

GD Calls on its Supporters to Gather at Freedom Square on October 27

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

A few days before the second round of self-government elections, on October 27, the ruling Georgian Dream party is holding a rally. The Chairman of the party Irakli Kobakhidze called on the supporters to gather at Freedom Square in central Tbilisi at 17:00 local time.

He also urged the public earlier today to actively participate in municipal election run-offs on October 30, "to ensure the victory of the ruling party candidates in all constituencies."

"Tens of thousands of our citizens will gather to show once again the strength of the Georgian people fighting for the ultimate defeat of evil, for the protection of dignity and freedom, for the advancement and development of our country... Victory is arriving on October 30," he said.

It was on this spot 2 weeks ago that the "United National Movement" held a rally, demanding the release of former president Mikheil Saakashvili from prison. Kobakhidze, in answer to speculations, explained that this gathering is in no way a 'counter rally' as some have argued.

"It is the conclusion of the election campaign. To put it simply, how many men did they have gathered at their rally? Now you can judge for yourself whether this is a counter-rally or a real one aimed at once again showing the people their strength for the people, the public, the Georgian people must prove once again that they want freedom," the chairman emphasized.



More than 2 million Georgians are eligible to vote in municipal election run-offs.

He stated that ruling party supporters significantly outnumber those who attended the recent UNM rally.

"We need as many drivers alone to bring our supporters to Tbilisi as participated in the UNM rally," Kobakhidze said.

Mayoral and majoritarian run-offs will be held in 20 of 62 election constituencies on October 30. Mayors will be elected in 5

big self-governing cities - Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Batumi, and Poti and 15 self-governing municipalities - Telavi, Tianeti, Khashuri, Kareli, Tsageri, Bagdati, Tskaltubo, Ozurgeti, Senaki, Martvili, Khobi, Zugdidi, Tsalenjkha, Chkhorotsku and Khelvachauri; and majoritarian members in 24 constituencies.

The mayoral candidates who failed to get the required number of votes to win

the first round on October 2, with more than 50% of the vote, and the majoritarian candidates, who had to cross the 40% threshold to win, advanced to the second round.

Candidates need a simple majority of votes to win the second round. In particular, the runoffs in 17 of 20 constituencies will be held between the candidates of the GD and the UNM, while in 3 other constituencies, the GD candidates will face the representatives of For Georgia, For United Georgia, and an independent candidate.

Meanwhile, the Central Election Commission of Georgia has completed work on a unified list of voters for the second round of municipal elections. According to the information, the total number of voters is 2,088,722. The total number of voters in Tbilisi, which will also hold run-offs, is 1,002,525.

Out of the total number of voters in the capital, 41,314 are registered in the Krtsanisi constituency, where citizens are voting for the first time this year using electronic technologies.

For the first round of voting, which was held on October 2 in 64 municipalities of Georgia, the total number of voters was 3,497,345. 51.92% or 1,815,776 of them participated in the elections.

According to the final results of the first round of the race, the ruling GD received 46.74% of the vote, the UNM opposition party received 30.68% while former PM Giorgi Gakharia 'For Georgia' party garnered 7.79% of the vote in the proportional part of the elections. All other parties finished with under 3% of the vote.



"We call on all members of our party, supporters, citizens to pay maximum attention and mobilization to finalize the victory of October 2."

Government to Grant 65 IDP Families with New Houses



The government of Georgia plans to build a total of 8,000 apartments for IDPs in 2021-2024.

In total, approximately 23,000 IDP families have been provided with new housing since 2013.

By KHATIA BZHALAVA

65 internally displaced families will be granted newly built residential spaces, PM Irakli Garibashvili announced at a government session held on Monday. The apartments are located in Kutaisi, Zugdidi, and Tbilisi.

The Georgian government plans to provide 13,000 internally displaced families with new homes across the country within the next four years.

€ 709,800,000 will be allocated from the state budget for the project

in 2021-2024 to build a total of 8,000 apartments.

In addition, the government plans to purchase 5,000 houses in different villages of Georgia. Noting that from 2012 until today thousands of IDP families have been provided with new housing, the Prime Minister said that supporting refugees and improving their living conditions is one of the Georgian Government's top priorities.

As the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories reported last week, Modern standard

houses will be built on the lands owned by IDP families. The project is part of a grant awarded as a result of cooperation between the governments of Germany and Georgia and envisages the construction of more than 200 houses for IDP families.

On October 18, the Georgian government announced that the cabinet approved a decree on the privatization of state-owned immovable properties and as a result, a total of 189 internally displaced (IDP) families received plots of land, located in Gori and Kareli Municipalities,

for a symbolic price of GEL.

On August 30, the Prime Minister reported that about 300 IDP families living in state-owned buildings would be able to register the apartments they live in at a symbolic price.

As a result of armed conflicts of 1992-1993 in Georgia, about 300,000 people were forcefully relocated from the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region. The number of IDPs increased by about 26,000 people following the Russian-Georgian war of 2008.

Lawrence Meredith visits Georgia

Lawrence Meredith, Director for the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Institution Building at the European Commission visits Georgia this week to meet with the key actors to set out a roadmap for implementing the EU's Economic and Investment Plan for Georgia.

On 20 October, Lawrence Meredith and the EU Ambassador to Georgia Carl Hartzell, travelled to Imereti and Adjara to meet Georgian citizens and assess the implementation of the EU projects in the regions.

The EU's officials visited

Baia's Winery, which scaled-up its production thanks to EU support and gave young people with hearing loss employment, thanks to a job fair organised through EU's Skills4Jobs program.

Hartzell and Meredith also travelled to Zeniti, a small village in Kobuleti, which will soon benefit from high-speed internet connection, provided with the support of the European Investment Bank.

On 21 October, Lawrence Meredith took part in the Black Sea Connectivity Talks, taking place in Batumi, to discuss the possibilities of better transport and internet connections, and a cleaner environment in the Black Sea region.



October 21, 2021

Weather

Tuesday, October 26

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 14°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 3°C

Wednesday, October 27

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 11°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 3°C

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