

## Politics

Saakashvili's candidacy for Vice PM of Ukraine withdrawn

FULL STORY ON Page 2

## Culture & Lifestyle

Solomon Cholokashvili - *Country of Liquid Sun*



FULL STORY ON Page 3

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The presentation on targeted social assistance and tax benefits in the second stage of the government's anti-crisis plan was held at the Ministry of Finance on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance announced that the scheme for issuing ₾200 compensations is already known. The citizens who were employed and have been fired due to the COVID-19 pandemic will receive compensation based on a document submitted to the Ministry of Finance by their employers and not by the employees.

According to Lasha Khutsishvili, the Deputy Minister of Finance, from May, compensation will begin for those left without pay. Compensation will be available to employees who have received their salary at least once in the first three months of 2020 - January, February and March and will not be able to receive remuneration in the coming months, according to the employer.

The amount of compensation is ₾200 per month for a period of 6 months. Compensation will also be paid to those who have been fired not only by employers but to those who were sent on unpaid leave.

Based on the information (the bank details of the employee, personal data, contact phone number) electronically provided by the employer to rs.ge before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, the Revenue Service will make a unified list of compensating persons and send it to the State Employment Promotion Agency, from where the funds will be reimbursed directly.

Besides that, salary up to ₾750 has

## #stayhome Stay home, Stay safe #staysafe

### Up to employers, whether to increase wages by income tax or not



Lasha Khutsishvili: "Self-employed people registered in the Revenue Service will not need to provide additional evidence to receive compensation."

been exempted from income tax. This means a maximum of ₾50 monthly pay for employers. Accordingly, if in the past employers had to pay ₾750 for issuing the salary of ₾600, now they will be able to pay that salary without tax - therefore, spending will be ₾600. In the salaries of up to ₾1500, the first ₾750 was exempted from income tax, and here, too, employers have the opportunity to choose whether to pay the employee the amount received from the benefit.

Khutsishvili says that this will be imposed on all companies operating in Georgia. Judging by the results of the first quarter, this applies to up to 700,000 people. The benefit is regulated by amendments to the Code. The employer and the employee agree on the amount of salary.

Deputy Minister of Finance also introduced the 5 categories of registered self-employed people registered who will receive one-time compensation without submitting additional documents: Entrepreneurs

with the status of small businesses and Entrepreneurs who are employed in the market area - these persons are identified according to the declarations submitted by them in the first quarter of 2020 and the checks received using the cash register; Persons who carry out fixed taxable activities. This is a special status designed for individuals who operate in bakeries, beauty salons and also in auto service centers; Microbusiness Entrepreneurs who do not receive funding from the budget, this is the category of taxpayers whose income is up to ₾30,000 and who are not obliged to use the cash register, and on the other hand, their income is fully exempt from income tax up to ₾30,000; The individual entrepreneurs who do not function in any of the above-mentioned statuses and carry out their activities only as individual entrepreneurs. They will be able to identify their 2019 income declaration before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, as well as the cash register.

Based on these criteria, 150,000 self-employed people have been identified who will no longer need to prove their source of income. At this stage, the relevant lists are already being formed.

Self-employed people who are not registered with the Revenue Service fill out an application form on the e-portal of the Ministry of Health and submit a document confirming the source of income.



The government has introduced the automatic VAT refund mechanism, credit guarantee scheme, full exemption of ₾750 from income tax for 6 months, and partial payment of up to ₾1500.

CONTINUED ON Page 2

# Saakashvili's candidacy for Vice PM of Ukraine withdrawn



“The loud story of Saakashvili’s appointment ended in a quiet ‘drain,’” journalist Yuri Butosov said.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has withdrawn the candidacy of former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili for Vice PM of Ukraine for reforms from parliament, Ukrainian media outlet Censor Net reported on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The edition Ukrayinska Pravda was informed so by a source who at-

tended the meeting between the parliamentary faction ‘Voice’ and Saakashvili.

“It seems that the faction ‘People’s Servant’ (the ruling party of Ukraine) has deceived him.”

Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Dmitry Razumkov, Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), is not convinced that he will support the appoint-

ment of Mikheil Saakashvili as Ukraine’s Deputy PM. He told RBK-Ukraine about it.

According to Razumkov, there are enough people in the ruling People’s Servant team to be useful to the government.

Ukrainian media quoted parliament sources as saying that PM Denys Shmyhal also opposed the appointment of Saakashvili to the post.

Saakashvili, Georgia’s third president and former head of the Odessa regional administration, suggested last week that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky offered the post of vice PM of reforms. On April 24<sup>th</sup>,

Saakashvili met with members of the People’s Servant faction, but, as Ukrainian media reported, most members of the faction could not be persuaded to support him.

Censor Net says that Saakashvili needed the support of at least 190-200 MPs from the ruling ‘Servant of the People’ party to receive mandatory 226 votes, while only 140-170 MPs were ready to vote for him from the party.

“There are not enough votes, so President Zelensky decided not to support Mikheil Saakashvili publicly,” said Yuri Butosov, Editor-in-Chief of the Ukrainian portal Censor.net.

According to the same media outlet, the third President of Georgia, who previously served as Odessa governor in Ukraine, may be nominated for Odessa mayor, but it’s unlikely that he will be nominated as vice PM again.

Earlier, another media outlet reported that instead of the post of Deputy PM, the ruling party might nominate Saakashvili as a candidate for the ‘People’s Servant’ in Odessa, with maximum political and financial support from the government.

The possible appointment of Mikheil Saakashvili as Ukraine’s Deputy PM has provoked a sharply negative reaction from the Georgian authorities. The PM Giorgi Gakharia did not rule out that in such a case, the Ambassador of Georgia from Ukraine will be summoned for consultation. According to him, such a step would be followed by an appropriate reaction from Georgia.

“The Ukrainian state is our strategic partner and nothing can change this in the long run; however, the appointment of a person convicted and wanted in Georgia as a vice-premier by our partner is categorically unac-

ceptable to us,” Gakharia stated. Georgia’s Speaker of the Parliament Archil Talakvadze also remarked on the existing situation, saying that such decisions “will harm the present political cooperation between our countries, and these types of decisions will be unfathomable and unacceptable to us.”

Davit Arakhamia, chairman of the People’s Servant faction, called the Tbilisi protest ‘political aggression.’

Georgian Ambassador to Ukraine Teimuraz Sharashenidze said that the possible appointment of Saakashvili to the post is likely to be perceived in Tbilisi as an unfriendly and unacceptable step from a strategic partner.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the parties, European Georgia and the Free Democrats, issued a joint statement calling on “Ivanishvili’s government, as well as all political parties in Georgia, not to turn Ukraine’s internal political issues into a source of controversy in our country.” This threatens the historical, strategic friendship and partnership between Ukraine and Georgia.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Saakashvili wrote on his Facebook page that he had received Ukrainian President’s offer to become deputy prime minister for reforms in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Saakashvili has served as Georgia’s third president from 2004 to 2007 and again from 2008 to 2013. Georgia has several times requested Saakashvili’s extradition from Ukraine. He is accused of the violent dispersal of anti-government mass protests on November 7, 2007; unlawful raiding of Imedi television company by riot police and the illegal takeover of property owned by media tycoon Badri Patarkatsishvili.

## Up to employers, whether to increase wages by income tax or not

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The amount of compensation for self-employment is set at ₾ 300 at a time. The procedure for requesting compensation is as follows: a person wishing to receive compensation must submit a relevant request to the elec-

tronic portal of the Ministry of Health no later than July 1, this applies to both identified and unidentified self-employed persons. The bank details must be submitted with the request in order for the amount to be credited.

“The information to be submitted to the Ministry of Health is not voluminous. They must present identification information, name, surname, personal number, contact information and bank details in order to be credited to the same account,” Khutsishvili explained.

### Weather

Tuesday, April 28

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 18°C  
Night Clear  
Low: 6°C

Wednesday, April 29

Day Partly Cloudy  
High: 17°C  
Night Partly Cloudy  
Low: 9°C



An extraordinary session of the Ukrainian parliament is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>. Photo: AP

published by  
**The Messenger**

43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia  
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

The Messenger welcomes your contributions. If you are interested in submitting an article or news item please contact.

All contributions should be submitted by e-mail.

The Messenger Georgia’s English language daily is an independent newspaper, and,

therefore, the opinions expressed in some articles do not necessarily coincide with those of the newspaper. We take no responsibility for any claims made in advertisements.

The Messenger preserves the style of a source written in English where possible.

## Solomon Cholokashvili - Country of Liquid Sun



The year was approximately 1936. An interesting idea appeared to the First Secretary of the Republic, Lavrenti Beria - the Republic of Georgia has to satisfy its demand for wheat... The scientific justification of - this "brilliant" idea was entrusted to relevant specialists of the time who found arguments for this idea and suggested solutions rooting out the vineyards and orchards and seeding wheat in their places. Afterward, a meeting was held, headed by Beria himself.

The speakers after speakers in attendance delightedly supported the presenter's Idea speakers as they were well aware that the idea did not belong to them but to Beria himself. Suddenly, amongst the chorus of glory and approval, someone exclaimed in the hall. "Everything is nonsense, mere nonsense!" The room was silent. Beria looked over the people furiously. The glasses of his pince-nez flashed with evil. "Кто сказал?!" (Who said it?!) - he asked (he always conducted meetings in Russian). "Я сказал!" (I did!) - a slight, not very tall man, clothed in the European style, rose from his place. It was the Chair Director of the Department of Viticulture and Wine Making, the founder of the scientific centre of this field in Georgia, Professor Solomon Cholokashvili, "Выходи!" (Come out!) - ordered Beria briefly and strictly. Cholokashvili came out and

proved with scientific accuracy and unarguable logic that the raising of the level of yields according to the proposed speaker's method was non-scientific, non-profitable and harmful for Georgia. Beria listened without uttering a word and when Cholokashvili finished, he looked over the room again: "Что скажут специалисты-полеводы, где Ломоури?" (What would specialists-field crop growers say, where is Lomouri?) Iulon Lomouri, the main field crop grower and Director of the Department of the Crop Production Department of the Agricultural Institute, stood up, crawled to the tribune and when he ascended he cheered up and said: "I fully agree.. (here he paused and then finished) ... with all of the arguments of Professor Cholokashvili!" After these words, he proved the absurdity of the proposed plan from a scientific point of view. At the same time, he could not restrain from, so to say, making a prohibited trick. He approached Beria: "Lavrenti Pavlovich, some apologies for specialists have misled you! Their idea (he stressed the word "their") is unjustified due to their lack of competence and aspiration to false fame. After this, Beria stopped the discussion. He grumbled: "The issue wasn't well prepared" and he closed the meeting. People, who stood up, did not look at Cholokashvili and Lomouri to see when they were going to the exit but they made their way, not

as a sign of respect, but because of fear. The only person, who openly approached and shook hands with them, was Giorgi Rtskhiladze, a modest and quiet figure and a very honest and person of principals. These three men walked out of the meeting hall together...

Like other meeting participants, Solomon Cholokashvili, Giorgi Rtskhiladze and Iulon Lomouri expected to be arrested the same night and, further, there were all of the pre-conditions for it: Solomon Cholokashvili was a Prince who was educated abroad, Iulon Lomouri was a former Social-Democrat, an official representative of the Menshevik Party in Germany and a participant in battles against the Red Army and Giorgi Rtskhiladze himself also a participant in the struggles opposing the Red Army. After that fact, each of them had a small suitcase packed in expectation of their arrest... but none of them was arrested and no one knows why. Sometimes, such "unexplained" actions were characteristic for Beria.

One of the main participants of this event, Solomon Cholokashvili, was the initiator of the formation of viticulture and wine making as a scientific branch of studies in Georgia. The knowledge and traditions in this field passed from generation to generation over centuries with fathers the knowledge that obtained from their ancestors to their children whilst teaching them to love the vines and telling them the rules and secrets of taking good care. The mass spreading of vine-related diseases in the twentieth century did great harm to Georgian viticulture. The implementation of modern methods for fighting against the diseases became necessary. One of the initiators in this field was the famous scientist and dedicated specialist and professional of his field, Solomon Cholokashvili.

Solomon Cholokashvili was born in 1883 in the village of Bakurtsikhe of in the region of Gurjaani. He received a primary education in his family and then was taken to the Tbilisi Gymnasium. Upon his parents' decision, Cholokashvili continued his

studies in the Crimea at Nikitin's Gardening-Viticulture School. His father, Mikheil Cholokashvili, taught him the love of the vine. In 1904, however, Cholokashvili was expelled from the School due to revolutionist activities after which he continued his studies in Austria, at the Klosterneuburg Viticulture, Fruit Growing and Decorative Gardening Institute, located near Vienna. In 1907, he graduated with honours from the Viticulture-Wine Making Department and continued his scientific and practical activities at the same Institute.

In 1908, Cholokashvili returned to Georgia and became actively involved in agricultural activities. It was the time when phylloxera did immeasurable harm to Georgian vineyards. On his initiative, a young vine plant farm was established in Kaspi, in the village Agayani. The tireless work and dedication of the young specialist brought results with viticulture slowly but surely following the way of revival. In 1912, Cholokashvili published an extensive work entitled Phylloxera and the Fight Against It. The publication was a very timely one and greatly helped those engaged in viticulture at that time. In 1919-1923, he taught a viticulture course at Higher Agricultural Courses. Beginning in 1920, he conducted lectures in viticulture at Tbilisi State University (1920) and the Agronomic Department of the Polytechnic Institute and published a Viticulture textbook (in 1923). Cholokashvili's long and diligent work, so fundamental in Georgian viticulture and consisting of five volumes, was prepared for publication but only three volumes were printed. In 1923, the Scientific Board of the Polytechnic Institute elected him as a docent and, in 1926, awarded him the title of professor. In 1925, upon the decision of the Scientific Board of Tbilisi State University and the Polytechnic Institute, Cholokashvili was sent abroad on a scientific assignment for the period of a year-and-a-half. He worked in Germany, at Heizenheim, with Professor Cramer and in France, at Montpellier University, with the academician, Ravaz. During his



work abroad, he became fundamentally acquainted with the activities of leading research institutions and famous winegrowing regions in France, Germany, Italy, Hungary and Austria.

Upon his return to his native country from the assignment, Cholokashvili continued his scientific, educational and practical activities with his inherent energy and enthusiasm. In parallel, he began preparations for the establishment of a scientific research institute of viticulture and wine making. In 1931, his initiative and efforts resulted in the establishment of the Union-Wide Scientific Research Institute of Viticulture and Wine Making in Tbilisi which directed and led scientific activities in the sector in the relevant republics of the Soviet Union of the time. His work was supported by such famous scientists as Modebadze, Gerasimov, Negrul, Sergeev, Printse, Shatsky, Sanikidze, Geintz, Meliavsky and others. In 1935, Cholokashvili quit working at the Scientific Research Institute and devoted all of his time and energy to the Department of Viticulture which he established at the Agricultural Institute. He directed this Department for 24 years as well as continuing his scientific activities.

In connection with the establishment of the Agricultural Department at the Academy of Sciences of Georgia, Solomon Cholokashvili was elected as a Full Member of the Academy. In the last years of his life, he was the member of Editors' Board of USSR Ampelography. Whilst working at the Scientific Research Institute of Viticulture and Wine Making and at the Agricultural Institute, he gathered together a whole generation of talented and diligent young people and created a famous school of Georgian viticulture scientists such as: Valerian Kantaria, Maksime Ramishvili, Nadezhda Chakhnashvili, Dimitri Tabidze, Aleksandre Khelashvili, Natasha Makharadze and Ketevan Gegeshidze, amongst others. The Scientific Research Institute of Gardening, Viticulture and Wine Making and the Viticulture Department of the Agricultural Institute, alongside the diligent activities of those scientists working there, conditioned the success of Georgian wine making in the twentieth century.

Idea generators and implementers create an epoch which brings good to society: such people stay in the shadow but establish a special place in history. Due to patriotism, passion for his profession and care for future generations, Solomon Cholokashvili truly occupied a remarkable place in the history of Georgian viticulture.

