in 170 countries, prepared by economic officers from local US embassies. They analyze the economies of countries that are recipients of American investment or have the potential to attract American companies.

Round 7 of Wardrop Strategic Dialogue

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unwavering in its support of Georgia's territorial integrity and allocation of £2 million in financial aid" and expressed gratitude to UKEF "for encouraging economic opportunity and prosperity in Georgia."

Within the framework of the Wardrop Strategic Dialogue, a virtual meeting was held between the First Deputy Minister of Defense of Georgia, Lela Chikovani, and the Director of the Euro-Atlantic Security Directorate of the United Kingdom, David Hogan Hearn.

According to the press service of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia, the Deputy Minister of Defense stressed the importance of strategic partnership with the UK in the process of strengthening Georgia's democratic consolidation, containment policy, and sustainability and focused on the dynamics of bilateral defense cooperation.

The sides signed the plan for bilateral financial cooperation in the field of defense 2020-2021 between Georgia and the UK. Established in 2014, Wardrop Strategic Dialogue, named after Georgia-aficionado British siblings, diplomat Oliver Wardrop

(first British Chief Commissioner of Transcaucasia in Georgia in 1919-20) and scholar Marjory Wardrop, brings together key elements of UK-Georgia bilateral relations from political matters, to defense and security, as well as economic and trade ties and people-to-people relations. Each year the 2 delegations talk about progress and discuss areas of future cooperation. From 2016, the format has been brought to a substantially different level forming Wardrop Strategic Dialogue.

The parliamentary dimension of the Platform was launched in 2017.



► Georgia and Britain have signed a plan for the financial year of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense.