

PM: Residents of Sanatorium 'Kartli' Will Receive New Housing Unconditionally by End of the Year

By NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Zurab Azarashvili, the new Minister of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia has instructed the agency which developed a plan and offered them two ways, first — IDP families can find an apartment in Tbilisi themselves, and in this case, the price per square meter will be the equivalent of \$550, which will be purchased by the agency, and second — IDP families also have an alternative to wait for the construction of the apartments purchased for them to be completed, and in this case, the agency offers to provide them with rent. PM Irakli Gharibashvili informed of this initiative at yesterday's government session, referring to the problem of IDP families living in the sanatorium 'Kartli'.

According to Gharibashvili, most importantly, the Minister promised the families living in the sanatorium 'Kartli' that the families will receive new housing unconditionally by the end of this year. At the same time, the PM once again reminded the population about the situation in the country before 2012 in terms of IDP issues.

"Until 2012, the issue of resettlement of IDPs was chaotic, the main direction of resettlement was the legalization of the so-called 'occupied areas by IDPs' and rehabilitation of state-owned facilities. There was no single standard governing resettlement policy. When considering the issue of accommodation, no substantial attention was paid to the number of family members, there were cases when the family, even against their will, was given 9-10 sq.m." PM recalled.

According to him, since GD governance, various accommodation programs, alternatives, have been launched in



PM opens commissions for selecting Special Investigation and Personal Data Protection services chairs.

stages: purchasing apartments for IDP families in newly built buildings intensively and actively from October 1, 2012; rural house program, in which the IDP family chooses and represents the house to be purchased in the agency; large-scale construction to provide housing for IDP families; 27,000 IDP families were provided with housing in newly built buildings.

Minister said that they have already selected state-owned lands for IDPs in the most critical situation in Tbilisi, Rustavi, Kutaisi, and various other cities. The

process of transferring these lands to the municipalities and the Property Management Agency is underway. According to him, in parallel, negotiations are underway with various construction companies to start construction on these lands.

Zurab Azarashvili also focused on the issues of IDPs living in the sanatorium 'Kartli' and noted that the Ministry is actively negotiating to accommodate them in the ongoing construction.

Besides that, PM opened the first session of the competition commissions for the selection of the Head of the Special

Investigation Service and the Head of the Personal Data Protection Service, at the Government Administration yesterday.

The members of the commission elected the head of the government administration Iliia Darchiashvili as the chairman of the competition commissions on the basis of voting.

According to Order #12 of the PM, the competition commission for the selection of the head of the Special Investigation Service also includes: Mikheil Sarjveladze — Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration of the Parliament of Georgia; Anri Okhanashvili — Chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee; Giorgi Mikautadze - Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of Georgia; Bakur Abuladze — First Deputy Prosecutor General of Georgia; Giorgi Burjanadze - Deputy Public Defender of Georgia;

The Competition Commission for the Selection of the Head of the Personal Data Protection Service has the same composition, only including Karlo Nikoleishvili — NNLE — Chairman of the Board of Rights Georgia.

Among the criteria to be followed by the commissions is at least 5 years of experience working in the system of the judiciary or law enforcement agencies or in the field of human rights. As a result of the competitions, not less than 2 and not more than 5 candidates will be selected for each position. The PM will nominate 2-2 candidates for each position to be elected to the Parliament of Georgia from the selected candidates.

The Georgian government adopted the bill replacing the State Inspector's Service, which investigated alleged offenses committed by state officials and law enforcement agencies, with the Special Investigation Service and Personal Data Protection Service on December 30.



"We have already selected state-owned lands for IDPs in different cities, we are working in all directions and using all possible resources," Azarashvili said.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.0763; Euro - 3.4808; GBP - 4.1515; 100 Russian Ruble - 3.9149; Swiss Franc - 3.3724

Cabinet of Chairman of Georgian Parliament Calls on MEPs to Fully Disclose Communication Regarding Jean Monnet Dialogue



“Jean Monnet Dialogue is a process based on cooperation, rather than a format of spontaneous and unilaterally planned activities,” the Cabinet of the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia notes.

Members of the European Parliament state that the visit planned for 21-22 January in Tbilisi was revoked as ‘Chairman Shalva Papuashvili did not find the time to engage’.

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

Members of the European Parliament Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Miriam Lexmann, and Marina Kaljurand have issued a statement regarding the cancellation of the Jean Monnet Dialogue, a parliamentary format developed by the EP as a tool in the area of parliamentary mediation and dialogue. As EP facilitators state, the visit planned for 21-22 January in Tbilisi was revoked as “Chairman Shalva Papuashvili did not find the time to engage.”

According to the MEPs, the visit was aimed at developing an inter-party dialogue to build a better democratic parliamentary culture and trust, noting that the Jean Monnet Dialogue process is a flexible and proven instrument of media-

tion, able to accommodate different positions and interests. They expressed “regret that the political conditions necessary for the start of this ambitious process are not fulfilled at this stage.”

The statement reads that the EP remains committed to assisting the Parliament of Georgia in addressing the ‘persisting’ and ‘detrimental’ political polarization in the country and advancing with an inclusive and reformist agenda.

The Cabinet of Chairman of Georgian Parliament has responded to the statement, noting that in order to avoid further misunderstandings, it is desirable for the relevant services of the European Parliament to fully disclose the communication with the Cabinet of the Parliament of Georgia regarding the preparatory visit of the Jean Monnet Dialogue.

In explaining the development, Papuashvili’s cabinet noted the recent election of the new Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia and a new President of the European Parliament since the launch of Georgia’s communication with the EP president on initiation of the Jean Monnet Dialogue process.

As Papuashvili’s office said, “it is important that a meeting is held between the newly elected chairpersons and that matters related to the conduct of the dialogue are agreed upon prior to the start of the dialogue,” adding that planning a preparatory visit would be logical and appropriate precisely after this.

The response statement reads that the Jean Monnet Dialogue is based on the principle of minimal publicity, therefore, Papuashvili’s cabinet believes that the

statement issued by the three MEPs can only “increases the risk of polarization and does not promote the start of the dialogue process.”

According to Irakli Kadagishvili, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Procedural Issues and Rules, the visit of the MEPs has not been agreed upon with the Parliament Speaker. Kadagishvili told reporters that the statement that the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament ‘could not find the time’ was not constructive, noting that the format of the meeting should be agreed in a completely different mode and level.

According to Kadagishvili, this dialogue should not serve to deepen the polarization, but to reduce it and to start a dialogue between the political parties in the Parliament.

The News in Brief

Girchi — More freedom on police violence: Responding Does Not Help, the System Needs to Change

Weather

Tuesday, January 25

Day Cloudy
High: 7°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: -1°C

Wednesday, January 26

Day Cloudy
High: 4°C

Night Mostly Cloudy
Low: 0°C

BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Girchi — More Freedom responds to the video, which shows how a police officer beats a citizen.

A statement from the party said, “There is no response to the incident and the system needs to be changed.”

“In the footage released today, we saw a police officer physically abusing a disabled person. He was accompanied by another police officer, who watched and did nothing to stop him. It is impossible to justify this fact. Because they say that the boy is

deaf-mute.

If not for the video taken and disseminated by a third party, we don’t know how this case would have been presented to today’s Court. In a court where the testimony of two ‘credible’ police officers as witnesses is enough to make a decision. Can you imagine what a system does where a third party does not take a camera? Would this guy have been alone, or would you or your child have been in his place?

“Responding will not help, the system needs to change and it is not a dream come true,” the statement said.

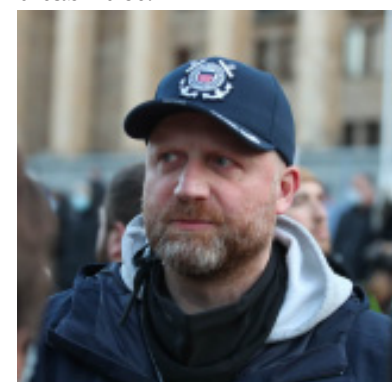
A video shot in the Tbilisi metro was spread in the media. The video shows how a policeman beats a young man who is reportedly a person with disabilities.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a statement regarding the incident, stating that an investigation has been launched into the case.

The State Inspector’s Service has also launched an investigation into the incident of abuse of power by a police officer.

In front of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, parents of people with disabilities, civil activists,

and representatives of political parties are holding a rally demanding the arrest of a police officer who beat a citizen with disabilities.



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